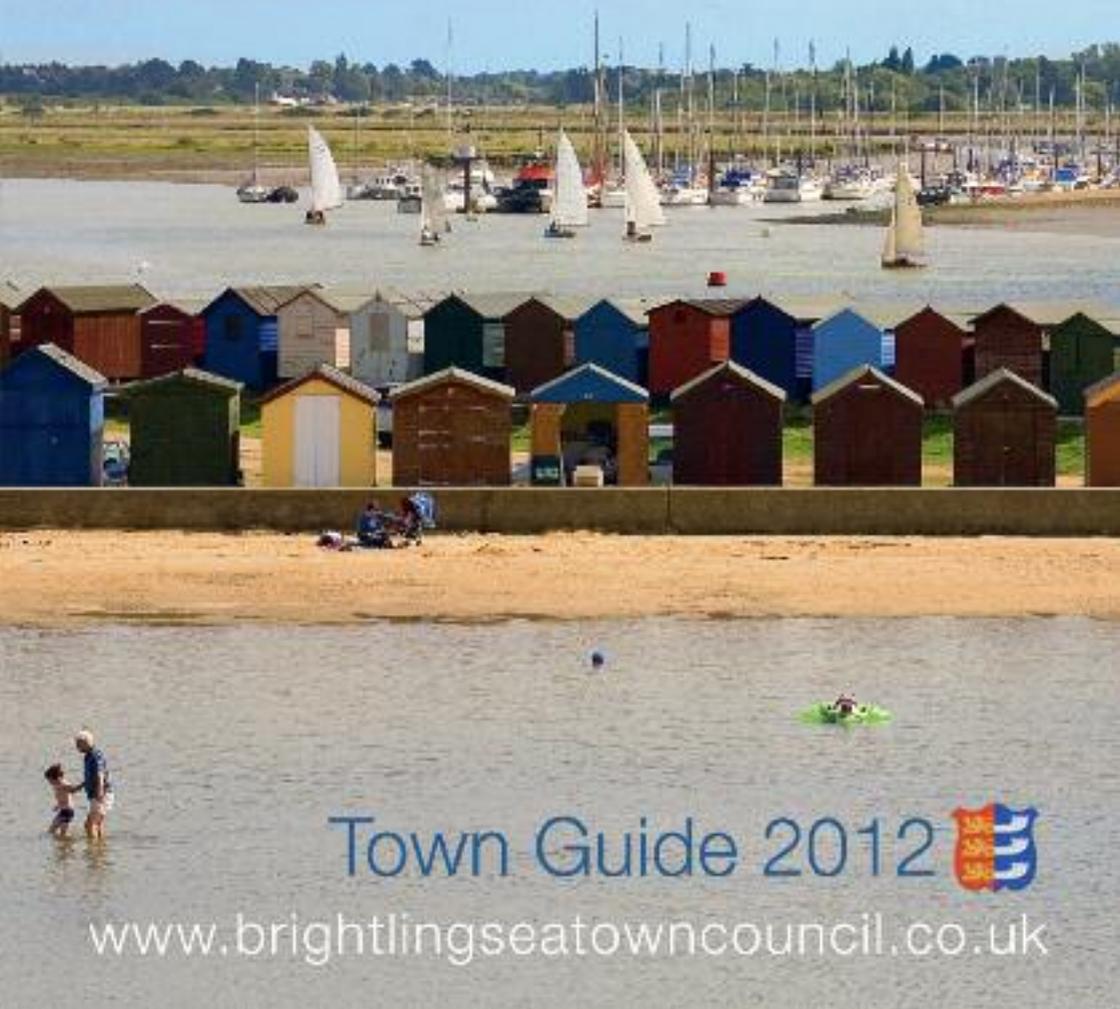


Discover

Brightlingsea



Town Guide 2012 

www.brightlingseatowncouncil.co.uk

Welcome to Brightlingsea

Our unique and ancient maritime town has much to offer visitors.

Once an island, Brightlingsea still retains a close and embracing community spirit, where you can be sure of a warm and friendly welcome.

Our attractive town centre retains much of its Victorian charm, and is recognised as East Anglia's premier floral town.

The spectacular floral displays, which adorn the town from June to September, have been created and funded by the local community. The town has won 43 major national and regional awards, including the coveted RHS Britain in Bloom Gold Medal.

Enjoy a leisurely picnic at one of the beautifully maintained green areas along Promenade Way. Family facilities include a paddling pool, skateboard park, open-air swimming pool and children's playground.

The harbour and promenade can be found

bustling with activity – a perfect place to spend a sunny afternoon. A ferry sails throughout the summer months from the Hard, taking you to Point Clear and East Mersea, where there is yet more on offer for visitors.

The waters around Brightlingsea provide the boatowner with a wealth of opportunities – our quiet creeks, safe anchorages, and sea breezes are all you'll ever need.

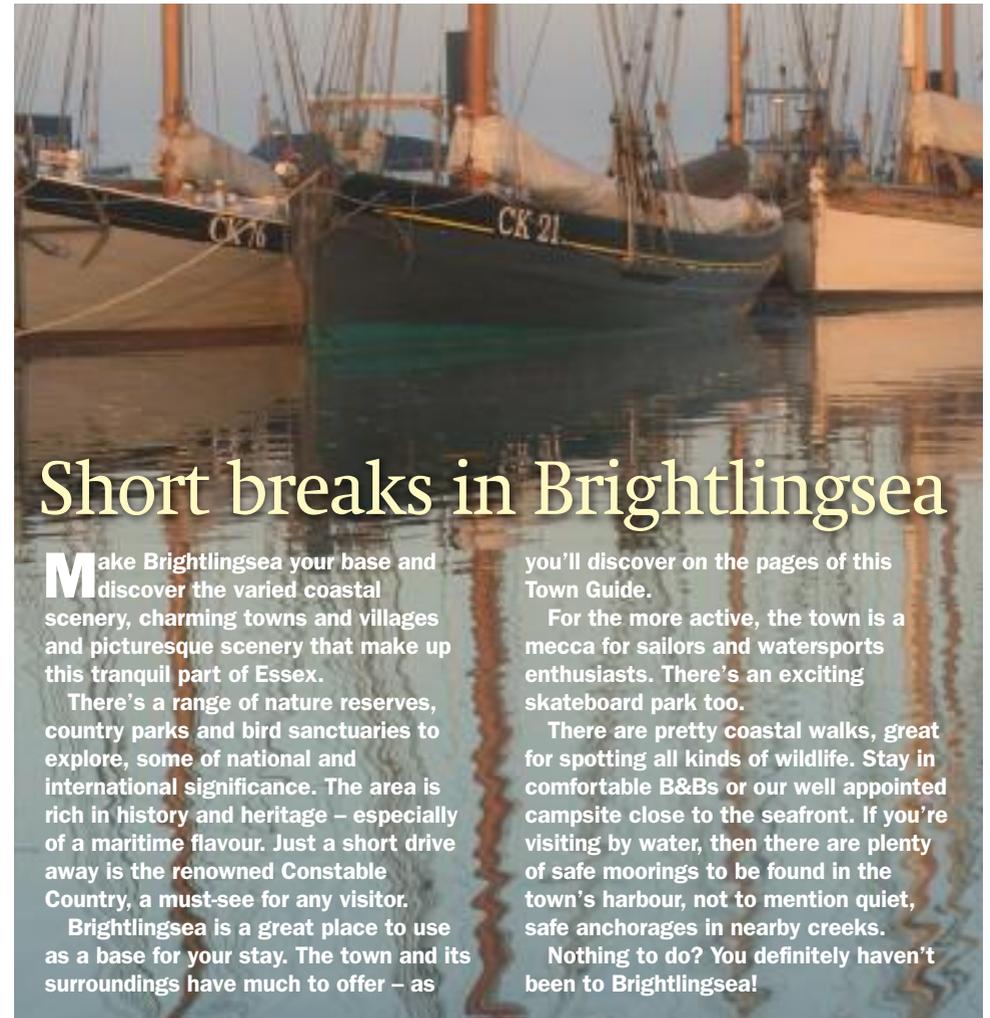
A number of scenic walks around Brightlingsea offer ramblers and birdwatchers the opportunity to enjoy the diverse flora and fauna that abound around this unique Essex coastline.

With a host of local shops to discover, cosy places to stay, tasty places to eat, unspoilt coastline and captivating country walks, come and find out for yourself why we say: "*Brightlingsea. Where else?*"

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- Published by Brightlingsea Town Council.
- Design & print: David Bridle, Kwik2Print. Tel: 01206 305677, www.kwik2print.co.uk
- Cover picture: Liz Artindale, www.lizartindale.co.uk



Short breaks in Brightlingsea

Make Brightlingsea your base and discover the varied coastal scenery, charming towns and villages and picturesque scenery that make up this tranquil part of Essex.

There's a range of nature reserves, country parks and bird sanctuaries to explore, some of national and international significance. The area is rich in history and heritage – especially of a maritime flavour. Just a short drive away is the renowned Constable Country, a must-see for any visitor.

Brightlingsea is a great place to use as a base for your stay. The town and its surroundings have much to offer – as

you'll discover on the pages of this Town Guide.

For the more active, the town is a mecca for sailors and watersports enthusiasts. There's an exciting skateboard park too.

There are pretty coastal walks, great for spotting all kinds of wildlife. Stay in comfortable B&Bs or our well appointed campsite close to the seafront. If you're visiting by water, then there are plenty of safe moorings to be found in the town's harbour, not to mention quiet, safe anchorages in nearby creeks.

Nothing to do? You definitely haven't been to Brightlingsea!



Pictures by Graham Adams from the Reflections of Brightlingsea Collection. Tel:01206 303620

How to get here



From the south or west, join the A12 to Colchester, where you should take the A120 exit

to Clacton and Harwich.

If you're approaching from the north on the A12, come off at the first Colchester exit, then take a left at the roundabout for Clacton/Harwich onto the A120.

After about six miles, come off the A120 at the Clacton exit (the first you'll come to) and at the roundabout take the second exit (A133) towards Frating and Colchester.

At the crossroads, about three-quarters-of-a-mile further on, turn left

onto the B1029 (by the Kings Arms pub), cross the level crossing about a mile-and-a-half away, and, when you get to the mini roundabout at Thorrington, turn right, then immediately turn left towards Brightlingsea on the B1027.



All Saints' Church

All Saints' Church stands on a hill at the entrance to the town. Built c.1250 it incorporates part of an earlier building and much Roman brickwork.

The church contains many items of interest such as the frieze of memorial tiles to Brightlingsea men lost at sea.

The Baptistry under the tower contains

a fine Tudor font with traces of the original paintwork and the original West door.

The Chancel holds an ornate marble memorial to Nicholas Magens, an 18th Century Lord of the Manor, underwriter and merchant.

The Church is manned by custodians most afternoons from 2pm – 5pm; a board is placed outside the Lych Gate when there is someone on duty.



Pictures: David Bride



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Walks around Brightlingsea

There are over 26 miles of footpaths around Brightlingsea. Over the last two years they have all been cleared and upgraded with new signs.

The Environment Agency has been working on the sea walls and has improved the paths there, making them more walker-friendly. Work has included building new bridges and adding new signage, and there's a new walkway and steps behind the pond off Mill Street.

The longest walk is from Bateman's Tower to Alresford Creek – about five miles in all – and it follows the sea wall.

The paths are easy walking but provide much of interest, especially for those who

enjoy birdwatching. Various water birds, geese, waders and harriers can be seen throughout the year.

Go on – get your boots on and explore some of the best countryside around!



environmentally sensitive area. It is home to an abundance of wildlife including barn owls, kestrels, lapwings, hen harriers, skylarks, sedge warblers and reed warblers. Green woodpeckers can be seen feeding on the ant hills of this ancient grassland.

A gravel path skirts the edge of the sand and gravel pits, the site of a bronze age burial. Here you can see sand martins making their homes in the sand banks, or follow the wooded paths, beside which woodpeckers live and rooks nest in the poplars. The 300-year-old oaks provide food and habitat for over 400 species.

English Nature has erected interpretive



Natural Heritage

The mudflats of the Colne Estuary are an area of great natural beauty, and part of Brightlingsea's National Nature Reserve.

They provide a rich larder for migrant birds including avocet, red shank and black-tailed godwit, along with thousands of wading birds, ducks and geese every winter.

The rich grazing marsh of the National Nature Reserve is classed as an



The Lozenge has been transformed from an overgrown, inaccessible plot into a nature area to be enjoyed by all.

You'll find a tranquil atmosphere where you can meander along the footpaths, exploring the diverse variety of trees, plants and wildlife, visit the pond area or just sit, relax and observe all around you.

The Lozenge is located near the Community Centre – see the map on the centre pages for directions.



boards along the five mile nature trail walk, where you can see details of the fauna and flora.

Nature trail leaflets are available from the Town Council offices, Bateman's Tower Café or Harbour Commissioners' office.

All pictures: Terry Hamilton

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Hurst Green Bed & Breakfast

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 Mob: 07842 193070
 Email: info@hurstgreenbedandbreakfast.co.uk
 Website: www.hurstgreenbedandbreakfast.co.uk



Brightlingsea In Bloom



**The Anglia Region's premier floral town
 R.H.S. Britain in Bloom gold medal winner**



Brightlingsea has, over the last 16 years become renowned for the wonderful variety and abundance of autumn/spring and summer floral displays created annually by the dedicated and enthusiastic team of around 70 volunteers, who also ensure they are kept in tip-top condition!

The Spring displays of crocus, daffodils, narcissi, pansies and primroses lift everyone's spirits at the end of Winter and from Mid May onwards the Summer displays are then created throughout the length and breadth of the town, using over 10,000 plants including a "floral fountain" costermonger's cart, floral towers, hanging baskets and numerous planters in Brightlingsea's green and pleasant town centre.

In 2012 the Summer displays will be themed around the celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the hosting of the Olympic Games. All of this is made possible through the wonderful on-going generosity of townfolk, local businesses, voluntary organisations and Brightlingsea Town Council.

Many long-term environmental projects carried out by Brightlingsea "Bloomers" together with other volunteers from the town - can be enjoyed by residents and



visitors all year round - The Millennium Garden Promenade Way, Community Centre Dry Gardens, Gander Goose Green Memorial Garden and Springmead Garden.

The town's success hinges on the wonderful involvement of the whole community and includes winning 43 major Regional and National Awards, an RHS Britain In Bloom Gold Medal and Category Winner and in 2011 the recognition of Brightlingsea as a Premier Floral Town by the RHS in its comprehensive "Britain in Bloom Impact Survey on Transforming Communities."

FURTHER INFORMATION

W: www.brightlingseainbloom.co.uk



- **Winner "Best Town" Anglia Region – 13 consecutive years 1996-2008 inclusive**
- **"Best Overall" 1999/2005/2006/2008 Gold Medal Winners 2009**
- **Category and Gold Medal Winner, Britain In Bloom 2006**
- **Champion Of Champions 2009**



Moverons

Four acres of gardens set in an idyllic site overlooking the river, Moverons has developed from an overgrown site to one full of interest throughout the year.

Magnificent mature trees give the garden a framework and borders are packed with plants. Growing conditions are varied and fully exploited - mediterranean plants with their spicy

scents abound at the top of the garden and in the sunken courtyard. A yew hedge serves as a backdrop to a border full of jewel colours. Wet areas around the ponds provide cool shady retreats.

The hard tennis court has been re-developed with reflection pool, viewing platform and large raised beds with yellow and orange themed planting to link seamlessly with the fields beyond.

This is a very peaceful garden in touch with its surroundings – a tranquil place to restore the spirit.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Open for the National Gardens Scheme in 2012 on Sunday 3rd June, Monday 4th June, Saturday 1st September and Sunday 2nd September. 11am – 5pm. Adults £4, children free. Farmhouse teas, plants for sale. No Dogs.
- Also open Sunday 26th June as part of the Brightlingsea Open Gardens Weekend
- **W:** www.moverons.co.uk

Open Gardens & Scarecrows

This year, our 20th, promises to be as interesting as ever with lots of gardens joining in the fun. There will hopefully be some that have never been seen before as well as a number of old favourites, so there is much in store for those who regularly come to the event.

If you have never seen any of our gardening jewels in Brightlingsea perhaps this is the year to do it! There are refreshments available at several locations, from elevenses and lunches to strawberry teas, so you needn't go hungry!

Purchase a programme, accompanied children free, and this will be your passport to all the gardens, both days over the weekend.

You won't be able to do them justice on just one day but you could try. We look forward to your company!



FURTHER INFORMATION

- In aid of St Helena Hospice
- Saturday June 23rd and Sunday June 24th 2012, from 10am to 5pm
- Contact egog@btinternet.com or call 01206 308023 for more information

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Beth Chatto Gardens

The Beth Chatto Gardens has been an inspirational, informal garden for over 50 years.

Started in 1960, by Beth Chatto, the challenges of the site were huge. Boggy ditches, sun-baked gravel and over-grown woodland have been transformed into a tranquil oasis. Mediterranean planting in the world-famous Gravel Garden leads in to the lush cool of Water Gardens. Shady woodland walks come alive with spring bulbs.

The extensive plant nursery stocks over 2000 plants, all arranged by growing conditions, while the modern Tea Room provides home made cakes and light lunches. The Beth Chatto Gardens is proud to host a range of events throughout the year from gardening workshops and craft



fairs to children's holiday activities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Open: March- October Monday- Saturday 9am- 5pm, Sundays 10am- 5pm November- February Monday- Saturday 9am- 4pm, Sundays 10am-4pm.
- Beth Chatto Gardens, Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex CO7 7DB
- T:** 01206 822007
- W:** www.bethchatto.co.uk

Springmead Gardens

Bequeathed to the townsfolk of Brightlingsea in 1927 by Brightlingsea resident Captain Arthur Wenlock, his 1 acre beloved garden was then sadly left to become totally neglected and overgrown by former Trustees.

In 2001 members of Brightlingsea In Bloom raised £25,000 Countryside Agency local Heritage Initiative and £53,000 East of England Development Grant Funding to carry out the major restoration project.

Now, 11 years on, this tranquil oasis has matured beautifully, a sheltered dell with natural stream-fed stream and bog area planted with moisture-loving varieties including giant Gunnera. Bark paths meander around the upper shady areas. A large sunny border offers up a pot-pourri of delightful fragrances and on a secluded



Pic: Graham Adams

sunny bank, the Echiums grow to great heights.

Around the lawn – planted with Malus Trees – providing a feast in the autumn for the many birds that frequent the garden, are memorial seats where visitors can enjoy the many aspects of this unique garden.

The Garden is open every day except Xmas Day and New Year's Day and is planted for all seasons. You will see a number of wood piles created to provide a habitat for hedgehogs, amphibians and a wide variety of insects, while bird feeders roosting and nesting boxes are erected around the garden.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Open daily except Christmas Day & New Year's Day, April to October: 9am to 6pm, October to March: 10am to dusk (The garden may be closed from time to time for private functions)
- Admission free, no dogs (except Guide Dogs)



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Maritime Heritage

Brightlingsea is steeped in maritime history. Excavations in the past revealed a major Bronze Age burial site, these settlers attracted by a plentiful supply of fish and fresh water.

A Roman fort on the river at Brightlingsea formed a part of the defences for Colchester.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Brightlingsea was famous for its sprats, sold as far afield as Russia, and the harbour was alive with a large fleet of fishing boats.

The fleet is no more but some of the old smacks and bawleys, which fished under sail, have been lovingly restored and are berthed in the harbour. An annual race is still held, usually on the second Saturday in September, for the coveted "Cock of the Colne" trophy. It's quite a sight to see 20 smacks and a dozen Thames barges head out of the Colne towards Clacton.

In Victorian and Edwardian times, skippers and crews of famous racing

Smacks on the Hard, date unknown



yachts came from Brightlingsea – and many yachts were laid up for winter along the Rope Walk.

More recently, the town's racing sailors have won championships a-plenty, including the Olympic Gold Medal won in 1976 by Reg White and John Osborn – there's a unique memorial to Reg, who died in 2010, at the top of the Hard. You can see dinghies racing most weekends – including the local Brightlingsea One Designs – look out for the 'C' on the sails.

Brightlingsea

Brightlingsea Town Regatta and Boat Show will be held on the weekend of 7th and 8th July, 2012.

The Shipyard Estate will be the base for the Morgan Marine's Boat Show, with exhibitors showing new and used motor and sailing boats and stallholders featuring canopies, GRP repairers, electronics, chandlery, trailers, sailmakers and more. The Boat show runs from 10am to 5pm on both days, entrance is free and there's a Park and Ride too.

The Shipyard Estate will also be the base for a continental market, while on the Hard there'll be craft stalls, art on the railings, music, crabbing for the children and stalls promoting local organisations.

Brightlingsea Sailing Club

The club is situated just off Colne Road at the beginning of the Promenade and overlooking the creek.

Newly refurbished, the club has a welcoming family atmosphere and a reputation for friendliness - and sailing excellence - throughout the sailing world.

Members sail a wide range of dinghies and catamarans, from family fun boats to hi-tech Olympic racers, racing at weekends and some evenings from March to December. The club also hosts several open meetings and championships, when crews from the UK and beyond come to race.

This year the ever-popular Pyefleet Week takes place from August 5-10. With around 100 boats on the water, racing is held morning and afternoon with entertainment every evening.

Cadet training takes place on Tuesday evenings from May to the end of July for 9 to 18 year olds. The club also has a RYA Sailing School for all ages and hosts 'try it



An Olympic 49er dinghy at Brightlingsea

you'll like it' taster sessions several times throughout the year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

W: www.sailbrightlingsea.com

Town Regatta & Boat Show

The nearby Marina will also feature music and stalls, with more on Fieldgate Dock.

The Regatta events will be taking place in front of the Colne Yacht Club on the waterfront between 1-5pm. At the Sailing Club you can try dinghy sailing, or keep your feet dry and watch the Model Boat Club displays on the Boating Lake – rowing boats will also be available for hire from the local Scout group.

There is Saturday evening entertainment in the Yacht Club and along the waterfront.

• **For further information about the regatta, please contact Councillor Jayne Chapman on 01206 303012 or 01206 303535. Boat Show information can be found at www.brightlingseaboatshow.com**



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Fax: 01206 305201

Essex - Timmish Marina, Coke Lane, Walton-on-naze, Essex CO14 9SL
Tel: Fax: 01206 850303

South - South Essex Harbour, Grays (M, Levington)
South - P10 (L) Tel: Fax: 01702 409000

North - 111, Ardour Lane, Folkstone, Kent, TN11 5LR
Tel: Fax: 01795 500000

Brightlingsea Foot Ferry

The ferry is operated by Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners and is licensed to carry a maximum of 12 passengers. The ferry can also carry dogs, bicycles, pushchairs etc.

A large landing ramp gives disabled access to the jetty and beaches. The beaches are shingle and suitable for walkers but may present difficulties for others.

At East Mersea there are steps on the sea wall which have to be used. At high tide, access to the ferry and its operation may be interrupted for a short period. At St Osyth Stone the shingle beach can be covered by a thin layer of mud.

The nearest vehicular access points are: Brightlingsea, 100 metres; Point Clear 200 metres; and East Mersea ¾ mile.

Dial-a-Ferry

This service operates when there is insufficient demand for a regular ferry service. The ferry can be booked for a crossing on any of the scheduled routes during daily operating times giving at least two hours' notice.

Additional Ferry Services

The ferry can also be booked at quiet times for short harbour trips – please ask crew for availability. Outside scheduled operating times the ferry can be hired privately (with coxswain), please contact the harbour office for details. Ferry services may be available outside timetable dates dependent on weather conditions and crew availability for details contact the harbour office.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Bookings: Brightlingsea Harbour Office – 01206 302200 (Monday – Friday).

Ferry Mobile: 07981 450168 (during operating times)

W: www.brightlingseaharbour.org

Ferry timetable 2012



SEASONAL SCHEDULE

31st March – 20th July

Weekends & Bank Hols	Scheduled Service	Monday – Friday	Dial-a-Ferry
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21st July – 2nd September – Scheduled Service

3rd September – 29th September

Weekends & Bank Hols	Scheduled Service	Monday – Friday	Dial-a-Ferry
----------------------	-------------------	-----------------	--------------

30th September – 28th October – Dial-a-Ferry

Daily operating times

10.00 – 12.30 and 13.00 – 17.30. No service between 12.30 – 13.00 daily

SCHEDULED SERVICE

Brightlingsea – Point Clear – Brightlingsea

On demand except when the ferry is crossing to East Mersea (see below)

Brightlingsea – East Mersea – Brightlingsea

Three scheduled crossings each day, although additional crossings will be provided when possible.

Scheduled departures from **Brightlingsea** at 11.00, 13.30 & 16.00

Scheduled departures from **East Mersea** at 11.15, 13.45 & 16.15

SCHEDULED FARES (EACH WAY)

Brightlingsea – Point Clear		Brightlingsea or Point Clear – East Mersea	
Adults	£1.00	Adults	£2.00
Child	£0.50	Child	£1.00
Senior Citizen	£1.00	Senior Citizen	£1.50
Cycles/Dogs	£0.50	Cycles/Dogs	£1.00

DIAL-A-FERRY FARES (EACH WAY)

Brightlingsea – Point Clear		Brightlingsea or Point Clear – East Mersea	
Adults	£1.50	Adults	£2.50
Child	£1.00	Child	£1.50
Senior Citizen	£1.50	Senior Citizen	£2.00
Cycles/Dogs	£0.50	Cycles/Dogs	£1.00

During scheduled operating times the ferry can be contacted directly 07981 450169

Brightlingsea Harbour

Brightlingsea Creek provides a well protected natural harbour near the mouth of the River Colne where it meets the River Blackwater. The harbour offers virtually all-tide access to some of the best cruising grounds in the UK and the local estuaries, as well as being attractive countryside, are recognised as an internationally important natural habitat.

Immediately adjacent to the harbour is a pub, an Indian restaurant, a coffee shop, a fish and chip shop, a chandlers, a small convenience store and a wine bar.

The harbour has a friendly, informal atmosphere with conventional moorings on buoys as well as one mile of alongside berthing on pontoons in the middle of one of the channels in Brightlingsea Creek. Nearly 4,000 boats visit each year and harbour staff are on duty 365 days of the year to provide a warm welcome to the many visiting boats.

Large ships of around 90 metres visit the commercial wharf to be loaded with chipped waste wood bound for Scandinavia. There are also charter fishing vessels and fast powered catamarans serving the wind farm which has been built off Clacton on Sea.

Most boat owners' needs can be met by the many specialist marine businesses around the harbour. With a water taxi



service, the welcome provided by the Colne Yacht Club and the specialist marine businesses ashore, the harbour is a very popular port of call for water-borne visitors and an interesting place for those ashore.

On summer weekends in the main season, the harbour is buzzing with activity – dinghy racing, yachts and motor boats arriving and departing, a foot ferry, boat trips, charter fishing boats, crab fishing - there's always something to see.

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: 01206 302200

W: www.brightlingseaharbour.org

More than just a Financial Services provider

Foresters Friendly Society has been providing financial help and support to its members for over 175 years. As a Member of the Society you can take advantage of various additional benefits, including savings and discounts on many high street retailers and access to social and charity events in your local area.

To find out more about your local Brightlingsea branch call 0800 783 4162 or visit www.forestersfriendly.co.uk

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The Pioneer Sailing Trust



The Pioneer Sailing Trust sails the Pioneer, an 1864 Colneside deep sea fishing smack, out of Brightlingsea. The Trust works with a wide variety of local organisations and schools who benefit from the unique on-board experience.

Pioneer is fully equipped to take groups of all ages to sea. Voyages for up to 12 individuals plus the professional crew of three go as far afield as time and tide will allow. Last year she visited Amsterdam.

The Trust's base, Harker's Yard, on the Shipyard Estate is a working boat yard and training facility, with three shipwrights and five apprentices working on restoration projects such as the rebuilding of a Stour barge – like the one seen in Constable's painting of Flatford Mill.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.pioneersailingtrust.org.uk, or pick up a leaflet from the Harbour Office.



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Thorrington Tide Mill



in an outstandingly picturesque setting just off Brightlingsea Road, Thorrington. When it was working for its living it took its power from Alresford Creek. The tide would flow into the millpond where the water was trapped by a sluice gate; as the tide receded and the water level in the creek dropped, the miller would open the sluice gate and the water rushing out of the millpond would turn the waterwheel.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Volunteers open the mill from 2pm to 5pm on the last Sunday of every month from April to September, also on Bank Holiday Mondays and some additional days.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help should telephone Alan Dingwall on 01206 302253 - just one or two sessions in the season would be a great help.

Thorrington Mill is only one of a handful of tide mills in the country still in working order.

The old timber-framed building is located

Family Support Brightlingsea trading as

The Autumn Centre

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Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm
Saturday 8am - 5pm
Tel: 01206 304880

The Cinque Port Liberty of Brightlingsea

Brightlingsea is the only Cinque Port outside Kent and Sussex. It is a "Limb" of Sandwich, one of the original five ports.

Each year a "Deputy" is chosen by the Freeman of Brightlingsea. He is the Mayor of Sandwich's representative and in the past would have been responsible for maintaining law and order.

The election takes place on Choosing Day, the first Monday in December, when the Freeman gather in All Saints' Church. At this ceremony, new inhabitants who have been resident for a year and a day, can come forward to be 'Recognised' and declared Freeman of the town.

In July each year, the Deputy is confirmed into office, along with the other



Deputies of the other two Limbs of Sandwich, in an historic ceremony in Sandwich's Guildhall.

Each June, the Mayor of Sandwich pays an official visit to Brightlingsea. There is a colourful procession from St James' Church through the town centre to the Parish Hall, where he is received by Brightlingsea's Town Mayor.

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A celebration of the town's unique history

Not far from the waterfront or the town centre is the museum devoted to Brightlingsea, its people and industries, from Roman times to the present day; where a warm welcome awaits visitors of all ages, whether it is just casual interest in our town or a more serious research project.

Displays in the museum reflect our varied history and include:

- **Artefacts from the Bronze Age and a local Roman settlement**
- **Our role as a Limb of the Cinque Port of Sandwich**
- **Oyster Industry and Stowboating**
- **Ship and boat building**
- **When there was a railway line to Wivenhoe**



Launching at the Shipyard

Facilities are also available for local and family history research, including access to our collection of interviews of local residents recalling various aspects of life in the past, recorded by our Oral History Group.

New for 2012:

- **Brightlingsea in the Modern Elizabethan Age, 1952 – 2012**
- **Brightlingsea in the first Elizabethan Age, 1558 – 1603**
- **Part of the collection of photographs of the town taken by Florence Ruffell in the**



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The Brightlingsea Whale

1890s, including a selection that has not been on public display before.

- **The return of our displays featuring the role of Brightlingsea in both World War I and World War II.**
- **Guided Heritage walks. Find out more about our historical water front or the stories connected with the town centre.**

FURTHER INFORMATION

- To arrange special visits for groups and organisations contact the Curator, Margaret Stone on 01206 303286
 - The Museum is open from Easter to the end of September: Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm, Sunday & Monday 2.00 – 5.00pm
- W:** www.brightlingseamuseum.co.uk

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Swimming Pool

Originally built in 1933, this facility is one of the few remaining outdoor swimming pools in the country and can be found in Promenade Way.

It comprised two pools: one a 15m paddling pool; and the second a 50m main pool. The facility is very popular with residents and visitors – a great place to keep fit and top up your tan!

Opening times

Opens from May to September
Weekends and School Holidays:
10.00am - 7.00pm
Monday to Friday (outside school holidays): 3.30pm - 7.00pm

Brightlingsea Carnival

🎵 **16th June 2012**
Bagard Recreation Ground
Car boot from 8am 🎵

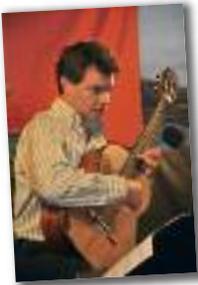
THEME: JUBILEE REIGN OF MUSIC

Car boot sales in aid of Carnival also held on the Western Promenade on:

🎵 Monday 9th April 🎵
Monday 7th May
Sunday 27th May
🎵 Monday 27th August 🎵
Sunday 16th September

More information: 01206 305552

Free Music Festival



Entering into its second decade, the 2012 Brightlingsea Free Music Festival will take place over the weekend of August 3rd, 4th and 5th at Hurst Green.

The festival is in three parts: Friday evening is classical evening, and the organisers hope to build on the success of last year's bravura performance from Craig Ogden and the Ancora Duo, and to encourage new audiences to this magical musical evening. Local pubs will continue the tradition of extending the festival right into the community by hosting local bands who perform throughout the evening.

Saturday and Sunday respectively feature rock, blues and ska, and roots and jazz music ensuring that all musical tastes are catered for. It is particularly these two days that most clearly are a celebration of the wealth of musical talent that can be found in Brightlingsea and the local area, and a key aim of the festival is to provide a



platform for up and coming musicians to display their talents to a wider audience.

Arts, crafts and food stalls are a great addition to the festival atmosphere, and the intention this year is to encourage street entertainers to join in the party atmosphere that is the mark of the three day festival.

The music festival is a free event thanks to the generosity of the Town Council and business sponsors, as well as the people of Brightlingsea who turn up to enjoy the music and show their appreciation by digging deep in their pockets.

FURTHER INFORMATION

W: www.brightlingseamusicfest.co.uk

Brightlingsea Town Show

Brightlingsea & District Horticultural Society is one of Brightlingsea's oldest organisations, founded over a hundred years ago.

Its main event is the Town Show, held on the Late Summer Holiday (August 27th) at the Community Centre. This is a special year as it marks the 100th anniversary of horticultural shows in our town. There were no shows during the two world wars and it took some years after each war for shows to begin again.

In 2011 it was the biggest event for many years, and it will be bigger and even better in 2012. It is an Open Show, with

cups and awards for flowers, fruit and vegetables, as well as cookery, handicrafts, photography, flower arranging, and youth sections with two age ranges. There will also be the ever-popular Exemption Dog Show.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Call Maurice Kimmitt 01206 302229



Christmas Tree Festival

This year the tenth Brightlingsea Christmas Tree

Festival takes place, for one weekend only, when hundreds of local people are involved in creating a winter wonderland display with around a hundred Christmas trees at All Saints' church. Crowds love the skilfully and imaginatively dressed trees while enjoying live music, a Christmas Shop and refreshments, transforming this unique thirteenth century 'Mariners' church into a celebration of festive glory.

The purpose of the festival is to fundraise for charities and to provide a



special local visitor attraction. There is no fee for entering a tree but a small charge to view during the day (children are free) with a special ticket event on Saturday night, and ending with carols for everyone on Sunday evening. A Park & Ride shuttle bus operates from the town centre and Colne Community School. Look out for the extra special arrangements in place for the tenth anniversary.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Saturday December 8th and Sunday December 9th, 2012
10am to 6pm

W: www.brightlingseachristmastreefestival.co.uk

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Classic Car Show & Fun Day

The third annual Classic Car Show and Fun Day, organised by 4th Brightlingsea Scout Group volunteers, takes place on Sunday 2nd September from 10am to 4pm on Lower Park Recreation Ground.

This year sees the return of the classic cars, birds of prey, the dog agility display team, live band, various stalls, the fire brigade, classic tea room with home-made cakes, ice creams, fun fair rides and stalls – and not forgetting



the award winning Scooby Snax, serving freshly-made fish and chips and other hot food. Thanks to Eastern Waste Disposal for trailer and skip sponsorship.

This year we'll be showing off the new kitchen obtained from fund raising efforts and assisted by a council grant.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Anyone wishing to enter a classic car please contact John Fisher 07775 562201
Anyone wishing to run or enter a stall please contact Ian Wilkinson 07711 903958



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Farmers' Market



Brightlingsea Farmers' Market is held on the last Thursday of each month at the Community Centre, Lower Park Road, Brightlingsea between 9am and 12 noon.

The popular market has a variety of stalls offering the best of local produce including, pork, beef, free range eggs, vegetables, fruit, preserves, pies and pastries, cakes, honey, wet fish, smoked meats and fish, plants, chainsaw carvings, plus much more.

There is free parking available, also refreshments in the foyer, where you can sit, relax and chat over a cup of tea or coffee after doing your shopping.

Why not come along and discover the variety of goods on offer and chat with the friendly stallholders who are always willing to take time to talk about their products.

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: Bob Shotton on 01206 302669

E: rjshotton@yahoo.co.uk

Town Events

MAY

26 PLANT & GARDEN SALE
Parish Hall Car Park 8.30am – 2pm
☎ Val Gilders 01206 302563

JUNE

3 DIAMOND JUBILEE EVENT
☎ Karen Yallop 01206 303535

16 BRIGHTLINGSEA CARNIVAL
☎ Tracey Barton 01206 303565/07813 721614

23/24 BRIGHTLINGSEA OPEN GARDENS & SCARECROW FESTIVAL
☎ Mary Goggin 01206 308023

JULY

7/8 TOWN REGATTA & BOAT SHOW
☎ Jayne Chapman 01206 302182

8 COLNE YACHT CLUB OPEN DAY
☎ 01206 302594

AUGUST

3-5 BRIGHTLINGSEA MUSIC FESTIVAL
☎ Dave Palmer 07545 585185

3 MUSIC IN LOCAL PUBS

3 CLASSICAL MUSIC ON HURST GREEN
7.30-9.30pm

4 ROOTS/BLUES MUSIC ON HURST GREEN
12-7pm

5 JAZZ/WORLD MUSIC ON HURST GREEN
12-6pm

5-10 PYEFLEET WEEK
☎ Brightlingsea Sailing Club 01206 303275

11 ALL SAINTS' SUMMER FAIR
☎ Janet Russell 01206 305552

27 TOWN SHOW (Horticulture/Craft/Dog Show)
☎ Maurice Kimmitt 01206 302229

SEPTEMBER

2 CLASSIC CAR SHOW
☎ Cars - John Fisher 07775 562201
☎ Stalls - Ian Wilkinson 07711 903958

8 SMACK & BARGE RACE Starts 8 & 8.30am
☎ Brian Webb 01255 431907

DECEMBER

7 LATE NIGHT SHOPPING
☎ Des Rowson 01206 303049

8/9 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
All Saints' Church
☎ Ann Berry 01206 305024

Times and dates may be subject to change – please check before setting out.

Essential local information

PLACES TO EAT

Batemans Tower Café – Promenade Way

Tel: 07807 208464

Coach House Coffee Shop – Waterside

Tel: 01206 304200

Kovalam – 27 Waterside

Tel: 01206 305555

Mooch @ No 9 – Victoria Place

Tel: 01206 305565

Raj Pavilion – 33 Tower Street

Tel: 01206 306767 / 302279

Scooby Snax Fish & Chip Restaurant &

Takeaway – 1 Church Road

Tel: 01206 306542

Star Fast Food – New Street

Tel: 01206 307824

The Bakehouse – 5 High Street, Wivenhoe

Tel: 01206 824569

The Cherry Tree Public House – 29 Church Rd

Tel: 01206 302713

The Kings Arms Public House – Main Road,

Frating. Tel: 01206 250277

The Movie House – 10 High Street

Tel: 01206 308000

The Brewer's Arms – Victoria Place

Tel: 01206 305608

The Plough Inn Public House – Plough

Road, Great Bentley. Tel: 01206 250563

The Red Lion Public House – Clacton Road,

Thorrington. Tel: 01206 250664

The Rosebud Public House – Hurst Green

Tel: 01206 304571

Valentino's Restaurant – 11 High Street,

Wivenhoe. Tel: 01206 825738

Victoria Café – Victoria Place

Tel: 01206 308850

Yachtsman's Arms – 35 Waterside

Tel: 01206 302342

Ye Olde Swan Public House – High Street

Tel: 01206 302024

Waterside Fish & Chip Restaurant &

Takeaway – Waterside

Tel: 01206 302710

Winkies Fish & Chip Restaurant &

Takeaway – 7-9 New Street

Tel: 01206 304208

CHURCHES

All Saints C of E – Church Road

Tel: 01206 302378

St James C of E – Victoria Place

Tel: 01206 302378

New Church – Queen Street

Tel: 01206 302932

St. Sabina RC – Richard Avenue

Tel: 01206 302485

Brightlingsea Baptist – YMCA Hall, High St

Tel: 01206 302086

United Church – Chapel Road

Tel: 01255 423640.

Brightlingsea Spiritualist – Community

Centre, Tel: 01206 307780

Salvation Army – Tower Street

Tel: 01206 302847

ENTERTAINMENT

Flicks Cinema – Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea

Tel: 01255 429627

Frinton Summer Theatre – McGrigor Hall,

Ashlyns Road, Frinton-on-Sea

Tel: 07905 589792

Mercury Theatre – Balcerne Gate,

Colchester. Tel: 01206 573948

Princes Theatre – Station Road, Clacton-on-

Sea. Tel: 01255 686633

West Cliff Theatre – Tower Road, Clacton-

on-Sea. Tel: 01255 474000



SPORT

Brightlingsea Football Club

Tel: 01206 304199

Brightlingsea Cricket Club

Contact: Brian French, Tel: 01206 304291

Brightlingsea Rugby Club

Contact: Colin Gould, Tel: 01206 304022

Brightlingsea Sports Centre

Tel: 01206 304964

Brightlingsea Bowling Club

Contact: Pam Mathers, Tel: 01206 302696

SCHOOLS & PLAYGROUPS

Colne Community School and College

Church Road CO7 0QL

Tel: 01206 303511

W: www.colne.essex.sch.uk

Brightlingsea Junior School

Eastern Road CO7 0HU

Tel: 01206 303618

W: www.brightlingseajuniors.uk.org

Brightlingsea Infant School

Eastern Road CO7 0HU

Tel: 01206 302719

Brightlingsea Playcentre

Contact: Carolyn Rix

Tel: 01206 306243

WHERE TO STAY

Brightlingsea Motel – 1 High Street

Tel: 01206 306611

Hurst Green B&B – Hurst Green

Tel: 01206 308819

Lakeside Caravan Park – Promenade Way

Tel: 01206 303421

Ye Olde Swan – 15 High Street

Tel: 01206 302024

USEFUL CONTACTS

DOCTORS:

Colne Medical Centre, 40 Station Road

Open walk-in surgery 8.30 am – 10.00 am
Monday-Friday

Tel: 01206 302522

HOSPITAL

Colchester General Hospital, Turner Road,
Colchester

Tel: 01206 747474

NHS DIRECT

Tel: 0845 464748

CHEMIST

Boots Pharmacy, 52 Victoria Place

Tel: 01206 302029

DENTISTS

Colne View, 53 Ladysmith Avenue

Tel: 01206 302307

Manor Parade, Park Drive

Tel: 01206 305080

Nigel McNulty, 36 High Street

Tel: 01206 305300

OPTICIAN

Patrick & Menzies, 10 Station Road

Tel: 01206 302249

HARBOUR MASTER

4 Copperas Road

Tel: 01206 302200

LIBRARY

New Street

Tel: 01206 302399

POST OFFICE

(In Spar Stores), 20-21 Victoria Place

Tel: 01206 302600

BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN COUNCIL

The Parish Hall, Victoria Place

Tel: 01206 303535

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

BRIGHTLINGSEA POLICE: Tel: 101

UTILITIES

WATER

Anglia: 0845 7145145

Veolia: 01206 399200

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Gas: 0800 111 999

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