



## **NEWSLETTER      AUTUMN / WINTER 2025/26**

Another summer season is over and we hope visitors enjoyed our exhibition “Down Memory Lane” with photos and memorabilia of the shops, pubs and cafes from Mersea’s past. There was also a display about local connections to Dunkirk and VE Day to tie in with national remembrance of those events.

In August we held two weekend exhibitions which were very well attended. The Mersea Island Stitchers showcased some of their beautiful needlework including quilting, patchwork and soft toys. A display of the museum’s fascinating collection of old maps and plans proved very popular with everyone. The local photographic society also held their regular bank holiday exhibition. We held our annual coffee morning for the residents of local sheltered housing and hosted a number of groups and schools at the museum and the barrow, including a very jolly visit by a Brownie pack from Colchester.

The guided history walks on Saturdays have seen an increased turnout, due to some extra publicity on social media – yes it does work!

In September we had another weekend at the barrow for Heritage Open Days, although not quite so busy as usual perhaps due to the changeable weather. Many thanks to the owners of Barrow Barn for the welcome hot drinks, and to the generous visitors who bought books and made donations.

### **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

We are hoping to expand our pool of volunteer attendants. Would you like to help the museum by being one of our front of house people who welcome visitors to the museum? You don’t have to be an expert on local history, just enjoy meeting people and get involved with running the museum. Full training is given, you don’t have to commit to a certain number of days and you will always be working with at least one experienced person. If you think this might suit you, why not come along to one of our Saturday mornings in the resource centre to find out more. We would love to see you.

Looking ahead to the autumn / winter programme, our first talk is on Friday October 17<sup>th</sup> with Dougal Urquhart on The History of the Middlewick Ranges. A full list of talks is included with this newsletter.

John Pullen-Appleby is holding more of his local history talks on Mondays from October 6<sup>th</sup>. In the morning there is a re-run of A Short History of Essex for people who prefer a daytime session, and in the evening a new series of talks on the History of East Anglia. Details are on our website under EVENTS.

The resource centre will again be open fortnightly on Saturday mornings from 10-1, starting on 4<sup>th</sup> October and as usual everyone is welcome to pop in for coffee and biscuits, search photos and documents on the computers or just meet up for a friendly social morning. Admission is free for all. Dates are on next page.

### **CELEBRATIONS IN 2026!**

Next year is the museum’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to mark this great achievement we will be planning a special event for all our members and helpers, plus a series of mini exhibitions during the season. We are already discussing ideas and hope to make it a summer to remember. Meanwhile we look forward to seeing you at our autumn / winter events. Thank you for your continuing support.

# EVENTS AT MERSEA MUSEUM 2025/26

## ESSEX HERITAGE WORK BOATS

Continuing the successful series of workshops in early 2025. EHWB are documenting the heritage of Essex by building a register around the heritage working vessels, their people and communities.

See [www.essexheritageworkboats.com](http://www.essexheritageworkboats.com)

These sessions will be held in the museum on the following Tuesday mornings:

**October 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>      November 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Time 1030am to 1230pm**

Refreshments will be available. The workshops are **free** and open to everyone. Anyone interested can just turn up, or for further information please contact the museum.

## MUSEUM TALKS

Fridays at 7.30pm, admission £3 members, £5 non members.

<b>October 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The History of the Middlewick Ranges</b> Speaker Dougal Urquhart
<b>November 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>The Heritage Workboats of Mersea</b> The discoveries of the EHWB Mersea Hub Speaker Gerard Swift
<b>January 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Roman Colchester Uncovered burial, settlement &amp; industry west of the town walls</b> Speaker Adam Wightman
<b>February 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Colchester Voices – more memories from the archive</b> Speaker Patrick Denney
<b>March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Barges on the Blackwater</b> Speaker Stephen Nunn

## RESOURCE CENTRE DATES

**Saturdays from 10am to 1pm**

<b>October 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>November 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> &amp; 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>December 13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>January 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>February 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>March 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 21<sup>st</sup></b>