



'Shoebury Matters' December 2025



New Year's Eve - Seafront Fireworks

Back by popular demand, Southend is set to sparkle with the city's second New Year's Eve seafront fireworks displays! Two dazzling, free displays will light up the night sky on Wednesday 31st December 2025, offering residents and visitors an unforgettable way to welcome 2026 in style.

The two displays, launched from a barge to the east of Southend Pier, will be visible all along the seafront, but City Beach is the prime spot to catch all the action.

6pm Display

Enjoy a family-friendly display, perfect for little ones and early-night revellers.

Midnight Display

The midnight fireworks will see Southend shine as the clock strikes twelve, ushering in the New Year with a spectacular bang!

Shoeburyness Residents' Association



Wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year

Two Open Air Events on New Year's Day



RNLI New Year's Day Dip

Brave the cold, clear the head and take a dip on New Year's Day. Simply pluck up the courage to take the dip in the 5-6C waters of Southend, Jubilee Beach whilst raising money for the RNLI.

Sign in from 10:00, Dip from 11:00 - Tickets £6 in advance / £25 on the day (pp)

*Conditions of Entry apply – see entry form for details. Come along in whatever you feel comfortable in, wetsuits are allowed, however do bear in mind this is a family event.

[Get Tickets](#)



New Year's Day Concert in Priory Park

Priory Brass will present an hour-long concert of popular and upbeat music for brass at the Bandstand in Priory Park to celebrate the start of 2026.

Welcome in the new year with an hour of uplifting melodies and popular music. Bring a chair, wrap up warmly and enjoy the fresh air. Free to attend.

When: Thursday 1st January 2026, 2pm – 3pm; **Where:** Priory Park



Trust Links were honoured to have been chosen by the National Trust to plant a Sycamore Gap tree sapling at Growing Together Shoeburyness, as part of their Trees of Hope initiative.

This special sapling was planted in memory of a volunteer who frequently enjoyed the therapeutic space and sadly passed away.

The tree now stands as a symbol of hope, a place to remember those we have loved and lost and those working through adversity. It is a symbol of the ways we can pull together as a community to overcome challenges.



In 2025, Trust Links celebrated 25 years of growing communities and transforming lives. Research at the time indicated that community gardening was a great tool to improve mental health and wellbeing, and their first project, **Growing Together**, was set up in Westcliff in 2000, with the Shoeburyness garden opening in 2012.



Trust Links now has six gardens across Essex and runs many different projects including Forest School sessions at Shoeburyness on Mondays for children aged 0 - 11 years.

A message to you all from Trust Links
As we reach the end of 2025, we want to thank you for your wonderful support throughout the year. It has been a milestone year for Trust Links, and your generosity has helped to make it possible.



Shoebury Community Meeting, 3rd January 10am - 12 noon

Shoeburyness Youth and Community Centre (Library)

Free refreshments, no need to book. Come along, meet other residents and hear from different support groups about ways they can help you.

Mother & Baby, and Parent & Toddler Yoga

Shoeburyness Youth & Community Centre, 204 Delaware Road SS3 9NS

Instructor Amy. Term Time Only. Cost Free - Book Online.

Wednesdays 10 – 10.45am Parent and Toddler Yoga

Wednesdays 11 – 12 noon Mother and Baby Yoga

To book online visit the website

<https://www.yoga4all.co/pregnancyandpostnatal>

COPD DROP-IN

Every Thursday (term time only) 11am – 12 noon

Do you have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or a lung condition that makes breathing difficult? The Drop In provides a safe space to share experiences and to make friends. The group is run by volunteers who have a wealth of experience and offer a listening ear.

For more information, please call 07944 056 547

**FREE PARKING
& ACCESSIBLE
BY BUS**

**SHOEBURY YOUTH
CENTRE
DELAWARE RD,
SHOEBURYNES, SS3 9NS**

**WHEELCHAIR
FRIENDLY
& CAFÉ ON SITE**

Recycling Your Christmas Tree



Havens Hospices Christmas Tree Collection Service

On 9th, 10th and 12th of January, our team of volunteers will collect your real Christmas tree in return for a kind donation to Havens Hospices' specialist care and support.

Not only will you be supporting your local hospice at this special time of year, but your tree will also be recycled and used on our hospice grounds. Click below to register:

[Christmas Tree Recycling Collection 2026 - Havens Hospices](#)

The Council has introduced two services designed to help residents recycle their real Christmas trees quickly and responsibly.

Garden waste collections will pause from Monday 22 December and resume on Tuesday 13 January 2026, so residents who want their real Christmas tree recycled before then have three options:

- book a free collection service (available from 2 January 2026)
- take it to one of the car park drop-off points (available 29 December to 16 January)
- or visit a Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

Residents are asked not to leave their Christmas tree out on their normal waste or recycling collection days as these are not collected in the same trucks.

Christmas tree drop-off points in Shoebury

- Shoeburyness Park (SS3 9SF)
- Shoeburyness Common (South) Car Park (SS3 9HG)

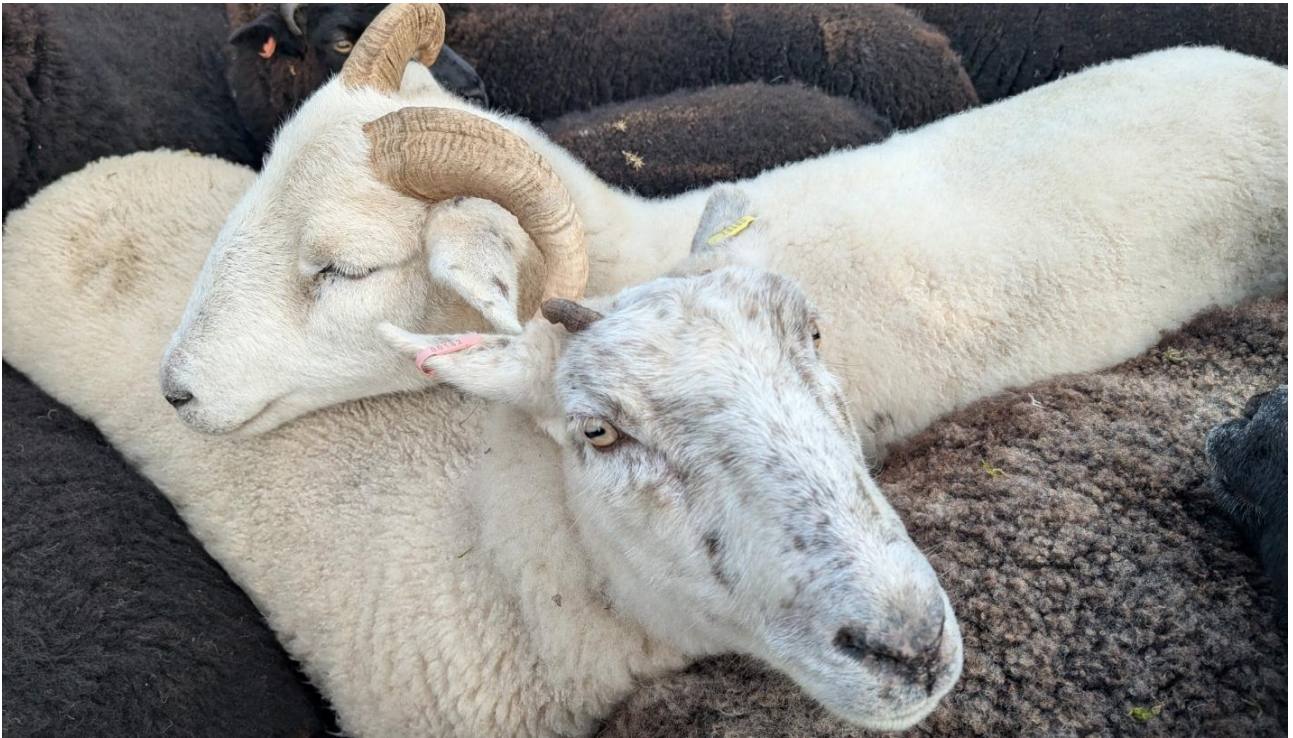
These sites will be fenced, clearly signed, and monitored. Staff will be on-site Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm. Deposit points will be closed at weekends.

For further details please [visit our Christmas information pages](#).



News from Essex Wildlife Trust Gunners Park and Shoebury Ranges Nature Reserve

Farewell Woolly Wonders



The sheep have now gone to Tollesbury Wick Nature Reserve as they've finished the job on Gunners of removing thick vegetation to allow space and light for the rare more fragile plants. There isn't very much good grazing left as most of what is left, is very dry after the summer we've just experienced. All being well, our woolly friends will return in the autumn.

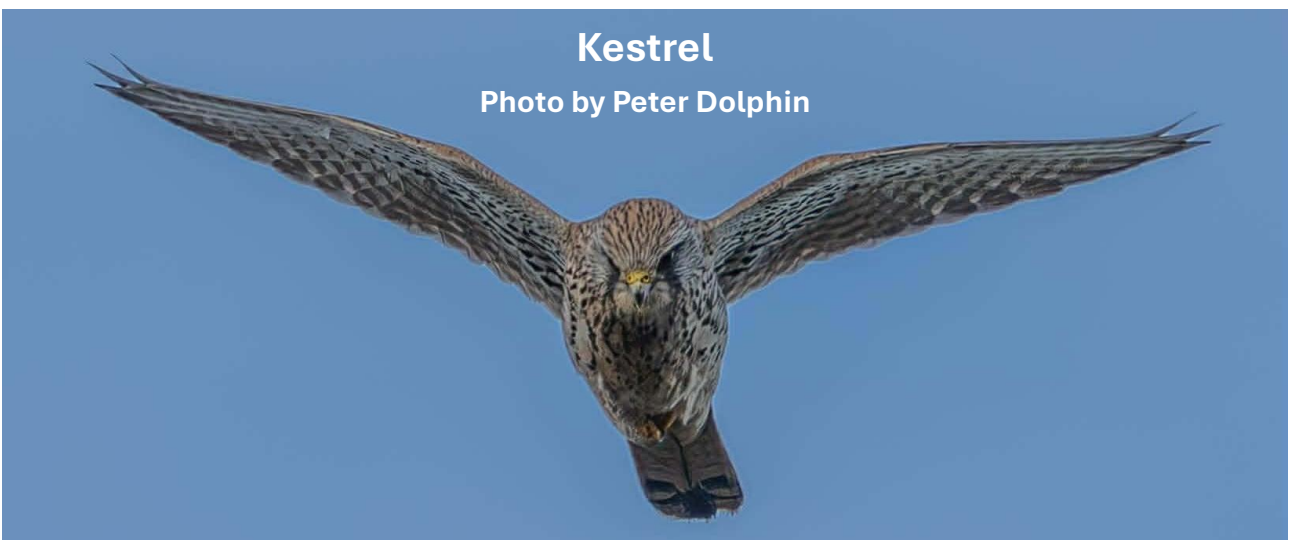


A beautiful picture of an elusive Water Rail taken by Richard Lytheer. The Water Rail is a common but highly secretive inhabitant of freshwater wetland.

A few of our feathered visitors seen during December



Many thanks to Peter Dolphin for these lovely photos of a Greenfinch, Rock Pipit and Greylag goose; and to Richard Lytheer for the Goldfinch with its distinctive colours.



Everyone Health is here to help you

If your New Year's resolution
is to Stop Smoking,
we have the tools.



free tools to stop smoking for good

With us, your chances of quitting just got three times better!

Whether it's your first or tenth attempt, we provide the support, resources and **FREE** effective products to give you the best possible chance to quit for good. This is your journey, we just give you the tools to go **FURTHER!**
Get everything you need to power **YOUR QUIT - YOUR WAY.**

Text: **QUIT** to **60777**

Call: **0333 005 0095**

Visit: southend.everyonehealth.co.uk

It's
FREE!

Scan
me...



Our services are free, however eligibility criteria and medical suitability apply. Please contact us for details to see how we can help you.

everyonehealth
because everyone matters

Southend-on-Sea
City Council

The New Year is the perfect time to make a positive change - and if quitting smoking is your resolution, we're here to support you every step of the way.

Our **Everyone Health Southend Stop Smoking Service** offers free, friendly, and effective support to help you become smoke-free for good.

Whether you've tried to quit before or this is your first attempt, our trained advisors can help you set goals, stay motivated, and choose the right tools and treatments to make this your year for success.

Small steps lead to big change - and you don't have to do it alone.

We offer a 12 week stop smoking programme, virtually, face to face or group based.

It includes **FREE** nicotine replacements, a workbook, an app and
1 to 1 guidance with a practitioner.



Essex is joining a national race to record rare marine species with the launch of the Rock Pool Project in Shoeburyness. The Rock Pool Project runs free challenge events nationwide to bring communities together on local beaches to discover marine life and record the rarest species they can find.

The monthly events are called BioBlitz Battles: teams of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to explore rock pools, identify and photograph the variety of species they find - from seaweed to anemones, and crabs to sea slugs.

Pictures are then uploaded to the app, with different species achieving different scores depending on their rarity. Each Hub releases a leaderboard of the teams who have scored the highest points for their rock pool discoveries, The Shoeburyness Hub is being run by volunteer leader Lisa Brazier of Beach School Explorers who said: "There's something magical about discovering the tiny creatures living in our rock pools. These events are a brilliant way to connect with nature, learn something new, and help protect our coastline."

The launch of the Shoeburyness Hub of the Rock Pool Project is thanks to funding from the ScottishPower Foundation, National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Marine Biological Association. Visit: www.therockpoolproject.co.uk if you want to come along or volunteer.

Location: Rampart Terrace, SS3 9AE

Upcoming BioBlitz Battles:

January 10th **11.00 AM**, February 8th **11.30 AM**, March 8th **11.00 AM**

Email:

shoeburyness@therockpoolproject.co.uk

Community Tree Planting at St Mary's Green



Many thanks to all the volunteers who joined us on 29th November to plant 300 whips (young trees) as part of the Southend Forest Project. We planted a range of trees mostly Rowans, Hazel, Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry, Dogwood (Cornus) and Dog Rose



The new tree whips that were planted today are very tiny now, but we look forward to them growing over the coming years into beautiful trees and shrubs.

Huge thanks also to Elias and Dan for preparing three fabulous planting areas ready for today's winter tree planting.

Uber granted licence to operate in Southend

Southend-on-Sea City Council's independent, quasi-judicial Licensing Sub-Committee has unanimously approved Uber Britannia Limited's application for a Private Hire Vehicle Operator's Licence.

This means Uber is now able to operate in the city. The licence will be granted for a period of five years, after which Uber will need to reapply.

All Uber drivers licensed in Southend must meet the same standards as other local private hire drivers. This includes passing the Southend knowledge test, completing safeguarding training, undergoing enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, medical checks, and displaying Southend PHV door stickers.

Drop-in Support Sessions for SEND Parents and Carers

At Shoeburyness Youth and Community Centre



SEND the Right Message Charity

Supporting SEND Families in Essex

Your Journey | Your Way |

Choose the support that works for your family



Tea & Talk



SEND Parent Carer Support Sessions - Shoeburyness

A warm, welcoming space for SEND parents and carers



Shoeburyness Youth and Community Centre
204 Delaware Rd, Southend-on-Sea SS3 9NS



Tuesdays 27 January | 24 February | 24 March



9:30am–11:30am

Drop in session

What is Tea & Talk?



• A relaxed drop-in space for SEND parents and carers



• Share experiences & swap strategies



• Connect with others who truly understand



• Ask questions & access trusted SEND information



• Enjoy a cuppa and just breathe



- ✓ Safe & supportive sessions
- ✓ All staff & volunteers DBS-checked
- ✓ Led by SEND parents with lived experience
- ✓ Trauma-informed, judgement-free support

♥ "It's the first place I didn't have to explain myself."

♥ "I felt understood straight away."

♥ "I didn't realise how much I needed this"

No booking • No diagnosis needed • No judgement

Just come as you are

Just a friendly, understanding community ready to listen, support, and remind parents they're not alone on their SEND journey.

info@strmsupport.co.uk | 07359 068 827 | www.strmsupport.co.uk

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Council matches Royal British Legion fundraising with £10,000 donation following Poppies on the Pier success



Southend-on-Sea City Council has confirmed it will donate £10,000 to the Royal British Legion (RBL) Poppy Appeal following the hugely successful Poppies on the Pier installation.

This contribution is in addition to the £9,573.97 raised directly by the RBL through the event, bringing the total raised for the Poppy Appeal to over £19,500.

Between 5 and 23 November, Poppies on the Pier welcomed 33,681 visitors who came to experience the striking display of more than 110,000 knitted and crocheted poppies adorning the world's longest pleasure pier. Created with the help of over 1,000 volunteers, the installation captured national and international attention and highlighted Southend's wartime role as HMS Leigh. The event also highlighted why we must keep investing in Southend Pier - maintaining it for future generations and honouring its unique military heritage.

Laura Gibbs, Regional Poppy Appeal Manager, added: "We are extremely grateful for the significant donation from Southend-on-Sea City Council and for the opportunity to be part of such a moving and memorable project. The support shown throughout the event will make a real difference to the Armed Forces community."

The council is exploring opportunities to display and preserve the thousands of poppies contributed by members of the public.

Southend Libraries Presents Adrian Lacey

The Forum, Southend-on-Sea Saturday, 24 January 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm



Southend Libraries Presents an inspiring afternoon with Adrian Lacey as he presents his debut novel 'Waving, Drowning'.

This funny, moving, beautifully written story explores the highs and lows of life in the world of TV and entertainment, the toxic power of trauma and the hope of new beginnings.

Tickets are FREE and will be available from 2nd January. Visit Southend Libraries' Eventbrite page, or call The Forum Reception Desk on 01702 534111

A Massive 'Thank You' to all our Volunteers who have given unstintingly of their time throughout 2025.

Contact details for Shoeburyness Residents' Association:
shoeburyresidents@gmail.com