



'Shoebury Matters' February 2026

Our Incredible Events Team Raises £2000!



Shoeburness Residents' Association Events Team proudly present their £2000 cheque to Southend in Sight following their very successful Christmas Market held in December 2025.

The Events Team, Lisa, Judy, Rhona, Richard, Martin, Sharon, Rochelle and Darren were busy from August last year booking in 50 stalls, local choirs, organising a raffle and a tombola as well as seeking sponsorship for their Christmas grotto.

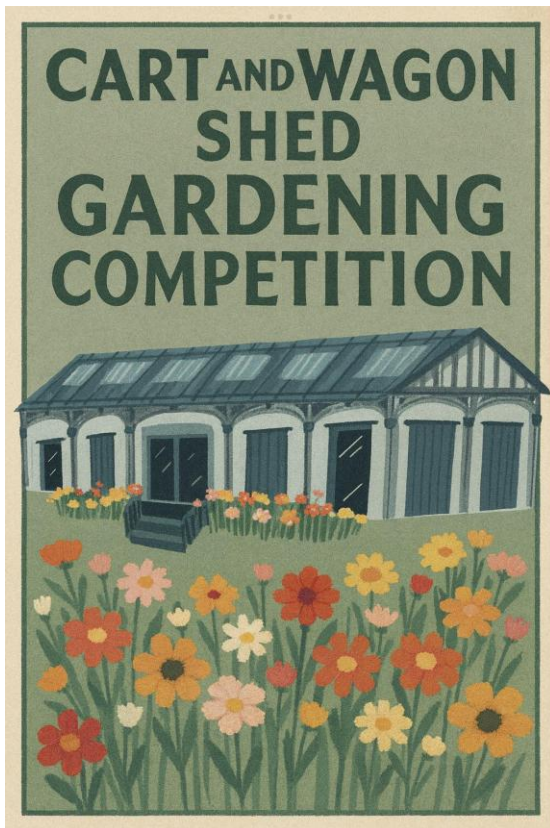
CEO of Southend in Sight, Lucy Martin, says:

"We know how hard it is to organise a successful fundraising event and we are so grateful to the whole team for all their hard work and for choosing to support Southend in Sight."

Find out more about southendinsight.org.uk



Celebrate Southend City Day on 7th March at the Cart and Wagon Shed



Shoeburyness Residents' Association

has been awarded funds and is proud to work with our **Cart & Wagon Shed** to provide a **Southend City Day Celebration Event**.

On Saturday 7 March 2026, we will be hosting a number of activities and competitions.

The first we would like to tell you all about is our **Planting Competition**.

In our garden area, we have two large, 6ft circular raised beds. We would like to invite individuals or organisations to come up with ideas, drawings etc. to make them look beautiful with planting.

We will give the winners a budget of £75 per planter to deliver their ideas, along with a plaque with their name and a message of their choice.

If this is something that is of interest, please leave us a message and we will be happy to answer any questions you have.

As part of our Southend City Day celebrations, locally based and internationally acclaimed magician, **Oliver Tabor**, will be performing at the Cart and Wagon Shed. Oliver is a member of the Magic Circle and has won the British and European magic championships. He has been performing magic, illusion, mind-reading and comedy for over 20 years - entertaining both adults and children.

There will be two performances, each lasting approximately 45 minutes, at noon and 2pm.

Entry is free but requires a ticket as space is limited. Book online at:

<http://donate.giveasyoulive.com/.../the-magic-of...>

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 2 must sit on parents / carers laps and do not need a ticket.



If you make a booking but subsequently are unable to attend, please let us know at cartandwagonshed.org/contact so that we can reallocate your tickets. Thank you .

Meet Joshua Davey our Heritage Trail Illustrator.



Family Heritage Trail Official Opening

The Family Heritage Trail was officially opened at 11:00am on 31st January by local MP Bayo Alaba, who joined community leaders, residents, and visitors from Leigh-on-Sea, Southchurch, Westcliff, Great Wakering, and beyond. The turnout was a great celebration of Shoebury's rich history and military heritage, firmly putting the area on the map.

Special thanks go to a young talented illustrator Joshua Davey, whose beautiful map design captured the imagination of all ages. His artwork brings the heritage trail to life with colour, charm and thoughtful detail. Joshua said,

“This map aims to capture the historic soul of Shoeburyness.”

A total of 4,000 beautifully illustrated maps were printed for the launch. Many were handed out on the day, with the remaining copies now available at the Cart & Wagon Shed. The artwork received glowing praise from attendees - well deserved recognition for Joshua's impressive work.



Find out more: <https://www.cartandwagonshed.org/family-heritage-trail/>



Shoebury Community Meeting, 2nd March 10am - 12 noon

Shoeburyness Youth and Community Centre (Library)

Our March speaker is Elizabeth Robinson from Healthwatch.

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

COPD DROP-IN

Shoeburyness Youth and Community Centre (downstairs to Library)



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

The **COPD Drop-In session at Shoebury Youth Centre** offers support and a safe space for individuals with COPD to share their experiences and access resources.

For more information call **07944 056 547**

Afternoon Tea for People Living with Dementia



Saturday 28th March 3-5pm

Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church, 90 Thorpedene Gardens, SS3 9JD

It will be Easter themed with a choir coming to entertain us.

For more information call 01702 292620

And don't forget

Southend City Day on Saturday, 7th March 2026

Join us at the Cart and Wagon Shed (see page 2) or visit:

[Southend City Day 2026](#) to find out more about events happening across the city



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

Our Swans February '26 - Update from our Warden

We currently have one pair and a lone individual resident on the lake. It's now the very start of breeding season so we expect the pair will become more territorial and potentially kick the other lone swan and any other interlopers off. Fingers crossed for swan babies!

The female of this pair was born here in 2024 and is the rare 'polish' colour morph, which you may remember hatched out white rather than grey. The male she's paired with did briefly pair up with her mother, the old female swan who lived at Gunners for over a decade raising many cygnets before she was sadly killed by a dog attack in spring 2025.



To prevent another tragedy, please remember to keep dogs close to you and stick to the paths in spring and summer so the birds can raise their young in peace.

2 stunning photos of a Firecrest, one of the UK's smallest birds taken at Gunners Park Nature reserve. This individual has been ringed allowing us to track it and gather valuable data about feeding breeding and condition. Many thanks to Trevor Hardy for the photos.



Pond Restoration and Digging New Wet Scrapes



A few snaps of the work we've been doing at Gunners recently, digging three new wetland scrapes and restoring two ponds.

It's looking fantastic and will make a huge difference to the wildlife in the park providing new habitat, new food sources for key species like house martins and give us a measure of resilience over hot dry summers.

It should also enhance the views over the ponds which will be great for wildlife spotting!

This is all thanks to very generous donation from the **Port of London Authority** who we can't thank enough.



Many thanks also to our ranger and many volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain and enhance the diverse habitats in Gunners Park and Shoebury Ranges Nature Reserve.





Shoeburyness Fire Station

Meet Our New Recruits



Meet our new recruit **George**.

He's successfully completed the initial two-week intensive training course and will continue his training at Shoebury fire station.

By day, George works as a steel erector. He said he always wanted a role where he could make a real difference in his community, and becoming a firefighter gave him the chance to do exactly that.

Meet our new recruits **Thomas** and **Harrison**.

Thomas works in grounds maintenance for the MoD. He said he has lived in Shoebury all his life and wanted a job where he could give back to the community he cares deeply about.

During the day Harry is a barrister's clerk. He said he's always been interested in a career in the fire service.

Harrison added: "Being a firefighter isn't just about responding to emergencies, it's about being there for your community when it matters most. Knowing that the work we do can help keep people safe and provide reassurance in difficult moments makes it incredibly worthwhile."



Could you be an on-call firefighter?

If you live or work within five minutes of an on-call fire station, you could be paid to help protect your local community. Search "Join Essex Fire" to find out more and apply.

Two Autism Resource Bases opened in Shoeburyness



Southend-on-Sea City Council is proud to announce the official opening of three new Autism Resource Bases (ARBs) at Blenheim Primary School, **Thorpedene Primary School**, and **Shoeburyness High School**.

Together, they significantly increase local specialist capacity, enabling more children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to access specialist support while remaining within mainstream schools and their local communities.

The new ARBs are designed to provide a "best of both worlds" approach: offering high-intensity, expert support in

a calm, low-arousal setting, while facilitating meaningful inclusion with mainstream peers.

SEND the Right Message Charity Launches First Autism & ADHD Course in Shoeburyness

The session was designed to help parents/carers to better understand and support their neurodivergent children, exploring overwhelming behaviour, sensory needs, emotional regulation, and what it really means to "make sense" of SEND.

A huge thank you to Vicki, our dedicated volunteers, and every family who showed up, shared openly, listened deeply, and trusted the space. It was powerful to see,



JOIN THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Love where you live
13 - 29 March 2026

This year, the Great British Spring Clean will take place from **13-29 March** and we're asking Litter Heroes like you to show they love where they live by making a pledge to pick a bag – or more – of litter. Join us and pledge today.

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean>

Out and About in Shoeburyness February 2026 at St Mary's Green



After the winter lay-off, we're back to planting some young shrubs and trees. Wild rose and silver birch added during our most recent session.

Friars Park Upgrade progressing well

Despite all the rainy days we have had recently, there is steady progress being made with the playground upgrade at Friars Park.

Work is due to be completed during the spring.



Booking is now open for the Southend Half Marathon



When: **8am 14th June 2026**

Where: **East Beach Shoeburyness**

Cost: **Affiliated Runner £36**

So, lace up and sign up for a cause that truly matters. The Southend Half Marathon - where your run counts, and every step supports local hospice care.




[Southend Half 2026 - Havens Hospices](#)

Mini Talkers at Friars Family Centre



You and your little one can apply to join our weekly session, packed with top tips for talking.

 Friars Family Centre
Tuesday mornings
during term time



Mini Talkers

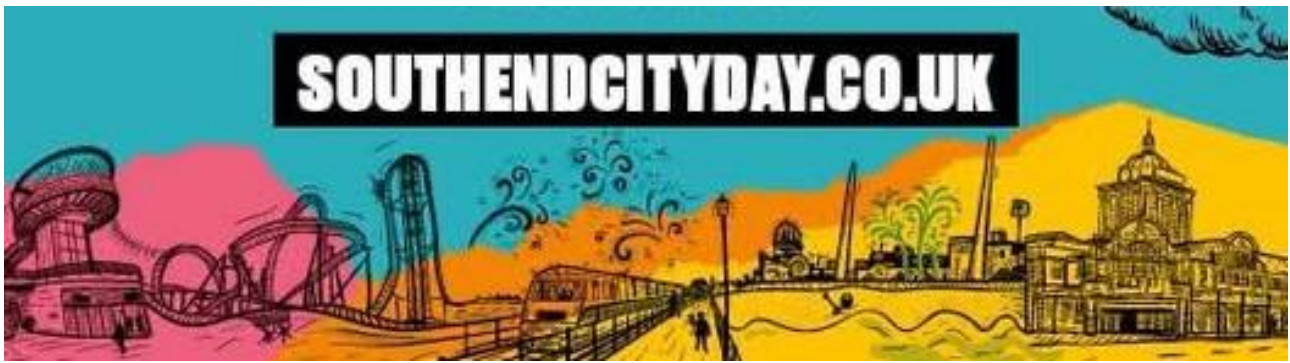
A group for 2-4 year olds who need some gentle support with their communication skills

This group is by referral only.

For more information, speak to your health visitor/ health visiting assistant during their visit or call the office on 01702 534911 and ask to speak to the duty health visitor.



This group is by referral only, but if you feel that your 2–4-year-old needs support with his/her communication skills, please call our health visiting team to discuss. **01702 534911**.



City Centre | Seafront | Westcliff | Southchurch | Shoeburyness | Leigh
Saturday 7 March | 11am - 10:30pm

After a successful first year, Southend City Day is returning on 7 March 2026. This year's theme is pride in our city, bringing together residents, businesses, and visitors for a day filled with community spirit, entertainment, and local talent. The event will honour Southend's unique heritage and cultural diversity.

Southend City Day Portrait Competition

The Royals Shopping Centre - Saturday, 7 March 2026 10.00 am to 5.00 pm



Southend-on-Sea City Council is inviting budding young artists to take part in the exciting Southend City Day Portrait Competition. This creative contest is open to young people in Years 7 to 11 from Southend schools & colleges, as well as those who are home-schooled.

To apply to take part, visit the [website](#).

Shoeburyness Resident's Association Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals are due by 31st March 2026.

If you are already a member and your details haven't changed, you don't need to fill in a form. Simply contact Margaret Alban our membership secretary (see over for details) to let her know that you wish to renew and how you will be paying your membership fee.

If you are new or your details have changed, please fill in a membership form (see page 12) or send all the relevant details via email or post to Margaret. Thank you.

Should you wish to contact Shoebury Residents about matters not related to membership please use the following contact details. Thank you.

Contact details for Shoeburyness Residents' Association:

shoeburyresidents@gmail.com



SHOEBURYNESS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

If you would like to join or re-join our Association, please fill out the form below and send to:

- shoeburyramembers@gmail.com; *or*
- Margaret Albon 92 Gunners Rise Shoeburyness Southend on sea Essex SS3 9BY.

Our fee is £5 per person or £8 per household and covers the period from 1st April 2026 until 31st March 2027.

Cheques payable to **Shoeburyness Residents' Association**

Bacs* Nat West; Account number **70090130**; Sort Code: **55-50-28**

***Please let us know if you use Bacs and insert details, so we know who you are.**

Name:

Address:

.....

..... Post code:

Email address:

Telephone number:

If you do not have an email address, try to use a friend' or neighbours' email so we can send you our newsletters and updates.

No personal details are shared with any other person or organisation.