

Welcome from the Harbour Master

If this is your first visit to Brightlingsea you're in for a treat, if not we've missed you.



Every year we expect to welcome approximately 2200 visiting yachts, hundreds of power boaters, other watercraft users, dinghy sailors, racers, and now paddle board and Kayaks, during the summer months the Harbour can be very busy, so requires some careful management. However, we will always make some room and pride ourselves in never turning down a visitor in need of somewhere to tie up for the night. Located centrally within the Thames Estuary many visitors have only discovered the incredible town of Brightlingsea by accident.

The town offers a great selection of friendly, locally run; hostelrys, shops, clubs and services to meet the needs of both residents and visitors. Most are located only a short walk from the waterfront and it is well worth taking the time to explore the town with its shops, pubs, eateries, gardens, the boating lake and promenade.

Please call our Duty Staff on VHF CH **68** on arrival and they will allocate and personally direct you to an appropriate berth for your vessel. We have Visitor berths and a Marina with Free Superfast Wi-Fi, showers, water and electric, in addition to the berths out in the channel or you can launch from the Hard.

The Harbour has an easily accessible fuel berth which is high speed, petrol is available as packed fuel locally. Fuel is sold at competitive prices for leisure and commercial users.

Please be aware of the rules of the Harbour - these can be found on our website or from the Harbour reception. We wish to keep all Harbour users safe at all times so please abide by the rules - they are there for your safety and the safety of others. In addition, please take the time to look at our safety information in the guide, and the map of the Harbour.

The Harbour reception area is also a Tourist Information Point providing a variety of literature about local attractions. To those who wish to explore you can get ashore using the water Taxi or travel further afield on our ferries. South of the main Harbour; Point Clear with its Martello tower a WW2 museum, the Ferry Boat Inn, West is Mersea Island a beautiful nature reserve, amazing adventure playground, fully operational vineyard, the Dog and Pheasant pub and East Mersea barns. There are currently Historical Harbour tours in association with the Brightlingsea Museum running, where you can then follow up with a visit to the museum located a short walk from the Harbour.

There is even a Ferry charter service up the Colne to the Black Buoy pub in Wivenhoe. Those that simply wish to enjoy the area on foot can enjoy some of the fine walks around Brightlingsea, including the five mile walk beside the River Colne and on to All Saints Church, of which the town is immensely proud and don't forget the town 200m from the Harbour.

The quieter upper reaches support a variety of wildlife, both on land and in the waters. You may even want to watch an evening production by the incredibly talented local players of Brightlingsea Musical Theatre Group.

The Harbour has a resident seal a source of wonderment to our younger visitors as well as the excitement of crabbing on the Town Jetty.

All of us at Brightlingsea Harbour look forward to welcoming you Essex's best kept secret throughout 2021.

James Thomas Harbour Master