



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN / WINTER 2024/25

Another summer season is over and the main hall exhibition packed away in readiness for the meetings and talks which keep us busy over the winter. We hope many of you were able to visit the exhibition "Beyond the Stood – Mersea and the Waterside Villages" which looked at the fascinating history of some of our neighbouring communities. It also included a display on the making of tendles, the traditional Mersea oyster baskets, which had been made by a group of enthusiasts working all through the closed season. Many thanks to Brightlingsea U3A and the Pioneer Sailing Trust who lent us some authentically made clothing for our "oysterman" mannikin.

In July we held a "Bring Your Finds Day" when people can bring in any objects such as pottery, stones, bones and fossils for identification – well we do our best! We also held two special weekend exhibitions in August, the first showing a collection of transoms (the stern part of historic wooden boats or bawleys bearing the craft's name.) This was put together by Gerard Swift who provided the history of each boat. After that there was "Rags to Riches", a display of beautiful textile-based artworks by Jan Mitson. This was extremely popular and we had our highest visitor numbers in recent memory, over ninety on each day.

We held another coffee morning for the residents of the local sheltered accommodation which was less busy than usual due to some people being affected by Covid, but those who did attend enjoyed the opportunity to meet up and see the new exhibition. There were a number of lively school and group visits, most recently by the local Cub Scouts.

In September we had a busy and very sunny weekend at the barrow for Heritage Open Days. Many thanks to the owners of Barrow Barn for the welcome supply of drinks, and to the many generous visitors who made donations.

Looking ahead to autumn and winter, our first talk is on Friday October 18th when Adam Wightman of the Colchester Archaeological Trust presents "Boudicca and the Buried Treasure." 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 7th. In the morning there is a re-run of The History of the Blackwater for people who prefer a daytime session, and in the evening a new series of talks called "A Short History of Essex."

The resource centre will be open fortnightly on Saturday mornings from 10am -1pm, starting on 5th October. Everyone is welcome to pop in for a coffee/tea and biscuits, search photos and documents on the computers or just have a chat with us. It's all very relaxed and informal.

We are now thinking about plans for next year's exhibition and hoping to come up with something new. Thank you to everyone who supported us in the summer and we look forward to seeing you at our autumn and winter events. Further details follow.



Mersea Island Museum Winter Programme 2024 – 2025

Saturday 5th October	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 12th October	10.30-12.30	MARG
Friday 18th October	7.30pm	Boudicca and the Buried Treasure Adam Wightman
Saturday 19th October	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 26th October	10.30-12.30	MARG
Saturday 2nd November	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 9th November	10.30-12.30	MARG
Friday 15th November	7.30pm	Historical Film Presentation Andy Merz
Saturday 16th November	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 23rd November	10.30-12.30	MARG
Saturday 30th November	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 9th December	10.30-12.30	MARG
Saturday 14th December	10am-1pm	Resource Centre Christmas open
Saturday 11th January	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 18h January	10.30-12.30	MARG
Friday 17th January	7.30pm	The Stories behind the documents Elaine Barker and Trevor Hearn
Saturday 25th January	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 1st February	10.30-12.30	MARG
Saturday 8th February	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 15th February	10.30-12.30	MARG
Friday 21st February	7.30pm	The Rise and Fall of the Colchester Bay Trade Patrick Denney
Saturday 22nd February	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 29th February	10.30-12.30	MARG
Saturday 8th March	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 15th March	10.30-12.30	MARG
Friday 21st March	7.30pm	The Siege of Colchester John Pullen-Appleby
Saturday 22nd March	10am-1pm	Resource Centre open
Saturday 29th March	10.30-12.30	MARG
Tuesday 29th April 2025	7.30pm	Museum AGM