



NEWSLETTER SPRING / SUMMER 2025

Another summer season is rapidly approaching and we are busy in the museum setting up the new exhibition. Over the winter we had some well-attended talks which introduced two new speakers and a special showing of the film "Oyster Land." The Essex Heritage Workboats group who ran the workshops on tendles last year have received further funding to research the history of local working boats. The free meetings have proved very popular as there is obviously a great deal of interest in this subject.

In January there was an unusual visit to the barrow by two staff members from St Helena Hospice who were interested in the concept of "modern barrows" where people can rent niches to house urns, flowers or memorabilia in memory of departed loved ones. There are a few in Britain already and for the hospice the challenge will be to find a suitable local site and to raise the considerable funds that would be needed. An interesting proposition.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 29th April 2025 7.30pm

Museum members will receive their notice and agenda with this newsletter. The AGM will follow the same format as last year, with the meeting followed by drinks and snacks and a chance to preview the new exhibition which opens to the public on the following day. We look forward to seeing you there.

SUMMER EXHIBITION Wednesday 30th April to Sunday 28th September

This year our theme is : "*Down Memory Lane – Mersea at Work and Play*" which will cover many shops, pubs, cafes and waterfront activities plus sports and leisure. There will also be a display about VE Day & 85th Anniversary of Dunkirk evacuation and local people involved.

We plan to hold some weekend mini exhibitions as well during the summer season.

YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU!

Our IT Manager Tony Millatt is looking for someone to help him organise and list the large amounts of documents and papers in the museum. If you are fit and active enough to move boxes and have some computer and admin skills we would like to hear from you. There are no set days or hours, just as and when you have time. We are a friendly lot here and would welcome some new blood. If you think this could suit you please contact Tony at tony@merseamuseum.org.uk or speak to him at the AGM.

We are also looking for more attendants to welcome visitors in the summer season. You don't have to be a history expert, just enjoy meeting people and be able to spare one afternoon perhaps weekly or fortnightly. Full training is given and you will always be with an experienced person. It's a very enjoyable role and most of our attendants have been with us for years. For more information contact info@merseamuseum.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Any annual members who have yet to pay their subs can do so by sending £5 (single) or £10 (family) to the museum at 12 High Street, West Mersea CO5 8QD or depositing it in the museum's post box with name and address. Or of course bring it to the AGM. Cheques payable to Mersea Island Museum Trust. Your support is much appreciated.

Finally, we look forward to a successful season and hope to see you all in the museum soon.