



# SBHOA NEWSLETTER Autumn 2024

## INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Beach Hutterers,

Here we go again into a cold unforgiving and sometimes bleak winter. However, lucky folk like ourselves have another option. If the winter day appears dry, with just a little bit of warmth in the winter sun, a cooked breakfast, perhaps even a toddy to help it down, looking out from behind our doors, whilst enjoying bacon, eggs and a sliced piece of buttered toast can make the day look very different. Why?... because our little wooden hut enables us to do so.

Now for more serious stuff, checking both inside and outside of our hut to make good those repairs, or simply add to, that LIST!! Yes, we all have one of those with an ever-moving timescale of priorities. Keeping our huts in good order is very important, maintaining a good market value and by showing others that you and yours have pride in your hut's appearance.

Whilst its appearance can make you feel good, please consider giving the same amount of energy to security, to ensure our huts stay as safe as possible. Seek help from a Committee Member if necessary.

Don't forget this year's AGM, details will follow.

Wishing you all many happy beach hutting days for the remainder of 2024 and beyond.

Regards

John Stenson.

Chairman.

## TO OUR CHAIRMAN - THANK YOU FOR SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE

As Members will be aware from the Chairmans introductory remarks, John Stenson is now standing down after some 14 years as a Committee member and for much of that time as Chairman of the Association.

John bought his beach hut, no. 505, in August 2008. Being a public-spirited sort of person, it wasn't long before John wanted to "do his bit" for the Association, and at the AGM in November 2009 he was elected to the Committee. John was very keen to help with the running of the SBHOA, and he volunteered to be the "First Responder" to telephone enquiries. He has carried out this sterling service ever since.

John played an active and effective part on the Committee, regularly attending other meetings with Council, Police, etc to represent the SBHOA. When our then Chairman, Gerry Saxon-Burton, sadly developed a terminal illness in 2011, and became too ill to continue as our Chairman in 2012, he asked John if he would take over the Chairmanship for the remainder of that year until the AGM.

At the AGM in November 2012, John was elected as Chairman, a position he has held very effectively ever since. Even when he sold his beach hut in 2021, John very kindly agreed to continue in the Chairman's role, as it's one of those positions which is sometimes difficult to find a suitable & willing person to fill.

John has had to deal with a number of difficult issues during his Chairmanship, including Sea Defences, Council Leases, Security matters and Anti-Social behaviours. He has dealt with all of these fairly and unflinchingly. His good-humoured, easy-going approach will be much missed. The Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking John for his continued support and leadership over this time.

On behalf of the Committee and Membership we would offer our best wishes for the future.

## THE MAUNSELL ARMY SEA FORTS

The Thames Estuary Army Forts were constructed in 1942 to a design by Guy Maunsell, following the successful construction and deployment of the Naval Sea Forts. Their purpose was to provide anti-aircraft fire within the Thames Estuary area. Each fort consisted of a group of seven towers with a walkway connecting them all to the central control tower.

The fort, when viewed as a whole, comprised one Bofors tower, a control tower, four gun towers and a searchlight tower. They were arranged in a very specific way, with the control tower at the centre, the Bofors and gun towers arranged in a semi-circular fashion around it and the searchlight tower positioned further away, but still linked directly to the control tower via a walkway. All the forts followed this plan and, in order of grounding, were called the Nore Army Fort, the Red Sands Army Fort and finally the Shivering Sands Army Fort. All three forts were in place by late 1943, but Nore is no longer standing. Construction of the towers was relatively quick, and they were easily floated out to sea and grounded in water no more than 30m (100ft) deep.



Access for the men posted to these forts was via an entrance at the base of the platform. Parts of the ladders that the men would have used are still visible today but are in a very poor condition. Indeed, attempting to access these forts is extremely hazardous, and they are best viewed from a boat and a safe distance.

All 3 forts saw action during the Second World War, and there is no doubt that they proved their worth. So much so in fact that anti-aircraft command called for the construction of more sea forts on the Thames in the immediate post-war period, and various new fort designs were put forward. However, none of them came to fruition and in 1952 the government decided not to pursue the sea fort construction programme any further. Nore Army Fort sustained damage during a storm in 1953, and tragedy struck the same fort again 2 months later when a ship hit and destroyed the Bofors and one of the gun towers. Four civilian caretakers were killed in this incident.

In 1955, the War Office decided that the Army Sea Forts had no further operational value. The Nore Army Fort was dismantled in 1959, but the Red Sands and Shivering Sands Forts are still standing today. They have been used as pirate radio stations during the 60's and 70's, but since then have remained abandoned.

Members may be aware that you can get to see the forts from the pier on the Waverley paddle steamer, and there are other boats which run trips to the forts during the Summer months.

## SOUTHEND CITY COUNCIL – PROPOSED NEW LEASES - UPDATE



Since Southend City Council's email in May 2024, which contained their thoughts about the new Leases, (notified to Members in the Summer Newsletter), the Committee have written to the Council about the points raised incorporating feedback provided by Members.

A response and some clarification was received from the Council in August, which was followed by a request to the Council, by the Committee about anticipated timescales for the introduction of the new lease and rent increases.

A copy of a draft lease was also requested from the Council in order that we could more fully advise Members. To date, nothing further has been heard from the Council.

The Committee has agreed to invite the Officer from Southend City Council who is dealing our Lease Renewals to attend the AGM.

A Solicitor has been instructed on behalf of Members to consider the implications of the new leases and any existing 'rights' for the benefit of the leaseholder that may be contained within the old leases.

It is hoped a further update will be available and provided to Members at the AGM.

## NEW WEBMASTER

Following our Summer edition Newsletter requesting for a volunteer to take over the management of the website; we are delighted to inform everyone that one of our Members, Stuart James, kindly offered his services.

To this end he has begun the rebuild of the site and has brought it up to date with a modern layout and easy to use navigation.

At the time this newsletter went to print the site was not complete as pages were still being added, although once this has been achieved Stuart would be pleased to consider any ideas to further enhance the site with helpful information and interesting articles.

So please let us have your comments.  
Please checkout the site at  
[www.sbhoa.org.uk](http://www.sbhoa.org.uk)



### VACANCY

#### Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Have you got the time and skills to help produce our Association Newsletters?

We aim to publish 3 Newsletters a year for our members.

The role would include collating articles and information provided by others, producing content of interest to beach hut owners, creating a topical quiz, etc.

*If you could help, please contact:  
[southendbhoa@gmail.com](mailto:southendbhoa@gmail.com)*

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to those members who provided their thoughts and views on the matters raised in the last Newsletter. In particular, relating to the lease situation, where enquiries focused on the proposed sub-letting, 10% fee on sale. All matters raised were brought to the attention of the Committee.

We always welcome feedback from you, our Members.

## FACEBOOK SURVEY RESPONSES TO REQUEST ABOUT NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

### 1) Summer Newsletter Survey

There had been 24 responses to the questionnaire in the Summer newsletter as to how Members would prefer to receive the Newsletter i.e. Paper or electronic format.

Of these, 19 happy to receive by email and 5 rather keep to post.

It was felt that this was rather too small a response to base a future decision about distribution of the Newsletter on and it was decided to run a Facebook poll.

### 2) Facebook Survey

Members may recall, we asked on our Facebook page how people might like to receive their Newsletter in future.

The results are 61 people who voted they would like it emailed to them in future, while 44 people would prefer it to be posted, as at present.

We also received a couple of comments requesting that it is attached to the Facebook page in future.

THANK YOU to those of you who voted/commented.

The Committee will be considering these results and comments, and the ever increasing printing and postage costs.



## WHAT-S ON

**SATURDAY, 2 NOVEMBER | 5:30PM - 8PM**  
Big Beach Bang on Shoebury East Beach (fee payable).

**SATURDAY, 2 NOVEMBER | 8PM - 8:15PM**  
Firework Spectacular on Southend Seafront.

**WEDNESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER | 1PM - 3PM**  
Icicle Dip Fundraiser on Chalkwell Beach.

**SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER | 8PM - 8:15PM**  
Firework Spectacular on Southend Seafront.

**16 - 17 NOVEMBER | 12PM - 4PM**  
Leigh Pop Up Christmas Artisan Market on Leigh Community Centre.

**FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER | 8PM - 8:15PM**  
Concert Series: Apollo5 – Vocal Ensemble on Southend Christian Fellowship Plaza.

**SATURDAY, 30 NOVEMBER | 11AM - 4PM**  
Big Up Southend craft market in The Victoria Shopping Centre.

**30 NOVEMBER - 24 DECEMBER**  
Wonderland on Adventure Island, Southend (fee payable).

**1, 8, 15, 22 DECEMBER | 9AM - 11AM**  
Breakfast with Santa on Kingpins Bowl (free).

**6 - 8 DECEMBER | 9AM - 11AM**  
Jack and the Beanstalk on St Andrews Church Hall, Shoeburyness (fee payable).

**6 - 8 DECEMBER | 9AM - 11AM**  
Starlight Productions performing Jack and the Beanstalk at St Andrews Church Hall, Shoebury (fee payable).

**SATURDAY, 7 DECEMBER | 10AM - 4PM**  
Shoeburyness Christmas Market on Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church.

**WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2025 | 12:15PM - 1PM**  
Lunchtime Recitals – Chelmsford Guitar Orchestra on the Civic Centre.

**FRIDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2025**  
Concert Series: The Metis Collective on the Civic Centre.

**WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2025 | 12:15PM - 1PM**  
Lunchtime Recitals – Richard Evans & Naoko Inoue piano duet on the Civic Centre.

**WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2025 | 7AM - 5PM**  
Concert Series: The Choir of King's College, London on Southend Christian Fellowship Plaza.

**WEDNESDAY, 19 - MARCH 2025 | 12:15PM - 1PM**  
Lunchtime Recitals – Vanessa Cozens & Andrew Walters/ Mezzo soprano and Tenor Civic Centre

**WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2025 | 12:15PM - 1PM**  
Reggae on The Hill, The Pier Hotel. Fee payable.

## WORD SEARCH - TAKE A BREAK

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L	A	R	U	R	T	E	R	U	S	I	E	L	H	U
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E	D	S	N	Y	F	O	Z	O	N	E	N	L	A	G
S	A	T	B	R	E	A	K	I	G	G	B	E	E	A
U	N	E	T	T	S	U	N	D	N	A	S	E	B	L
O	E	N	R	N	T	N	O	I	X	L	Y	P	R	O
H	M	I	A	U	E	L	P	B	A	L	R	I	I	W
T	O	A	V	O	L	M	U	G	L	J	E	N	A	L
S	R	R	E	C	A	S	T	D	E	V	N	G	H	E
E	P	T	L	C	H	H	A	R	R	I	E	B	C	T
U	N	I	B	A	C	G	O	L	A	C	C	A	K	O
G	K	B	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	P	S	G	C	H
T	S	A	F	K	A	E	R	B	D	N	A	D	E	B
T	R	O	S	E	R	C	O	T	T	A	G	E	D	J

APARTMENT	DECKCHAIR	RESORT	
BEACH	GUESTHOUSE	RURAL	
BED AND BREAKFAST	HOLIDAY	SAND	
BREAK	HOTEL	SEASIDE	
BUNGALOW	INN	SLEEPING BAG	
BUS	LEISURE	SUN	
CAMPING	LODGE	TENT	
CARAVAN	LOG CABIN	TRAIN	
CHALET	OZONE	TRAVEL	
COTTAGE	PROMENADE	VILLAGE	
COUNTRY	RELAX	WEEKEND AWAY	

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date : Thursday 21st November 2024

Venue : Thorpe Bay Methodist Church,  
The Broadway, Thorpe Bay, SS1 3HQ

Time : 7.30pm

We welcome suggestions for items to be discussed. It would be helpful if you could email these to the Chairman as soon as possible.

Thank you. Email: [southendbhoa@gmail.com](mailto:southendbhoa@gmail.com)

## CONTACT US

If you wish to contact the Committee:

✉ [southendbhoa@gmail.com](mailto:southendbhoa@gmail.com)

☎ [01702 613131](tel:01702613131)

🌐 contact box on our website [www.sbhoa.org.uk](http://www.sbhoa.org.uk)

Thank you.