



Social

The next meeting at Wivenhoe Sailing Club will be at 20:00 on Monday 6th of April. Please Note this is also the Easter Monday Bank Holiday. The bar will be open as usual.

Don't forget to book your place at the Fitting out supper. 19:00 Saturday March 14th at The Rosebud, Hurst Green, Brightlingsea, CO7 0EH Booking and deposits to Stephen 07958 568375.

Cruise in Company

By the time you read this I hope to be nearly ready to launch, despite the horrendously wet weather this Spring. I hope you are all getting on well with your preparations for the season ahead. Just a reminder that the events calendar is on the website. <https://acbo.org.uk/events-2/>

Shed news

Please remember to drop in to look after your boat over the winter. Apart from the ability of fresh water to rot wood, the sheer weight of water could be



enough to split or deform the hull. As a side issue, this dinghy is also padlocked to an apparently unrelated trailer. Whilst secure, it is courteous to inform the owner of the other boat.

Following a member request, please note that the sheds are a no smoking area. I also know from experience that the stove in the mess room can also cause an issue. Please ensure that ashes are raked out before lighting.

Moorings



We are in discussion with Colchester regarding boats which do not belong to members of the cooperative arriving in the creek. It is of great concern that we could be targeted as an easy location to abandon boats displaced from elsewhere. In February the above boat was left in the creek with no identification or notice and attached to one mooring buoy. From its condition, it appears to have been abandoned and was reported to Colchester. Thanks to Brian for spotting it and making Colchester aware.

Friday 13th was definitely unlucky for one boat in the creek which lost its battle with the incessant rain we



have had this year. Without being pumped out regularly she has been progressively sitting lower in the water, finally sinking on her moorings, her owner has been informed and now has the unenviable task of recovering her.

Other News

Thanks to Frank Belgrove for the heads up on a recent Notice to Mariners. There is survey work in the Sunk and Gallopers area linked to the North Falls wind farm. Whilst outside our normal cruising area, it prompted me to check out the local sources.

Brightlingsea Harbour NtM has local notices including the range timetable.

<https://www.brightlingseaharbour.org/notice-mariners/>

You will often see range flags by Rat Island which denote that live firing is taking place. By checking the range timetable, you can plan to use the sheltered deep anchorage inside. One of the most recent notices refers to dredging and surveying as shown below.

Dredging at Brightlingsea - Marina closed (18th February 2026)

Mariners are hereby advised that Brightlingsea Harbour, in conjunction with dredging contractor Van Oord, will be conducting dredging operations within Brightlingsea Marina and Harbour. Operations are scheduled to commence on Friday 20th February 2026 and are expected to be completed by 1st April 2026, subject to weather and operational conditions.

During this period, Brightlingsea Marina will be closed, and no access will be permitted either by water or on foot for the duration of the works.

Van Oord will be operating two vessels, Baldr and Havik, both of which will maintain a listening watch and be contactable on VHF Channel 68 at all times. Dredging operations will be conducted during ebb tides only and will take place during daylight hours and at night. For further information, please contact Brightlingsea Harbour Office on 01206 302200 or mail@brightlingseaharbour.org

You can also find the local tide tables for the year on their site or app.

If you plan to head North, latest updates and local chart-lets for the Deben, Ore/Alde entrances etc.

can be printed from the East Coast Pilot downloads page. <https://www.eastcoastpilot.com>

A weekly edit of East coast NtM is published on the YBW East coast forum by "Tillergirl" aka Roger Gaspar, author of Crossing the Thames Estuary. <https://forums.ybw.com/forums/east-coast-forum.60/>.

For the River Blackwater, the Maldon district council website has links to notices issued locally. Currently showing information about the removal of the pontoon and dredging operations on the quay. https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20106/rivers_and_waterways/9277/rivers_and_moorings/4

All the above sources are worth checking when you venture out of the creek. Tide tables are on the Brightlingsea harbour site and the associated App, together with real time weather and tidal data.

Mollette

When sailing into the Blackwater and back it is usual, when the tide permits, to make a shortcut around the Mollette, East cardinal mark. I knew the mark is named after a wreck and that the remains are visible at low springs. The history is more interesting than that. The Mollette was the first of two concrete schooners built by James Pollock in Faversham, launching in 1919. A history which includes colliding with Tower Bridge, groundings, breakdowns, conversion to a houseboat at Mersea and finally as a target vessel. More info can be found on this link: <https://thecretefleet.com/f/ten-wwi-concrete-ship-wrecks---edition-1-mollette>

Alresford Creek Boat Owners

2026 will mark 50 years since Alresford Boat owners was formed to support and encourage affordable boating in the creek. There have been many changes in that time, but it is reassuring to see the continuing efforts made by members to promote affordable boating and looking after creek.

Contacts

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