



'Shoebury Matters' February 2023

2023 AGM

The AGM this year will be held at 7.30 on Tuesday 16th May at St Andrews Church Hall. The main speaker has now been confirmed as **Sarah Mills** a representative from the South East Essex Alliance. She will update us on progress to date with the Shoebury Health Centre, talk about the Alliance plan and our local communications and engagement network.

Love Parks award – we are winners!

REEN

Love Parks
Award

Southend-on-Sea
City Council



Network Awards 2023
#KBTCONF



Starting the new year with great news that Southend-on-Sea City Council has won the Love Parks Award at the Keep Britain Tidy's local authority Network Awards 2023. The Love Parks Award recognises the work the council undertook during Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks Week in July and August 2022.

Through a number of exciting events and projects for residents in our incredible parks and open spaces, including guided butterfly tours in Gunners Park and litter picks across the seven Green Flag Award parks in the City, Southend has come out tops.

It is good to know that two of the winning parks are situated in **Shoeburyness**;

- **Gunners Park, and**
- **Shoebury Park.**

Well done and a great big **Thank You**, to everyone who was involved.



All this on our doorstep

Gunners Park and Shoebury Ranges Nature Reserve

A reserve that heralds a large amount of history and is a fantastic place to witness the wonder of bird migration

About the reserve

Accessible to all, this nature reserve is a great place to escape the hustle and bustle and go for a coastal walk, whilst discovering different wildlife around every corner.

Due to its proximity to the Thames Estuary, this nature reserve provides ideal habitat for migrating birds on passage to and from the UK, including ring ouzel, spotted flycatcher, wheatear, whinchat and even yellow-browed warbler. Hundreds of waders will gather along Gog's Berth, while a grey seal occasionally makes an appearance along the seawall.

The nature reserve incorporates the Shoebury Old Ranges Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) and the Coastguard Station Grounds Local Wildlife Site. This area has more than 12 habitats to walk through, from coastal grassland and a large pond to remnant sand dunes and historic military buildings. This mosaic of habitats has allowed a range of species to thrive here, including the nationally scarce sandwich click beetle, bulbous meadow grass and the cuckoo wasp. The historic buildings are also used by wildlife – in the summer months look out for barn swallows zipping in and out of the gaps to feed their young nesting inside.

Some recent stunning pictures posted on the Essex Wildlife Trust Gunners Park and Shoebury Ranges Nature Reserve Facebook Page.



Click to find out more

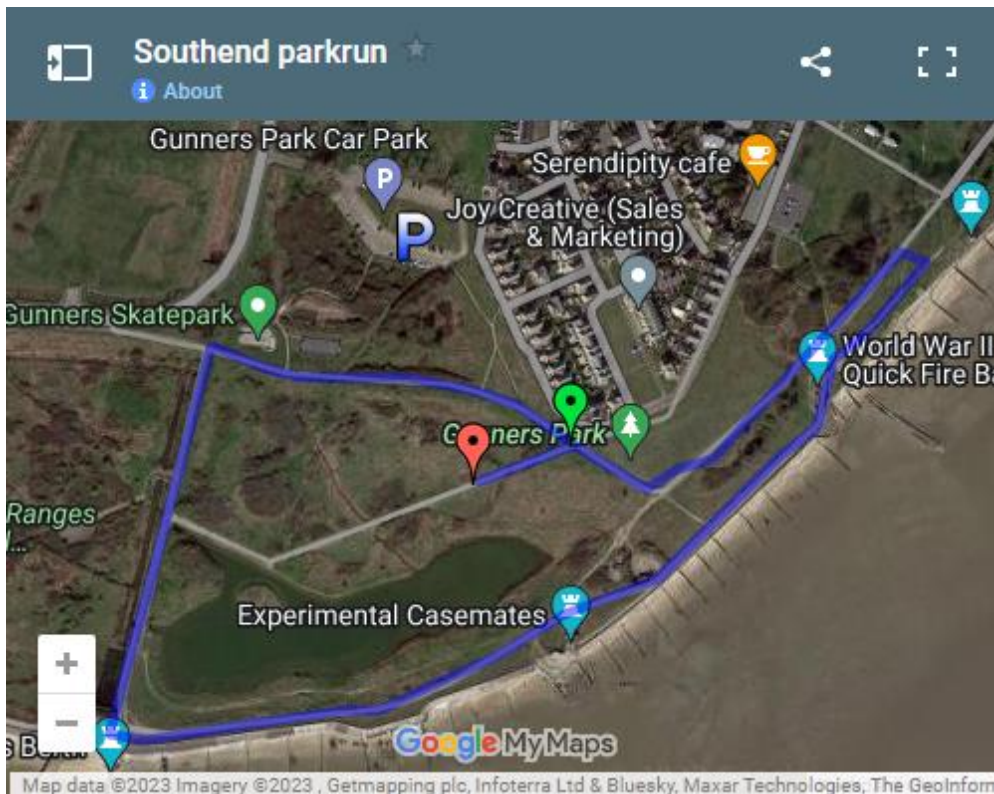
[Essex Wildlife Trust Gunners Park and Shoebury Ranges Nature Reserve](#)





Gunners Park is also the venue for Southend parkrun

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer, or spectate – it's up to you!



When is it?

Every Saturday at 9:00am.

Where is it?

The event takes place at **Gunners Park**, off New Barge Pier Rd, Shoebury, Southend, Essex. See [Course page](#) for more details.

What does it cost to join in?

Nothing - it's free! but please [register](#) before you first come along. Only ever register with parkrun once and don't forget to bring a **scannable** copy of your barcode ([request a reminder](#)). If you forget it, [you won't get a time](#).

How fast do I have to be?

We all take part for our own enjoyment. Please come along and join in whatever your pace!

Southend parkrun needs you!

It is entirely organised by volunteers – email southend@parkrun.com to help.

We're friendly!

Every week we grab a post parkrun coffee at The Shorehouse Harvester on Ness Rd - please come and join us.

***And don't forget that the Cart and Wagon Shed - Shoeburyness Heritage Centre, has a wonderful café that is almost on the route.**

Council vote disappointing for Gunners Park visitors

Last week the Council voted in favour of imposing parking fees on the two Gunners car parks. Details have not been finalised, and the decision may be overturned if it goes out to public consultation, but it is currently understood that the first hour would be free. Clearly this is not good news for the people visiting the Cart and Wagon for a meal nor for anyone who has driven to take part in Park Run.

Local councillors were informed several weeks before the vote of our concerns about the long-term future of the Heritage Centre if a parking fee were to be applied, so it was doubly disappointing to discover that two of them had voted in favour of imposing the charges.

And staying green, Hub 151 is hosting,

WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2023 FROM 19:00-22:00

Eco Evenings - Forest & Woodlands

HUB 151 West Road Shoeburyness



Our Eco Evenings include:

- Short award winning eco documentaries
- Insights from local experts and enthusiasts
- Group discussion

Hot refreshment, plus Free from and vegan friendly treats provided.

To book your place:

Email hello@hub151.co.uk Phone [074 94236677](tel:07494236677)



Out and About in Shoeburyness

East Beach

The site of the old Shoebury East Beach café which burnt down more than 20 years ago has now been surrounded by a secure temporary wall, ready for the construction of two new beach units to begin.

The original proposal for two new cafés with eco-friendly roofs with a third being built if uptake was good, has now been amended to TWO beach units with a third one to follow at a later date. It is unclear at the present time whether they will all be cafes.

The first two units are due to be completed by September 2023. Leaseholders will then fit them out.

The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) Southend lookout station needs more volunteers

The **Southend Lookout Station** situated at the far end of **East Beach Shoeburyness**, is a familiar site to residents and visitors alike, but have you ever wondered what NCI watchkeepers do?

The National Coastwatch Institution is a voluntary organisation keeping a visual watch along UK shores. Currently almost 60 NCI stations are operational and manned by over 2600 volunteer watchkeepers around the British Isles.

NCI watchkeepers provide the eyes and ears along the coast, monitoring radio channels and providing a listening watch in poor visibility. They are trained to deal with emergencies offering a variety of skills and experience, and full training by the NCI ensures that high standards are met.



Shoeburyness station is within the boundary of the Ministry of Defence site at Shoeburyness, and gives a commanding view over the Thames Estuary.

The Shoebury Boom extending from the shore for a distance of 1.25 miles presents a serious hazard for kite and board sailors when the wind is from South through to SW. and the tide is ebbing. Sandbanks flood as tide comes in leaving the possibility of trapping people walking on the sand.

Thinking of volunteering? Phone 01702 295446 and/or visit <https://www.nci.org.uk/join>

Coastal Survey

HM Coastguard Station, Shoeburyness

You may have noticed some interesting equipment being erected next to HM Coastguard Rescue Station, Ness Road SS3 9QR. It's part of a University coastal survey being undertaken as recording the movement of Shipping and boats on the coast.

The Norfolk and Suffolk coasts have already been surveyed.

This installation is likely to be in place for a month or so.



The New Health Centre for Shoeburyness is finally underway



Fencing is now surrounding the Old Hospital in Ness Road Shoeburyness as work finally begins on the new Shoeburyness **Health and Wellbeing Centre**. The Old Hospital, damaged by fire in 2018 has been standing derelict since then and will be demolished in the coming weeks.

Shoebury Hospital was originally registered in 1938 as the Sunshine Home, Convalescent Home. More recently, it was used for non-residential specialist health care but the building has been vacant since 2008.

A deal is set to be signed securing a 'design partner' who will draw up plans for the new health centre. The design partner will work with community groups while developing the plans, which will then be submitted to Southend Council for approval.

Defibrillators in Shoeburyness

Can you help?

Your SRA committee have been carrying out a survey to try to locate all the defibrillators in Shoeburyness. The Defib finder UK website lists the following three:

1. **LSJ Engineering Ltd.** 19 Towerfield Road, Shoeburyness, Essex, Southend-On-Sea, SS3 9QE. that is available to the public from 8 – 3, Monday to Friday
2. **Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church**, Thorpedene Gardens, Shoeburyness, SS3 9JD. that is available to the public 24/7
3. **Southend Council Foreshore Office**, Shoebury Common Road, West Beach, Shoeburyness, SS3 9HG. that is available to the public 24/7

There are also two further defibrillators on the outside walls of the two public toilets on East Beach but these do not appear on any of the defibrillator location websites, a matter that we are trying to rectify.

Do you know of any other defibrillators in Shoebury?

They are not always easy to spot. They might be yellow, lemon/cream, or white and they may, or may not be on a backing.



If you find any others please email: info@shoeburyresidents.co.uk with the location and a picture if possible. Thank you.

MOD Shoeburyness

The MOD Shoeburyness Conservation Group has been committed to preserving the unique environment and history of the area for over 30 years. On the website link (below) you can find out about the work of the group and some of the fascinating wildlife, natural features, and history of the site.

To find out more about Heritage, Archaeology and Conservation in the area, then link with this address: <https://www.qinetiq.com/.../conservation-and-archaeology>

Rasta Boat Afloat

Thank
you



Thanks to a dedicated and hard-working group of Shoeburyness residents, an iconic **East Beach** landmark has been saved. The well-known Rasta boat painted in bright colours replicating the Jamaican flag, had fallen into disrepair. Through fundraising and many hours of skilled work, volunteers have replaced the engine, electrics and rotted woodwork, sealed the hull, and made the vessel seaworthy once more. What a wonderful community effort.

Historic Shoeburyness



The Red House early 1900s



The Red House 2010

Did you know that we have twelve Grade II listed buildings in Shoeburyness? Unless they are pointed out to you, it's very easy to overlook them as you pass by.

On the junction of Waking Road and Elm Road can be found one of them, **The Red House**, a famous Shoebury landmark built in 1637.

It is a 2-storey house built from red bricks on an L-shaped plan with wings extending to the west and south. Originally a single-story cottage, a raised brick band marks where the upper story was added circa 1673.

Supposedly, a secret tunnel was built beneath the road during WW2 to ferry troops to and from the seafront, exiting in the raised area on Rampart Terrace.



Change of Practice Partner

Under the new Alternative Provider Medical Service (APMS) Contract Tender, (Mid & South Essex) a private health provider called Spirit Healthcare will be taking over the North Shoebury Surgery on 1st April 2023.

We have been assured that this handover will NOT affect your GP-Led services and the surgery will continue to operate in the same professional

manner with the same facilities that are currently in place.

Patients will not be required to re-register under the new provider, and your care records will automatically transfer to the new contract holder on 1st April 2023.

NHS contracts are granted for a period of time only and the partnership must re-apply as and when the time frame expires. The current partners of North Shoebury were invited to re-tender for the current NHS contract which offers primary care services and unfortunately, they were not successful with their bid.

Virtual Green Tokens

Please Help Age Concern Southend

Every penny is vital to keep their services expanding.

Visit www.Asda.com/green-tokens and [select Shoeburyness](#) as your local store.

Please then select **Age Concern Southend** as your cause.

You can vote every week until 30th April



If you are struggling with cost of living increases

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Visit <https://onesouthend.com/food-provision-support/...>

Energy Saving Information Session

Citizens Advice Southend and Southend City Council join together to offer a free drop-in session for residents. As energy prices are hitting an all time high, many Southend Households are struggling to afford to keep their homes warm.



Citizens Advice Southend and Southend City Council are here to offer FREE advice on energy saving measures for homes. From simple tips for saving water and energy, to available grants to help you insulate your home and reduce household waste.

- **Dates:** 8th and 13th March 2023
- **Time:** 10:00 - 13:00
- **Location:** The Forum Elmer Square, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1NS
- **Cost:** Free

Shorter Showers Challenge Anglian Water

**5 mins
max**


If we all kept our showers to 5 minutes, our region could save nearly 200m litres of water every day, that's like leaving the tap running for 60 years. You can save water, energy and money, just by keeping your shower to 5 mins.

Did you know?



- Heating water accounts for 12% of typical energy bills
- 70% of water usage is in the bathroom
- Almost 40% of water we use at home is used in the shower
- Showering just 1 minute less saves £8 in energy per year.

Additional Resources to save on water

 <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/water-saving-tips/in-the-bathroom/water-saving-bathroom-kit/>

Wellbeing Support

- Getting help and support after a stay in hospital
- Keeping warm, collecting medication, making sure there is food in the fridge, and having the means to do all of these things is important after a stay in hospital.

If you or someone you know needs help, support is available from local community hubs.

The community hubs can help connect you into support that meets your needs in your local community. This can be everything from support with money management, mental health support, getting more active and parenting support.

Contact our local Hub:

Southend homesafesos@savs-southend.co.uk Phone 01702 356 000

Can you spare some time to support our local schools?



Trustee Vacancies



We are seeking to appoint new Trustees who can make a real difference to the future life chances of young people in our Trust and communities.

Our mission is to achieve outstanding outcomes for the young people in our community by providing an engaging, challenging and linear learning experience from 2–18, that equips them to live happy and successful lives.

We are looking to further strengthen the experience of our Board of Trustees by appointing Trustees that shares this ethos. Most importantly you should have a keen interest in using your experience to help support the life chances of young people in our community.

Our Chair of Trustees, Karen Dovaston, would be delighted to have an informal chat about the role and its commitments.

Please contact the Trust Governance Manager: katylove@secat.co.uk for more information, an application pack and to arrange a suitable time to talk. For more information about SECAT, please visit: www.secat.co.uk

The closing date for applications is **31st March 2023**.



SECAT is committed to safeguarding the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post will be subject to an enhanced disclosure check from the Disclosure and Barring Service and a Right to Work in the UK check.

A Focus on Youth

Southend Youth Council

For young people aged 11-18 (up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in the city, to have a say over how their city is run. The Youth Council meets monthly to discuss the issues that affect young people in Southend. Meetings are planned and chaired by the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor.

New members are always welcome. If you'd like to join, please email youthmayor@southend.gov.uk and follow us on Twitter

SRA Membership Renewal

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership.

A reminder that your Membership renewal of £5 per person or £8 per household is due by 31st March 2023. Please could you return the attached form by the due date.

If you joined the association within the last year, you will already have been informed that your membership lasts until March 2024. There is no need to register again.

Views Please

Your SRA Committee are constantly looking for ways to ensure your views and concerns are heard and responded to, and we would like to know your thoughts on the following.

1. Informal quarterly meetings with our local councillors.
2. Informal meetings with committee members with opportunities for 1-1 discussions.

Please let us know by emailing info@shoeburyresidents.co.uk if you might be interested in either, neither or both suggestions. Thank you.

What's happening in March

Park Run: 9am Gunners Park 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March

Energy Saving Information Session The Forum, Elmer Square, Southend, drop in sessions between 10.00 – 13.00 on 8th and 13th March

Community Coffee Morning St Mary's Church Hall (next to ASDA) 10.30 - 12.30 Thursday 9th March

Eco Evening HUB 151, West Road, Shoeburyness, Wednesday, 22 March 19:00-22:00

Closing date for SECAT Trustee Vacancies 31st March. (see previous page)