



Introduction by the Chairman Simon Sterry

Welcome to summer, some hot sunny weather to enjoy on the beaches of Southend and Shoeburyness, and some warm sea too. This electronic version of our newsletter is because we still have no news regarding the lease situation, and it gives us the opportunity to test reactions, so please give honest constructive feedback to your committee. We are always looking for local stories to include in our newsletter and on the website, so if you have any to share with your fellow hutters, please get in touch.

[Britain from above](#) provides some nice aerial photos of how our seafront looked many years ago and is worth a visit if you are interested and you can register for free. Please enjoy this edition and we will keep you informed of the lease situation as soon as we get any information.

A Waterman's Notebook

by Ian Robinson (Membership Secretary)

Well, summer has been with us for a few weeks and now summer holiday time at the beach. Many of us will be taking the opportunity for lovely walks out on the sands at low tide which of course, are very pleasant as well as being good for your feet which may not have seen the light of day through the winter.

Most mud walkers on our shore tend to make a beeline for the Mulberry Harbour which is a very popular attraction. As lovely as it is out there, it can be dangerous if you don't pay attention to the tides. The Mulberry itself sits on a sandbank which is surrounded by gutways (small channels). As the tide turns and starts to flood, these gutways fill up quite quickly and can cut people off from shore if they stay out on the sandbank too long.

So how do you make sure that this doesn't happen to you? In a nutshell you need to know a bit about the tides and how they work on our shore.

Firstly, check the time of the last high water and add 6 hours for the time of low water. You should already be on your way out before low water as the tide will turn and start to come back in by an hour after low water.

While you're walking out, as you walk through any water take note of the direction in which the weed on the seabed is streaming. If it's streaming out towards the sea, it means the tide is still going out. If it's streaming in towards the land it means that the tide has already turned and is coming in, so you should be thinking about heading back in.

If you're already out on the sandbank keep an eye on the time and any signs that the tide has turned, such as gutways starting to fill up, or anchored ships out in the

channel turning to face the incoming tide (bow towards Shoebury).

If you see this, or if it is an hour past low water, it's time to start heading back to shore. Don't be the last ones to leave. If you see numerous people heading back it could be that they know something that you don't, so join the general move to shore.

The body of tide comes in from the Shoebury direction and heads towards Southend. So, if you encounter water getting deeper on your way back keep heading towards the shore end of the Pier and the water will gradually get shallower. You can adjust where you want to head for on the shore once you're clear of the deeper water.

If you do find yourself in difficulty and can't make it to shore, don't delay. Call for help. Ideally if you have a mobile, dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard. If you don't have any other means of summoning help, wave your arms repeatedly. Someone ashore will see you and call for help. But don't stop until help arrives.

There are some other general things to be aware of which will help you to plan your mud walks more safely and effectively.

Normally the tide will go out further on higher tides than it will on lower tides. It will also come in and go out faster and there will be more current.

Your Tide table will tell you the predicted height of high tide as well as its time. It varies between around 6.2 metres (spring tides) and 4.6 metres (neap tides). This height is the difference between low water and high water as measured by the tidal station at Southend Pier Head.

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You can normally reckon that tides below 5.3 metres in height will not go off very far and might not be suitable for walks out to the Mulberry.

Wind conditions can also affect how far the tide goes out and how early it comes back in. It's often not as you would expect, as there is a broader picture to consider.

What happens in our Estuary is influenced by what is happening out in the North Sea.

Strong winds from the North/Northwest/Northeast will tend to hold the water in at Southend, make high tide higher, and make the tide come back in earlier. Winds from South/Southwest will do the opposite.

So, having digested all the foregoing, enjoy your lovely times out on the sands, look out for unusual natural things such as razor fish shells and sea urchin shells, and appreciate that we have these wonderful surroundings to enjoy.

Beach Huts Wanted/For Sale

As some of you will have noticed, there are quite a few huts for sale at the moment. For someone keen to buy, there's a great choice out there, something that was unheard of a few years ago!

I still have a list of people potentially interested in buying, and a couple of owners wishing to sell, but things have slowed down and there seems to be an air of waiting to see what happens before committing to the purchase.

Hut prices have also dropped, after the somewhat inflated prices we experienced a couple of years ago.

Whether prices are now normalised, or whether they will fall a little further we shall wait and see.

In the meantime, I hope you are all enjoying your time at your hut this year.

Best wishes to all
Angie Sterry (Hut Sales)



- Contact Us -

Email: sbhoa2001@gmail.com

Website: www.sbhoa.org.uk

Crime Update

There have been a few reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) with youths using the balconies of huts to drink, smash bottles and potentially try and gain access. Please remember to report any incidents of ASB and low-level crime and regularly check your hut.

Jo Collins (Security Officer)

AGM 2025 – ADVANCE NOTIFICATION

The AGM will be held on **Thursday 27th November**

Venue: Methodist Church, The Broadway, Thorpe Bay

Members wishing to put any matters forward are reminded that proposals, resolutions or any other business to be included on the agenda must be received by the Association by 1 October (Rule 11g).