

# Brightlingsea at Christmas

• **Virtual Christmas Tree Festival**



• **Church Services**

• **Lights Trail**

• **Shopping**

• **When Santa came to Brightlingsea**

• **And much more**

Lighting Up Christmas from All Saints' to The Hard



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# Christmas Greetings Everyone

Normally at this time of year you would be receiving a brochure telling you all about the forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church, with trees created in every imaginable design and colour. Brightlingsea would be gearing up for late-night shopping and all the excitement that it brings to the High Street, but this is 2020, we are under the cloud of a global pandemic and it might not feel like the start of Christmas at all.

However, we are incredibly fortunate to live in a town that is extremely resourceful and undaunted, the community has come together to help create a "Christmas Tree Festival of Light -from All Saints to the Hard," that we can all can participate in. So, the Christmas Trees will still be there, but this year they will be located in people's houses, in their gardens, town centre and sea front. It doesn't matter what size, or shape or colour they are - what matters is that everyone is putting a little bit of light into the town, to remind us all it's Christmas!

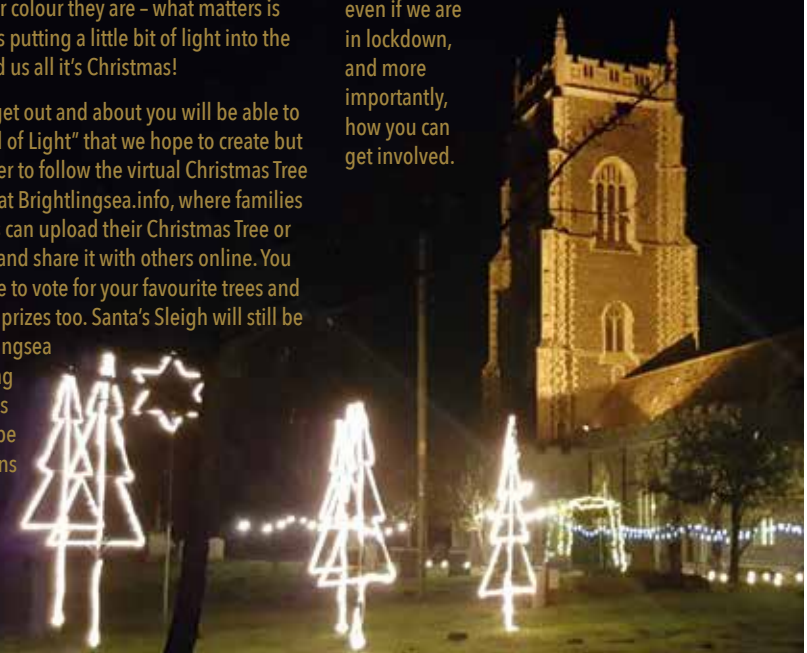
If you can get out and about you will be able to follow the "Trail of Light" that we hope to create but you might prefer to follow the virtual Christmas Tree Festival online at [Brightlingsea.info](http://Brightlingsea.info), where families and businesses can upload their Christmas Tree or lights displays and share it with others online. You will also be able to vote for your favourite trees and we have lots of prizes too. Santa's Sleigh will still be visiting Brightlingsea and surrounding villages and this year there will be added attractions around the Hard including a Santa's Grotto. The local Business

Association and Town Council are working together to light up the town centre and shops and businesses are invited to dress their windows too.

For those hoping to celebrate Christmas at Church you will find a range of services that you can either attend in person, by booking, or online to ensure social distancing. For anyone living alone there are details of how to participate in the Deputies Gift Fund Christmas Lunch which will be delivered on Christmas Day.

Brightlingsea is a great town with lovely people. Let us join together and make this a year to remember - for good reasons too. We hope that this time next year we will be looking back on 2020 and saying, "Didn't we do well?"

So, please take time to read this brochure, discover more about what will be on, even if we are in lockdown, and more importantly, how you can get involved.



Here's a quick overview of what's on when in Brightlingsea this Christmas and how to find out more

# What's on When

- Virtual Christmas Tree Festival Competition – Entries Close 10 December – View and judge the trees from 12 to 19 December – See Page 7
- Christmas Tree Festival Lights Trail – Entries Close 1 December – view the trail list from Saturday 5 December – See Page 7
- Christmas Lights on The Hard – from Saturday 5 December – See Page 9
- Rotary Club Santa Sleigh Runs – nightly from 5 December – See Page 12
- Brightlingsea Advent Windows – daily from 1 to 24 December – See Page 37
- Christmas Eve Jingle – Thursday 24 December at 6pm on your doorstep – See Page 17
- Deputy's Gift Fund Meals-On-Wheels Lunch – Christmas Day – See Page 23
- Christmas Church Services & St Sabina's Prayer Tree – Various dates See Page 26



## Please enjoy the Brightlingsea at Christmas 2020 Festivities safely



**We want everyone to be able to enjoy the Brightlingsea at Christmas 2020 festivities safely so please bear the following in mind when you are visiting any or our events or activities:**

- Respect the current social distancing requirements at all times
- Carry a mask and wear it when you are at an indoor venue or cannot maintain 2m distancing outside
- Carry hand gel or wipes
- Wrap up warm and wear sensible footwear
- Carry a torch after dark
- Young children should be accompanied at all times
- If you plan to view the trails by car, please drive slowly and watch out for pedestrians and small children

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Tel: 01206 302133 / 305233  
Fax: 01206 305601

Essex - Titchmarsh Marina, Coles  
Lane, Walton-on-naze, Essex CO14  
8SL

Tel: + Fax: 01255 850303

Suffolk - Suffolk Yacht Harbour,  
Granton Hall, Lavington,  
Suffolk IP10 0LN  
Tel: + Fax: 01473 628882

North - Unit 13  
Wentworth Road, Rackheath,  
Norwich, Norfolk NR13 6LR  
Tel: + Fax: 01603 720281

# Brightlingsea Virtual Christmas Tree Festival & Christmas Lights Trail

Help us bring light and cheer to our community by taking part in our alternative Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival activities. Look for the 'Town Christmas' link on [www.brightlingsea.info](http://www.brightlingsea.info) for information on how to take part and how to donate.



Decorated trees - put yours online

- Favourite Indoor tree submitted by a group
- Favourite Indoor tree submitted by an individual
- Favourite Indoor tree submitted by a young person's group
- Favourite Indoor tree submitted by a young person

The Virtual Christmas Tree Festival will then be available to view online from Saturday 12 December and members of the public will be able to vote for their favourites until Sunday 20 December.

### Christmas Lights Trail & Competition

Put a Christmas tree in your garden or decorate your house with lights and add your address to the online Christmas Lights Trail Guide. Entry is free via [www.brightlingsea.info](http://www.brightlingsea.info) and must be submitted by midnight on Tuesday 1 December.



Join in the Lights Trail

### Virtual Christmas Tree Festival & Competition

For the first time ever Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival is going virtual!

Creative contributors are asked to make their trees in the normal way but then photograph them and enter their details via the online entry form at [www.brightlingsea.info](http://www.brightlingsea.info). If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Peter Reilly on 07762 369415 or at Little Boat Gifts, who will be able to assist you.

Entry is free and closes at midnight on Thursday 10 December.

As with the traditional Festival, entries will be grouped into different categories for the judging as follows:

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# Christmas Lights on the Hard

When we first realised that the Annual Bonfire & Firework Display would have to be cancelled, the Colne Yacht Club immediately started to think about how to brighten up Brightlingsea Hard for Christmas instead, especially in the event that we were in any form of Lock Down. What a good job we started planning early!

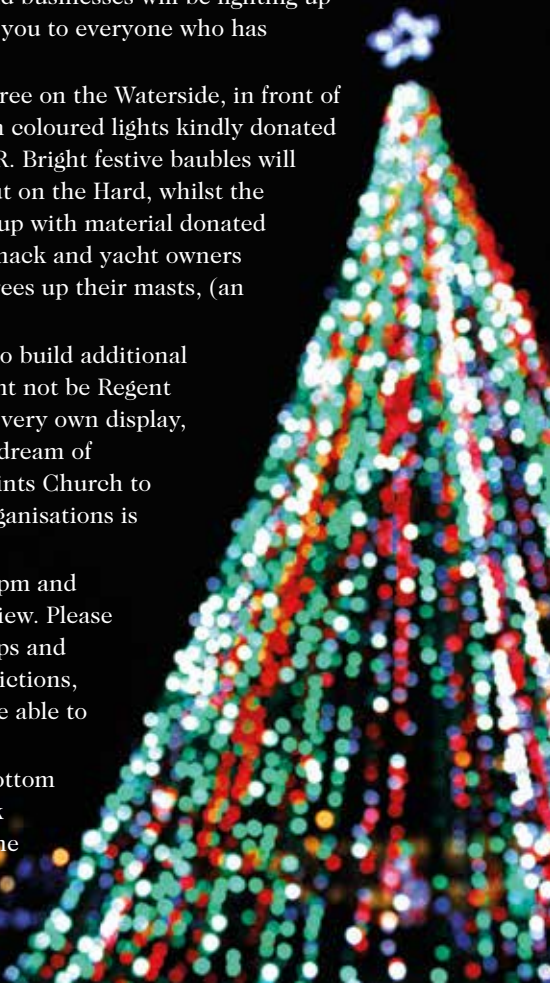
As such, 2020 marks the start of an exciting new collaboration for Brightlingsea. From Saturday the 5th December, as you walk down to the Hard, local yacht and sailing clubs, pubs, cafés, homes and businesses will be lighting up for Christmas. So, a very big thank you to everyone who has played a part.

There will be a large Christmas Tree on the Waterside, in front of the Colne Yacht Club, adorned with coloured lights kindly donated by Essex Cement and lights by NMR. Bright festive baubles will cover the tops of the shelter and hut on the Hard, whilst the old buoy and mine also be dressed up with material donated by James Lawrence Sail Makers. Smack and yacht owners are also aiming to put Christmas Trees up their masts, (an ancient seafaring tradition).

Local craftsmen are also aiming to build additional displays between the jetties. It might not be Regent Street, but it will be Brightlingsea's very own display, that ensures we can deliver on the dream of "Christmas Tree Lights from All Saints Church to the Hard". A list of participating organisations is listed on the advert.

So do take a walk out, between 4pm and 10pm, any evening and enjoy the view. Please ensure that you stay in family groups and observe the current lockdown restrictions, help us ensure that everyone will be able to stay safe and avoid a large crowd.

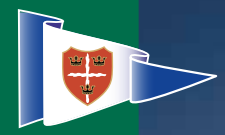
Parking will be available at the bottom of Tower Street and on Oyster Tank Road or Promenade Way. For anyone driving down, we ask that you pay particular attention, drive slowly and watch out for pedestrians.



# Christmas Lights on the Hard



Starts  
Saturday  
5th December  
4pm - 9pm



CYC THANKS:  
Brightlingsea Harbour,  
Brightlingsea Sailing Club,  
Brightlingsea Town Council,  
Colne Smack  
Preservation Society,  
Colne Yacht Club,  
Essex Cement,  
French Marine Motors,  
Local Households,  
Morgan Marine,  
NMR Ltd.,  
The Waterside Deli,  
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ENJOY  
BRIGHTLINGSEA'S  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS  
*join the Trail from*  
ALL SAINT'S to the HARD



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 www.brightlingseaharbour.org

f t i

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**BRIGHTLINGSEA MUSEUM**  
THE TIMES OF OUR LIVES

So much to see and do, but don't take just our word for it, see what visitors have to say!

*This is a real gem of a museum. There are things to do, and things to discover. Open the cupboard and drawers, and don't forget to find out what the captain keeps in his locker.*

*It was really interesting to find out the history of my town the staff were really friendly and helpful.*



*Amazing, fantastic transformation! So much interesting history*

*a compelling haven of exploration for maritime enthusiasts and general visitors alike. Museums Journal November/December 2020*

**Re-opening Spring 2021**

**BRIGHTLINGSEA MUSEUM**  
 Dove House Station Road Brightlingsea CO7 0DT  
 Telephone 01206 307121  
 www.brightlingseamuseum.com

f t i Brightlingsea Museum BrightlingseaMu

# 2020 - what a year!



**BRIGHTLINGSEA MUSEUM**  
THE TIMES OF OUR LIVES

**Memories of this year will not be good for many. However, for the Brightlingsea Museum it has been a year when the dreams, plans and many hours of hard work by their team of volunteers came to fruition as they opened the doors to the public in September.**

The exhibitions have been highly praised, stunning photographs, innovative methods of displaying artefacts without resorting to massive glass cases, all enhanced by some amazing audio-visual features. The restrictions placed on the curatorial team due to the Covid19 did mean that some of the special interactives had to be removed or cordoned off - but their time will come.

But it is not finished.... already there are plans in hand for 2021

Younger visitors to the museum will have seen its mascot, Bricklesey, a cute little mouse hiding in his network of holes, next year he will have his own trail, that will keep special visitors occupied whilst their adults are engrossed in the details of shipbuilding or discovering some 'Pearls of Wisdom'.

To encourage residents and visitors to Brightlingsea to discover the heritage of the town when they are out and about, the museum team is planning a trail based on




the much admired map of the town in the reception, so easily seen through the glass frontage.

With temporary exhibitions, special events and resources for research and study, there is still a lot to come from Brightlingsea's Museum - the feeling is that it will never be finished - but of course neither is history!

Meanwhile, the Trustees of the Museum thank everyone for their support in 2020 and wish you all health, happiness, and peace at Christmas and in the coming year.

**Find Us**  
**www.brightlingseamuseum.com**  
**Brightlingsea Museum, Dove House, Station Road, Brightlingsea, Essex CO7 0DT**  
**Telephone 01206 307121**



# New Sleigh for Brightlingsea & District Rotary Club's Santa!

For more than quarter of a century Santa has been making his fundraising sleigh tours around Brightlingsea and the surrounding villages each December. Generations of children have waited excitedly for him to appear and rushed out to drop their hard-saved pennies into the Rotary Club Elves' collecting boxes.

Those pennies are all used to support local charities and organisations including St Helena Hospice, Brightlingsea in Bloom, 4-Youth, Porridge & Pens, Wivenhoe Scouts & Guides, Alresford Pre-School, Ladybirds Pre-School (Thorrington), Gt Bentley Primary School and other local good causes supported by the Rotary Club, with over £4,000 being raised each year.

This year the Covid-19 pandemic means that things will be a little bit different. Santa is still going to visit as always, but the Elves will be coordinating fundraising via online donations and collecting boxes placed at strategic locations rather than by knocking on doors. If you enjoy seeing the sleigh and would like to support the work of the Rotary Club and these important local organisations, please give generously.



The Elves have been very busy through the summer and as a result Santa has a lovely new sleigh. This has been made possible thanks to the generous sponsorship support of Tracey House-Barton and Joyce House in memory of Brian House, Britau Scaffold Ltd, Vivien Chapman and Peter & Shirley Bloomfield. Mersea Trailers, Brightlingsea Sailing Club, joiner Paul Aldridge, Richard Beavis of ProLec Ltd, Marks Tey Radio, John Malone and French Marine Motors have also generously support Santa. And of course, thanks to all the Elves, led by David Gibbons, who helped!

Details of when and where you can see Santa this year are given opposite and to donate and find out how to track Santa live on his runs please visit [www.santasleighbrightlingsea.com](http://www.santasleighbrightlingsea.com)

• If you would like to find out more about your local Rotary Club or are interested in getting involved please visit [www.brightlingsea-rotary.co.uk](http://www.brightlingsea-rotary.co.uk)

## Brightlingsea Rotary Sleigh Routes December 2020

Sat 5	Wivenhoe	Heath Rd, Broomfield Cresc, Broome Grove, Chaney Rd, Spring Lane, Tower Rd
Sun 6	Alresford	Station Rd, Orchard Rd, Coppice Rd, Chestnut Rd, Heath Rd, Ash Walk, Coppice Rd, Laxton Rd, Cox Rd, Station Rd, Cockaynes Lane, Pippin Way, Lambourne, Russet Way
Tue 8	Elmstead Mkt	Oatlands, Harvest Way, Flail Close, Thatchers Drive, Holly Way, Elmcroft, Glebe Close, Lucern Way, Dale Close, Church Rd
Wed 9	Wivenhoe	Bowes Rd, Claremont Rd, Friars Close, Dedham Close, The Dale, Valley Rd, Bobbitts Way, Park Rd
Thur 10	Thorrington	Hazel Close Estate
Fri 11	Alresford	Wivenhoe Rd, Crestlands, Ford Lane, Church Rd, Wivenhoe Rd, Poplars Close, Coach Rd, Hawkins Rd
Sat 12	Great Bentley	Station Road Area
Sun 13	Great Bentley	De Vere Estate
Mon 14	Brightlingsea	Hurst Green, Mill St, Whitegate Rd, Link, Chapel Rd, Bellfield Close, Bellfield Ave, Southway
Tue 15	Brightlingsea	Lower Park Rd, Marsh Way, Western Rd, York Rd, Colne Rd, Oyster Tank Rd, Fieldgate Dock
Wed 16	Wivenhoe	Richard Ave, Elizabeth Way, Alexandra Drive, Henrietta Close, Mede Way
Thur 17	Brightlingsea	Manor House Way, Tudor Close, Woodlands, Marenes Crescent, Pertwee Close, Pyefleet Close, Darcy Way, Park Drive,
Fri 18	Brightlingsea	Regent Rd, Spring Rd, Walmer Cl, Seaview Cl, Cinque Port Rd, Dover Rd, end of Sandwich Rd, Seaview Rd
Sat 19	Brightlingsea	Red Barn Rd, Red Barn Close (entrance), Campemell Close, Robinson Rd, Granville Rd, Colne Gardens
Mon 21	Brightlingsea	Ladysmith Ave, High St, Richard Ave, end of Elizabeth Way, end of Anne Close, Edward Ave, Stanley Ave, Bayard Ave, Recreation Way, George Ave, John St, High St, Queen St
Tue 22	Brightlingsea	Samsons Rd, Maltings Rd, end of St Andrews Pl, Deal Way, Sarre Way, Fordwich Rd, Rye Close, The Forge
Wed 23	Brightlingsea	Church Rd, Lodge Rd, Spring Chase, Upper Park Rd, Dean St, Chestnut Way, Park Drive (right), Elm Drive, Planton Way, Park Drive, Lower Park Rd
Thur 24	Brightlingsea	High St, Tower St, Waterside, Sydney St, New St, Nelson St, Wellington St, Duke St, Silcott St

**PLEASE DONATE ONLINE AT [WWW.SANTASLEIGHBRIGHTLINGSEA.COM](http://WWW.SANTASLEIGHBRIGHTLINGSEA.COM)**  
**OR VIA THE COLLECTING BOXES LOCATED LOCALLY**

Funds raised with support St Helena Hospice, Brightlingsea In Bloom, 4-Youth, Porridge & Pens, Wivenhoe Scouts & Guides, Alresford Pre-School, Ladybirds Pre-School (Thorrington), Gt Bentley Primary School and other local Rotary causes

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[WWW.SAILBRIGHTLINGSEA.COM](http://WWW.SAILBRIGHTLINGSEA.COM)



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 Web: [www.sailbrightlingsea.com](http://www.sailbrightlingsea.com)

## Brightlingsea Christmas Lights & Christmas Tree

Once again Brightlingsea Business Association with the support of Brightlingsea Town Council will be installing Christmas lights through the High Street and Victoria Place from early December.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 restrictions will mean the lights will take a slightly different format this year, but the good news is that at the centre of our wonderful newly refurbished Memorial Garden in Victoria Place there will still be a spectacular Christmas tree, sponsored by an anonymous local businessman, to bring us all some much needed cheer.

Our thanks must go to the Brightlingsea businesses that support this initiative and the council staff for their hard work in installing the lights. Special prizes will be awarded to the Business and Organisation with the best display and this competition will be judged on behalf of Shop Brightlingsea by the Brightlingsea Mayor and the Cinque Ports Deputy.



We're on the trail to light your way to brighter times ahead.

Brightlingsea Town Council is pleased to support this initiative and is here to serve our local community. Enjoy the event!



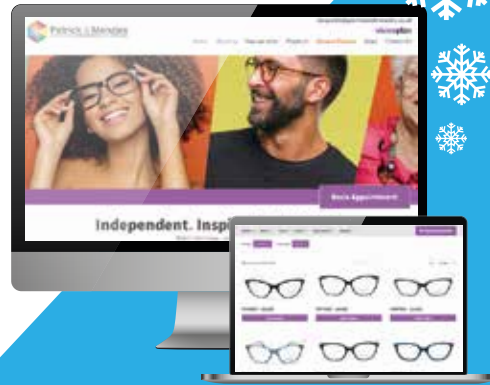


01206 302249  
10 Station Rd Brightlingsea

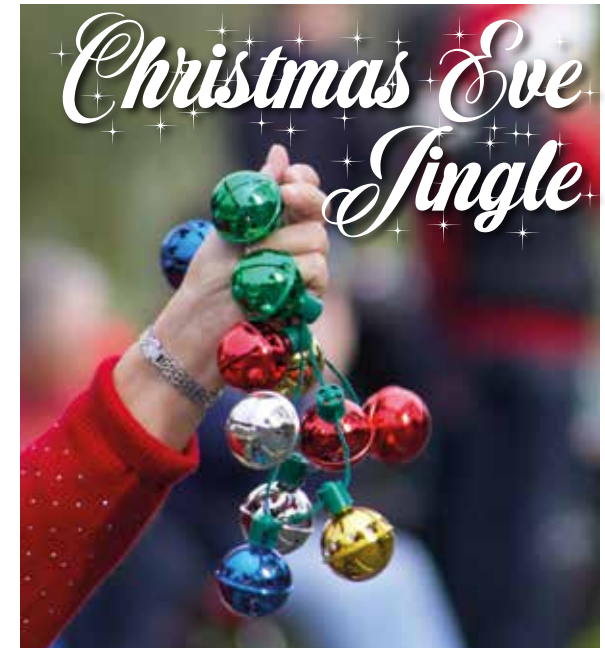
It's Not Just Your Eyes We Care About  
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To keep everybody safe, we are asking all customers to make an appointment before they visit our branches.



Book Eye Examinations Online  
[www.patrickandmenzies.co.uk](http://www.patrickandmenzies.co.uk)



Christmas Eve Jingle

On Christmas Eve at 6pm we are asking everyone to come outside (or to their front windows for those of you shielding) and ring a bell for two minutes to spread Christmas spirit and to help Santa fly that sleigh.

The Christmas Eve Jingle started as a local idea in Harrogate, but it has now become a worldwide initiative to create a wave of bells across the globe to ring in Christmas. After a tough year it would be an amazing memory for the kids and communities so please join us to create a bit of Brightlingsea magic, hope and togetherness!

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*"We would like to wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"*



# Brightlingsea High Street

Recently named by Tendring District Council as the area's number one High Street, with no empty shop fronts, Brightlingsea Christmas Magazine finds out why we love our High Street so much, and what it has to offer the people of our town.



During this difficult year our High Street has had to adapt how it operates and serves the community, and from the customers that we have spoken to it seems that it has done so very well. All our shops have offered delivery services where they can, and many have changed opening hours to be there when customers need them. Many have offered online services and have made themselves contactable via social media, or the telephone. In return shop keepers and business owners have really appreciated how Brightlingsea residents have used their local facilities first instead of venturing into Colchester or going online.

Before the pandemic the High Street always tried to put itself at the centre of the community, with shops taking adverts in local press and publications, supporting Brightlingsea in Bloom by sponsoring hanging baskets in the town centre

and offering raffle prizes to the many events that take place in a regular year.

Although we do not have the space in this publication to write about each business separately what follows is an index of our wonderful shops and business, and what they offer, listed as you walk from the High Street down to the bottom of Station Road. As you can see, there's an amazing amount on offer.

Although the shops and town centre will not be able to host their usual late night Christmas shopping event this year, they would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy Christmas and they all look forward to serving you in the run up to Christmas and being back open and ready for business in 2021.

## Brightlingsea High Street Shops Index

- Wine Well Ltd, off licence and convenience store
- YMCA, free car park & meeting rooms
- Brightlingsea Dental Practice, dentist
- Ethical Life, great herbs and spices and refill service
- Exhale, beauty treatments,
- John Smiths, funeral directors
- Del's Vinyl, records & collectables
- Jenny Elizabeth Flowers, stunning flowers & gifts
- Joy, oriental food and ladies clothing and accessories
- Toggs, ladies clothing and accessories
- Bumbles, greengrocer also offering veg box deliveries
- Little Fundraising Shop, charity shop raising funds for local good causes
- Plain and Pearl, knitting and sewing
- Hyamms Boutique, hair and beauty salon
- Learning Centre, child's education and soft play
- D & L Electrical, everything electrical



- Kemble Coop Undertakers, Funeral Services
- Smiths Butchers, high quality locally sourced meats and foods
- Ye Old Swan, Public House
- Zest & Thyme Ltd, delicatessen
- Vines, restaurant
- Brightlingsea Bakery, fresh bread and pastries baked on the premises daily
- Studio 6, photographic studio
- Chloe, hair and beauty
- Sugar, hair and beauty
- Constable Care, care in the community
- Turkish Barbers, men's haircuts and hot towel shaves
- Little Boat Gifts, unique and locally designed and made gifts
- Doves, ironmongers and hardware
- Brightlingsea Library, offering a host of support and advice services alongside the traditional books
- Winkies, Fish & Chips
- Star Fast Food, take away
- The Brewers Arms, Public House
- The Computer Shop, for all your computer needs
- The Courtyard Rooms, family run Motel
- St James Church
- Bargain Stores, hardware, homeware, gardening, decorating and more at great prices
- Prentice Carpets, your quality local carpet shop
- Davies Barbers, traditional men's barbers' shop
- Boots the Chemist
- Pet Shop Girls, pet grooming & pet food
- The Four B's, Clinical Beauty
- Cafe Chic, great coffee, great cake, fabulous food and a relaxed atmosphere
- The Autumn Centre, community care
- The Ice House, ice cream, waffle and sandwich shop
- St Helena Hospice Charity Shop, supporting your local hospice
- Number 8, hair salon
- Town & Country Estate Agents
- Life Care Mobility, mobility aids and vehicles
- Spirals, cards, gifts and stationery
- Tesco, Silver Topaz, gem stones and natural therapy
- Elegant Hair Design, hair salon
- Jeremy Soames Upholstery, professional upholsterer
- Randell Framing, picture framing
- The King Head, public house,
- John Fowler Solicitor,
- Lucas Estate Agents,
- Chapman & Co Jewellers, a wonderful selection of jewellery to suit all tastes and budgets
- Ladbrokes, betting shop
- Spar, food market and post office
- Victoria Café, the perfect traditional café
- Lovesee Glazing, for all your glazing needs
- Janet Aldridge, needle work and cloth alterations,
- Vibe, hair salon
- Pleass Thomson & Co. solicitor
- Patrick & Menzies, opticians,
- Seaview, Chinese take away
- Colne Medical Centre
- Coop, supermarket
- The Brightlingsea Museum, find out more about the museum on page 11
- The Railway Tavern, public house
- The Community Centre, public house & meeting rooms.



Season's Greetings from  
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Happy Christmas from  
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**ELEGANCE  
 HAIR  
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*Merry Christmas!*

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Telephone  
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**Pleass Thomson  
 COMPANY**

**Wills & Probate:**  
 We can provide help and assistance in the preparation of your Will together with advice on tax planning. Following a bereavement there is much to consider, tax thresholds, application forms, inheritance tax forms, probate summary forms, not to mention any problems there may be in administering the estate. Give our office a call today and talk to one of our Will and Probate specialists.

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**Merry  
 Christmas**  
 AND  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# Make Your Own Foraged Christmas Wreath



There is nothing more lovely than having something in your home for Christmas made by you.

Here is the Jenny Elizabeth Flowers' guide to making your own natural wreath.

## Ingredients

- Hoop base
- Dark thread
- Twine
- Evergreen foliage
- Decorative leaves
- Holly & ivy
- Rose hips
- Hawthorn
- Snow berries
- Hogweed heads
- Teasel
- Lichen
- Natural additions
- Dried oranges/lemons/chillies
- Cinnamon sticks
- Pinecones
- Feathers

## Create your base

Bend willow into loop and secure with twine, add your hanging loop at this point too, rope or hessian could work well!

## Create Bundles

Trim and tie bundles of evergreen and foliage, following the same direction (clockwise is a good plan), and attach with the twine.

## Finishing touches

Add your berries, cones and feathers, as many or as little as you like! Use the dark thread, wrap around and tie on.

## The final piece

Hang somewhere you can sit back and enjoy! Merry Christmas from all at Jenny Elizabeth Flowers.

## Safe Foraging!

- Follow social distancing measures
- Don't pinch from other people's gardens, or you'll be on the naughty list!
- Be careful with berries, they can be poisonous
- Be careful of the prickly bushes!

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- ♥ Candles

# Vital Hospice work continues

Throughout the pandemic, St. Helena Hospice has been continuing with its vital work to help local people face incurable illness and bereavement, supporting them and their families, friends and carers. In common with all charities, St. Helena has faced a devastating loss of income due to the impact of Covid-19.

Brightlingsea Hospice Support Group (pictured), which has been raising funds for the Hospice for over 30 years, continued to raise money this year by adapting their usual activities. The Virtual Open Gardens (hosted by the Brightlingsea.info website) and plant sales raised over £2300 and a Summer Raffle £1500. Together with our 200 Club, other events and donations, we were able to donate a total of £9,813, a brilliant effort in such a difficult year.

Thank you to all Brightlingsea residents who have



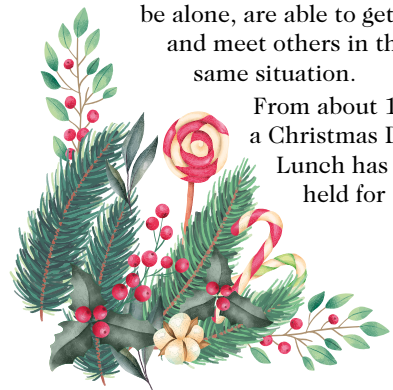
contributed. If you are able to donate to the Hospice Christmas appeal, please visit [www.sthelena.org.uk/christmas20](http://www.sthelena.org.uk/christmas20)



# The Deputy's Gift Fund

The Gift Fund originated toward the end of the 19th century to help widows and orphans of the fishing community of Brightlingsea. In those days, bags of coal and money were handed out and this continued until the late 1950's, early 1960's.

Presently, the emphasis is more on addressing the loneliness of some members of our community, especially at Christmas time, although outings and events take place during the rest of the year as well. The Deputy's Gift Fund funds the Christmas Day Lunch and other events during the year, which means that residents who would otherwise be alone, are able to get out and meet others in the same situation.



From about 1964 a Christmas Day Lunch has been held for

Brightlingsea residents who are alone. This can be couples as well and for any age, although it does tend to be older residents. The lunch was originally started by Dr. Middleton, Nurse Chapman and Mrs. Canham. Over the intervening years, the Canhams and their extended family have given up their Christmas Day to ensure that the lunch is enjoyed by all those attending, or having their meal delivered. This continues today through the hard work of the Canham sisters.

Christmas Day sees the incumbent Deputy and Lady Deputy of the Cinque Port Liberty, host the lunch and entertainment that follows, and everyone has Christmas cake with a cup of tea, before being given a 'goody' bag prior to going home with their allocated drivers.

Because of COVID-19, this year the lunch will be delivered to all our guests. Special arrangements have been made for the dinner to be prepared at the Sailing Club kitchen by the Canhams, in a COVID-safe environment and extra volunteer drivers are stepping forward to assist in this logistically challenging meals-on-wheels operation.

Due to the present restrictions we are unfortunately unable to add new guests to our list this year but will be doing so as soon as possible.

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**Across**

- 1 - A jolly man in a red suit (15)
- 2 - Festive Fruit (3)
- 3 - Gifts family and friends give each other (8)
- 4 - Nocturnal Bird of Prey (3)
- 5 - Flower of the Valley (5)
- 6 - Favourite food of squirrels (3)
- 7 - A melody, especially one that characterizes a particular piece of music (4)
- 8 - The act of lighting something (3)
- 9 - Precious stones (3)
- 10 - Can either go up or down (5)
- 11 - A type of sowing machine (6)
- 12 - Something we decorate and place presents under (13)
- 13 - A small piece of snow (9)
- 14 - Nutty chocolate bar (5)
- 15 - Vehicle used to carry goods (3)
- 16 - A term often used to describe Christmas shopping \_\_\_\_\_ and bustle (6)

- 17 - \_\_\_\_\_ log, cake eaten at Christmas (4)
- 18 - Blow out the candles and make a \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
- 19 - Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ trial (6)
- 20 - Name of a famous snowman (6)
- 21 - Opposite to yes (2)
- 22 - Again, once more (4)

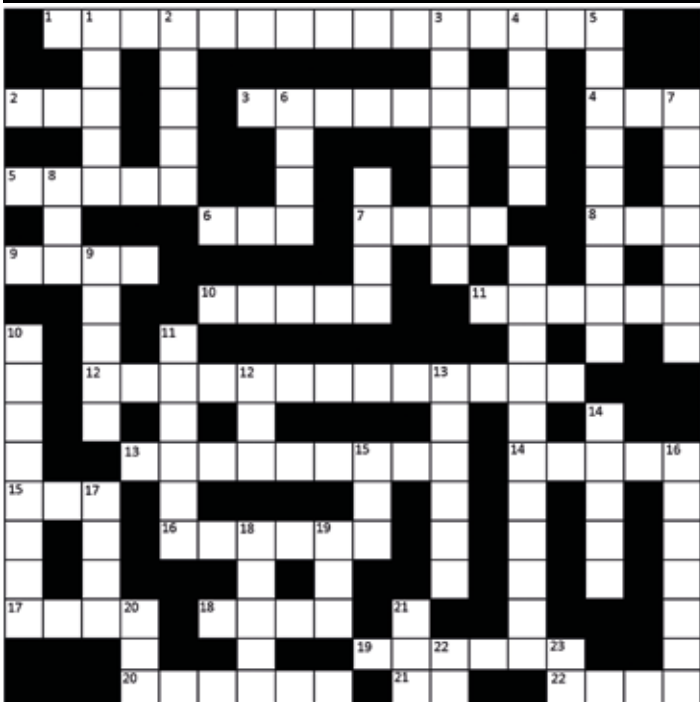
**Down**

- 1 - Often sits on top of the Christmas tree (5)
- 2 - Prickly bush with berries (5)
- 3 - Drop in the mail (7)
- 4 - What you use to play a song (5)
- 5 - Large sock where presents are placed (9)
- 6 - Often carried by Carol Singers (7)
- 7 - Frozen Water (3)
- 8 - Celestial Body (4)

# Christmas Crossword

answers on page 32

## How well do you know your festive season?



- 9 - Month after February (5)
- 10 - A quiet song, sung at Christmas (11)
- 11 - Who stole Christmas? (6)
- 12 - To cut wood (3)
- 13 - You might get these instead of tricks (6)
- 14 - Often used in cooking (5)
- 15 - To look in wonder (3)
- 16 - Something you pull at Christmas dinner (7)
- 17 - "The First \_\_\_\_\_" Christmas Carol (4)
- 18 - I saw three \_\_\_\_\_ come sailing in (5)
- 19 - Largest town of the union territory of Ladakh in India (3)
- 20 - Father Christmas's helper (3)
- 21 - To come first (3)
- 22 - Opposite to stop (2)
- 23 - To such a great extent (2)

# Brightlingsea Foodbank

in partnership with Colchester Foodbank and part of the Trussell Trust



**B**rightlingsea Foodbank meets every Wednesday in the Parish Hall for clients in crisis and unable to afford food. Support from our marvellous community through food and money donations, is constant and Brightlingsea Town Council kindly allows us to use the Parish Hall without charge.

During the pandemic we adapted our operations and initially switched to a delivery-only service to protect clients and volunteers.

We also supplied school lunch packs during half terms - they may be needed these Christmas holidays too. Fresh Fitness & the Fresh Café in Tower St joined us for October half term. We gave them food to make free lunches for families affected by Covid-19. Client confidentiality was always observed.

Currently we still deliver food, but now also operate Face to Face - adhering to all safety measures.

Through Brightlingsea community's unprecedented generosity, a donation from the three Tendring councillors on Brightlingsea Town Council and a grant from Essex Association of Local Councils, we can add fresh food to the basic food parcels and help top up fuel cards and keys. Our local shops,



including SPAR, Tesco, The Bakery & Bumbles also donate food.

If you are facing financial problems please contact Win/Frank on 07970 480 968 or 01206 303902, twenty-four/seven, or visit Brightlingsea Parish Hall, Victoria Place, CO7 0BP on Wednesdays between 10:00am and 12:30pm. As well as food and potential help towards household fuel costs, we can direct you to organisations offering debt and benefits advice etc. This is all strictly confidential.

• **If you would like to support the Foodbank by making a donation, these can be dropped off at Brightlingsea Parish Hall on Wednesday morning between 10.00 and 12.00 or to 42 Planton Way, Brightlingsea, CO7 0LB (please ring 01206 303902 or 07970 480968 to arrange a time). There are also collecting baskets by the doors of the Fiveways COOP and the Spar.**

## Christmas Church Services 2020

### All Saints' with St James' Church

We are hoping that the government restrictions will permit us to hold our traditional Christmas services at St James' Church. However, if this is not possible online alternatives will be provided. The planned dates and time for the services are 24 December afternoon Crib Service, then Midnight Mass at 11.30pm and 25 December Christmas Morning Family Worship at 10.00am.

• **Further details (including timings for the 24th afternoon service and other special services if they are possible) via 01206 308726 or [www.allsaintswithstjamesb-sea.co.uk](http://www.allsaintswithstjamesb-sea.co.uk)**

### St Sabina Roman Catholic Church

Will be celebrating extra Christmas Masses this year in the hope that everyone who would like to attend in person will be able to do so. We would like to ask all those wishing to attend our Christmas Masses to book in advance - so that we can ensure there is space for

you in the church. Some of the Christmas Masses will also be live streamed. There will be a Prayer Tree at St Sabina Church and residents of all denominations are invited to submit prayers for the tree online at [www.b-a-parish.org.uk/christmas-tree-prayer-intentions/](http://www.b-a-parish.org.uk/christmas-tree-prayer-intentions/)

• **Further details via [b-a-parish.org.uk/christmas-2020](http://b-a-parish.org.uk/christmas-2020) or 01206 302485**

### Oasis Community Church

Will be offering various online services and events over Christmas. Further details will be published at [www.oasiscommunitychurch.net](http://www.oasiscommunitychurch.net) and [www.facebook.com/oasischurchbrightlingsea](http://www.facebook.com/oasischurchbrightlingsea)

### Methodist United Reform Church

Although not able to host the tradition Town Service this year because of Covid-19 restrictions we are aiming to host a Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 10.30am, a short ecumenical service led by Majors Jean & Doreen James on Christmas Day at 10.00 and a service on Sunday 3 January at 3pm.

**BEACHBOX**  
cafe

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## Festive Fayre



### Turkey, leek and mushroom pie

- 200g cooked turkey
- 2 leeks trimmed and thinly sliced
- 100g mushrooms sliced
- 2 tbl sp flour
- 500 ml milk or milk and turkey stock made up to 500 ml
- 1 tbl sp oil
- 30 ml butter
- 250 g puff pastry
- 1 egg

Heat the butter and oil.

Add the leeks and stir for 2 mins.

Add the mushrooms, cook a further 2 mins.

Add the flour, cook 2-3 mins.

Add the liquid gradually stirring until the mixture is smooth.

Add the chopped turkey, mix all together.

Allow to cool.

Move into pie dish. At this point you could add left over stuffing.

Roll out pastry, lay over the pie filled dish.

Beat the egg and brush over.

Place in the oven GM 6/200/180 fan oven for 45 mins.

Check after 30 mins, cover with foil for last 15 mins



### Blitzen Fizz (a variation of Bucks Fizz)

- 1 bottle Prosecco
- 75 cl pomegranate juice
- 6 tsp pomegranate seeds

Place a tsp pomegranate seeds in a champagne flute. Pour in half a glass of Prosecco, top up with pomegranate juice. Cheers!

Christmas recipes from Nola Bloor

# THE GREAT BRIGHTLINGSEA CHRISTMAS QUIZ!

How well do you know your town?

1. Her husband is said to have introduced Christmas trees to the UK, when she had been Queen for 50 years the town hung a special and useful adornment in the town centre. What and where is it?
2. During the Second World War they removed the roof of this towering landmark to search for aircraft – perhaps they saw Santa and his sleigh when they were on lookout. What is the name of the building?
3. Where have Brightlingsea people celebrated Christmas for nearly 800 years?
4. Four letters and lots of water, but not for swimming in at this time of year. Where?
5. The first policeman in Brightlingsea was Charles C Trubshoe. What did the C stand for? A seasonal name he was born in January 1824.
6. Who made it a 'White' summer in 1976, when he brought success and gold to Brightlingsea? Look for his memorial when you are at The Hard.



7. Five days after Christmas Day 1901 a fierce fire burnt down a Brightlingsea building, it was replaced by a new building which was closed down on the 'Doctor's' orders in 1964. What was the building and what is there now, perhaps you have seen a pantomime there?
8. A Christmas and Brightlingsea sum: What special number do we get if we add together the number of slides in the promenade play area, the pubs of the town, faces on the War Memorial, islands in the boating lake, schools in the town?

• Answers on page 32

# How your Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival fund-raising has helped All Saints' Church



Since the start of the Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festivals in 2003 much of the funds raised (nearly £80,000) has gone towards repairing stonework and planning to install amenities at All Saints' Church. Currently we have great plans to share the church's exceptional heritage among a wider audience and make the church a safe and welcoming place.

Under the project called "Tower of Strength" we have outlined what needs to be repaired and what needs to be installed (an equal-access WC and a kitchenette), then applied for grants to help

make these plans happen - we need at least £600,000. So far, we have had help from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and All Churches Trust as well as other organisations, with more hoped for, but this has allowed us to make a good start in getting professional advice on board.

Creating enthusiasm and recruiting volunteers has seen the setting up of "All Saints' Angels" as a catalyst group to provide and capture local interest. Much more work, fund-raising and action is needed to make our dreams come true - if you want to be involved in any way, contact Elizabeth Foss-Smith on [e.fossmith@btinternet.com](mailto:e.fossmith@btinternet.com)

Picture by Dave White

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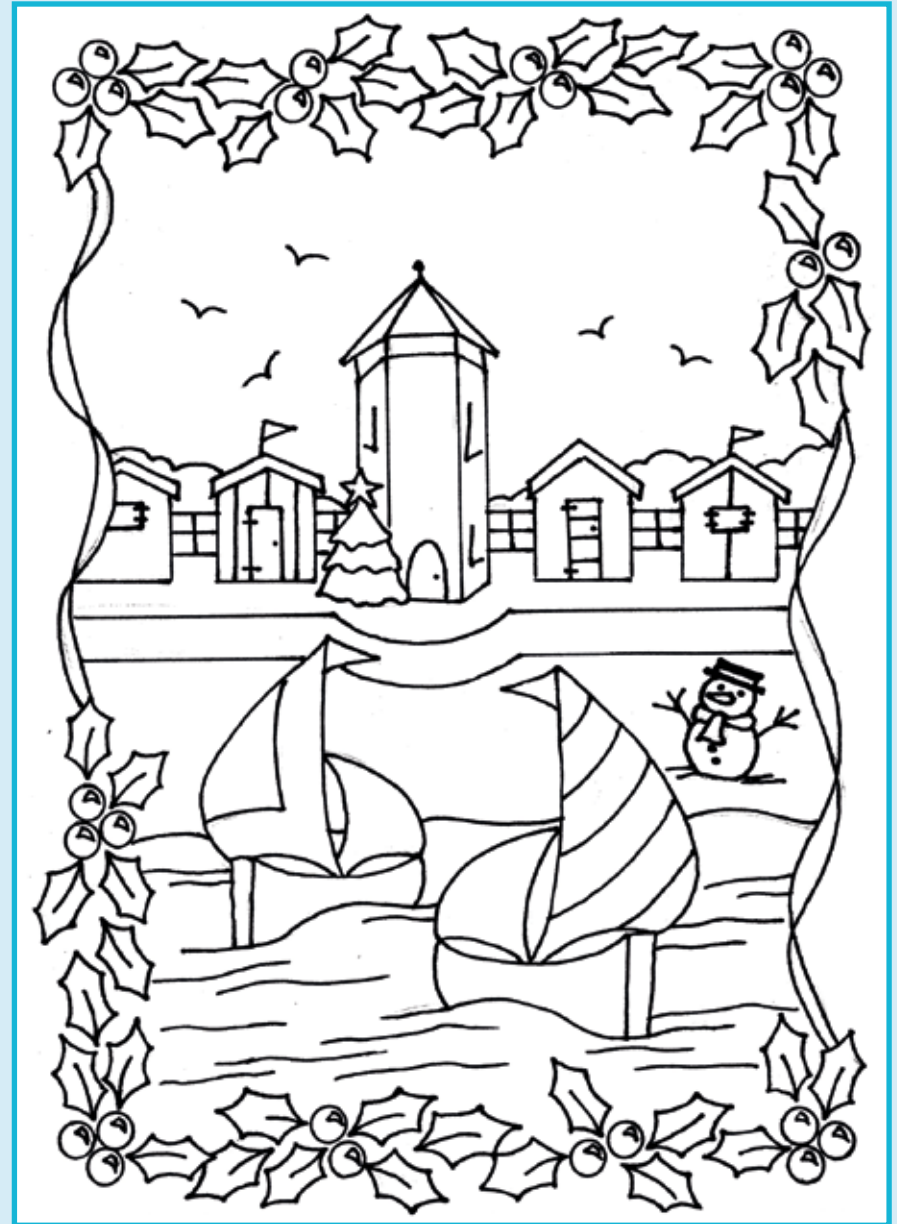
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# Puzzle Answers

<b>Crossword Puzzle</b>	15 - Van	7 - Ice	23 - So
<b>Across</b>	16 - Hustle	8 - Star	<b>Brightlingsea Quiz</b>
1 - Father Christmas	17 - Yule	9 - March	1. Queen Victoria Jubilee clock at St James' Church
2 - Fig	18 - Wish	10 - Silent Night	2. Bateman's Tower
3 - Presents	19 - Lights	11 - Grinch	3. All Saints Church
4 - Owl	20 - Frosty	12 - Saw	4. Lido
5 - Lilly	21 - No	13 - Treats	5. Christmas
6 - Nut	22 - Over	14 - Spice	6. Reg White
7 - Tune		15 - Awe	7. Railway Station, now the Community Centre
8 - Lit	<b>Down</b>	16 - Cracker	8. 3 + 8 + 8 + 3 + 2 = 25th
9 - Gems	1 - Angel	17 - Noel	
10 - Stair	2 - Holly	18 - Ships	
11 - Singer	3 - Sending	19 - Leh	
12 - Christmas Tree	4 - Music	20 - Elf	
13 - Snowflake	5 - Stockings	21 - Win	
14 - Topic	6 - Lantern	22 - Go	



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# When Santa came to Brightlingsea

A Christmas story by Peter Reilly

It was a foggy Christmas Eve night and a young boy called Tommy was tucked up in bed, as all good boys and girls should be on the night before Christmas. Like most children on that night Tommy was struggling to go to sleep. He was too excited thinking about what presents might be waiting for him under the Christmas tree in the morning.

Just as Tommy had fallen off to sleep, he was woken up suddenly by a deafening CRASH, so loud that it made him sit bolt upright in his bed. Dazed and confused Tommy got out of bed to see where all the noise had come from, he stared out of his window but it was so dark he couldn't see anything. At that moment his bedroom door swung open and his Dad said "Did you hear that Tom? It sounded like it came from the beach; I've never heard anything like it. I know it's Christmas Eve but shall we go down and take a look?"

## OPPORTUNITY

Going out after dark, and at Christmas, this was just too good an opportunity to miss, Tommy was so excited that a nod was all he could manage. He pulled his cloths on over his pyjamas, slipped on his trainers, ran down stairs and was standing by the front door waiting to go before his Dad had even got out of his bedroom.

Tommy's house was on Colne Road so it only took him and his Dad a few minutes to get to the beach, they walked between two beach huts and came out by the paddling pool. Although it was pitch black Tommy's Dad shone his torch over towards Bateman's Tower and they could not believe what they saw. Something had ripped the wooden top right off, and whatever it



was had hit it with such force that it had even caused the Tower to lean over.

As they ran over to the Tower things began to look even worse, there was wood laying everywhere, lots of strange noises and someone groaning under what looked like a huge sack. "Help me with this Tom" cried his Dad "it sounds like someone or something is stuck under it". The sacking seemed to weigh a ton, and Tom kept slipping on the mud under his feet, but his Dad was strong and as he pulled back the material an old man jumped up.

"That thing's blooming dangerous, it ought to have a light on top of it, who builds a tower like that without putting a light on it eh?" the old man was wearing a bright red coat, had a big round belly, a white beard and a floppy red hat.

Tommy looked at his Dad, who was looking back at him; they both looked at the old man. "You're Father Christmas" said Tommy.

"Of course I'm Father Christmas, who else would be trying to fly a sleigh around on Christmas Eve? The Easter bunny?" The he had taken his hat off and was rubbing his bald head, muttering to himself. "We're in trouble

now, big trouble, yeah we're in trouble alright".

## PRESENTS

Everything had happened so fast that Tommy hadn't really had time to take a good look around, but now as he stood there he started to see the wider picture, there were presents all over the ground, the sleigh was in pieces and now from under that big sack reindeer were starting to emerge. Tommy was not sure what Father Christmas was muttering about but it did look like a whole of trouble to him as well.

Father Christmas turned around and looked straight at Tommy and said "Well Tommy, you're a bright lad, I've got all these present to deliver, very little time and no sleigh. Any ideas?"

Tommy's Dad was just standing there with his mouth wide open, frozen to the spot, Tommy pulled on his sleeve. "Dad, Dad, DAD" he shouted "run around to the Sailing Club and get the dinghy, I think I've got an idea."

"Eh Alright, yeah, I'll go get it" was his vague reply, but he did start running in the right direction, so Tommy thought that he might have heard what he said.

"Right then Father Christmas, get those reindeers sorted out and back on their leashes, I'll try and get these presents picked up and back in the sack" said Tommy "we better hurry before the whole town gets here, you made quite a lot of noise when you arrived."

Father Christmas smiled, and started calling his reindeer. "Looks like I was right" he said "I'm glad it was you who came to my rescue, now where did Rudolph get to?"

## DASHED

There were so many present but Tommy didn't have time to think, he just dashed around picking up what he could and putting them back in the sack. A few more people arrived and started to help him and as the crowd grew, more and more presents got put back into the sack, which seemed to grow in size to accommodate them. It wasn't very long until all the presents had been picked up.

"We're all ready" shouted Father Christmas, he was standing on the beach, struggling to hold onto the reins while his reindeer snorted and pulled "woo there girls, steady, steady" he said to try and calm them. "What's the plan then Tom?" but before he could say another word Tom's Dad came sailing around Splash Point, shouting and waving his arms around.

"Quick" said Tommy "Father Christmas, fix the reins to the front of the boat, put this huge sack of presents in the back of the boat, sit in the middle, and if you can use some Christmas magic to take to the air, you might just get everything delivered before the morning".

"Ho ho ho" laughed Father Christmas "What an amazing idea, but how will you get your dinghy back?"

"It doesn't matter, just get going, you'll think of something" cried Tommy, but Father Christmas couldn't hear him over the cheers from the crowd as the little dinghy lifted up off the water and started to fly.

"Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas Brightlingsea!" shouted Father Christmas, as he flew overhead in Tommy's little boat.

## CHEERED

The crowd cheered and laughed but it was not long before Tommy and his Dad returned home. Tommy was so tired that he flopped onto his bed and fell straight asleep.

When Tommy woke up, his first thought was that it was Christmas morning, he was not sure if he had dreamt the whole thing, or if he had really helped Father Christmas the night before, but when he looked out his window there on the lawn, with a big red bow around it was a brand new sailing dinghy. He ran down stairs, out the front door and straight over to the boat. There was a big gift tag swinging from the sail and written on it in gold swirly writing were the words, "Merry Christmas Tommy, sorry about breaking the top off Bateman's Tower, and making it lean over. Thank you for the use of your dinghy, hope you enjoy this new one. Love Father Christmas. xxx"

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# Look in the Advent windows

Another lovely new initiative this year is the Brightlingsea Advent Windows.

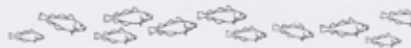
From the 1<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of December volunteer homes throughout the town will be revealing Christmas window displays each evening - just like a traditional advent calendar.. At the time of going to press at least two homes have volunteered for each evening so by Christmas Eve there will be 48 wonderful windows for you to find and enjoy.

In addition, there will be a Foodbank donation box located by each of the windows so that you can leave contributions in the boxes which will then be passed on to those in need.

• To find out more visit [facebook.com/brightlingseadventwindows](https://www.facebook.com/brightlingseadventwindows) or contact Lucy Weaver on 07738258131.



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## Thank You!

We hope you have enjoyed our magazine and would like to say thank you to all our event organisers and sponsors, editorial contributors, advertisers and the production team who have made its creation possible in this unusual year.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that you will feel able to enjoy our special festival safely and in whatever way suits you best.

See you next year at the 2021 Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival on December 11 and 12

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