

HARWICH

& Dovercourt Bay



f t i @HistoricHarwich
www.historicharwich.com

2019 Edition



HARWICH

This traditional historic maritime town has a fascinating history. It is probably best known for being the home of Christopher Jones, Captain of the Mayflower, who in 1620 took the first pilgrims to America. 2020 sees the 400th anniversary of this incredible journey and Harwich will be participating in the many celebrations planned throughout the UK and overseas.

There are also numerous attractions to visit in and around the town including the High and Low Lighthouses, the Treadwheel Crane, the Redoubt Fort (a truly spectacular Napoleonic circular fort and moat) and The Electric Palace Theatre, one of the UK's oldest operational cinemas.

The port itself however, remains a bustling centre of maritime activity with cruise ships, ferries and container ships regularly visiting. Harwich beaches are also popular spots for walking and watching the ships go by!

DOVERCOURT BAY

Dovercourt Bay has a superb stretch of sandy beach and has a 'Blue Flag' Beach award and with a promenade that stretches for miles, walking, cycling and waterbased activities can all be enjoyed. There are also spectacular views of Felixstowe as well as the Harwich and Languard Forts.

The town centre itself has a number of historic and character buildings, which reflects the towns' rich past. Shopping in the High Street is not dominated by national retailers but a varied selection of independent, family run businesses and shops

OUT AND ABOUT

Walking

There are many great walks one can choose from which take in some of the fantastic history and picturesque countryside. The Essex Way is a long distance footpath stretching for 82 miles right across Essex. If you only wanted to do part of, a 16 mile walk will take you to Manningtree, where you can pick up a train to return you to Harwich.

Cycling

There are plenty of opportunities for cyclists to ride in and around both towns as well as from further afield. The local train service also welcomes cyclists, so whatever your route, experience or stamina, there is always the choice of going home by train! Part of the route is a 25 miles ride, which forms part of North Sea Cycle Route. This starts in Harwich and onto the Wivenhoe Trail and then along the River Colne to Colchester. This is where you can catch your train back to Harwich.

Activities

There are a wide range of family activities available along the promenade, including an impressive range of sport and leisure facilities at Dovercourt Leisure Centre. Adjacent to the beach there is also a putting green and crazy golf (during the summer months) a boating lake and a small amusement arcade.

Dovercourt Skate Park is situated alongside the leisure centre and is free and open all the year round and can be used by skateboarders, BMX bikes, inline skates and scooter.

www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk

Dovercourt also has its own **Skating Rink**. Skate hire is available.

Tel: 01255 551296 www.simplyskating.co.uk

If you fancy a go at windsurfing, paddle boarding or other water based activities, then head to the Quiver Windsurfing Centre in Dovercourt Bay.

www.quiverwindsurfing.co.uk

Seal Watching

Seal watching trips are offered all the year round from Harwich to Hamford Water National Nature Reserve. The trips take between 90-120 minutes. Book on line at www.sealwatching.co.uk

Departures are from the Ha'Penny Pier.

Tel: 01728 666329 www.sealwatching.co.uk

Nature

The area's nature reserves and bird sanctuaries provide excellent opportunities for bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts. Bobbit's Hole, Dovercourt, is a small freshwater lake bounded by secondary woodland and is a valuable wildlife pocket attracting a number of bird species, including the Kingfisher.



Further Information

Mayflower 400

To coincide with the 400th anniversary in 2020 of The Mayflower sailing to America with the Pilgrim Fathers, Harwich is amongst 12 destinations celebrating this historic milestone. Christopher Jones, Captain of the ship, lived in Harwich and his house will be open for the very first time from October 2019. The town will be offering dedicated Mayflower Tours, talks, exhibitions and a whole host of events and activities leading up to and including the anniversary year itself. A brand new Mayflower 400 Visitor Centre will also be opening and will be situated at the Esplanade Hall in Kings Quays Street, Harwich.

www.historicharwich.com www.mayflower400uk.org

Mayflower 400 Trail

Follow the Mayflower trail and discover the exciting stories that link the port town of Harwich to one of the most significant voyages in history. The trail will take you on a journey around the town, where you will weave past the house of the Captain of the Mayflower, drop in at the Visitor Centre and lose yourself in the fascinating heritage that this historic town has to offer.

www.historicharwich.com

Harwich Maritime Trail

The Harwich Society offers free guided walking tours of Harwich every Saturday at 2.00pm, throughout the summer. However, other walking tours can also be arranged throughout the year. The average length of the tour is approx. 1 hour and normally includes entry to the Treadwheel Crane, Lifeboat Museum, High Lighthouse and Maritime Museum. Tours start at The Ha'penny Pier Visitor Centre.

Tel 01255 504590 www.harwich-society.co.uk

Ha'Penny Pier Visitor Centre

The Quay, Harwich (Open 1st May – mid October)

The centre is where the Harwich Society volunteers are based and where all guided walks start from.

Tel: 01255 553610 www.harwich-society.co.uk

The Guildhall

Church Street, Harwich (Open 9.30am – 1.00pm Mon, Wed & Fri)

This is the town's only Grade I Listed Building and its present design dates from 1769 and is the home of Harwich Town Council. The Carvings Room was once used to hold prisoners waiting to be tried or sentenced and etched into the bare, wooden walls of the room are elaborate carvings of ships, gallows and symbols to ward off evil spirits, all of which date from the late 18th century. Guided tours are available by prior arrangement.

Tel: 01255 507211 email info@harwichmayflower.com

www.harwichmayflower.com

The Harwich Heritage Centre

Home to the new Rail & Shipping Museum and The Haselton Collection, a rare display of local beach finds, collected over 60 years. The Centre is open every Saturday from 10am – 4pm, April to October. Other times are as advertised or by phoning first.

Tel: 01255 318023 www.harwichmayflower.com

Dovercourt Library

The Library has become more of a “community hub” for the town and is situated on Kingsway. There is a wide range of information and interesting facts about the area with details of places to visit and seasonal town celebrations and events. Tickets for many of the events can also be booked here. Free WIFI is also available. Open daily (except Weds and Suns)

Tel: 0345 603 7628

Harwich Harbour Foot Ferry

The ferry, which can accommodate up to 58 people, takes foot passengers and cyclists every hour from the Ha’Penny Pier across the Harbour to Shotley and Felixstowe. Daily services operate seasonally, with the first ferry starting on 1st April 2019. Please buy tickets online.

Tel: 01728 666329 www.harwichharbourferry.com



Christopher Jones' house

FOOD & DRINK

There is an excellent choice of cafes, restaurants and traditional pubs in both Harwich and Dovercourt. You will even find some superb traditional beers actually brewed in the town.

- You will find FREE Wi-Fi available in these premises.

Restaurants, Cafes and Bars in Harwich

- **British Flag** - 55 West Street
- **Café on the Pier** - Ha'penny Pier
- **Costa** - Retail Park
- **Domino Pizza** - Retail Park
- **Hanover Inn** - 65 Church Street
- **McDonalds** - Retail Park
- **Navyärd Bar at The Pier** - The Quay
- **New Bell Inn** - Outpart Eastward
- **Pieseas Chippie** - 76 West Street
- **Samuel Pepys** - 31 Church Street
- **Shakers Bar** - 12 West Street
- **Skippers Fish & Chips** - 21 Garland Road
- **Thai up at the Quay** - 1 East Gate Street
- **The Alma Inn** - 25 Kings Head Street
- **The Captain Fryatt / Mama Rita Pizza** - 65 Garland Road
- **The Crown Post** - 57 Church Street
- **The Globe** - Castle Gate Street
- **The Mayflower (Brewers Fayre)** - Parkestone Road
- **The Pier Restaurant** - The Quay
- **The Stingray** - 56 Church Street

Restaurants, Cafes and Bars in Dovercourt

- **Deli 141** - 141 High Street
- **Dovercourt Plaza Café** - 32-34 Kingsway (opening Spring 2019)
- **Mandarin House** - 614 Main Road
- **Ocean Fish Bar** - 612 Main Road
- **Peking Chinese Restaurant** - 192 High Street
- **Pizzeria Napoli** - 1 High Street
- **Rainbow Café** - 12 Wick Lane
- **Station Road Café** - 190 High Street
- **Tasty Chinese** - 161 High Street
- **The Bottle Kiln** - 60 Kingsway
- **The Fish House Restaurant** - 184 High Street
- **The Kings Arms** - 178 High Street
- **The Pavilion Café** – The Esplanade (opening July 2019)
- **The Royal** - 387 Main Road
- **The Royal Oak** - Main Road
- **The Waterfront** - Lower Marine Parade
- **The White Coffee House** - 11 Kingsway
- **Turkish Meze Café/Restaurant** - 204 High Street
- **USA Fried Chicken** - High Street

ACCOMMODATION

Whether you're looking for a hotel, a bed and breakfast or perhaps a stay in a caravan with views of the sea there are plenty to choose from and they are all marked with a 'BED' on the map overleaf.

- You will find FREE Wi-Fi available in these premises.

Harwich

- **Captain Fryatt** - 65 Garland Road
- **Premier Inn** - Parkestone Road
- **Samuel Pepys** - 31 Church Street
- **The Alma Inn** - 25 Kings Head Street
- **The Pier at Harwich** - The Quay
- **The Stingray** - 56 Church Street
- **The 1912 Centre (Hostel)** - off Kings Quay Street

Dovercourt

- **Dovercourt Caravan Park** - Main Road
- **Greenacres Caravan Park** - off West End Lane
- **The Bottle Kiln** - 60 Kingsway
- **The Goodlife** - 162 High Street
- **The Tower Hotel** - Main Road, Harwich

CAR PARKING

There is plenty of free 'on street' car parking in both Harwich & Dovercourt. However, you will also find 'Pay & Display' car parks at Bagshaw/Milton Road in Dovercourt town centre and in Wellington Road and along the quayside in Harwich.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.historicharwich.com
www.essex-sunshine-coast.org.uk
www.visitessex.com
www.harwich-society.co.uk
www.electricpalace.com

Harwich International Port

www.harwich.co.uk

Harwich Town Council

www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk

Walking Routes in Essex

www.essexwalks.com

North Sea Cycle Route

www.sustrans.org.uk

'Mayflower 400'

www.mayflower400uk.org

GETTING THERE

By Car

From the A12 / A14: Join the A120 at Colchester. Once on the A120 follow the signs to Harwich and Harwich International Port. On approaching Harwich, to visit Dovercourt, follow the signs to Dovercourt Town Centre and for Harwich, follow the brown tourism signs to 'Historic Harwich'.

From the M11: Leave at junction 8 and join the A120 eastwards, heading for Braintree and Colchester. Once at Colchester take the A12 towards Ipswich, but take the A120 signed to Harwich.

From the M25: At junction 28, take the A12 and then join the A120 at Colchester.

By Train

Regular train services provide a fast, convenient service to both Harwich and Dovercourt on 'The Mayflower Line' from Colchester, Ipswich, Chelmsford and London Liverpool Street.

www.greateranglia.co.uk

To purchase tickets: 0345 600 7245

For all other routes contact National Rail Enquiries

www.nationalrail.co.uk

Tel: 0345 748 4950

By Bus

Not only do regular services run from the surrounding area to Dovercourt Town Centre, Harwich and Harwich International Port with First Group, other operators also operate a good bus service from other parts of the country. Details & timetables can be found in the Guildhall and at the Ha'penny Visitor Centre on Harwich Quay.

www.firstgroup.com/essex

Customer Service: 0345 602 0121

Traveline: 0871 200 2233

By Bicycle

Route 51, of The National Cycle Network is a long distance cycle ride and passes through Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex, finishing in Harwich. The section between Harwich and Colchester also forms part of the North Sea Cycle Route, known as EuroVelo 12.

www.sustrans.org.uk

By Air

London (Stansted) Airport is within easy reach of Harwich (50 minutes by car or taxi), with Heathrow and Gatwick being only 2 hours' drive away.

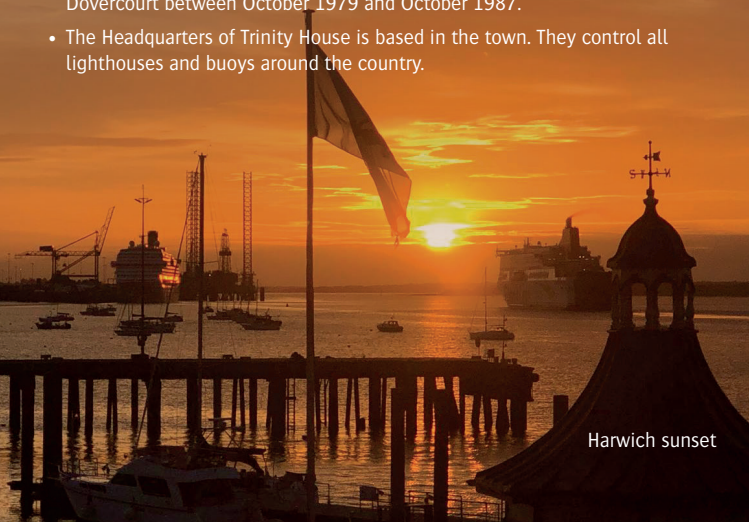
By Sea

Stenaline operate regular day and night crossings on the Stena Hollandica and Stena Britannica from the Hook of Holland to Harwich.

www.stenaline.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dovercourt was recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) and was then a very small village with a population of about 120. The inhabitants were peasants who farmed the land around a cluster of wooden huts.
- In 1319 the port of Harwich received its charter from King Edward II.
- Christopher Jones, Captain of the Mayflower, was born in Harwich in 1570. He married Sarah Twitt in December 1593 and had one child. Sarah died very young but he married again to Josian Gray in St Nicholas Church in November 1603. He eventually died in 1622.
- Christopher Newport was christened and married in Harwich and is best known as overall captain of a small flotilla of three ships, The Discovery, The Godspeed and The Susan Constant, which dropped anchor in Chesapeake Bay in 1607 and Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in North America.
- Harwich is believed to be the only town that has a British example of a two-wheel man operated Treadwheel crane, which dates from 1667.
- In the 1660's, Samuel Pepys was First Secretary to the Admiralty and was also the town's MP.
- In the 1720s the writer Daniel Defoe visited Harwich.
- In 1761 The Princess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz landed at Harwich on her way to marry George III.
- In 1854 the railway line between Colchester and Harwich was opened.
- Sir Thomas Lipton, Tea millionaire, owned a shop in the 1880's Market Street.
- Captain Charles Fryatt, master of the SS Brussels and who was executed by the Germans in 1916, is buried in All Saints Church, Dovercourt and The Fryatt Memorial Hospital was named after him.
- In November 1918, shortly after the Armistice of World War 1, approx. 200 German UBoats surrendered in Harwich Harbour.
- In 1938 the first 'Kindertransport' arrived in Harwich bringing some 200 children from a Jewish orphanage in Berlin and many were housed in a summer camp in Dovercourt Bay.
- Roy Francesco Salvadori, English motor racing driver and manager, was born in Dovercourt to parents of Italian descent and was living at 117 High Street from 1922-1929.
- Hi De Hi, the popular comedy series was filmed at Warner's Holiday Camp, Dovercourt between October 1979 and October 1987.
- The Headquarters of Trinity House is based in the town. They control all lighthouses and buoys around the country.



Harwich sunset

WHAT'S ON IN 2019

Sun 3 March	'Pirate Radio Revival' with BBC Essex on board LV18 www.lv18.org
Thurs 2 – Mon 6 May	Harwich Ale Trail www.facebook.com/harwichaletrail
Thurs 23 May	Mayor Making Ceremony www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk
Sun 2 June	Tour De Tendring www.bike-events.co.uk
Thurs 20th – Sun 30th	Harwich Festival of the Arts www.harwichfestival.co.uk
Fri 5 – Sun 14 July	Visit of the 'Cavell Van Carriage' to Harwich Station www.historicharwich.com
Sat 6 & Sun 7	Harwich Secret Gardens www.opengardens.co.uk
Thurs 25 – Sat 27 July	Harwich Beer Festival, The Redoubt Fort www.harwichtown.co.uk
Sat 27 July	Harwich Maritime Festival & RNLI Open Day www.hha.co.uk www.facebook.com/RNLiHarwich
Sun 4 August	'Bobbits Hole' Open Day & Charity Stroll, Dovercourt www.harwich-society.co.uk
Sun 11 August	'Beside The Seaside', Dovercourt Bay www.historicharwich.co.uk
Mon 26 August	Harwich Redoubt Open Day www.harwich-society.co.uk
Sun 8 September	Harwich Motorcycle Rally www.essexairambulance.uk.com
Sat 14 – Sun 15 September	Harwich Society Heritage Open Days www.heritageopendays.org.uk
Fri 11 – Sun 13 October	Harwich International Shanty Festival www.harwichshantyfestival.co.uk
Sat 26 – Sun 27 October	Harwich Society History Fair www.harwich-society.co.uk
Sat 26 October	Harwich Guy Carnival Procession www.harwichguycarnival.co.uk
Sat 2 November	Sausage Festival www.tendringcamra.org.uk
Wed 20 – Sat 23 November	Harwich and Parkeston Winter Ale Festival www.tendringcamra.org.uk
Fri 29 November	'Mayflower 400 Illuminate' Festival and the official start of the Mayflower 400 Celebration www.historicharwich.com
Sun 1 December	Kings Head Street Christmas Market, Harwich www.htra.co.uk
Fri 6 December	Dovercourt 'Christmas Lights' Event www.historicharwich.com
Sat 7 December	'Arrival of St Nicholas', Harwich www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk
Tues 31 December	New Years' Eve Fireworks Display, Harwich www.historicharwich.com

For further details about the above events visit:

www.historicharwich.com

All information was correct at time of printing (Feb 2019)

Supported by **greateranglia** www.greateranglia.co.uk

POINTS OF INTEREST ON MAP

- A** **Queen Victoria Statue** – Life-size figure of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) formed in white carrara marble standing on a granite plinth, erected in 1904 in a prominent seafront position looking towards Dovercourt Town Centre.
- B** **Cliff Park** – Situated on the seafront and just a few minutes walk from Dovercourt Town Centre, the grounds contain mature trees and formal gardens, space to relax, a play area, bandstand, seating and great views out across Dovercourt Bay. There is also some brand new outdoor gym equipment, which is free for anyone to use.
- C** **Mayor’s Garden** – Restful public garden containing colourful floral beds during the summer, shrubs and trees.
- D** **Redoubt Fort** – A spectacular Napoleonic circular fort and moat built between 1808 and 1810 to protect the port of Harwich against the threat of invasion. It houses museums showing how the once derelict building was refurbished by volunteers, old artillery pieces and period exhibits through its life. It also hosts a number of events during the year.
- E** **High Lighthouse** – Built in 1818 by John Rennie to replace a light over the Town Gate. The High Lighthouse houses an exhibition on the history of the lighthouse and the ‘Kindertransport’ story. This and the Low Lighthouse (see P) provided a transit line to guide ships safely into Harwich harbour.
- F** **Ha’penny Pier** – Ha’penny Pier, which is owned and managed by the Harwich Haven Authority, provides a great vantage point to view the harbour and waterfront buildings. Its name originates from the ½d (half an old penny) toll charged when the pier opened in 1853 to accommodate continental ferries. The Harwich Society’s seasonal Visitor Centre on the pier provides tourist information and guided tours.
- G** **Lightship LV18** – The last manned light ship in the UK, now moored permanently near Ha’penny Pier, as a Museum Ship, that welcomes visitors to tour the vessel and view its exhibits including Pirate Radio Station memorabilia.
- H** **Lifeboats** – The Harwich Lifeboat Station of the RNLI has two modern lifeboats which are a key rescue service for North Sea seafarers. Visitors are welcome to view the inshore boat housed in the building and the offshore lifeboat can be seen afloat on the waterfront.
- I** **Navyard** – In former times this commercial dock was a Naval Yard. Numerous wooden warships were built on the site for the Royal Navy during the time of Samuel Pepys and Nelson. On the frontage you can view the original 1666 Dockyard Bell and the list of fighting ships built here.
- J** **Street Murals** – Stroll along Wellington Street to view a colourful range of street murals on buildings and walls, including barges, ships, local features and seaside postcards.
- K** **Electric Palace Cinema** – Built in 1911, it is one of the oldest operational cinemas in the UK, with a glorious front facade, traditional interior and great film programmes. Following a major refurbishment it hopes to re-open in late 2019.
- L** **St Nicholas Church** – The graceful Church built in 1822 is a good example of industrial architecture. Its simple neo-Gothic style incorporates slender iron columns, a wonderful organ and interesting monuments to seafarers. Designed to seat 1,500 people, the largest church in the district, it is often open to visitors.
- M** **Harwich Heritage Centre** – Home to the Rail & Shipping Museum and The Haselton Collection, a rare display of local beach finds.
- N** **Life Boat Museum** – The attractive old Lifeboat station on the waterfront now houses the “Valentine Wyndham-Quin”, an offshore lifeboat which was in service between 1968 -1984, and other exhibits.
- O** **Treadwheel Crane** – A rare historic crane built in 1667, used at the Naval Yard, moved to its present site on Harwich Green in about 1932. The crane was worked by men walking in the interior of two large wheels to raise and lower goods and materials.
- P** **Low Lighthouse Museum** – Built in 1818 as the forward of two transit light houses (see also E), it now houses a maritime museum and is a great vantage point to view the harbour from the lantern.
- Q** **Children’s Play Grounds** – Play equipment for youngsters situated in parks adjacent to the seafront promenade.
- R** **Leisure Centre & Swimming Pool** – The Dovercourt indoor heated swimming pool and new gym is open to the public throughout the year.
- S** **Leisure Activities** – The Dovercourt Low Road leisure area, adjacent to the beach and seafront promenade, provides a range of facilities including a boating lake, skate park, putting green and tennis courts.
- T** **The Guildhall** – in a classical Georgian style, this Grade I Listed Building houses Harwich Town Council Chamber and a prison cell with ship carvings dating back to Napoleonic times.
- U** **Christopher Jones House** – open to the public from October 2019
- V** **Mayflower 400 Visitor Centre** – opening October 2019.
- W** **Beacon Hill Fort** – is recorded as far back as Henry VIII and played a major part in both World Wars. Summer opening times: 10am - 4pm daily, starting Easter 2019. www.beaconhillfort.org.uk

Getting around - Walking Routes

- Route 1:** 35/45 minutes (2.75km / 1¾ miles)
Harwich International Port - Dovercourt Town Centre
- Route 2:** 20/30 minutes (1.25km / ¾ mile)
Harwich - Dovercourt Town Centre via Main Road
- Route 3:** 30/35 minutes (2km / 1¼ miles)
Harwich - Dovercourt Town Centre via coastal route
- Route 4:** 15/20 minutes (1km / ½ mile)
Dovercourt Town Centre - Leisure Centre via promenade
- Cycling route**
Sustrans Cycle route No 51

