

**STEP BACK IN TIME  
AND WALK THE  
FOOTSTEPS OF CAPTAIN  
CHRISTOPHER JONES.**



**#GETONBOARD2020**

## #GETONBOARD2020

Join us as we countdown to our Mayflower 400 celebrations and make our harbour the highlight of your holiday.

The Ha'penny Pier

Dovercourt Bay Beach and High Lighthouse



The Ha'penny Pier Visitor Centre

# HISTORIC HARWICH HOME OF THE MAYFLOWER



**"HARWICH REMAINS A BUSTLING CENTRE OF MARITIME ACTIVITY WITH CRUISE SHIPS, FERRIES TO THE NETHERLANDS AND CONTAINER SHIPS. JONES AND THE PILGRIMS WITH TIES TO ESSEX AND NEIGHBOURING SUFFOLK WOULD CERTAINLY RECOGNIZE THE TOWN TODAY."**

Dennis Lennox, Christian Mail (2018)

## WELCOME TO HARWICH.

Home of history's greatest seafarers and the start of voyages to the New World. Harwich is at the heart of adventure, a thriving and vibrant maritime town, proud of its heritage and focussed on its future. Bustling with business, Harwich captures the spirit and enthusiasm of its sailors as much today as it did in 1600s with busy shipping routes to the Netherlands scheduled daily, commercially and for leisure.

Nestled on the hip of Essex, at the mouth of the River Stour, Harwich epitomises the great British seaside with its bright and colourful beach huts, **Victorian wooden Ha' Penny pier** and **lighthouses**. With its **Blue Flag beaches** boasting ample parking and access to amenities it's no surprise that Harwich beach is Essex's best kept secret. **Dovercourt Bay** also provides a tranquil seaside resort with a promenade that promises spectacular views of Felixstowe and Langard Forts and stretches for miles. Walk, cycle, run and witness the beauty of Hamford Water, Natural Nature Reserve, and if you're lucky its resident seals may just give you a wave from the water.

Today our town is a living museum showcasing the legacies of previous generations. We invite you to walk with us down our quaint streets, savour the buildings that all have unique stories to tell. Take in the sights, the sounds, breathe in the fresh sea air and stand in the footsteps of those who dared to believe in endless possibilities and sailed into the unknown.

Enjoy the variety of cuisine and culture that awaits you and visit our bounty of independent shops, restaurants, bars, cafes and pubs all unique in menu and style. From locally brewed ale to luxurious lobster dishes, freshly caught seafood and exceptional evening cocktails, whether you prefer fine dining or al fresco fish and chips with the sand between your toes, there's something for everyone in Harwich.

 @HistoricHarwich1620

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 @HistoricHarwich

[www.historicharwich.co.uk](http://www.historicharwich.co.uk)

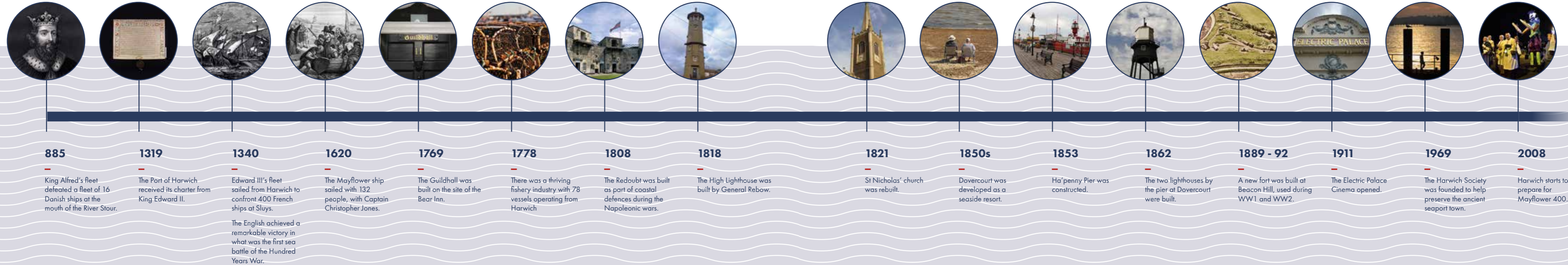
# HISTORY. HERITAGE AND HI-DE-HI.

**Harwich isn't your average port.** Since King Alfred's fleets defeated the Danes in 885, Harwich has been a place of great civil and military maritime significance. Protecting Britain through Napoleonic wars to WW2, Harwich harbour has been a safe-haven of peace, sheltering beneath the shadow of Suffolk's shoulder. Harwich inspired many the mariner and has seen the maiden voyages of the famous vessels of Drake, Hawkins and Frobisher. Harwich was imprinted on the memories of many crew as their last glimpse of home including those of 1620's most famous mission: **The Mayflower**. Captained by the town's own native Mariner, Christopher Jones, the vessel set sail on its voyage to the New World from Harwich.

Unique to Harwich and preserved for your fascination is the Treadwheel Crane. The only British example of a working Roman design. Built in 1667 this colossal wooden crane was operated by men walking inside the two wheels to raise and lower materials and goods from the port. And that's just one of many wooden wonders on display in Harwich. The Ha'penny Pier still stands as a testament to Victorian engineering since its construction in 1853. Our timber lighthouse has stood the test of time and tide and is just one exhibit from our maritime museums that you can see as you explore our timeless town.

Look up as you walk and admire the architecture preserving the charm of bygone days. The Electric palace cinema is just one example. Its doors first opened in 1911 and are still welcoming guests today, standing proud as Britain's oldest and unaltered purpose-built cinema. A £700k restoration project is underway so be sure to visit and see the transformation for yourself. Of course, every town has its military history and ours is in abundance. Harwich Visitor Centre conduct tours of the Old Radar Tower at Beacon Hill Fort – the first radar installation of the second world war. Built to defend the port from Napoleonic invasion, Redoubt Fort is the largest ancient monument in the UK. This circular fortress is yours to explore and enjoy re-enactments with 11 guns in its battlements.

Unrecorded in the Domesday Book and considered a tiny hamlet, Harwich is now the UK's second largest passenger ferry port in the UK. It was also the setting of BAFTA award-winning sitcom Hi-de-Hi from 1979-1987, which projected Dovercourt's Warners' Holiday Camp into living rooms across the country. So, you could be forgiven for expecting the town to forget its more primitive past but we instead we celebrate our medieval and maritime traditions and carry our heritage in our hearts. From 'kitchel' catching to sausage throwing, there's many traditions preserved for your entertainment and whatever the date of your visit, you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome.



## THE SHIP THAT SHAPED HISTORY.

Thanksgiving isn't widely celebrated in Britain but 2020 will be different. It will turn the spotlight on the origins of how this three-day feast of thanks began. It all started with a ship in our little town of Harwich: The Mayflower. A ship commanded and part-owned by her captain, master mariner, Christopher Jones. A Harwich resident whose house still stands near the waterfront on Kings Head Street. A house set to become a tourist attraction to mark the Mayflower 400 celebrations.

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of her most famous voyage –sailing from Plymouth UK to Plymouth Massachusetts - chartered by Pilgrims on a quest for a new start in the New World. This was by no means her maiden voyage. The Mayflower had sailed to France, the Mediterranean and Norway exporting cloth and importing wine on several occasions. However, her voyage in 2020 marked the ship's first trans-Atlantic crossing and a course destined to shape history.

Following the reformation of the Church of England in the reign of Henry VIII, a select group of Puritans disagreed with the changes. They vowed to begin a new life in Holland and escaped to the Netherlands in 1607. After 12 years of difficulties they returned to England on a private mission to sail to the Americas with their remaining English congregation.

Jones led the Mayflower's voyage to the New World in August 1620, taking the 'Pilgrim Fathers' to America. An act that would change the world and create a new breed of American civilisation. The origins of Thanksgiving were founded through the fate of this vessel and the kindness of the Native Americans. A people who welcomed the pilgrims to their shores and shared their secrets of how to successfully farm a dry, desert land – skills which undoubtedly aided their survival.

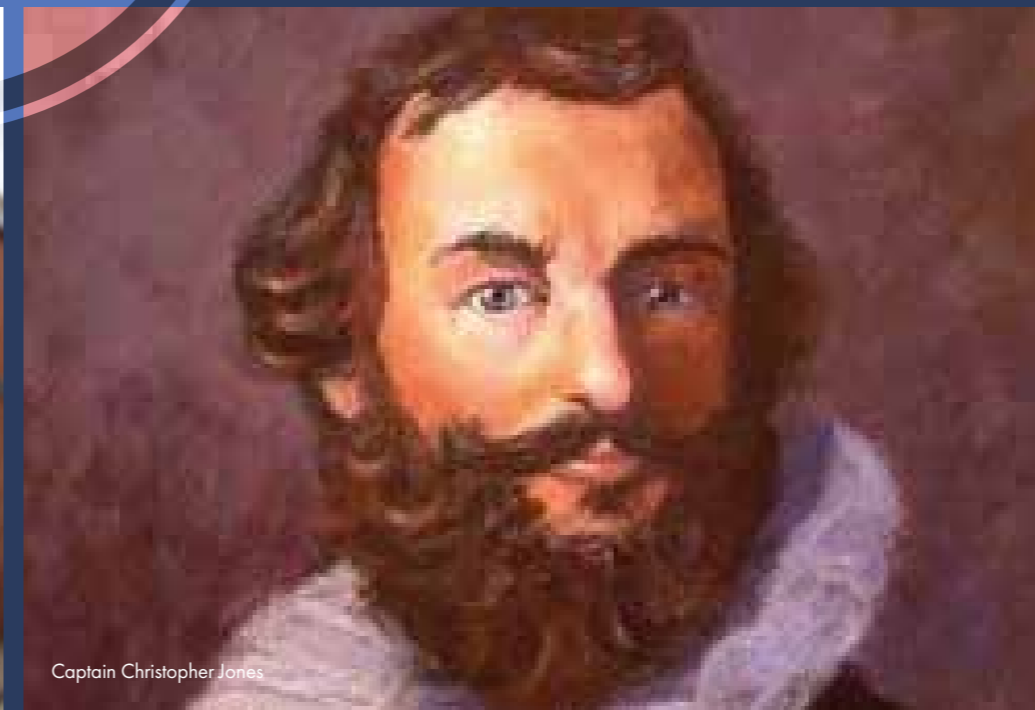
Today, a remarkable 20 million+ US citizens can trace their roots back to descendants of the Mayflower's sailing. A voyage hailed as one of the most influential journeys in global history. It marks a defining moment in the shared history of Britain, the Netherlands and the US. Tales of that iconic voyage have survived the test of time, been immortalised by Disney and inspired historians and genealogists across the nations. And descendants and enthusiasts will be able to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors through the Mayflower 400 celebrations and explore this incredible history.



The Ship that shaped history



Captain Christopher Jones' home



Captain Christopher Jones



Mayflower 400 celebrations

## STEP INSIDE THE HOUSE OWNED BY THE MASTER OF THE MAYFLOWER.

No Mayflower experience is complete without a visit to the house of the ship's captain. Walk in the footsteps of Christopher Jones and stand in the house where he once lived.

Many of the original features have been lovingly restored, so this historic house maintains its charm and authenticity.

## THINGS TO DO.

If you find yourself in this pleasant part of England's east coast for a morning there are plenty of things to see and do. If you can wake at the crack of dawn it's worth heading to the **Ha'penny Pier** to watch the day's catch come in or perhaps try a spot of crabbing. The Lightvessel **LV18** is moored here, which was used in the 60s and 70s for illegal offshore pirate radio, and is now home to a fantastic little museum which is well worth a visit. You can't miss the Café on the Pier, a Harwich institution in its own right, which is a worthy spot from which to sit and watch the world go by.

The Ha'penny Pier



Seafood overlooking the Quay at the Pier Hotel



Harwich International Shanty Festival

Esturiana



**Esturiana**, the magnificent mermaid mosaic created by artist Anne Schwegmann-Fielding, stands proud on the Victorian pier, overlooking the water. The Arts Council England funded piece is constructed from broken plates, sea glass and tiles donated from the local community.

**Seal watching tours** depart for Hamford Water from The Quay on Ha'penny Pier and are the only way to see and appreciate the creatures in their natural environment. This is a great trip for photography and wildlife enthusiasts, and is enjoyable for the whole family.



Seal watching tours

Paddle boarding



## THINGS TO SEE.

Visit the Mayflower 400 Heritage Centre and marvel at a largely untold story of Harwich and its relationship with one of history's greatest journeys. If beaches are what you're after, a visit to **Dovercourt Bay** is essential for its golden sand and panoramic views over the North Sea and Felixstowe Point. Here you can see the High and Low Lighthouses which were in use until 1917. Pop into cosy pub the **Alma Inn**, which was the original house of Christopher Jones first wife, after a bracing beach walk for traditional ales and a freshly caught lobster lunch.

**The Redoubt Fort** is a hidden gem, and Harwich's must-see attraction. Allocate an afternoon to look round the battlements and unusual exhibits. Battle reenactments, ghost hunts and beer festivals are held here throughout the summer months, so check their calendar to plan your visit.



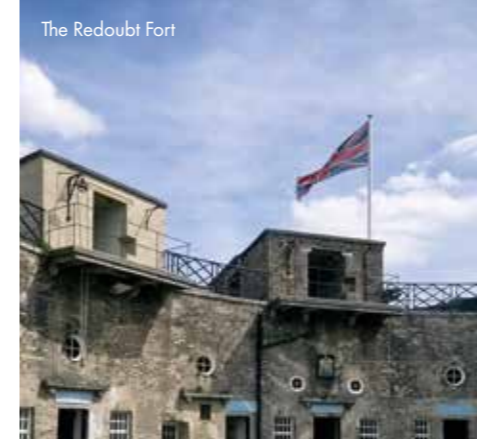
Pieseas Chip Shop



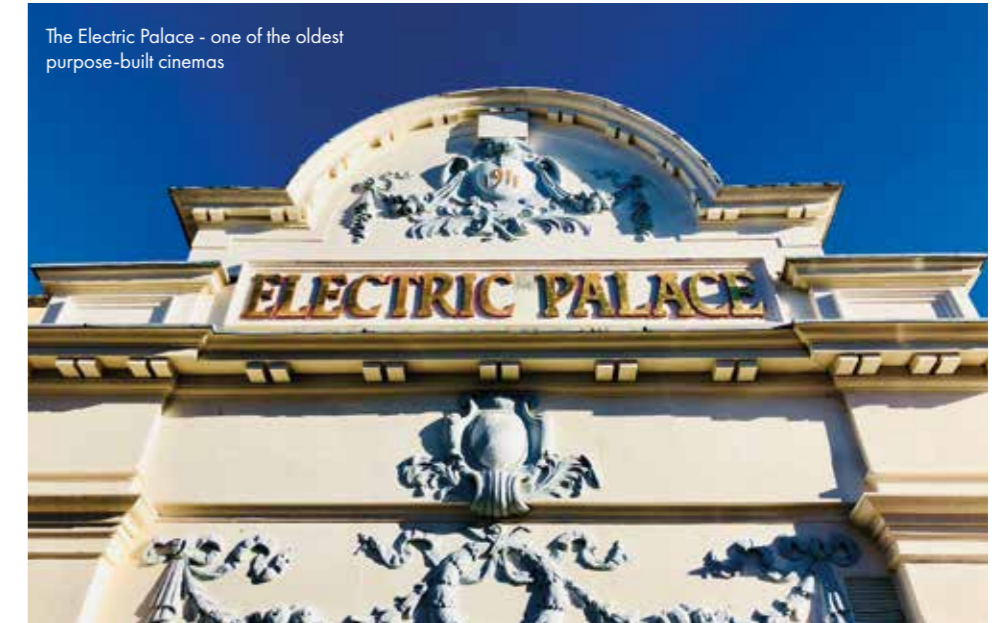
Dovercourt Bay



Dovercourt's Low Lighthouse



The Redoubt Fort



The Electric Palace - one of the oldest purpose-built cinemas

Head to the **Electric Palace Theatre** in Harwich town to see the latest blockbuster, indie film, or National Theatre Live Production, and soak up the atmosphere inside the cinema's beautifully restored interior.

Foodies rejoice, Harwich has much to satisfy the taste buds. Make sure to stock up on locally sourced provisions for your stay at Deli 141 in Dovercourt or drop into the Harwich Town Brewing Co. for a tour and some locally brewed ale (pre-booking is a must). **The Pier Restaurant** has a fantastic seasonal menu, including freshly caught fish and lobster. Don't miss their Lobster Bonanza event which happens twice a year! Head downstairs to round off an evening with exceptional cocktails in the stylish **NAVYÁRD Bar**. Before you leave Harwich, finish your visit with traditional English fish and chips at local favourite Pieseas Chippy!

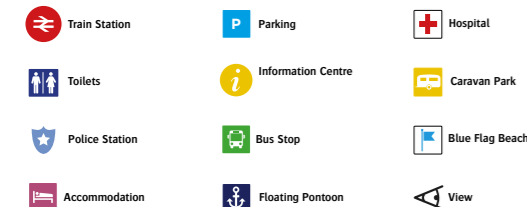


The Royal Charter 1604

## GETTING AROUND HARWICH.

It's possible to arrive by bicycle, boat, train, car, yacht, bus, ferry... or even by canoe!

This haven port town is easily accessible – why not turn up on your bike, pop for a tippie or two in one of the local pubs to recuperate from the trip, and take the train home?



## 2019 EVENTS.

### HARWICH FESTIVAL

Thursday 20th - Sunday 30th June.

### MOTORCYCLE FESTIVAL

Sunday 8th September.

### HARWICH SHANTY FESTIVAL

Friday 11th, Saturday 12th, and Sunday 13th of October.

### HARWICH GUY CARNIVAL

Saturday 26th of October.

### HARWICH SAUSAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday 2nd November.

### HARWICH & PARKESTON WINTER ALE FESTIVAL

Wednesday 20th - Saturday 23rd November.

### HARWICH ILLUMINATE

Friday 6th December.

## #GETONBOARD2020

Please join us and #GETONBOARD2020. Relive a past that shaped the future as we know it – from now to 2020, and let the memories of the Mayflower live on for a brave new generation.

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### **Tourist Information Centre**

Tendring District Council  
Town Hall  
Station Road  
Clacton-on-Sea  
Essex  
CO15 1SE  
01255 686633

clactontic@tendringdc.gov.uk

### **Ha'penny Pier Visitor Centre**

The Quay  
Harwich  
Essex  
CO12 3HH  
01255 502872 (Harwich Society)  
info@harwich-society.com

Harwich Haven is vital to the UK's prosperity, and we're its proud guardian. Our role is to protect, conserve and improve the Haven for the benefit of future generations.

Visit [www.historicharwich.co.uk](http://www.historicharwich.co.uk) for more events, things to do, places to eat, shop and stay in Harwich and Dovercourt. Visit [www.hha.co.uk](http://www.hha.co.uk) for information on shipping, the environment, tide times and local news.

Harwich Haven Authority operations run 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.  
Harbour House, The Quay, Harwich, Essex, CO12 3HH

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