

PIER REVIEW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHEND PIER MUSEUM FOUNDATION TRUST LTD

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THE PIER MUSEUM—NEW YEAR—NEW CHALLENGES

The Pier Museum is looking forward to the new season and the coming celebrations surrounding VE Day 75, of which more later. We need to revamp some of our displays, get out of storage some of the items which have not been on display and generally give the Museum a facelift. It is a mammoth task as there is so much in the way of artefacts, documents and photographs and we want to make sure that we know exactly what we have and how we can fit it in to new displays and special events.

We are always going to be looking to find new volunteers to help to man the Museum so that we can increase our opening times and what we offer to the visiting public. However for the revamp job we also need volunteers who are interested in cataloguing, scanning and putting together more easily searchable databases of what we have. So if you don't feel able to volunteer to meet the public there are plenty of 'back room' jobs that need doing. If you are someone who likes mechanics then there are plenty of artefacts that will need some TLC.

So please contact : chairman@southendpiermuseum.co.uk if you want to take part—a few hours here and then are very valuable to us. If you have memories of Southend Pier, pictures and other information relating to the Pier please contact memories@southendpiermuseum.co.uk

As part of the revamp we will be saying goodbye to the diving suit which has been at the Museum for over 20 years. Southend Central Museum need it back to carry out preservation works for the future.



ALL ABOARD

After many years of stirring service the pier trains are to be changed and the Council has been carrying out an exercise with the public to get feedback on the livery and nose construction

4 different noses were proposed and 3 combinations of colour scheme.

We now await the decision on the chosen design.
WHICH ONE WILL IT BE?

VE DAY 75 ON THE PIER

Southend Pier is an icon with a past, a true survivor with an incredible history that makes it the perfect backdrop to bring all ages together to revel in the crucial part it played in World War II where it became the Guardian of the Thames.

The Pier has always been a wonderful community space and in September 1939 it became the Naval Control Centre for the Thames Estuary and was renamed HMS Leigh with surrounding areas becoming HMS Westcliff.

It was a crucial mustering point for convoys and over the course of the war 3,367 convoys, comprising 84,297 vessels departed from HMS Leigh. It is the ideal place to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

In this 75th anniversary year the Pier is going to be the focal point for the Borough's celebrations. Blade Education is teaming up with a whole range of local organisations, veterans' associations and the Borough Council to produce an extravaganza par excellence between 6 and 10 May.

The first 2 days will be dedicated to our local school children with special needs. They will be coming to the Pier for exciting events and an enjoyable walk down and train ride back. For this part of the event the Pier will be closed to the public but opening up later in the days for public participation.

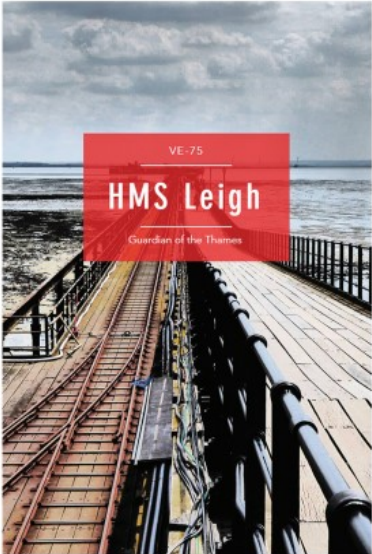
VE Day itself and the rest of the Bank Holiday weekend is for everyone to come and celebrate this grand old lady who has played such a part in our history.

There will be actors in period dress, exhibitions and much much more. This was a national celebration in 1945 bringing with it memories, regrets and much happiness and we are playing our part in commemorating all of this and providing a fun filled and reflective few days

WARTIME PIER MEMORIES

As part of the lead up to the event there is a call out for your war time memories of the Pier and the part it played as HMS Leigh.

We all know locally about the relief of Dunkirk and the part our brave men played but there are thousands of other stories, personal and moving which should not be lost so please take part in the 'Call for Stories' by visiting <https://www.hmsleigh.org.uk/> and seeing what you can do to tell the story and be part of the event.




HMS Leigh - Guardian of the Thames is a community project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and produced by Southend based not for profit company Blade Education.

Working with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, the Southend Branch of the Essex Society for Family History, the Shoeburyness and South Essex Branch of the Royal Artillery Association, Southend Museums, the Leigh Society, the Leigh-on-Sea Branch of the Royal British Legion, the Royal Marine Association, the Endeavour Trust, the SEN Trust Southend and Southend Pier Museum this project aims to record and preserve the stories, images and memories of our community during the Second World War right through to the VE Day Celebration in 1945.

We would love to include your WW2 story! Please contact us at: stories@hmsleigh.org.uk

For further information please visit: www.hmsleigh.org.uk



COME AND JOIN US
To support the Icon of Southend go to our website and join us

www.southendpiermuseum.co.uk
01702 611214



SAVE THE DATE!

VE-on-SEA Event

6th and 7th May 2020
School Days by invitation

8th May 2020
VE Day Anniversary

9th and 10th May 2020
Community Days



For further information and events please visit our website at:

www.hmsleigh.org.uk