

## **BRIGHTLINGSEA POINT CLEAR FOOT FERRY**

The foot ferry between Brightlingsea and Point Clear is due to start its second season in April, providing access between the two communities for both locals and visitors to the area.

During its first year of operation it proved a popular feature in the harbour, providing not only a means of crossing the creek, but also offering pleasure trips at high tide when it was not possible to land at Point Clear. This allowed people the opportunity to discover the heritage of the area.

In 2005 the service is to be expanded to include East Mersea as part of the schedule, opening up greater access to the area, allowing residents of all three communities and visitors the chance to take advantage of local facilities. These include Cudmore Grove Country Park at East Mersea, the Aviation Museum and wide beach at Point Clear and a chance to discover the historic town and waterfront of Brightlingsea.

The extended service will help make access within the region much easier, reducing road miles and it is hoped it will encourage cyclists, walkers, locals and visitors to take advantage of the service as a real alternative to road travel.

The custom built ferry boat has a hydraulic ramp which can be lowered to allow easy access for wheelchair users and cycles, as well as foot passengers using the service.

The success of the ferry has been partly attributed to the close working relationship between the partnership members working together to provide a professional service, but also largely due to the support given by local residents and visitors taking advantage of this important asset.

This season we look forward to welcoming passengers old and new, using the ferry to access our three communities or enjoying a pleasure trip to explore the diverse natural beauty of the area.

Ferry and trip timetables will be available shortly from local shops, Tourist Information Centres and various other outlets in the region.

Further details are available on the Brightlingsea Ferry Website [www.brightlingseaferry.co.uk](http://www.brightlingseaferry.co.uk) or the Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners on 01206 302200 or Bob Shotton, Brightlingsea Tourism Manager on 01206 302669.