Welcome to the 2018 Essex Book Festival
Introducing the Festival Team

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Sarah Perry
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Advisors to the board
Jake Hearm
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How To Book Your Ticket

Most bookings can be made through the Mercury Theatre Box Office online or at essexbookfestival.org.uk. However, Some events have different box offices and booking lines, so please check the programme. Bookings will be taken up to two hours before the start of the event, after which tickets will be available to purchase on the door.

Ticket Offer Festival 4
This year we are offering four tickets for the price of three on selected events – look for the ‘Festival 4’ symbol throughout the brochure, and when buying tickets online.

Book by phone or online:
Mercury Theatre Box Office
Open Mondays-Saturday 10am-8pm
01206 573948 / essexbookfestival.org.uk

Book in person:
Mercury Theatre Box Office
Balkerne Gate
Colchester CO1 1PT

Concessions
Concession prices are available to those aged 27 and under. Please provide proof of age on ticket purchase and at events.

Disabled Access
Essex Book Festival is a partnership programme with multiple venues. Please advise the Box Office if you have any access requirements when making a booking. Visitors with a disability are offered a free ticket for a companion. If you require a BSL interpreter, please advise the Box Office and we will do our best to accommodate this.

Refunds
The Festival cannot refund money on exchange tickets except if an event is cancelled. In this event, please return your tickets to the Box Office within 30 days for a full refund.

Welcome to Essex Book Festival 2018

The challenge is, knowing where to begin...

With over 100+ events taking place in 40 venues - from Jenny Uglow talking about Edward Lear at Layer Marney Tower, to our very special subterranean The Nuclear Option in Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker - we’re pretty sure we’ve got Essex covered, both above and below ground this March. To say we are excited to welcome Billy Bragg to launch this year’s festival is something of an understatement! Make sure you book early for this.

Cricket lovers are in for a treat as legendary commentator Henry Blofeld joins us in The Forum. Southend, while theatre lovers will be pleased that playwright Michael Frayn of Noises Off fame will be speaking at The Lakeside Theatre, University of Essex.

We are thrilled to welcome back artist Maggi Hambling and festival patron AL Kennedy to Firstsite, to participate in Figuring Peace: the first of three Peace Panels that mark the centenary of the end of WW1. Others include Picking Apart Propaganda with journalists David Aaronovitch and Jamie Bartlett in The Bunker, and the Children’s Peace Matters Panel in Jaywick Martello Tower.

Celebrating community and diversity is at the heart of Essex Book Festival, and so we are delighted to be hosting Don’t Panic I’m Islamic: Extreme Comedy at Mercury Theatre, Colchester in partnership with Essex Cultural Diversity Project and Saqi Books.

And, of course, look out for our Young Essex Strand, which includes our fabulous Family Science & Invention Day at Anglia Ruskin University.

It just remains to say an enormous THANK YOU to friends, partners and funders, without whom none of this would be possible!

Ros Green
Director, Essex Book Festival

Introducing...
Syd Moore, Writer-in-Residence and The Essex Read 2018: Strange Sight

Following last year’s successful Essex Read, which encouraged people across the county to read Sarah Perry’s The Essex Serpent, we are delighted to welcome fellow Essex Girl author Syd Moore to be this year’s Writer-in-Residence and The Essex Read.

Anyone who knows anything about best-selling novelist, former TV presenter and activist Syd Moore, will know just how passionate she is about the county of her birth. A passion matched only by her enthusiasm for the subject of her compelling trilogy: Strange Sight, Strange Magic and Strange Fascination – the Essex witch trials.

Syd will be participating in various events, debates and workshops across the county throughout March, and hosting the Festival’s inaugural Pop-Up Writer’s House in partnership with METAL at Chalkwell Hall in Southend.

“Strange Sight is a book which sets out unashamedly to entertain, and does so with wit, style and erudition. I gleefully submitted to a tale of witchcraft, feminism, mysterious strangers, historical atrocities, plucky heroines and ghastly apparitions” – Sarah Perry, Essex Book Festival Patron and last year’s Writer-in-Residence.
## Events Diary

### Date | Event | Location
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28 FEB | Essex Book Festival Launch: Billy Bragg | Colchester
23 FEB – 3 MAR | Turn of the Screw | Colchester
THU 1 | Anne de Courcy | Colchester
THU 1 | Time Machine | Chelmsford
THU 1 | Poetry Brothel | Colchester
FRI 2 | Michael Frayn | University of Essex
FRI 2 | John Crace | Southend
FRI 2 | Patrician Press: My Europe | Wivenhoe
SAT 3 | Julian Pretty | Colchester
SAT 3 | Michael Dean | Colchester
SAT 3 | Casper Henderson | Colchester
SAT 3 | Reconciliation | Colchester
SAT 3 | Anita Delksa | Wivenhoe
SAT 3 | Don’t Panic, Fan Islam | Colchester
SUN 4 | Grants Birth of the Book | Colchester
SUN 4 | Laura Purcell | Colchester
SUN 4 | Adrian May | Colchester
SUN 4 | Writing the Place | Colchester
SUN 4 | Figuring Peace: Peace Matters Panel | Colchester
SUN 4 | Jenny Uglow | Layer Marney
WED 7 | Jemsy Canton | Wivenhoe
THU 8 | Angry Chef | Colchester
THU 8 | Gail Honeyman | Colchester
THU 8 | The King Lear | Colchester
8–10 MAR | Memento Mori | Colchester
FRI 9 | Crime & Punishment Symposium | University of Essex
FRI 9 | Writing on the Inside | University of Essex
FRI 9 | Transitions and Integrations | University of Essex
FRI 9 | Ervin James | University of Essex
SAT 10 | Essex Book Club Symposium | Colchester
SAT 10 | Harriet Paige | Southend
SAT 10 | Academics on Life in The Archers | Colchester
SAT 10 | Jane Harris | Rayleigh
SAT 10 | Celebrating Edmund | Southend
SAT 10 | Crime & Music: The Life of Edmund Crispin | Southend
SAT 10 | Henry Hemming | Southend
SAT 10 | Guy Bolton | Southend

### Date | Event | Location
--- | --- | ---
SUN 11 | Nicci French | Southend
SUN 11 | Criminal Minds | Southend
SUN 11 | Criminally Good Afternoon Tea | Southend
TUE 13 | Dr Annie Gray | Brentwood
TUE 13 | Professor Robert Winston | Chelmsford
WED 14 | Mark Hill | Hockey
THU 15 | Graham Masterton | Billerica
THU 15 | Matthew Hurley | Maldon
FRI 16 | Andy Kirkpatrick | Chelmsford
FRI 16 | Isabelle Gray | Shenfield
SAT 17 | Esseen Authors Day | Chelmsford
SAT 17 | Pop Up Podium | Chelmsford
TUE 20 | Nick Arlley | Canvey Island
TUE 20 | Peter Bance | Colchester
WED 21 | Joy Rhoades | South Woodham Ferrers
WED 21 | Syd Moore | Manningtree
THU 22 | Elly Griffiths | Basilston
THU 22 | Lady Windermere’s Fan | Chelmsford
FRI 23 | Syd Moore & Catli Unsworth | Southend
SAT 24 | Sally Magnusson | Wickford
SAT 24 | Alan Pamphilon | Chelmsford
SAT 25 | Essex Book Festival at The Secret Nuclear Bunker | Kelvedon Hatch
SAT 25 | Rodric Braithwaite | Kelvedon Hatch
SAT 25 | 2014 Post Apocalyptic Bookclub | Kelvedon Hatch
SAT 25 | Under the Influence: A Soviet Childhood | Kelvedon Hatch
SAT 25 | The Nuclear Option | Kelvedon Hatch
MDN 26 | Tony Medawar | Wifham
MDN 26 | Henry Blofeld | Southend
TUE 27 | Sarah Pinborough | Great Parndon Library
TUE 27 | Grandhouse | Chelmsford
TUE 27 | Witches, WAGs and Wide Boys | University of Essex
WED 28 | Kate Griffin | Epping
WED 28 | Jim Al-Khalili | Chelmsford
THU 29 | Ruth Hogan | Braintree
SAT 31 | It’s a Wrap: Boff Music, Dance and Soup | Jaywick

### Young Essex: Events for Children and families

#### Date | Event | Location
--- | --- | ---
SAT 3 | Pop Up Storytelling Armchair | Colchester
SAT 3 | Make Place for Fun | Colchester
SAT 3 | Sumi Ink Club: Peace Wall | Colchester
SAT 3 | Traditional Stories From Africa | Colchester
SUN 11 | Heroes and Villains | Southend
SUN 11 | Medieval Mayhem | Southend
SAT 17 | Marconi digital storytelling at Sanford Mill | Chelmsford
SAT 24 | Pop Up Storytelling Armchair | Colchester
SAT 24 | Time to Get Techy! | Chelmsford
SAT 24 | The Sound of Science: A Songwriting Fact-ory | Chelmsford
SAT 24 | CSI Essex, Essex Police Museum | Chelmsford
SAT 24 | Space For Words | Chelmsford
SAT 24 | Encyclopaedia of Science | Chelmsford
SUN 25 | Young Essex goes Underground: The Secret Nuclear Bunker | Kelvedon Hatch
30–31 MAR | The Wind in the Willows | Chelmsford
SAT 31 | Sumi Ink Club: Peace Wall | Jaywick
SAT 31 | Peace Bunting Print Workshop | Jaywick
SAT 31 | Our Natural World Children’s Workshop | Jaywick
SAT 31 | Tower Tales | Jaywick

### Writing Workshops for Adults

#### Date | Event | Location
--- | --- | ---
SAT 3 | Introduction to Memoir Writing | Colchester
SUN 4 | Writing For Radio | Colchester
SUN 4 | Telling Stories of War and Peace | Colchester
SAT 10 | Novel Writing for Beginners | Southend
SUN 11 | Crime Writing Masterclass | Southend
SUN 25 | Stories for After the End of the World | Kelvedon Hatch

### Our Hubs

- 3 & 4 MARCH
  - PLACE: Colchester

- 10 & 11 MARCH
  - GOLDEN AGE OF CRIME
    - Southend

- 24 & 25 MARCH
  - SCIENCE & INVENTION
    - Chelmsford & Kelvedon Hatch
For Essex Book Festival 2018, our friends at Chelmsford Theatres are putting on some excellent literary related and book inspired events this March, celebrating reading, writing and the book in all its forms.

Venue: Chelmsford Theatres: Civic Theatre & Cramphorn Studio, Fairfield Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1JG
Box Office: 01245 606 505, chelmsford.gov.uk/theatres

**Time Machine, Dyad Productions**

In this new and radical interpretation of the HG Wells classic, a Victorian time traveller journeys across the ages, from the fall of man to the end of the world. Can we change the future? Or has the end already begun?

Tickets: £14.00
Concessions: £10.00
PREMIUM seats: £2.00 extra

**The King Lear, Shifting Sands Theatre**

Hilarious and heart breaking, The King Lear is Shakespeare's classic tragedy, but set in a pub. Shifting Sands Theatre has developed a reputation for creating a clown's eye view of epic tales and classic texts - this inventive retelling mixes slapstick and pathos with warm humour and is marvellous fun! For adults - but suitable for 11+

Tickets: £14.00
Concessions: £12.00
PREMIUM seats £2.00 extra

**Improve Your Learning, Robert Winston**

One of the most instantly recognisable scientists in the country, Robert Winston is a compelling speaker, bringing complex issues to life with infectious enthusiasm and energy. This illuminating talk reveals how easy it is for us all to improve how we learn.

Tickets: £18.00
Concessions: £16.50

**Lady Windermere’s Fan, Oscar Wilde**

A new production of Oscar Wilde’s social comedy about infidelity, relationships and the (im)morality of the upper classes, directed by award-winning writer, actor and director Kathy Burke. Broadcast live from the Vaudeville Theatre in London’s West End.

Tickets: £14.50
Concessions: £13.00
PREMIUM seats: £2.00 extra

**Wind in the Willows, KD Theatre Productions**

Meet all your favourite characters including loyal Mole, faithful Ratty and wise old Badger as they do their best to keep the mischievous Mr Toad out of trouble. Will they be able to stop the Wicked Weasels from taking over Toad Hall?

Tickets: £16.00
Concessions: £14.00
Family: £54.00

**A Higher Education – Speakers from the Edge, Andy Kirkpatrick**

Top British mountaineer, climber and writer Andy Kirkpatrick has explored some of the most difficult terrains in the world, from the Alps to Patagonia, Yosemite to Greenland. He looks back at forty years of adventure, sharing stories about expeditions and all the things that make life amazing.

Tickets: £17.00

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**Children’s University**

Get Your Passports Stamped at Festival Learning Destinations

Essex Book Festival is partnering with Essex Children’s University, which provides 5-14 year olds with exciting learning experiences out of school. Issued with a Passport to Learning, CU Learners collect stamps, working towards a special Graduation Ceremony. For more info and how to get a Passport to Learning, visit www.essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk

All Essex Book Festival YOUNG ESSEX events are CU Learning Destinations - bring your passport, get it stamped and enjoy your learning journey!

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**Age UK Essex presents Pop-Up Storytelling Armchair**

For this year’s Essex Book Festival, Age UK Essex are putting on a series of Pop-Up Storytelling Armchairs for the young and old, which will appear at various venues across the county. A real treat for book lovers of all ages to share their passion for reading. Free and open to all - come along and hear your favourite story at any of the following locations:

**Colchester Library**
Trinity Square, Colchester CO1 1JB
Saturday 3 March, 2-4pm
As part of the festival’s Place themed weekend

**Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford**
Lord Ashcroft Building, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford CM1 1SQ
Saturday 24 March, 10am-12pm and 2-4pm
As part of the festival’s Science and Invention themed weekend

**Lakeside Shopping Centre, Thurrock**
For dates and times, visit www.ageuk.org.uk/essex

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For information and bookings call: 01206 573948 ESSEXBOOKFESTIVAL.ORG.UK
ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL EVENTS

ROOTS, RADICALS AND ROCKERS

Billy Bragg

We are delighted to welcome singer, songwriter and activist Billy Bragg to launch Essex Book Festival 2018. Against a backdrop of Cold War politics, rock and roll riots and a newly assertive working-class youth, Billy charts the history, impact and legacy of Britain’s original pop movement, exploring Roots, Radicals and Rockers: How Skiffle Changed the World.

Venue: Anglia Ruskin University, SAL Building, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford CM1 1SQ
Tickets: £10 / £8 (27yrs and under)

LITERARY LUNCH AT TYPMERLEYS: HUSBAND HUNTERS

Anne de Courcy

Anne de Courcy hosts our literary lunch, sharing stories of social climbing American heiresses who crossed the pond to find titled husbands with power and privilege. This richly entertaining group biography reveals what they thought of their new lives in England, and what England thought of them.

Venue: Tymerleys, Trinity Street, Colchester CO1 1JN
Tickets: £28.50 (includes two course lunch and author talk)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

POCKET PLAYHOUSE

Michael Frayn

Thirty-six comic sketches from the cherished playwright Michael Frayn, author of Noises Off and Skios. Pocket Playhouse brings the stage to the page, providing a tour de force of theatrical imagination and satire, revealing the author’s infectious delight in writing between the lines of theatre, fiction and comedy.

Venue: Lakeside Theatre, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

I, MAYBOT: THE RISE & FALL

John Crace

Throughout 2017 John Crace, the Guardian’s parliamentary sketch writer, has watched Theresa May’s efforts to remain strong and stable - and, indeed, Prime Minister. He coined the term ‘Maybot’ for her malfunctioning public appearances. Watch Theresa May’s efforts to remain strong and stable - and, indeed, Prime Minister. He coined the term ‘Maybot’ for her malfunctioning public appearances. Read on to find out more about our Young Essex activities and events; our plêyê of writing workshops, and PLACE-inspired conversations and performances. This includes Essex Book Festival ‘hot tip’ Don’t Panic I’m Islamic: Extreme Comedy - an unmissable event hosted by writer and broadcaster Bidisha at The Mercury Theatre.

Venue: Essex Book Festival ‘hot tip’ Don’t Panic I’m Islamic: Extreme Comedy - an unmissable event hosted by writer and broadcaster Bidisha at The Mercury Theatre.

Tickets: £10 / £8 (27yrs and under)
An Introduction to Memoir Writing
Linda Wilkinson

The line between memoir and biography has never been clear; a memoir can be a story about a week in a life, an emotion or a place. Both tangible and intangible, it is one of the most exciting forms of writing and self-discovery. Linda Wilkinson, ‘accidental memoirist’, takes you through the techniques, pitfalls and joys of memoir writing.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: £20 / £15 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Firstsite 01206 713700, firstsite.uk

Traditional Stories From Africa
Efua Sey Korbi

Listen to traditional African Stories by Efua Sey Korbi through a magical journey of music and dance; stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. A fun and interactive storytelling session for all ages. Efua Sey Korbi runs the Efua Sey Cultural Academy in Harlow and has a great passion for traditional African Folklore from Djembe drumming to traditional arts and crafts.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: Free, drop-in, no booking required

Marc Chagall and The White Crucifixion
Michael Dean

A fictionalised account of the rollercoaster life of Marc Chagall, one of the most enigmatic artists of the twentieth century. Chagall lived in turbulent times, being in France for both world wars, and Russia during the Russian Revolution and the establishment of the communist regime. A fascinating story of displacement, creativity and inspiration.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Firstsite 01206 713700, firstsite.uk / essexbookfestival.org.uk

The Language-Land
Anita Debska

In 2018 Poland celebrates the centenary of its reunification as an independent state. The Language-Land is a bilingual selection of Polish poetry and prose written between 1795 and 1918, when Poland was absorbed into the empires of Russia, Prussia and Austria, and a tribute to Polish writers in each partition and those forced into exile.

Venue: Wivenhoe Bookshop, 23 High St, Wivenhoe, Colchester CO7 9BE
Tickets: £5. Proceeds will be donated to IBBY, an international children’s book charity
Box Office: 01206 824050, info@wivenhoebooks.com wivenhoebooks.com or pay on the door

For information and bookings call: 01206 573948

© Kate Raworth
SUN 4, 11.30AM – 12.30PM

Granta Birth of the Book

Lulah Ellender (author), Natalie Galustian (agent), and Ka Bradley (editor)

Granta author Lulah Ellender, her literary agent Natalie Galustian, and her editor Ka Bradley will be discussing the often challenging but remarkable birth of a book: from the author’s original idea to the finished book on the shelf. An absolute must for new and emerging writers.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box office: Firstsite 01206 713700, firstsite.uk / essexbookfestival.org.uk

SUN 4, 11.30AM – 1.00PM

The Silent Companions

Laura Purcell

Inspired by the work of Shirley Jackson and Susan Hill, and set in a crumbling country mansion, The Silent Companions is an unsettling gothic ghost story to send a shiver down the spine... A fantastic debut novel from Colchester based author Laura Purcell.

Venue: Colchester Castle, Castle Park, Colchester CO1 1TJ
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

SUN 4, 1.15PM - 2.15PM

Writing the Place

Syd Moore, Robin Brooks, Nicola Werenowska, chaired by Martin Bewick

A rare opportunity to hear three very different writers describe the process of conjuring landscape and place in their writing. These include festival Writer-in-Residence Syd Moore; Robin Brooks, one of Radio 4’s leading dramatists, and award-winning playwright Nicola Werenowska, whose new play Guesthouse opens in Clacton later in the month.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: £20 / £15 (27yrs and under)
Box office: Firstsite 01206 713700, firstsite.uk / essexbookfestival.org.uk

SUN 4, 2.00PM – 4.00PM

Telling Stories of War and Peace

Liz Trenow

What are the joys and pitfalls of writing historical fiction, and why are war and peace such compelling topics for historical novelists? A participatory workshop with Liz Trenow, bestselling author of The Poppy Factory and her latest novel, In Love and War, published in January by Pan Macmillan to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: £20 / £15 (27yrs and under)
Box office: Firstsite 01206 713700, firstsite.uk / essexbookfestival.org.uk

SUN 4, 2.45PM - 3.45PM

Figuring Peace

A L Kennedy, Hamja Ahsan & Maggi Hambling

Figuring Peace is the first in our series of three special Festival Peace Panels. Festival patron and writer A L Kennedy, artist Maggi Hambling, and artist, curator and activist Hamja Ahsan will discuss the pivotal role played by artists and writers with regard to the representations of war and peace.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box office: Firstsite 01206 713700, firstsite.uk / essexbookfestival.org.uk

SAT 3, 7.45PM

Don’t Panic I’m Islamic: Extreme Comedy

Omar Hamdi, Esther Manito and Amrou Al-Kadhi & Bidisha

How can you tell if your neighbour is speaking Muslim? Is a mosque a kind of hedgehog? Can I get fries with that burka? Join critically acclaimed, prize-winning comedians Omar Hamdi, Esther Manito and Amrou Al-Kadhi, and author and broadcaster Bidisha, for an entertaining look at what art and comedy can do to combat stereotypes and regressive identity politics.

Venue: Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate, Colchester CO1 1JPT
Tickets: £10 / £8 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

SUN 4, 10.30AM – 12.30PM

Writing For Radio Masterclass

Robin Brooks

Robin Brooks is one of Radio 4’s most experienced radio dramatists. Perhaps best known for his adaptation of Joyce’s Ulysses and his Robert Graves radio dramatists. Perhaps best known for his

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: £20 / £15 (27yrs and under)
Box office: Firstsite 01206 713700, firstsite.uk / essexbookfestival.org.uk

SUN 4, 1.15PM - 2.15PM

The Magic of Writing

Adrian May, chaired by Emma Kittle Pey

The history of literature is inextricably bound with magic and magical ideas. Both magic and writing are concerned with finding hidden forces and meanings, and inspiration is at the heart of both. Adrian May reveals how magic can be used as a tool to generate creativity, inspiring us to take risks in our own writing.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: £20 / £15 (27yrs and under)
Box office: Firstsite 01206 713700, firstsite.uk / essexbookfestival.org.uk

SUN 4, 2.45PM - 3.45PM

The Silent Companions

Laura Purcell

Inspired by the work of Shirley Jackson and Susan Hill, and set in a crumbling country mansion, The Silent Companions is an unsettling gothic ghost story to send a shiver down the spine... A fantastic debut novel from Colchester based author Laura Purcell.

Venue: Colchester Castle, Castle Park, Colchester CO1 1TJ
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

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© Geraint Lewis © Nancy Honey 100 Leading Ladies
Turn of the Screw
Mercury Theatre, Dermot McLaughlin Productions and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

1840: A young governess agrees to look after two orphaned children in Bly, a seemingly idyllic country house. But shortly after her arrival, she realises that they are not alone. This thrilling adaptation of Henry James’ genre defining classic ghost story lets you draw your own conclusions about the events at Bly.

Venue: Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate, Colchester CO1 1PT
Tickets: £27 - £12 Discounts
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, mercurytheatre.co.uk

Ancient Wanderings
James Canton

James Canton travels the length of Britain in a quest to discover the wonders of our natural history that occupied ancient minds, seeking the remnants left by our ancestors and weaving a beautiful tale of discovery along the way.

‘Intensely alive to the landscape; its pasts, people and creatures’ Robert Macfarlane.

Venue: Wivenhoe Library, 104/6 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

Edward Lear: a life of art and nonsense
Jenny Uglow

Acclaimed biographer Jenny Uglow brings us a joyful appreciation of Edward Lear’s extraordinary life and work. From troubled childhood to striving artist, she tracks his swooping moods, passionate friendships and restless travels. His ‘nonsenses’ are elegantly unpicked, his complex poetic genius revealed.

Venue: Layer Marney Tower, Layer Marney CO5 9US
Tickets: £10 / £8 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

The Angry Chef: Bad Science and the Truth About Healthy Eating
Anthony Warner

We’ve never had so much info available about food and health, but unfortunately much of it is damaging, unscientific and wrong. Using insight from psychiatrists, food scientists and dietitians, The Angry Chef exposes diet faddery, clean-eating cobblers and pseudoscience. This event is part of Chelmsford Restaurant Festival 1-10 March.

Venue: Anglia Ruskin University, Lord Ashcroft Building, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford CM1 1SQ
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

Packing Shed Theatre presents
Memento Mori

When Adrian and Lizzy arrive at their friends’ old house for the weekend, the past comes back to haunt them in more ways than one. Patrick Marlowe’s witty chiller about relationships, love and loss is the third production from the Packing Shed Theatre Company, set up to promote and produce new writing in the East of England.

Venue: Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate, Colchester CO1 1PT
Tickets: £13.50 (plus discounts)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, mercurytheatre.co.uk

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine
Gail Honeyman

From meals-for-one and vodka sipped from a Top Gear mug, to pop-star crushes and a joyous reawakening, the life of an outsider is vividly captured in this debut and Sunday Times bestseller, soon to be a major motion picture produced by Reese Witherspoon.

‘Funny, touching and unpredictable’ Jojo Moyes

Venue: Chelmsford Library, County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

MA Creative Writing

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MA in Creative Writing

Our established course invites you to explore the multifarious ways in which it is possible to make verbal art today, in the belief that this will help you to make something new. Modules include innovative poetries, psychogeographies and memory mapping, oulipian techniques, writing magic, novel writing, and writing for theatre.

Contact Jane Thorp, Graduate Administrator, for more details:
T: 01206 872624  
E: thorj@essex.ac.uk  
W: www.essex.ac.uk/lifts

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT SYMPOSIUM

Friday 9 March
Lakeside Theatre, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, CO4 3SQ

Over the last three years Essex Book Festival, Essex Libraries, University of Essex and English PEN have collaborated on a series of creative writing workshops, Writing on the Inside, for prisoners in HMP/YOI Chelmsford. It was a hugely valuable experience for all concerned. We are hosting our first Crime and Punishment Symposium to share his experience with a wider audience, and to debate a variety of issues and challenges for offenders and their families.

Tickets: Free, book online at essexbookfestival.org.uk

Transitions and Integrations
How do offenders keep in touch with their families when they’re in prison? How do families cope on the outside, and who helps them? How easy is it for offenders to aclimatis to life on the outside? Our panel will provide a fascinating insight into the impact of imprisonment on prisoners and their families.

Tickets: Free, book online at essexbookfestival.org.uk

Writing on the Inside
Femi Keeling, Jon Crane, Louisa Steel and Antonia Byatt

Drawing on the success of our Writing on the Inside workshops, panelists Femi Keeling (Writer and Workshop Leader), Jon Crane (Researcher) and Louisa Steel (Essex Libraries) will discuss the importance of providing writing opportunities in prison. The panel, chaired by Antonia Byatt, Interim Director at English PEN, will open with a reading of the prisoners’ work by one of the workshop participants.

Tickets: Free, book online at essexbookfestival.org.uk

Redeemable: A Memoir of Darkness and Hope
Erwin James

Ex-offender, Guardian columnist and editor of inside time, the national newspaper for prisoners and detainees, Erwin James will be talking about his biography Redeemable: A Memoir of Darkness and Hope. A timely and important memoir, which shows that no matter how far a person may fall, redemption is possible with the right support.

Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk
**ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL EVENTS**

**ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL EVENTS / GOLDEN AGE OF CRIME WEEKEND**

**GOLDEN AGE OF CRIME WEEKEND**

**Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 March**

**Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AL**

Join us for a thrilling weekend of detective work and sleuthing at our Golden Age of Crime Weekend in the wonderful Park Inn Palace Hotel.

We are very pleased with this year’s Golden Age of Crime line up which, aside from our special focus on Edmund Crispin, the creator of the legendary Gervase Fen series, includes husband and wife writing duo Nicci French, and Henry Hemmings who will be shedding light on Maxwell Knight: MI5’s Greatest Spymaster. Take our advice and book early!

**Venue:** Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2AL

**Tickets:** £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

**Box Office:** Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**Make a Weekend of it!**

**Special Golden Age of Crime Weekend Rates**

We are very pleased with this year’s Golden Age of Crime Weekend in the wonderful Park Inn Palace Hotel. The Golden Age of Crime Weekend is being hosted by Park Inn by Radisson Palace Hotel in Southend-on-Sea. This magnificent historic Edwardian hotel, which sits at the heart of Southend’s seafront, has 137 rooms, all-day dining, and a bar with an outdoor terrace giving fabulous views over the seafront and its world famous pleasure pier. As well as hosting the Festival events, the Park Inn by Radisson Palace Hotel has very kindly offered special Festival rates during the Golden Age of Crime Weekend.

**Bed and Breakfast (single occupancy): £82**

**Bed and Breakfast (double occupancy): £72**

**Tel:** (01702) 455155

**Venue:** Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2AL

**Tickets:** £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

**Box Office:** Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**Celebrating Edmund**

**Martin Edwards, Ruth Dudley Edwards, David Whittle**

Join us as we celebrate the life and work of Edmund Crispin... and there is much to celebrate about him, as master of “splendidly complicated crime”, composer of music for Carry On films, and creator of the charming, frivolous and often badly behaved Gervase Fen, the detective with a donnish difference.

**Venue:** Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2AL

**Tickets:** £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

**Box Office:** Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**Crime & Music: The Life of Edmund Crispin**

**David Whittle**

Edmund Crispin wrote nine detective novels and two collections of short stories. Under his real name of Bruce Montgomery he was a highly successful composer of both concert and film music. On the 40th anniversary of his death, his biographer David Whittle looks at Montgomery’s life and the various worlds he inhabited.

**Venue:** Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2AL

**Tickets:** £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

**Box Office:** Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**ADVERT**

**Novel Writing for Beginners**

**Harriet Paige**

Harriet Paige, whose debut novel, Man with a Seagull on His Head, was shortlisted for The Guardian’s Not the Booker Award, guides you through the process of crafting your first novel, with practical tips on creating characters, scene setting, structuring the plot and submitting your manuscript to agents and publishers.

**Venue:** Southend Forum, Elmer Square, Elmer Ave, Southend-on-Sea SS1 1NE

**Tickets:** £15

**Box Office:** Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**Man with a Seagull on his Head**

**Harriet Paige**

A debut novel that is taking Essex (and the UK) by storm. Man with a Seagull on his Head is an insightful exploration of art, love and creativity. We follow Ray Eccles and his unlikely muse, their lives becoming intertwined with others as they advance on a bizarre journey from the Essex coast to the London art scene.

**Venue:** Southend Forum, Elmer Square, Elmer Ave, Southend-on-Sea SS1 1NE

**Tickets:** £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

**Box Office:** Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**Custard, Culverts & Cake: Academics on Life in The Archers**

**Cara Courage and Nicola Headlam**

Leading scholars combine a love of The Archers with their specialist subject areas, such as food, social media and faith, blurring the line between fact and fiction. Fans of The Archers may be relieved to hear that hours of listening to their daily dose of Ambridge is, in fact, valid academic research.

**Venue:** Colchester Library, Trinity Square, Colchester CO1 1JB

**Tickets:** £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

**Box Office:** Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**ESSEXBOOKFESTIVAL.ORG.UK**
M: Maxwell Knight: MI5’s Greatest Spymaster
Henry Hemming
A gripping and dramatic true story about two remarkable female spies and the maverick who ran them, an animal-loving drop-out who went on to become MI5’s greatest spymaster. Based on his critically acclaimed book, Henry Hemming reveals not just the shadowy world of espionage but also an enigmatic man at its centre.

Venue: Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2AL
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

Crime Writing Masterclass
Nicola Upson
Nicola Upson, award-winning British novelist and author, will guide participants through writing the perfect crime novel, while providing invaluable advice on how to get published. An absolutely must for all aspiring crime writers.

Venue: Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2AL
Tickets: £20 / £15 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

Criminal Minds: CWA Panel
Sarah Hilary, Christine Poulson, J M Hewitt, Paul Gitsham, chaired by Martin Edwards
Hear stories of sleuthing, murder and mayhem in this fascinating discussion between members of the CWA. With over 700 members, the Crime Writers’ Association is well known for its prestigious Daggers, awarded every year for the best in crime writing, and provides an unrivalled platform for authors and their work.

Venue: Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2AL
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

Heroes and Villains: Creating Character with Syd Moore
Come with an open mind and leave with a new character created from your own imagination. Using fun and innovative techniques unleash your creativity to develop a fictional character, give them personality, unveil their greatest fear, heartfelt wishes and darkest secret. Introduce your character and their universe then send them into the most spectacular drama of their lives.

Venue: Focal Point Gallery, The Forum, Elmer Ave, Southend-on-Sea SS1 1NE
Tickets: £4 (adults free)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk
FICTION

Frack!
Mark Wesley

Essex-based Mark Wesley’s adrenaline-fueled follow up to BANG! see ex-captain of Special Forces, James Stack forced into action once more, to recover his stolen fortune and prevent a catastrophic underground drilling disaster. Author events at the prison provide a platform for prisoners to connect with the outside world.

Venue: HMP & YOI Chelmsford Library

Two O’Clock Boy
Mark Hill

Mark Hill’s debut Two O’Clock Boy is the gripping, twist-filled start to a new London-set crime thriller series, starring morally corrupt DI Ray Drake - a new spin on the modern police novel, with a focus on psychological suspense and a heady sense of the macabre.

Venue: Hockley Library, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

Sugar Money
Jane Harris

Award-winning author Jane Harris’ new novel is based on a true 18th century Caribbean story. Brothers Emile and Lucien must return to Grenada and smuggle back 42 slaves claimed by English invaders at the hospital plantation in Fort Royal. With great characters, a superb narrative, and language that is witty, bawdy and thrillingly alive.

Venue: Rayleigh Library, 132/4 High Street, Rayleigh SS6 7BX
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

The Greedy Queen: Eating with Victoria
Dr Annie Gray

What does it mean to eat like a Queen? Elizabeth gorged on sugar, Mary on chocolate and Ann was known as Brandy Nan. Victoria ate all of this and more. Annie Gray, historian, cook, broadcaster and writer, gives a new perspective on one of Britain’s most iconic monarchs, celebrating her appetite for food and for life.

Venue: Brentwood Library, New Road, Brentwood CM14 4BP
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

NON-FICTION

Dead Men Whistling
Graham Masterton

Graham Masterton, author of best-selling horror novel The Manitou, brings us a gripping new thriller about police corruption, whistleblowing and murder. DCI Katie Maguire investigates a string of police fatalities, discovering that when murder is the best way to stop people talking, only silence is the safe option.

Venue: Maldon Library, Carmelite House, White Horse Lane, Maldon CM9 5FW
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

The Special Girls
Isabelle Grey

DI Grace Fisher investigates a cold case and the murder of a young doctor, all connected to a summer camp for young patients with eating disorders located deep in the Essex countryside. The Special Girls is a nailbiting psychological thriller with a main character you will love and a final twist that will break your heart.

Venue: Shenfield Library, Hutton Road, Shenfield, Brentwood CM15 8NJ
Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

For information and bookings call: 01206 573948 ESSEXBOOKFESTIVAL.ORG.UK

@ESSEXBOOKFEST ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL
A fascinating and enlightening day for all book-lovers. Visit our Pop-up Podium to meet popular Essex writers and aspiring writers. Listen to author readings at the Pop-up Podium, pick up top tips, meet other writers, and find out more about getting published and publishing your book. For the full programme of seminars visit essexbookfestival.org.uk

**Venue:** Chelmsford Library, County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH
**Tickets:** Free

**SAT 17, 10.00AM – 4.00PM**

### Pop-up Podium

*Readings*

A fascinating and enlightening day for all book-lovers. Visit our Pop-up Podium and meet an array of Essex based writers and published authors. Talk to them about their work and inspirations, and listen to pop-up readings through the day.

**Venue:** Chelmsford Library, County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH
**Tickets:** Free, drop-in, no booking required

**SAT 17, 10.00AM – 4.00PM**

### Marconi digital storytelling at Sandford Mill

Experience Marconi digital storytelling using Sandford Mill’s vintage Marconi TV camera equipment green screen and iPads. Discover the Marconi story, write your own script and then film it using the museum collections, images and settings to bring it alive. Please bring a memory stick along to download your film to.

**Venue:** Sandford Mill, Sandford Mill Rd, Chelmsford CM2 6NY
**Tickets:** £6.50 per person, Family ticket of 4 people - £25
(Numbers limited to 25, so booking essential)
**Box Office:** Book via Sandford Mill - 01245 605700, chelmsford.gov.uk/museums/visit/sandford-mill

**WED 21, 7.00PM**

### Strange Sight: An Essex Witch Museum Mystery

*Fiction*

The second in the Essex Witch Museum Mysteries follows the story of La Fleur Strange Sight, an Essex family’s keeper of stories. When the ancient bones spark a modern murder, our heroine is in Italy, investigating a group of bones in a tiny hilltop village. Will Rosie Strange and sidekick Sam Stone be able to solve the mystery?

**Venue:** Manningtree Library, High Street, Manningtree CO11 1AD
**Tickets:** £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
**Box Office:** Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**THU 22, 7.00PM**

### The Dark Angel

*Fiction*

Sunday Times best-selling author Elly Griffiths brings us the 10th Dr Ruth Galloway Mystery. Our heroine is in Italy, investigating a group of bones in a tiny hilltop village. When the ancient bones spark a modern murder, Ruth must discover what secrets there are in Fontana Liri that someone would kill to protect.

**Venue:** Basildon Library, The Basildon Centre, St. Martin’s Square, Basildon SS14 1EE
**Tickets:** £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
**Box Office:** Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk


**Spooked! - Spiritualists, Spies and Scandals**

Syd Moore & Cathi Unsworth

In the picturesque setting of Chalkwell Hall, Moore and Unsworth will discuss the occult and secret service networks in operation during the Second World War, the mysteries that surrounded these clandestine operations, and the links between clairvoyants, magicians, witchcraft and spies.

*Venue:* Metal at Chalkwell Hall, Chalkwell Avenue, Southend on Sea SS0 8NB

*Tickets:* £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

*Box Office:* Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**Behind Her Eyes**

Sarah Pinborough

Already one of the most talked about books of 2017, *Behind Her Eyes* masterfully walks the tightrope between psychological and supernatural thriller. David and Adele seem like the ideal couple. He's a successful psychiatrist, she is his picture-perfect wife. But why is he so controlling? And why is she keeping things hidden?

*Venue:* Great Parndon Library, Parnall Road, Staple Tye, Harlow CM18 7PP

*Tickets:* £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

*Box Office:* Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**The Sealwoman's Gift**

Sally Magnusson

Set in Iceland and Algiers in the 17th century, broadcaster and journalist Sally Magnusson reimagines the true story of a pirate raid of a tiny Westman island, in which a pastor, his wife and their children – along with half their island – were abducted into slavery.

*Venue:* Wickford Library, Market Road, Wickford SS12 0AG

*Tickets:* £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

*Box Office:* Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: An A-z of the Golden Age of Detective Fiction**

Dorothy L Sayers Lecture: Tony Medawar

The Golden Age is experiencing a resurgence with many great titles and some not-so-great ones back in print. Tony Medawar, writer and fan, takes us on an entertaining sight-seeing tour of the genre, encompassing giants like Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers as well as some of their all-but-forgotten contemporaries.

*Venue:* Writhe Library, 18 Newland Street, Writhe, CM8 3AQ

*Tickets:* £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)

*Box Office:* Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

**Guesthouse**

Nicola Werenowska and Eastern Angles Theatre Company

A new play by Essex playwright Nicola Werenowska. Set in Clacton-on-Sea, it explores the lives of three generations of women. What's it like when the town you were proud to grow up in becomes impoverished? What does it take to keep going? And what does it take to face the truth?

*Venue:* West Cliff Theatre, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1LE

*Tickets:* Prices: £12 & £10 (Over 60s concession)

*Box Office:* 01255 433344 westclifftheatrcclacton.org.uk

**What’s Next?**

Jim Al Khalili

Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE is a physicist, author and broadcaster, and host of Radio 4’s *The Life Scientific*. In *What’s Next?* he brings together the writings of eighteen top scientists and experts who explore what’s in store for the human race. Entertaining, informative and filled with groundbreaking science.

*Venue:* Anglia Ruskin University, Lord Ashcroft Building, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford CM1 1SQ

*Tickets:* £10 / £8 (27yrs and under)

*Box Office:* Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk
SCIENCE, 
& INVENTION DAY
Saturday 24 March
11.00am–4.00pm

Lord Ashcroft Building, Anglia Ruskin
University, Bishop Hall Lane,
Chelmsford, CM1 1SQ

Once again we celebrate all things Science in
Chelmsford, with a day of fun, space themed
workshops, walking tours and even sing-along
performances.

Bring along your whole family for a day of drop-in free
activity, including a Pop Up Storytelling Armchair; fun
experiments with Sandford Mill, code club, raspberry
Pi, micro:bits and ozobots with Essex Libraries as well
as arts, crafts and face painting.

Come along, explore and enjoy!

Time to Get Techy! Code Club, Raspberry Pi, micro:bits and
Ozobots

*Time to Get Techy!* with Essex Libraries: develop your
computer coding skills with Code Club, explore the
capabilities of Raspberry Pi, micro:bits and program
tiny robots in an Ozobot workshop.

Tickets: Free. Drop-in, no booking required.

The Sound of Science: A Songwriting Fact-ory

Turn facts, news and science into song! Join makers of the
Ensonglopedia of Science for a lesson in letting lyrics leave
your larynx laden with learning. Wanna sing? Wanna
rap? Wanna write? Want to make songs that are actually
interesting? Then come along - you might just teach us
something! Suitable for ages 7+

Tickets: £4 a child (accompanying adults free)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948,
essexbookfestival.org.uk

Ensonglopedia of Science

A song about science for every letter of the alphabet.
Expect atoms, Big Bangs, cells, DNA... Expect the
unexpected. And expect it to rhyme. John Hinton
is the multi-award winning writer/performer of
musical comedies about Darwin, Einstein and Curie.

"Outstanding" Fringe Review. Suitable for ages 7+

Tickets: £7 / £5 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948,
essexbookfestival.org.uk

CSI: Essex

*Essex Police Museum*

How have advances in science and technology changed
the way we view crime scenes? Become Crime Scene
Investigators: handle CSI equipment, take fingerprints,
create photofits - when comparing the pre-digital with
modern day methods, which one comes out on top?
Suitable for ages 7+

Tickets: £4 a child (accompanying adults free)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948,
essexbookfestival.org.uk

Space for Words

*Martin Reed*

Are space-aliens real? Is space real? Is cyber-space
real? As real as the space between words? This creative
writing and performance workshop explores science
fiction, science fact, and the spaces between. Suitable for
ages 7-12.

Tickets: £4 a child (accompanying adults free)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948,
essexbookfestival.org.uk

Chelmsford Pioneers

*Alan Pamphilon*

From an inventor, architect and canal builder, to an opera
singer, legal reformer, master photographer and pioneer
in wireless communications. Author and historian Alan
Pamphilon leads you on a 90-minute tour, sharing stories
of 12 people who have had a huge impact on the city of
Chelmsford.

Venue: Meet in the foyer of the Lord Ashcroft
Building

Tickets: £5 (suitable for ages 15+)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948,
essexbookfestival.org.uk

For information and bookings call: 01206 573948

@ESSEXBOOKFEST

ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL EVENTS / SCIENCE & INVENTION
ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL AT THE BUNKER
Sunday 25 March 10.00am – 4.30pm
Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker, Crown Buildings, Kelvedon Hall Lane, Kelvedon Hatch CM14 5TL

Join us for a day of exciting author events, panel discussions, workshops and more as we take over Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker, the Government’s chilling Cold War ‘hideaway’.

This unique and unusual space was operational from 1952 right through to 1994, and is now a fascinating underground museum open to all. Working with a whole array of partners, authors, organisations and individuals, Essex Book Festival presents an exciting programme all inspired by the Bunker’s history, its ‘raison d’être’, and the thoughts and feelings it provokes.

Taking place throughout disused rooms, stairways and corridors, from the Canteen Common Room, to the Bunker Plant Room, through to the Prime Minister’s Bedroom, we invite you to a truly immersive experience.

ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL EVENTS / SCIENCE & INVENTION: THE NUCLEAR OPTION
SUN 25, 10.00AM – 4.30PM
WORKSHOP
SECRET NUCLEAR BUNKER DAYTIME ACTIVITIES
Come and savour a fabulous mix of drop-in events for families, including Haiku Poetry and Origami workshops led by CND’s Education Team; a Retro Games Room master-minded by Silver End Scouts, plus a host of other ‘bespoke’ Bunker readings, intriguing film screenings and happenings.

Tickets:
Free to all Bunker visitors
Bunker Entrance Fees: Adults £7.50 / Children £5.50 / £18.00 Family ticket

Pricing
Talks, panel discussions and the writers’ workshop during the day are individually priced. Please note they DO NOT include the admission price for the bunker, which is payable on the door.

Entry to the Bunker:
Adults: £7.50
Children: £5.50 (5-16 Years)
Family: £18.00 (2 Adults + 2 Children)
Group Discount 15+ Adults: £7.00, Children £5.00

The Bunker is unable to accept credit or debit cards, so please bring cash to pay for your admission.

For more information visit www.secretnuclearbunker.com/entry

Stories for After the End of the World
Matthew De Abaitua
Science fiction author Matthew De Abaitua leads a creative writing workshop in the dark and dystopian atmosphere of the nuclear bunker. Prepare to be inspired!

Tickets: £15.00 / £10.00 (2 yrs and under)
Does not include bunker entrance fees (Adults £7.50)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

2084: A Science Fiction Anthology
George Sanderson, Irenosen Okojie & others
This out-of-this-world anthology presents the writings of fifteen authors, inspired by George Orwell’s classic dystopian novel 1984. Visit dark corners of a future metropolis, trek post apocalyptic wastelands, see the world through the eyes of drones, and say goodbye to your body as humanity merges with technology.

Tickets: £5 - does not include bunker entrance fees (Adults £7.50 / Children £5.50 / Family £18)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

Armageddon and Paranoia: The Nuclear Confrontation
Rodric Braithwaite
Nuclear weapons exist and so does the possibility of worldwide annihilation. Sir Rodric Braithwaite was British Ambassador in Moscow during the fall of the Soviet Union. He draws on original sources from Russia and the US to paint a vivid and thought-provoking portrait of the Cold War, arguing that its implications are as relevant today as ever before.

Tickets: £15 - does not include bunker entrance fees (Adults £7.50 / Children £5.50 / Family £18)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

Under the Influence: A Soviet Childhood
Agnieszka Studzinska and Paavo Matsin
Under the Influence brings together two international writers: Polish poet Agnieszka Studzinska, whose debut collection Snow Calling was shortlisted for London Festival New Poetry Award 2010, and award-winning Estonian author Paavo Matsin, Winner of European Union Prize for Literature 2016 with his novel Gogol’s Disco. They discuss growing up in the Soviet Union and the impact that this experience has had on their writing.

Tickets: £5 - does not include bunker entrance fees (Adults £7.50 / Children £5.50 / Family £18)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

For information and bookings call: 01206 573948
ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL AT THE BUNKER

Sunday 25 March
5.30pm–9.00pm

Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker, Crown Buildings, Kelvedon Hall Lane, Kelvedon Hatch CM14 5T

The Nuclear Option

As night falls The Bunker will metamorphose into The Nuclear Option: a labyrinth of ‘unearthly delights’. Cambridge Bard Glenys Newton and fellow ‘spirit guides’ will take people on a tour of this unique Underworld. This includes an appointment with Mueller & Malten’s Live Poetry Juke Box in the Prime Minister’s bedroom; visits to a series of interventions, performances and screenings under the banner of Eastward: Sound and Silence; a creative response to the decretal ion of Polish Independence in 1918 and the forced migrations post-WW2 led by Polish/Latvian artist collective Peeling Onions With Granny; a disturbing encounter with award-winning fairy tale maestro Nicky Winder; plus a plethora of other brief but poignant Bunker encounters.

Mark your card for our second Festival Peace Panel: Picking Apart Propaganda chaired by Rachael Jolley, Editor of global magazine Index on Censorship. Located in the Government Rooms, the perfect setting for a panel discussion that will be looking at different stories from history, technology and media about how and why propaganda is used to persuade the public, our panelists will include author Jamie Bartlett (Radicals, The Dark Net, Orwell vs the Terrorists)and journalist David Aaronvitch (Party Animals: My Family and Other Communists).

The night will draw to a close with a new show Attempted Peace by festival favourite Adrian May and Face Furniture. A celebration of peace through writings from Adrian’s 40 year career in song and verse, including material from his ‘end of the world’ show from the 80s, a song sung at Greenham Women’s Peace Camp and other lyrical and musical protest matter!

Tickets: £10

Doe not include bunker entrance fees
(Adults £7.50 / Children £5.50 / Family £18)

Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

Travel:
A free coach will run for the evening programme, courtesy of Focal Point Gallery: New Geographies
Outward: 4.30pm - Brentwood train station to the Bunker
Return: 9.15pm - the Bunker to Brentwood train station
Book online essexbookfestival.org.uk
It’s A Wrap! Festival Finale
Agnetina Tellens, Judith Wolton, Wendy Constance and Ruth Raymer

Come and join in the fun at our It’s a Wrap! Festival Finale in Jaywick Martello Tower, one of county’s most intriguing and iconic heritage buildings on the Essex Coast. Make your mark on our Festival Peace Wall under the direction of the imitable Sumi Ink Club. Join in our Peace Bunting Print Workshop with artist Agnetina Tellens (£3 pp.). Sign up for our Wild Writing Workshop: Beach Combing For Words, with Essex-based poet and writer Judith Wolton and Our Natural World Children’s Workshop with award-winning children’s author Wendy Constance (booking essential). Climb the Tower (weather permitting) to join Ruth Raymer for some Tower Tales in our Pop-Up Peace Tower.

For more information please visit www.essexbookfestival.org.uk

Venue: Jaywick Martello Tower, The Promenade, Belsize Avenue, Jaywick Sands CO15 2LF

Bof! Music, Dance and Soup

What better way to finish this year’s Essex Book Festival than to dance the night away in Jaywick Martello Tower with the fabulous Essex-based traditional French and Breton four-piece band Bof! who have serenaded folk clubs and festivals across England and France. Complimentary bowls of Vichyssoise and baguette will be served in the interval to warm the cockles and fuel the dancing.

Venue: Martello Tower, The Promenade, Belsize Avenue, Jaywick Sands CO15 2LF
Tickets: £10 / £8 (27yrs and under)
Box Office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, essexbookfestival.org.uk

The Children’s Peace Panel

Our third and final Festival Peace Panel - The Children’s Peace Panel - is taking place at a special Schools’ Day on 29th March at Jaywick Martello Tower. Children from three primary schools in Jaywick and Clacton will read out messages from their European twins in Valance (France), Biberach (Germany) and Swidnica (Poland) describing What Peace Means To Them. The messages will be on display at Jaywick Martello Tower on 31st March.

It’s A Wrap! Festival Finale
Agnetina Tellens, Judith Wolton, Wendy Constance and Ruth Raymer

Key partners

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BBC Essex

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Contact Essex Book Festival

Essex Book Festival
Centre for Creative Writing
University of Essex
Colchester
CO4 3SQ

For information and bookings call: 01206 573948 07913 061948
hello@essexbookfestival.org.uk
www.essexbookfestival.org.uk
“I love Essex Book Festival for its determination to take literature and storytelling from all over the world out into the local community. It’s a real gem and plays such an important role in the cultural life of Essex.”

Sarah Perry
Essex Book Festival Patron