

ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL

1–31 March 2016

TALKS & DISCUSSIONS . BOOKS . FILMS . THEATRE . EXHIBITIONS . POETRY



Welcome to the 2016 Essex Book Festival Introducing the Festival Team

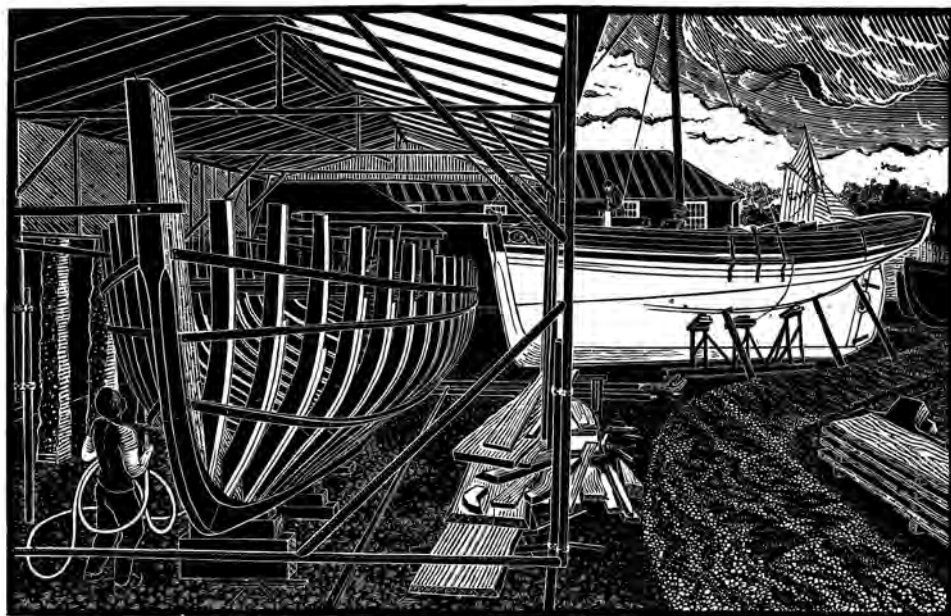
Director
Ros Green

Programmer
Professor Sanja Bahun
Lucy Popescu

Festival Coordinator
Jo Nancarrow

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Seona Ford
Pat Gaudin
Jeremy Lucas
James MacDonald
Camilla Shestopal

Patrons
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Sylvia Kent
Dave Monk
Brian Southall
Francis Wheen



James Dodds, *New Pilot Cutters, Gweek, 2004*

Essex Book Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of these key partners



Essex Book Festival

It gives us great pleasure to share what's on the menu at this year's Essex Book Festival, which is taking place in forty venues across the County, thanks to our many friends, partners and funders.

The Festival opens with Essex icon and artist Grayson Perry who will be appearing at Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford. Since 'Home' is one of our main themes in March, this is a very fitting entrée to launch us on our way.

Other Festival highlights include appearances by Louis de Bernières, one of the UK's most cherished authors, politician and ex-Minister Vince Cable, Orange Prize Winner Helen Dunmore, and historian, novelist and provocateur A.N. Wilson.

Meanwhile, crime fiction lovers are in for a treat with our 'Golden Age of Crime Weekend' in Southend-on-Sea. We have a packed programme with everything from panel and individual author events, to detective workshops for families, a 'Golden Age Classics Movie Night', plus our 1940s-flavoured 'Criminally Good Afternoon Tea' to celebrate Mother's Day in style.

With over 100 writers and artists descending on Essex for the month, it's impossible to mention everything that's going on.

It's over to you to sharpen your pencils for our Birth of the Book Writers' Day, to dust down your dance shoes for our inaugural 'Building a Boat Ceilidh', and finally, to find out what life is really like living on the margins with our writer-in-residence Damian Le Bas.

Be prepared. March is about to get busy!

Ros Green

Director, Essex Book Festival

MON 29 FEB, 6PM

Launch Event: Grayson Perry

**Join us for the official launch event of
Essex Book Festival 2016**

We are delighted to welcome Grayson Perry, contemporary artist, social critic, and winner of the 2003 Turner Prize, to launch this year's Festival. Born in Chelmsford in 1960, Grayson's formal introduction to art took place in 1978 when he completed a foundation course at Braintree College. Since then he has become a much-loved Essex icon – if not, national treasure – not least of all for his wonderful 'A House for Essex'.

Venue: PMI Building, Anglia Ruskin University,
Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 1SQ

Tickets: £10 / £5 (25 yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



Events Diary

Festival Warm up			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
30-Jan	Write It New Laboratory 1: Wild Writing: Literature & the Environment	University of Essex, C043SQ	7
06-Feb	Write It New Laboratory 2: Oulipian Poetry & The Avant Garde	University of Essex, C043SQ	7
13-Feb	Write It New Laboratory 3: Telling the Tale	University of Essex, C043SQ	7
20-Feb	Write It New Laboratory 4: Song Writing & The Lyric	Jaywick Martello Tower, C0152LF	7

March Week 1			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
29-Feb	Grayson Perry LAUNCH	Anglia Ruskin University, CM1 1SQ	3
01-Mar	Vince Cable AFTER THE STORM	University of Essex, C043SJ	7
01-Mar	Isabelle Grey SHOT THROUGH THE HEART	Maldon Library, CM9 5FW	8
02-Mar	Chris McCully SERENGETI SONGS	Art Exchange, C043SJ	8
02-Mar	Chris Brookmyre BLACK WIDOW	South Woodham Ferrars Library, CM35JU	8
02-Mar	John Ashdown-Hill THE MYTHOLOGY OF RICHARD III	Wivenhoe Library, C079AB	9
03-Mar	Lucy Beresford INVISIBLE THREADS	Burnham Library, CM08HQ	9
04-Mar	SUNDOWN ARTS	The Railway Hotel, SS1 1AJ	9
06-Mar	WRITING ON THE INSIDE	The Forum, SS1 1NE	13

The Golden Age of Crime Weekend, Southend-on-Sea			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
05-Mar	The Golden Age of Crime CELEBRATING MARGERY	Park Inn Palace Hotel, SS1 2AL	10
05-Mar	The Golden Age of Murder THE LEGACY	Park Inn Palace Hotel, SS1 2AL	10
05-Mar	The Golden Age of Crime WRITING THE WORLD	Park Inn Palace Hotel, SS1 2AL	10
05-Mar	Essex Police Museum CHILDREN'S DETECTIVE WORKSHOP	The Forum, SS1 1NE	11
05-Mar	GOLDEN AGE CLASSIC FILM NIGHT	Park Inn Palace Hotel, SS1 2AL	11
06-Mar	KILLER WOMEN MASTERCLASS	Park Inn Palace Hotel, SS1 2AL	12
06-Mar	Kathryn Harkup A IS FOR ARSENIC	Park Inn Palace Hotel, SS1 2AL	12
06-Mar	Cathi Unsworth & Paul Willetts A CRIMINALLY GOOD AFTERNOON TEA PARTY	Park Inn Palace Hotel, SS1 2AL	12

March Week 2			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
07-Mar	Karin Littau & Jeffrey Geiger FROM PRINT TO PIXELS & KODACHROME TRAVELS	Lakeside Theatre, C043SQ	15
08-Mar	Hamid Ismailov THE DEAD LAKE	The Forum, SS1 1NE	15
08-Mar	L J Flanders CELL WORKOUT	Basildon Library, SS14 1EE	15
09-Mar	Lee Jackson DIRTY OLD LONDON	Epping Library, CM16 5DN	16
09-Mar	Max Porter GRIEF IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS	Art Exchange, C043SJ	16
09-Mar	Josephine Cox LONELY GIRL	Wickford Library, SS12 0AG	16
10-Mar	Peter Hennessy THE KINGDOM TO COME	Anglia Ruskin University, CM1 1SQ	17
10-Mar	Hallie Rubenhold THE FRENCH LESSON	Loughton Library, IG10 1HG	17
11-Mar	Frances Fyfield DOROTHY L SAYERS, PD JAMES AND I	Witham Library, CM8 2AQ	17
12-Mar	BIRTH OF THE BOOK	Anglia Ruskin University, CM1 1SQ	18
12-Mar	Seema Anand KAVAAD – INDIAN FOLK STORIES	Great Parndon Library, CM18 7PP	18

March Week 3			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
14-Mar	ADAPTATION	University of Essex, C043SQ	18
15-Mar	Carole Hayman NO ONE ESCAPES	Clacton Library, C015 1SF	19
15-Mar	A N Wilson VICTORIA: A LIFE	Layer Marney Tower, C05 9US	19
16-Mar	Suzy Norman, Martin Johnson & Danielle Wrayton PATRICIAN PRESS	Wivenhoe Bookshop, C07 9BE	19
Feb-Mar	Damian and Delaine Le Bas SAFE EUROPEAN HOME?	Art Exchange, C043SJ	20
16-Mar	Damian James Le Bas STOPPING PLACES	Art Exchange, C043SJ	20
16-19 Mar	Damian James Le Bas FESTIVAL WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE	Art Exchange, C043SJ	20
16-Mar	Guy Saville MADAGASKAR PLAN	Great Dunmow Library, CM6 1FS	21
17-Mar	Christine Dwyer Hickey THE LIVES OF WOMEN	The Forum, SS1 1NE	21
17-Mar	Clare Mackintosh I LET YOU GO	Rayleigh Library, SS6 7EF	21
17-Mar	Louis de Bernières THE DUST THAT FALLS FROM DREAMS	University of Essex, C043SQ	22
19-Mar	Seema Anand KAVAAD – INDIAN FOLK STORIES	Chelmsford Library, CM1 1QH	18
19-Mar	Helen Dunmore EXPOSURE	Colchester Library, C01 1JB	22
19-20 Mar	Southend Area Local Authors' Day SALAD	The Forum, SS1 1NE	22

Thinking and Writing Home Weekend, Firstsite, Colchester			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
19-Mar	Thinking Home PANEL DISCUSSIONS	Firstsite, C01 1JH	23
19-Mar	Nicky Werenowska THEATRE ON THE MARGINS	Firstsite, C01 1JH	24
19-Mar	Glenys Newton STORIES ON THE MARGINS	Firstsite, C01 1JH	24
19-Mar	BUILDING A BOAT CEILIDH	Firstsite, C01 1JH	24
20-Mar	Chris Rushton BOOK-MAKING FOR EVERYONE	Firstsite, C01 1JH	25
20-Mar	S J Fowler THE ESSEX CAMARADE	Firstsite, C01 1JH	25
20-Mar	Wendy Constance IMAGINATION TASTER WORKSHOPS	Firstsite, C01 1JH	26
20-Mar	Rosie Sandler POETRY TASTERS	Firstsite, C01 1JH	26
20-Mar	Emma R McNully THE SOCK MONSTER ATE MY FAVOURITE SOCK	Firstsite, C01 1JH	26
20-Mar	Maggie Freeman UNLOCKING THE DOOR: SHORT FICTION WORKSHOP	Firstsite, C01 1JH	26

Week 4			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
22-Mar	Sarah Winman A YEAR OF MARVELLOUS WAYS	Braintree Library, CM7 3YL	27
23-Mar	Zoe Howe LEE BRILLEAUX: ROCK'N'ROLL GENTLEMAN	Canvey Library, SS8 7RB	27
23-Mar	Eva Dolan & David Thorne SCENE OF THE CRIME: WRITING THE PLACE	Anglia Ruskin University, CM1 1SQ	27
23-Mar	David Starkey MAGNA CARTA	Mercury Theatre, C01 1PT	28
24-Mar	Simon Callow ONE MAN BAND	Mercury Theatre, C01 1PT	28
24-Mar	Nigel Packer THE RESTORATION OF OTTO LAIRD	Billericay Library, CM12 9AB	29
24-Mar	Andrew Lownie STALIN'S ENGLISHMAN: THE LIVES OF GUY BURGESS	The Forum, SS1 1NE	29
29-Mar	Hannah Lowe LONG TIME, NO SEE	Shenfield Library, CM15 8NJ	29
30-Mar	Laura Barnett THE VERSIONS OF US	Brentwood Library, CM14 4BP	30
31-Mar	Janet Ellis THE BUTCHER'S HOOK	Chelmsford Library, CM1 1QH	30
31-Mar	Rosie Thomas DAUGHTER OF THE HOUSE	Harwich Library, C012 3JT	30

How To Book Your Ticket

The Festival Box Office opens on 4th January 2016

Please be aware that a limited number of events have different box office telephone numbers as outlined in the programme. Most bookings, however, can be made through Mercury Theatre Box Office.

Bookings will be taken until 2 hours before the start of the event. Remaining tickets will be on sale on the door.

Mercury Theatre Box Office

Box Office opening hours:
Monday-Saturday, 10am-8pm

Book online:
mercurytheatre.co.uk

Book by telephone:
01206 573948

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

There will be no booking charges made by the Mercury Theatre although there will be a charge of £1 for postage unless tickets are collected from the theatre. If you book online you can print off your own ticket.



Concessions

Concession prices are available to those aged 25 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 or 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.

Contact Essex Book Festival



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

(01206) 872739
(07913) 061948

hello@essexbookfestival.org.uk
www.essexbookfestival.org.uk

JAN & FEB WORKSHOP

Write it New

4 CREATIVE WRITING LABORATORIES, UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

4 creative writing laboratories led by the Centre For Creative Writing at the University of Essex in partnership with Essex Book Festival.

Laboratory 1: Saturday 30 Jan 11am-1pm

Wild Writing: Literature & The Environment, James Canton

Enjoy a fresh vision of Essex, its cultural history and its living legacy of wilderness and imagination.

Laboratory 2: Saturday 6 Feb 11am-1pm

Oulipian Poetry & The Avant Garde, Phil Terry

Experiment with new, playful forms of poetry.

Laboratory 3: Saturday 13 Feb 11-1pm

Telling the Tale, Ros Green

Explore the tradition of fabulism and the re-working of the Tale.

Laboratory 4: Saturday 20 Feb, 12-3pm

Song Writing & The Lyric, Adrian May

Gain an invaluable insight into the process of song writing, followed by a performance by acoustic duo, Face Furniture.

Venue: Laboratories 1, 2 & 3: The Hexagon,
University of Essex, Colchester, CO4 3SQ.
Laboratory 4: Jaywick Martello Tower,
The Promenade, Belsize Ave, Jaywick CO15 2LF

Tickets: Tickets £10/£5 (25yrs & under) per session. Booking essential.
To book and for more information
email ros@essexbookfestival.org.uk



TUE 1, 7.30PM NON-FICTION

After The Storm

Vince Cable

Who better than Vince Cable, former Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for the coalition government of 2010 to 2015, to provide a unique perspective on the state of the global financial markets and how the British economy has fared since 2008. *After the Storm* follows the success of *The Storm*, which explained the causes of the 2008 world economic crisis and how Britain should respond to the great challenges it brought.

"Vince Cable is the parliamentarian who has been consistently the most prescient and thoughtful in his analysis of the credit crunch." John Kay, Financial Times.

Venue: Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall, University of Essex, Colchester, CO4 3SJ

Tickets: £8 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



TUES 1, 8PM FICTION

Shot Through The Heart

Isabelle Grey

Essex, Christmas Day. As the residents of a small town enjoy their mince pies, shots ring out in the street. Eight people are gunned down before the lone shooter turns his weapon on himself... A gripping new thriller by novelist and screen writer Isabelle Grey, the author of *The Bad Mother* and *Good Girls Don't Die*, *Shot Through the Heart*, sees the return of Grace Fisher, now Detective Inspector, struggling to make sense of what appears to be a mindless gun attack.

Venue: Maldon Library, White House Lane, Maldon, CM9 5FW
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 2, 7PM POETRY

Serengeti Songs

Chris McCully

Poet, memoirist, critic and essayist, Chris McCully will be reading from his new collection of poems *Serengeti Songs*, which comprises forty poems accompanied by forty original black and white photographs. *Serengeti Songs* is his seventh collection of poems published by Carcanet Press. Chris lives in Essex and works in the Centre for Creative Writing at the University of Essex.

Venue: Art Exchange, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SJ
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 2, 7.30PM FICTION

Black Widow

Chris Brookmyre

Diana Jager is a successful and skilled surgeon, and fierce anti-sexism campaigner. Yet her life crumbles when personal details are posted on the Internet in revenge for her writing. When she meets Peter he knows nothing about her past: the second chance she's been waiting for. Within six months, they are married. Within six more, Peter is dead in a road accident, a nightmare end to their fairy-tale romance. But Peter's sister doesn't believe in fairy-tales, and tasks reporter Jack Parlabane to find the truth behind the woman the media is calling Black Widow.

Venue: South Woodham Ferrers Library, Trinity Square, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford, CM3 5JU
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 2, 7PM NON-FICTION

The Mythology of Richard III

John Ashdown-Hill

Essex-based historian John Ashdown-Hill was one of those responsible for finding the lost remains of Richard III under a Leicester car park in 2012. In his latest book he unravels the web of myths of a king who according to Shakespeare was a hunchback tyrant that killed his own nephews. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Historical Society, and a member of the Society of Genealogists and the Richard III Society, John Ashdown-Hill is the author of many other books including *The Last Days of Richard III*, the book that inspired the dig.

Venue: Wivenhoe Library, 104/6 High Street, Wivenhoe, CO7 9AB
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



THU 3, 7.30PM FICTION

Invisible Threads

Lucy Beresford

Writer, broadcaster and psychotherapist, Lucy Beresford's controversial debut novel *Something I'm Not*, asked whether all women wanted to be mothers. Her latest book, *Invisible Threads* uncovers an India few Westerners see, and has already been shortlisted for the Rubery International Book Award.

As well as writing books, Lucy hosts a weekly relationships phone-in show on LBC Radio and is the no-nonsense Agony Aunt for Healthy magazine.

Venue: Burnham Library, Station Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, CM0 8HQ
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



FRI 4, 7.30 – 10.30PM PERFORMANCE POETRY

Sundown Arts

Join Sundown Arts, a voluntary-run arts organisation and longstanding supporter of spoken word and live literature in Essex, as they invite people to take to the stage for their own Open Mic spoken word evening. Sign up to perform your 5-minute slot by emailing info@sundownarts.org. Poems, stories and anecdotes are all welcome in a supportive and light-hearted atmosphere.

Venue: Upstairs at The Railway Hotel, Clifftown Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1AJ
 Tickets: £3, available on the door



Golden Age of Crime Weekend

SAT 5, 11AM – 12.15PM FICTION

The Golden Age of Crime: Celebrating Margery

Mike Ripley, Barry Pike, Julia Jones
Chaired by Seona Ford

2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the death of 'Golden Age' crime-writer and Essex-resident Margery Allingham. To celebrate her life and work, Mike Ripley (author of *Mr Campion's Farewell*), Barry Pike (Chairman of the Margery Allingham Society), and Julia Jones (author of *The Adventures of Margery Allingham*) will join Seona Ford (Chair of the Essex Book Festival and The Dorothy L Sayers Society) for a fascinating and illuminating panel discussion.

Venue: Laurel and Hardy Room, Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AL

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SAT 5, 1.30PM – 3PM FICTION

The Golden Age of Murder: The Legacy

Jill Paton Walsh, John Simenon, Martin Edwards, Jake Kerridge

When it comes to discussing the legacy of 'The Golden Age of Crime' it's hard to imagine a more compelling line-up of speakers than Martin Edwards (author of *The Golden Age of Murder*), John Simenon, son of the creator of Maigret, Georges Simenon, and Jill Paton Walsh (acclaimed for her *Lord Peter Wimsey-Harriet Vane* mysteries that have completed or continued the work of Dorothy L Sayers). Jake Kerridge (arts critic for *The Telegraph*) will chair this panel.



Venue: Laurel and Hardy Room, Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AL

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk

SAT 5, 3.30PM – 5PM FICTION

The Golden Age of Crime: Writing the World

Anya Lipska, Zygmunt Miloszewski, Leye Adenle, Robert Karjel
Chaired by Martin Edwards

Crime fiction is one of the most popular literary genres on the planet, eagerly consumed as it is by readers from Sweden to Japan, and from Mexico to Africa. So we are delighted to invite four crime writers from four different countries, guided by the award-winning Martin Edwards, Vice Chair of the Crime Writers' Association, to debate this global phenomenon.



Venue: Laurel and Hardy Room, Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AL

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk

SAT 5, 1PM – 2PM & 3PM – 4PM WORKSHOP

Children's Detective Workshop

Led by Essex Police Museum

The children (ages 8+) will go back in time and become our Edwardian police officers. Working in groups they will be given evidence from a real 19th Century crime, which they will examine, then piece together and help solve. We will be joined by retired detective Chris Farndell who will help show our young CSIs how solving crimes has changed over the years!

Booking essential. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

Tickets: £3 (Adults free)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SAT 5, 6.15PM – 10PM FICTION

Golden Age Classic Film Night

Murder She Said (1961) starring Margaret Rutherford
An Inspector Calls (1954) starring Alastair Sim

Get your glad rags on and join us for a very special double bill of classic 'Golden Age of Crime' movies. Starting off with the now legendary Agatha Christie's Miss Marple in *Murder She Said* (1961) starring Margaret Rutherford, swiftly followed by *An Inspector Calls* (1954) based on the book by J B Priestley and starring Alastair Sim - not to mention some criminally good cocktails on offer: the poison of your choice - it's all going to be happening in The Ballroom!



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

Tickets: £10

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk

ADVERT

Make a Weekend of it!

Special 'Golden Age of Crime Weekend' Rates

Essex Book Festival's *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): £60

Bed and Breakfast (double occupancy): £70

Tel: (01702) 455155

Email: reservations.southend@rezidorparkinn.com
(Please quote GOLDEN AGE when booking)



Golden Age of Crime Weekend

SUN 6, 10AM WORKSHOP

Killer Women Masterclass

Erin Kelly

Critically acclaimed Essex born author Erin Kelly, a member of Killer Women (a group of London-based women crime writers), will guide participants through the basics of writing the perfect crime novel, while providing invaluable advice on getting published. An absolute must for all aspiring crime writers.

Erin is best known for her debut novel, *The Poison Tree*, which was a major ITV drama, a Richard and Judy bestseller, and longlisted for the John Creasey Dagger Award. Her work has been translated into 17 languages.

Venue: Laurel and Hardy Room, The Park Inn Palace, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AL

Tickets: £15 / £12 (25yrs and Under), booking essential

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SUN 6, 11.30AM NON-FICTION

A is for Arsenic

Kathryn Harkup

Fourteen novels, fourteen poisons. Just because it's fiction, doesn't mean it's all made up... That's the starting point for chemist and author Kathryn Harkup's delightful book, which explores Agatha Christie's methodology of killing off her victims with poison. Christie demonstrated her extensive chemical knowledge, much of it gleaned from her working in a chemist's during both World Wars, in many of her novels.

Venue: Laurel and Hardy Room, The Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AL

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SUN 6, 3PM FICTION

A Criminally Good Afternoon Tea Party!

Cathi Unsworth & Paul Willetts

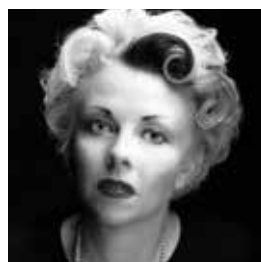
After a 1st course of vintage tunes and delicious cakes, acclaimed chroniclers of mid-twentieth-century London, Cathi Unsworth and Paul Willetts, will be talking about their latest books, *Without the Moon* and *Rendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms*. While Cathi's novel offers a vividly fictionalised portrait of the hunt for the so-called Blackout Ripper, Paul's book is a non-fiction thriller about an MI5 operation against a group of British Nazis planning to overthrow the government.

Go on ... treat your Mum! It's Mother's Day!

Venue: The Ballroom, Park Inn Palace Hotel, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea

Tickets: £16 (including Afternoon Tea & Grand Prize Raffle Ticket)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SUN 6, 1PM NON-FICTION FICTION

Writing on the Inside

Panel discussion about reading and writing in prison. This is the culmination event for *Inside Outside*, a collaboration between HMP & YOI Chelmsford, Essex Libraries, English PEN, Essex Book Festival and the University of Essex involving a series of creative writing workshops, leading to a celebration within the prison at which prisoners perform their writing. Some of their work will be shared with the audience.

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

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



ADVERT MON 7 – FRI 11 SCHOOLS

Pop Up on Canvey Island

Throughout March 2016, 140 classes in Canvey Island schools take part in their third annual Pop Up reading-for-pleasure programme, which sees over 4,000 children reading brand new books. In the week of March 7, Pop Up presents in-class workshops in every class, delivered by over 40 children's authors.

Find out what Canvey schools are reading at www.pop-up-hub.com



© Patrick Boyd



Looking for something brilliant to read?

"I found the whole Brave New Reads experience tremendously exciting and inspiring."

– 2015 Reader, Norwich

Writers' Centre Norwich brings the shared reading programme Brave New Reads to Southend Libraries. Chosen by readers, for readers, Brave New Reads shares remarkable books and opens up new worlds of literature.

Coming on the 1st of May to a library near you.

Visit www.bravenewreads.org.uk to find out more and see last year's titles.



www.bravenewreads.org.uk



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



**Brave
New
Reads**



MON 7, 6PM **NON-FICTION**

From Print to Pixels: The Many Futures of Reading Kodachrome Travels: How colour changed the way we see the world

Professor Karin Littau & Professor Jeffrey Geiger

Part of the University's Professorial Inaugural Lecture Series, this programme of special events celebrates newly appointed professors. Professor Karin Littau explores how different epochs have each in their own way imagined futures of reading, with or without books. Professor Jeffrey Geiger presents rarely-seen colour footage, highlighting the habits and attitudes of Americans before WW2, on the cusp of the 'American Pacific' era and the US becoming a global superpower.

Venue: Lakeside Theatre, University of Essex, Colchester, CO4 3SQ

Tickets: Free, booking advised

Box Office: www.lakesidetheatre.org.uk



TUE 8, 7PM **FICTION**

The Dead Lake

Hamid Ismailov

Enjoy an evening with critically acclaimed author Hamid Ismailov, a writer who has been compared to both Rushdie and Bulgakov, and discover Brave New Reads: an immersive reading programme which recommends the best books around. Hamid, a 2015 Brave New Reads author, will read from his haunting work and share his experiences as a banned writer.

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

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



TUE 8, 7.30PM **NON-FICTION**

Cell Workout

L J Flanders

It was in prison that L J Flanders channelled his energies into fitness. He began working out in his cell and had the idea for his book, *Cell Workout*. Although designed specifically for use in a prison cell, the aim of the book is to benefit both physical and mental health and can be used by anyone, anywhere.

Venue: Basildon Library, The Basildon Centre, St Martins Square, Basildon SS14 1EE

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



DISCOVER » EXHIBITIONS

Piece Makers

A National Army Museum Touring Exhibition
9 January – 20 March 2016

Piece Makers is a thought-provoking exhibition that tells the inspiring stories of soldiers and veterans through a unique art collaboration.



The Essex Regiment Museum
Chelmsford Museum,
Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street,
Chelmsford CM2 9AQ
T: 01245 605700
W: chelmsford.gov.uk/museums

Mon–Thu and Sat: 10am–5pm,
Sun: 1pm–4pm. Fridays only
open during school holidays.

Admission free.



This exhibition is one of the National Army Museum's extensive activity programs and forms part of our Building for the Future project. Find out more online www.nam.ac.uk

NATIONAL
ARMY
MUSEUM

WED 9, 2.30PM NON-FICTION

Dirty Old London

Lee Jackson

In Victorian London, filth was everywhere. Horse traffic filled the streets with dung, household rubbish went uncollected, graveyards teemed with rotting corpses, and the air itself was choked with smoke.

The creator of much loved Victorian website, www.victorianlondon.org, Lee Jackson guides readers through the underbelly of the Victorian metropolis, introducing us to the men and women who struggled to stem a rising tide of pollution and dirt, and the forces that opposed them.

Venue: Epping Library, St John's Road, Epping, CM16 5DN
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 9, 7PM FICTION

Grief is the Thing with Feathers

Max Porter

In a London flat, two young boys face the unbearable sadness of their mother's sudden death while their father imagines a future of well-meaning visitors and emptiness. In their moment of despair, they are visited by a crow who threatens to stay until they no longer need him. Max Porter's extraordinary debut *Grief is the Thing with Feathers* was shortlisted for The Goldsmiths Prize 2015 and long-listed for The Guardian First Book Award 2015.

Venue: Art Exchange, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 9, 7PM FICTION

Lonely Girl

Josephine Cox

Regularly in the top three of most borrowed authors in libraries around the country, Josephine Cox's latest book is another gritty family tale. In *Lonely Girl*, Rosie's mother is a cruel woman and though John Tanner does his best to protect her, one fateful night her life is changed forever. Born in Blackburn, one of ten children, Josephine started writing after going into teaching. Now she's the author of more than a dozen internationally bestselling novels.

Venue: Wickford Library, Market Road, Wickford, SS12 OAG
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



THU 10, 7.30PM NON-FICTION

The Kingdom to Come

Peter Hennessy

Peter Hennessy's *The Kingdom to Come* is a hugely insightful record of the run-up to the Scottish Independence Referendum, its immediate aftermath, and the constitutional questions it has opened up for the whole of the United Kingdom as a result. Peter spent 20 years in journalism with spells on *The Times*, the *The Financial Times* and *The Economist* and as a presenter of the BBC Radio 4 Analysis programme. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and sits as an independent crossbench peer in the House of Lords as Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield.

Venue: Anglia Ruskin University, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 1SQ
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



THU 10, 7.30PM FICTION

The French Lesson

Hallie Rubenhold

It is Paris at the height of the French Revolution. Three women are trying to survive a deadly triangle of rivalry and power play: Englishwoman Henrietta, Grace, the former mistress to the rulers of France, and Agnes, the current love of those in power. *The French Lesson* is the acclaimed follow-up to historian and broadcaster Hallie Rubenhold's first novel *Mistress of My Fate*.

Venue: Loughton Library, Trap's Hill, Loughton, IG10 1HG
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



FRI 11, 7.45PM FICTION

Dorothy L Sayers, P D James and I The Dorothy L Sayers Lecture

Frances Fyfield

One of the country's most beloved crime writers, Frances Fyfield started her career in the Metropolitan Police before working for the Crown Prosecution Service. Her years spent 'learning a bit about murder, second hand' led to her popular series of crime novels featuring lawyers Helen West and Sarah Fortune. As well as winning the prestigious Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger for *Blood Stone* in 2008, many of her books have been adapted for television and have been translated into 14 languages all over the world.

Venue: Witham Library, 18 Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2AQ
 Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
 Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SAT 12, 9.30AM – 4.30PM WORKSHOP

Birth of the Book

Want advice to improve your writing from those in the know? Book your place to find out what goes on behind the scenes in publishing, from an author, agent and editor, brought to you by Vintage Books. During this day of talks and workshops, you'll find out fantastic tips to get your book ready for publication.

Venue: Lord Ashcroft Building, Anglia Ruskin University,
Bishop's Hall Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 1SQ
Tickets: £25 / £15 (25yrs and Under) Booking essential
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SAT 12 & SAT 19, 1PM STORYTELLING

Kavaad – Indian Folk Stories

Seema Anand

Kaavad is the 500-year-old tradition of storytelling using a wooden box with many folded doors. The doors have small paintings on them narrating incidents from a story. The pictures in sequence form a story from Indian mythology. Come and join storyteller Seema Anand for an epic journey.

Venue: Great Parndon Library, Parnall Road, Staple Tye, Harlow, CM18 7PP (12th)
Chelmsford Library, County Hall, Market Rd, Chelmsford CM1 1QH (19th)
Tickets: Free, suitable for all ages



MON 14, 6PM FILM

Adaptation

Join us in the University of Essex's dedicated 120-seat film theatre for the first public screening of original short films made by film students at the University of Essex. A fascinating panel discussion and Q&A session will follow, led by academics and film industry professionals who will be exploring the influence of literature on the silver screen.

Venue: LTB10, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ
Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under), University of Essex Students & Staff Free (Booking essential)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



TUE 15, 7.30PM NON-FICTION

No One Escapes

Carole Hayman

Rosemary West is one of the most reviled serial killers this country has ever known. Following on from her acclaimed 2007 documentary film installation, *No One Escapes*, which explored the subject of women and killing, writer, producer and filmmaker Carole Hayman's latest book, also called *No One Escapes*, focuses on the ripple effects of West's crimes via a series of interviews with people 'contaminated' by the killer's dreadful predations.

Venue: Clacton Library, Station Road (opposite the Town Hall)
Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SF
Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



TUE 15, 7.30PM NON-FICTION

Victoria: A Life

A N Wilson

Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and an award-winning biographer and celebrated novelist, A N Wilson's exhaustively researched and definitive biography, *Victoria: A Life*, includes a wealth of new material from previously unseen sources to show us Queen Victoria, as she's never been seen before.

Venue: Layer Marney Tower, Layer Marney, Essex CO5 9US
Tickets: £10 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 16, 6.30PM FICTION POETRY

Patrician Press

Suzy Norman, Martin Johnson & Danielle Wrayton

Manningtree-based publisher, Patrician Press, introduces an evening of poetry and fiction with new authors: Martin Johnson, reading poems from *Robert Macfarlane's Orphans*; Suzy Norman, reading from her novel, *Duff*; and Danielle Wrayton reading from her children's novel, *The Wallowbang Tree*.

In association with the Centre for Creative Writing at the University of Essex

Venue: Wivenhoe Bookshop, 23 High Street, Wivenhoe, Colchester, CO7 9BE
Tickets: Free event. Booking advised.
Box Office: (01296) 824050 / wivenbooks@znet.co.uk



FRI 19 FEB – SAT 19 MAR

EXHIBITION

Safe European Home?

Damian and Delaine Le Bas

We live in structures all our lives. Structures surround us, comfort us and contain us. They give us the freedom to launch ourselves into the world - and a place to return to. We all need a home. During this time of unprecedented migrant and refugee movement across Europe, artists Damian and Delaine Le Bas focus on those who inhabit the outside edges of society. Damian is an Irish Traveller and Delaine is an English Romany, so they are familiar with issues of displacement, borders and boundaries, which so often become the focus of their work, real or imagined. Damian's painted maps sit alongside Delaine's textiles, banners and ephemera, creating an environment that allows us to consider the precariousness of life on the periphery. *Safe European Home?* is an ongoing project, first initiated in 2006.



Venue: Art Exchange, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park Colchester CO4 3SQ

Website: for more info and to check opening times, visit...
www.artexchange.org.uk

Tickets: Free entry, no booking required

WED 16, 7PM

NON-FICTION

Stopping Places

Damian James Le Bas

Festival writer-in-residence, author and poet Damian James Le Bas talks about his forthcoming book on the hidden Gypsy geographies and languages of Britain, and what it's like revisiting old Traveller haunts - and cooking, eating, writing and sleeping there - in the 21st century. Damian Le Bas is the son of artists Damian and Delaine Le Bas, who are exhibiting during the Festival at Art Exchange. *Stopping Places* will be published by Chatto & Windus in early 2017.



Venue: Art Exchange, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park Colchester CO4 3SQ

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk

WED 16 – SAT 19

RESIDENCY

Essex Book Festival Writer-in-Residence

Damian James Le Bas

Damian James Le Bas will 'occupy' the space outside the Student Centre for three days, living out of his blue van as it becomes his home. Residing on campus 24/7 Damian will interact with the campus community. Damian will then relocate to Firstsite as part of Essex Book Festival's HOME weekend, to take part in discussions that focus on migrancy and marginality.



Venue: 16-18 Mar: Silberrad Student Centre, University of Essex,
Wivenhoe Park Colchester CO4 3SQ
19 Mar: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1JH

Tickets: Free entry, no booking required

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk

WED 16, 7.30PM

FICTION

Madagaskar Plan

Guy Saville

The follow-up to the Colchester-based author's brilliant debut *The Afrika Reich*, Guy Saville's *The Madagaskar Plan* imagines a disturbing alternate history in which Nazi victory in World War II brings their "Final Solution" ever closer.

The year is 1953. There is peace in Europe, but a victorious Germany consolidates power in Africa. The lynchpin to its final solution is Madagaskar. Hitler has ordered the resettlement of European Jews to the remote island...

Venue: Great Dunmow Library, White Hart Way, Dunmow CM6 1FS

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



THU 17, 2PM

FICTION

The Lives of Women

Christine Dwyer Hickey

What better way to celebrate St Patrick's Day than with one of Ireland's best-loved writers! In Christine Dwyer Hickey's latest novel, *The Lives of Women*, Elaine Nichols returns to her childhood home to live with her invalid father and his geriatric Alsatian dog. The house next door is sold, and as she watches the old furniture stack up on the lawn, Elaine is transported to a summer in the 1970s.

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

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



THU 17, 7.30PM

FICTION

I Let You Go

Clare Mackintosh

Haunted by the cruel November night that changed her life forever, Jenna Gray moves to a remote cottage on the Welsh Coast. Meanwhile, DI Ray Stevens is tasked with seeking justice for a mother who is living every parent's worst nightmare.

A tense psychological thriller and Sunday Times Bestseller, *I Let You Go* is former police officer Clare Mackintosh's debut novel.

Venue: Rayleigh Library, 4 High Street, Rayleigh, SS6 7EF

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



THU 17, 7.30PM FICTION

The Dust that Falls from Dreams

Louis de Bernières

As in *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, Louis de Bernières' subject in *The Dust that Falls from Dreams* is love and war. In the brief golden years of King Edward VII's reign, Rosie McCosh and her sisters are growing up in an eccentric household in Kent. However, their days of childhood adventure are shadowed by the approach of war that will engulf them on the cusp of adulthood.

"An immersive sweeping historical epic" Publishers Weekly

Venue: Essex Business School Lecture Hall, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SAT 19, 3PM FICTION

Exposure

Helen Dunmore

Orange Prize-winning novelist and poet Helen Dunmore is one of the UK's best-loved writers. Here, in discussion with Heather Reyes, as part of the *Year of Reading Dangerously* world writing project, she returns to her unforgettable St Petersburg-set novels *The Siege* and *The Betrayal* and tells us why she loves Russian writing so much, as well as talking about her new novel *Exposure* which also has a Russian connection.

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

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SAT 19 & SUN 20, 10AM – 5PM FICTION POETRY STORYTELLING PERFORMANCE

Southend Area Local Authors' Day (SALAD)

Local authors will be giving talks, storytelling and readings in The Deeping Room, upstairs in The Forum. Come along and meet some very talented and colourful local authors, whose works spans a wide variety of literary genres from local history, fiction and non-fiction, to fantasy, science fiction and children's books.

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

Tickets: Free, no booking required



Home Weekend

SAT 19, 11AM – 5PM NON-FICTION

Thinking Home: A Day of Readings, Panel Discussions, Stories & Workshops

Curated by Professor Sanja Bahun and Ros Green

11am – 11:30am

Reflections on Beowulf – Dr Chris McCully

Beowulf, the oldest surviving poem in Old English, is set around the time the Anglo-Saxons were first settling in East Anglia. Dr Chris McCully is working on a new metrical translation of *Beowulf*.

12pm – 1:30pm

Dialogues: Safe European Home? Panel Discussion.

Chaired by writer, critic and editor of *A Country of Refuge* (2016), Lucy Popescu. Our panellists, who include award-winning storyteller Glenys Newton; contemporary British artist and Roma activist Delaine Le Bas; and Tim Finch, author and Head of Migration & Director of Strategic Communications at the IPPR (Institute For Public Policy Research); will explore what it means to be living on the margins in 2016.

3:30pm – 5pm

Home on the Road: Between Home & Homelessness

Chaired by Professor Sanja Bahun, *Home on the Road* will offer fresh perspectives on what it means to be homeless or to be between 'homes'. Our panelists will include Professor Lorna Fox O'Mahoney and Damian James Le Bas, writer, poet and ex-editor of *Travelers Times*. Other panelists to be confirmed.

Other events, workshops, and exhibitions will be taking place throughout the day. Please visit www.essexbookfestival.org.uk for more information.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1JH

Tickets: £10 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



Home Weekend

SAT 19, 1PM-2.30PM WORKSHOP THEATRE

Theatre on the Margins Drama Workshop

Nicky Werenowska

Drawing on her play about Polish migrants in the UK, *TU I TERAZ* (Here and Now) Essex playwright Nicola Werenowska will invite participants to creatively explore migrant experience through stimulating individual and group exercises and discussion. The workshop is aimed at writers of all levels (and all genres) who have an interest in writing and/or theatre on the margins.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 1JH
Tickets: £10 / £5 (25 and under) Limited places
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SAT 19, 3.30PM – 5PM STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Stories on the Margins: Storytelling Workshop

Glenys Newton

Winner of *The Guardian & The Moth Live Storytelling Competition 2014* for her family story, *My Family was Attacked by Lions*, Glenys Newton will help participants shape stories out of real life experiences. No previous experience is required, just a rich vein of memories and personal stories. Glenys has spent the last twelve months living and working between her home in Cambridge, Calais and Greece.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 1JH
Tickets: £10 / £5 (25 and under)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SAT 19, 7PM – 10PM MUSIC POETRY

Building A Boat Ceilidh

Featuring poet Martin Newell and The Hosepipe Band

Come and join in the fun and mayhem at our very first 'Festival Ceilidh'. Storyteller Glenys Newton and Colchester-based songwriter and poet Adrian May, will guide us through the night's entertainment. Including a performance of *The Song of The Waterlily* by Essex-based poet Martin Newell and The Hosepipe Band, followed by some traditional jigs and reels with heel-stomping energy. Enjoy!

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 1JH
Tickets: £10 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



Image courtesy of James Dodds



Firstsite

SUN 20, 11AM & 1.30PM WORKSHOP

Book-making for Everyone Workshop

Chris Rushton

Ever fancied trying your hand at book-making? If so, then come along and learn how to make your very own book or journal. We will show you how to make a folded book structure, including adding pockets for loose pages and/or photos. For those who are feeling a bit more adventurous, we will provide an introduction to sewing pages into a book and demonstrate how to add covers. For those of our younger participants we will provide a range of templates to choose from.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: Children's Workshop (11.30am) £5
Adults Workshop (1.30pm) £20 / £15 (25yrs and Under)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



SUN 20, 1PM – 3.30PM POETRY

The Essex Camarade

S J Fowler

Poet and artist SJ Fowler's *The Camarade Series* has created over 200 poetry events in 18 countries, involving over 500 poets since 2012. It's now Essex's turn. *The Essex Camarade* will see a series of exciting new collaborations written by poets in pairs from Essex, or attending the Festival. Expect original, dynamic new poetry and experience the power of collaborative poetry in the 21st century. Featuring Holly Pester, Philip Terry, SJ Fowler and more.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH
Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



Home Weekend

SUN 20 FAMILY WORKSHOP

Writing Home: 'Tasters' Workshops

Wendy Constance, Rosie Sandler, Emma R McNally, Maggie Freeman

11am-11.40am (Adults) / 1pm-1.40pm (Children)

Imagination Tasters, Wendy Constance

'Where do you find ideas?' is a frequent question. We're all born with the power of imagination, but it's easy to think you've lost or forgotten it. Award-winning Children's author Wendy Constance will provide a few tips and exercises to re-kindle your imagination and kick-start your writing.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1JH

Tickets: £5 (Adults) / £3 (Children) Limited spaces.

Box Office: hello@essexbookfestival.org.uk



12pm-12.40pm (Adults) / 2pm-2.40pm (Children 7-11 years)

Poetry Tasters, Rosie Sandler

Don't let a bad experience at school put you off poetry for life. Poet Rosie Sandler's 'Taster' workshop will provide the tools of the trade to write a poem in a fun and supportive environment. Every participating child will receive a very special complimentary book.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1JH

Tickets: £5 (Adults) / £3 (Children) Limited spaces.

Box Office: hello@essexbookfestival.org.uk



12.45pm - 1.15pm (Children)

The Sock Monster ate my Favourite Sock, Emma R McNally

Emma R McNally, children's author, illustrator and creator of *The Adventures of Harold Huxley*, will be bringing her new book, *The Sock Monster ate my Favourite Sock*, to life. Become part of the story as you perform the actions, join in with rhyme and meet the sock monster in this fun taster event for children aged 3-7 years.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1JH

Tickets: Free (no booking required)



3pm - 3.40pm (Adults)

Unlocking the Door: Short Fiction Workshop, Maggie Freeman

Join poet and novelist Maggie Freeman for a taster session on how to unlock the door to the imagination and try your hand at short fiction. Maggie has had short stories published in *Stand and Brand*, and has had three historical novels published. She also writes poetry and primary literacy books.

Venue: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1JH

Tickets: £5 Booking essential

Box Office: hello@essexbookfestival.org.uk



TUES 22, 7.30PM FICTION

A Year of Marvellous Ways

Sarah Winman

From the author of the internationally bestselling *When God was a Rabbit*, Sarah Winman's latest novel tells the story of a soldier washed up on a Cornish creek and the 89 year-old woman who helps him. Raised in Essex, Sarah Winman trained as an actress, going on to appear in many popular television programmes, before she started writing back in 2006.

'In this warm, kindly novel, the sea is both magical and healing. Lovely.' The Times

Venue: Braintree Library, Fairfield Road, Braintree CM7 3YL

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 23, 7.30PM NON-FICTION

Lee Brilleaux: Rock'n'Roll Gentleman

Zoe Howe

Essex music writer Zoe Howe captures perfectly the charisma, as well as the heart and fire, of Dr Feelgood front man and all round rock'n'roll good guy, Lee Brilleaux. A companion, of sorts, to the book she co-authored on Feelgood guitarist Wilko Johnson, Zoe is a prolific writer with an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of music. As well as Brilleaux and Johnson, she has written books on The Slits, Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks, and The Jesus and Mary Chain.

Venue: Canvey Library, 2 High Street, Canvey Island, SS8 7RB

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 23, 7.30PM FICTION

Scene of the Crime: Writing the Place

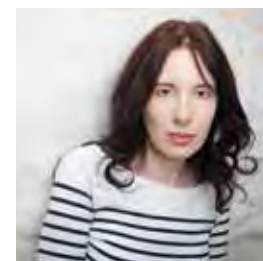
David Thorne and Eva Dolan

Two of the most important new voices in British crime fiction, David Thorne and Eva Dolan's latest books are firmly imbued with a sense of place - East Anglia. While David explores the dark underworld of Essex via *Nothing Sacred*, the second in his series of David Cornell books, Eva relocates to a picturesque Fens village for *After You Die*, the third in her crime series involving the Hate Crimes Division in Peterborough.

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

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 23, 7.30PM

NON-FICTION

Magna Carta

David Starkey

David Starkey, the UK's leading constitutional historian, talks about the 13th century agreement that, imperfect though it was, limited for the first time the power of the monarch by stating the basic rights, privileges, and liberties of leading citizens and clergy. His assessment of the situation then, and how our constitution stands today exactly 800 years later, will amaze and challenge you.

Venue: Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate, Colchester, CO1 1PT

Tickets: £16 (recommended for 12+ years)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



THU 24, 7.30PM

NON-FICTION

One Man Band

Simon Callow

In this fascinating talk, Simon Callow draws on his latest book One Man Band, the third volume in his epic survey of Orson Welles, who was one of the most complex artists of the twentieth century. He explores Welles' life and work, beginning with his self-exile from America, and his realization that he could only function fully as a 'one man band'.

Venue: Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate, Colchester, CO1 1

Tickets: £19 (recommended for 14+ years)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



THU 24, 7.30PM

FICTION

The Restoration of Otto Laird

Nigel Packer

As featured on Radio 4's 'Book at Bedtime', Otto Laird is a retired architect who, when he discovers his most revolutionary building is about to be demolished, decides to take action. Funny and moving, Nigel Packer's debut novel features one of the most endearing protagonists you will ever meet.

Nigel Packer has been a music reviewer for BBC News Online and Ceefax, a reporting officer at the International Committee of the Red Cross, and a contributor to various magazines and newspapers.

Venue: Billericay Library, High Street, Billericay, CM12 9AB

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



THU 24, 7.30PM

NON-FICTION

Stalin's Englishman: The Lives of Guy Burgess

Andrew Lownie

Guy Burgess was the most important, complex and fascinating of 'The Cambridge Spies', four brilliant young men recruited in the 1930s to betray their country to the Soviet Union. Once the youngest director in British publishing and founder of the Biographers Club, Andrew Lownie shows us how even Burgess's chaotic personal life of drunken philandering did nothing to stop his penetration and betrayal of the British Intelligence Service.

Venue: The Forum, Elmer Square, Southend-on-Sea, SS1

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



TUE 29, 7.30PM

NON-FICTION

Long Time, No See

Hannah Lowe

This former Radio 4 'Book of the Week' is a poignant memoir about Lowe's half-Chinese, half-black Jamaican immigrant father, Chick, a legendary gambler operating in the shadows of East London. The Ilford-born writer and poet recalls a world of card sharps, confidence men and small-time criminals as well as the racially charged and often intolerant 1980s. She also evokes her father's Jamaica and her own coming of age in a changing Britain.

Venue: Shenfield Library, Hutton Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8NJ

Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)

Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk



WED 30, 7.30PM FICTION

The Versions of Us

Laura Barnett

Since its publication in June last year, Laura Barnett’s debut novel has been a top-ten Sunday Times bestseller, sold in 21 different countries, and has even been optioned for a TV adaptation. A love story with three different versions, the book moves from 1950s Cambridge to present-day London via New York, Paris and Cornwall, from youth to old age. Laura Barnett was chosen as one of the Observer’s ‘New Faces of Fiction’, and the book was a Waterstones’ Book of the Month.



Venue: Brentwood Library, New Rd, Brentwood CM14 4BP
Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk

THU 31, 7.30PM FICTION

The Butcher’s Hook

Janet Ellis

Former Blue Peter presenter, mum of pop star Sophie Ellis-Bextor, and now novelist. Ellis’ debut novel is an unexpected tale of a young girl in 18th-century London determined to take her life in her own hands, at any cost. A sweeping, and yet intimate, dip into Georgian life, Ellis conjures up both the envy of love as well as the excitement of the times through her unforgettable narrator, Anne Jacob.



Venue: Chelmsford Library, County Hall, Market Rd, Chelmsford CM1 1QH
Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk

THU 31, 7.00PM FICTION

Daughter of the House

Rosie Thomas

The latest book from the two-time winner of the Romantic Novel of the Year award. It’s London, 1919, and with The Great War over, the capital is dealing with an uncertain future. Women like Nancy Wix are hoping for more independence, and the spiritualist visions she has experienced since childhood might help her to get it, especially in a society where families are desperate to hold on to their dead sons.



Venue: Harwich Library, Upper Kingsway, Dovercourt, Harwich CO12 3JT
Tickets: £7 / £5 (25yrs and Under)
Box Office: (01206) 573948 / mercurytheatre.co.uk

Partners and Funders

Key partners



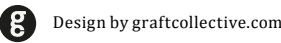
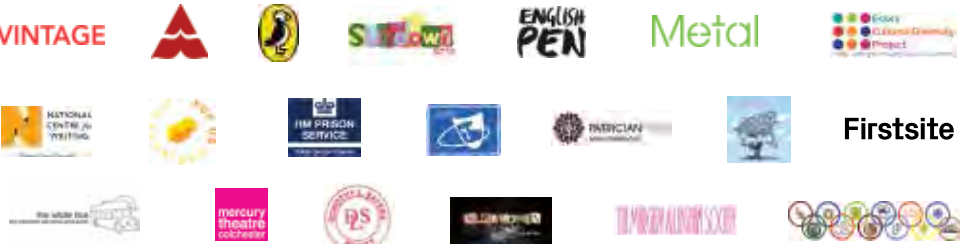
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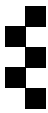
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