

ECC Report July 2023

Summer of Culture launches in Essex

A summer programme of free and low-cost events, exhibitions and festivals has been launched this week.

The events are made possible by our [Arts and Cultural Fund](#). The fund supports the county's cultural and creative sector.

Events available this summer include:

- community activities
- music festivals
- food festivals
- gallery exhibitions
- digital workshops

For food lovers, the [Colchester Rice and Spice Festival](#) at Firstsite is on 24 June. The free, one day event takes place between 12pm and 5pm.

For lovers of literature, on 25 June there will be a free book festival called [Midsummer Madness](#). This is an [Essex Book Festival](#) event and takes place at Cressing Temple Barns.

From 23 June to 9 July the [Maldon Festival](#) offers a fortnight of art and music. This year it has a coronation theme.

Music lovers can also attend the [Thaxted Festival](#) between 16 June and 9 July. The town's church will host a range of renowned professional musicians and artists.

In Harlow the 'Our Community, Our Environment' project will launch. It will see 12 artists run workshops with over 25 local schools.

Councillor Graham Butland, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for the Arts, Heritage and Culture, said:

"We are delighted that people can enjoy a huge range of arts and cultural events and exhibitions thanks to our Arts and Cultural Fund.

“With such a wide range of free and low-cost events, exhibitions and festivals there really is something for everyone.”

Take a look at the full list of events in the [Essex Summer of Culture Guide 2023](#).

Summer of volunteering

Volunteering in Essex is a great opportunity to support your local community. With a variety of opportunities there is something to suit everyone's skills, experience and availability. Volunteers in Essex work in a wide variety of roles, from offering companionship to people who are socially isolated, to providing practical help in the community.

Get that feel good feeling this summer

Whether you're looking to volunteer for a couple of hours or more, your efforts can make a huge difference to your community. The benefits of volunteering include:

- helping others in your community
- a sense of pride
- opportunity to make new friends
- learning new skills and gain work experience
- building confidence

Where to volunteer in Essex

We have several [volunteering opportunities at Essex County Council](#). Opportunities include supporting Essex Libraries or becoming an ACL Digital Champion. We've provided a range of local volunteer opportunities in Essex below:

- [gaming Guru](#) in Maldon
- [trustee for mental health charity](#) in Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon
- [walk volunteer](#) in various parts of Essex
- [reading coach](#) in Harlow and Chelmsford

Discover more volunteering opportunities at [volunteer Essex](#), where you can search based on your location, interests and specific activities.

Volunteering isn't limited to opportunities posted online, you can find a cause you care about and start making a difference today. Whether that's helping an elderly neighbour or litter picking, create your own opportunities to support the community.

Celebrate your local Volunteers

You can show your appreciation for local volunteer groups with the Kings Award for Voluntary Service. The award is given to volunteer groups across the country to recognise the incredible work they do. If you have a group in mind, [make a nomination online](#).

Councils set out concerns as consultation opens for Norwich to Tilbury proposals

National Grid, formerly referred to as “EAST ANGLIA GREEN” has opened a consultation on its [Norwich to Tilbury proposal](#). The eight-week consultation closes on Monday 21 August 2023.

The project will see a new 400kV electricity transmission line built between Norwich and Tilbury. It will be made up mostly of overhead line and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new substation.

Residents, landowners, businesses, individuals or groups can take part in the consultation.

We are also being consulted on the proposals, with our neighbours Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council. All three councils have already raised concerns to the initial consultation undertaken last year.

Together with our partners we have expressed further concerns about the latest plans.

Cllr Lesley Wagland OBE, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, said:

We have continued to work with our city, district and borough councils and neighbouring county councils of Norfolk and Suffolk to discuss the Norwich to Tilbury project.

We remain fully committed to our net-zero ambitions and appreciate this involves building infrastructure to connect renewable energy sources to the National Grid. However, we believe this can be far better achieved by viable alternative means, without the detrimental impact to our residents, businesses and the local environment that would be caused by the current proposals.

We will continue to push for changes to the proposals, and I would urge the public to also have their say.

Residents can give their feedback by [completing an online form](#). Comments can also be made by completing a paper feedback form at a consultation event.

Feedback can also be emailed to contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

Free personal financial coaching for residents

A trial scheme of free one-to-one financial support with a qualified coach is available in Essex.

A coach will work with people to explore their relationship with money. They will help them set financial goals and gain confidence managing their finances. Sessions can be face-to-face or online at a time which suits.

Coaching is available to parents with children under 18-years-old who have less than £100 per month after outgoings.

To be eligible, residents must live in one of the following areas:

- Basildon - Laindon Park, Pitsea North West or Lee Chapel North
- Braintree - Bumpstead, Gosfield and Greenstead Green, Halstead St Andrew's, Halstead Trinity, Heddingham, Stour Valley North, Stour Valley South, The Colnes, Three Fields or Yeldham
- Canvey Island - Canvey Island Central, Canvey Island East or Canvey Island Winter Gardens
- Harwich - Dovercourt All Saints, Dovercourt Bay, Harwich or Kingsway

We are funding the project, working with [OLightOn](#).

[Apply to take part](#) and receive one-to-one financial support.

For more information, email essex@olighton.com or call 07759 835548.

Essex Year of Numbers

Essex Year of Numbers is a countywide campaign that aims to inspire a love of learning, with a focus on numeracy.

It is a year of exciting learning opportunities, fun events and initiatives for everyone.

Building on the success of the [Essex Year of Reading](#), the £1.5 million campaign will challenge people's perceptions about maths.

Without even realising, we use maths every day, from cooking to DIY, to managing money. Maths skills are as important as reading in helping pupils reach their full potential.

Low numeracy skills can disadvantage people later in life and lead to problems such as debt, unemployment and even poor health. Essex Year of Numbers will help people of all ages and backgrounds to improve their numeracy skills and feel confident using maths.

Essex Year of Numbers launch event - Essex County Council

More details will be available soon about Essex Year of Numbers. Keep an eye on this page for upcoming events and initiatives.

What to expect from Essex Year of Numbers

We have lots in the planning stages including competitions and events in theatres, schools, libraries and online.

From country parks to care homes, early years settings to schools, there will be exciting events across the county.

If you have any ideas of what you might like to see for Essex Year of Numbers email essex.yearofnumbers@essex.gov.uk

Adults who want to improve their maths skills can find out about free courses from the [Multiply](#) programme.

Care sector recruitment campaign ongoing as free training offer announced

Fully-funded healthcare training is now available to anyone in Essex looking to enter or upskill in the care sector.

It will help those already working in care or new to the sector reach their career goals without the added pressure of training costs.

The training is funded by the council's Nightingale Care Bursary and run by the council's adult education service, [ACL Essex](#).

Over 35,000 people in Essex work in the care industry. This makes it one of the biggest employers in the county.

This new training offer is complimented by a wider council campaign, [Your Career Matters](#). It aims to promote the range of opportunities on offer and showcase the benefits of working in care.

There are plenty of courses available and include:

- apprenticeships
- short courses for specialist skills
- diplomas and certificates in health and care
- fast track management courses

The care sector is full of rewarding opportunities to support people in residential care or in their own homes.

Positions are available to help adults of all ages including young adults with a disability and older people.

Councillor John Spence, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said:

“Working in care is one of the most important jobs there is. Thousands of people across the county need care and it is a service many of us will need in our lives.

"The sector is one of the biggest workforces in the county, so there are a variety of jobs available and plenty of opportunity to progress.

"Our providers are working together to highlight these opportunities to potential employees.

"We have made entry to the sector easier through free training with the Nightingale Care Bursary. We want to make this career path, and progression within the sector, accessible to all."

Bethan Stewart is completing an NVQ Level 2 through the Nightingale Care Bursary.

Bethan said: "I'm a support worker and also work part time with St. John's Ambulance, and I have always had a keen interest in supervisor roles.

"I manage a team of four in my support worker role and I'm currently a Project Lead with St. John's Ambulance, but I wanted to boost my leadership skills.

"Finding out that I could do an NVQ Level 2 through the Nightingale Care Bursary felt like the missing piece to my educational jigsaw."

"The course has taught me about the range of services available in the Health & Social Care sector, it's also helped me with time organisation. I love working in this industry and now want to gain my NVQ Level 3 and keep progressing in my career."

Discover more about the [Nightingale Care Bursary](#).

Find out more about the [Your Career Matters](#) campaign.

Read the new Essex Careers Magazine

Residents can find out more about career opportunities in the health and social care sector in the latest [Essex Careers magazine](#).

The magazine supports residents with features on roles in specific industries and sectors. It also features tips, tricks and insights for securing jobs and training opportunities. It is available free of charge online. Reference copies are also available in schools, colleges, libraries and Job Centres across Essex.

The second issue focusses on the health and social care sector and features insights from experts in the sector. Employing over 97,000 individuals, it is one

of the largest employment sectors in Essex. This is set to grow to 100,000 employees by 2031.

Councillor Tony Ball, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability, said:

As the second-largest employing sector in Essex, it is vital that we continue to support health and social care colleagues in their training and recruitment endeavours.

Essex Careers showcases the range of opportunities within the sector, as well as the various entry routes available to access these roles. We look forward to hearing feedback from residents and partners as well as to publishing further editions of Essex Careers later this year.

[Read all editions](#) of Essex Careers magazine.