

# DAVE

[www.southend.ac.uk/dave](http://www.southend.ac.uk/dave)

Issue 9 May - July 2008

**SOULMAN**  
**KENNY THOMAS**

**SOUTHEND**  
**BOOK FESTIVAL**

**TELEPHASIC**

**BEST OF THE LOCAL**  
**MUSIC FESTIVALS**



**Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly.**

*Exclusive interview with the talented Southender behind Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly.*

**CAN YOU**  
**GIG IT?**

Win a support slot with  
Get Cape - See inside

**ALSO INSIDE: EIGHT PAGE PULLOUT ON THE**  
**6TH ANNUAL SOUTHEND ARTS FESTIVAL**

**WHAT'S ON, WHERE & WHEN**



MONDAY • THURSDAY • FRIDAY • SATURDAY



# VIP POD & LOUNGE HIRE



CELEBRATING A SPECIAL OCCASION? THEN WHY NOT BOOK A POD OR OUR NEW LOUNGE?

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:

**01702 445630**

[andy@mayhemnightclub.com](mailto:andy@mayhemnightclub.com)



# mayhem

WARRIOR SQUARE • SOUTHEND • ESSEX Info: 01702 445630 / [info@mayhemnightclub.com](mailto:info@mayhemnightclub.com)

[www.mayhemnightclub.com](http://www.mayhemnightclub.com) - [www.myspace.com/mayhemnightclub](http://www.myspace.com/mayhemnightclub)

# IN THIS ISSUE

ISSUE #9

[www.southend.ac.uk/dave](http://www.southend.ac.uk/dave)

Issue 9 May - July 2008



8



16



4



6

WITH THE Sixth annual Southend Arts Festival about to commence in June, DAVE has devoted lots of pages to it. Our cover star, Sam Duckworth, is this year's festival patron and is a prime example of the type of talent Southend wants to nurture and bring to the fore. In this issue you will find a pullout calendar of events for the festival as well as details on some of the bigger events taking place including the Leigh Folk Festival and the Southend Book Fair. There is also the chance to win your band a support slot for Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly. before he heads off for Reading and Glastonbury festivals. Enjoy this issue and the festival.

**Contributors and thanks to:**

Alex Heaton, Samantha Lierens, Dean Newman, Chris Phillips, Kirsty Richardson.

**Contact**

Managing Editor  
Alex Norman (Tel: 01702 220475)  
Email: [alex.norman@southend.ac.uk](mailto:alex.norman@southend.ac.uk)  
Snail Mail: DAVE magazine, South East Essex College,  
Luker Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 1ND;  
web: [www.southend.ac.uk/dave](http://www.southend.ac.uk/dave)

## ALSO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

**P4:** Soul sensation Kenny Thomas **P6:** Southend Book Fair preview **P7:** GUIDE TO SOUTHEND FESTIVAL SIX **P8:** Exclusive interview with Southend Festival patron Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly **P16:** A look at the best local festivals **P18:** Life as an SUFC reporter

South East Essex College does not and cannot guarantee the accuracy of all information published and cannot be responsible for errors or omissions. The views represent those of individual authors and are not necessarily representative of the views of South East Essex College.

# O1'

## Blue Eyes is Back



4

ONE OF THE UK'S FINEST SOUL SINGERS IS HITTING TOWN AS PART OF THE HOTLY ANTICIPATED SOUTHEND ARTS FESTIVAL AND HE'S SWAPPING THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL FOR SOUTHEND HIGH STREET.

### SOUL SINGER

Kenny Thomas will be performing at this year's Southend Arts Festival when he wows shoppers with a special one-off performance in Southend High Street alongside up-and-coming local bands, to help celebrate the breadth of talent within the area.

"I'm hoping the sun will shine, please, dear Lord, let the sun shine," joked Kenny, ahead of his High Street gig. "I remember doing a gig like this with Blur when they were first starting out and they went on to be massive. It's a great opportunity to see some of the artists that could be the next big thing."

Kenny, who was born in a North London council estate propelled himself to chart success in the 90s with many hits including *Outstanding*, *Thinking About Your Love* and *Best of You* with the album *Voices* reaching number three in the UK album charts.

Kenny may have disappeared off the chart radar but he's been a busy performer on the underground scene and has notched up many impressive shows with his heroes and idols. He supported Level 42 on their UK tour and, most recently, did a show with Alexander O'Neil.

"I've done some fantastic gigs across Europe in front of tens of thousands of people but one of my most memorable gigs was when I did a show to celebrate 25 years of *Blues and Soul* magazine; I performed at the Royal Albert Hall alongside the

likes of Freddy Jackson, Edwin Starr – bless his heart, he's passed away now, Mica Paris, Incognito. The list was endless. It was the first time I'd ever been in the Albert Hall let alone gigged there."

It will be a far cry from the Royal Albert Hall when Kenny performs in Southend, but this just highlights his dedication to promoting local initiatives as he helps boost the profile of the Southend Festival and the artists taking part.

"I think it's important for communities to have local festivals and it's often the artists' first experience of doing gigs and doing promo stuff. It's also important for me because it's a chance to remind people of who I am. A lot of people remember my music but they don't remember me. So it's important for me to reconnect and perform songs from the new album which will be great."

#### 'THE SOUL OF SOUTHEND

Southend High Street  
(near Odeon Cinema)  
21st June, 1pm – 4pm Free

Kenny Thomas performs alongside highly rated local R'n'B act Heist along with Caribbean band Paul Smith and the Limes. For more info visit [kennythomasmusic.co.uk](http://kennythomasmusic.co.uk)

5



# BOOK TO THE FUTURE

THE SECOND SOUTHEND BOOK FAIR RETURNS WITH AN EVEN MORE ECLECTIC LINE UP AND A BIGGER VENUE. THIS IS A GREAT CHANCE TO MEET AND TALK TO AUTHORS WHETHER YOU LIKE HARD-HITTING OR EDGY FICTION THROUGH TO ROMANTIC COMEDY AND PARENTING MAGAZINES.

The area's biggest book event is taking place at South East Essex College on Saturday, June 7th (from 10am to 4pm). The Southend Book Fair brings together the cream of the town's authors, poets, publishers and illustrators and offers visitors the chance to chat with writers, get unique first editions, pick up their holiday reading, find out about writing courses AND win great prizes.

Organiser Samantha Lierens says: "Even if you think you don't like reading, I bet you'll find something that suits you at The Book Fair. We've got everything from hard-hitting, edgy fiction through to romantic comedies and parenting magazines. You'll find biographies, autobiographies, poetry, how to books and much, much more. Half the fun of the Book Fair is chatting to the creators. You can find out about books not from their covers, critics or from some TV show - but by hearing about them from the writers themselves - from the horses' mouths!"

Samantha explains that she set up the Book Fair after she released her novel *A First Karaoke Songbook* last year. She says: "Although it got lots of good reviews it was hard to get the book seen in an industry that seems dominated by either 'misery memoirs' or 'celebrity stories'."



**BOOK SIGNING**

Southend Festival patron, Rachel Lichtenstein, will be signing and talking about her book *On Brick Lane*, between 2 - 3 pm.

Books that are perceived as 'different' don't get noticed as book-sellers tend not to take risks anymore. When I realised that many other writers were in a similar position, I decided to start the Book Fair to show-off some of the really great independent talent in this town.

Local writers including the very popular Dee Gordon, local expert Judith Williams, children's writers Claire Freedman and Jason Ellis, poet Sandra Lester and short story Writers Anonymous will all be at The Book fair for a second time. Hadleigh based Simon Woodward, author of illustrated book *Brave Dave* says: "The fair is a great opportunity to showcase our works. I'll be there - both as an exhibitor and as a reader. It's great to highlight to the public at large what is available and it's also really exciting to discover new talent."

This year's line-up promises to be more eclectic than ever with one or two famous faces promising to come along as well. In addition to over five children's book authors there will be a quiz for children, making this a fun event for all the family. "It's important that this isn't a stuffy affair," Samantha says. "We want to show that books are for everyone."

Local author, Mark Cundy will be joining to chat about *A Man With a Pram*, which is his inspiring tale of, yes, walking around the world with a pram, while Leigh man Bernie Friend will be on hand to discuss *Cycling Back to Happiness* - his take on the powers of cycling as therapy. Samantha says she is also excited that Westcliff based graphic novelist Andy Winter is coming along. "If anyone has seen his fantastic *Hero Killers* which was recently voted Favourite British Black and White Comic book in the 2007 Eagle awards, they'll know that he is an amazing talent, a leader in his field. Andy's latest work *Septic Isle*, a gritty post 7/7 spy thriller will be newly available at the Fair. It's a real coup for us to have him."

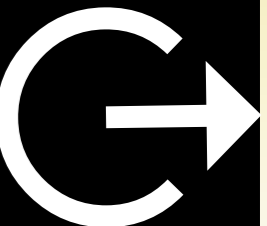
■ For the last few remaining stands available, please contact: 07919 356677. For up-to-date information on the authors attending, see [www.myspace.com/southendbookfair](http://www.myspace.com/southendbookfair).

# SOUTHEND ARTS FESTIVAL

IT'S THE SIXTH ANNUAL SOUTHEND ARTS FESTIVAL AND THE JUNE EVENT IS LOOKING BETTER THAN EVER. BRINGING THE CREATIVE SCENE OF SOUTHEND TOGETHER AND PROMOTING NEW UP-AND-COMING TALENT - THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL ALSO FEATURES A NEW PATRON IN THE GUISE OF GET CAPE. WEAR CAPE. FLY.

**DAVE** GIVES YOU THE LOW DOWN.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS





# CAPE CRUSADER

BY DAY, HE IS MILD-MANNERED SAM DUCKWORTH BUT BY NIGHT HE BECOMES SINGING SENSATION GET CAPE. WEAR CAPE. FLY. HIS MISSION: TO MAKE MUSIC AND, AS PATRON OF THE SOUTHEND ARTS FESTIVAL, FIGHT FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS IN SOUTHEND AND BEYOND.

**W**elcome to the summer of Sam. Sure, he might have already been on *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* and been interviewed by Jo Whaley on Radio One, but, this summer, Southend's own Boy Wonder has a new album released, is making his debut on the main stage at both Reading and Glastonbury, and is touring the US. Despite his packed schedule he has still found time to fly the flag for his home town as the patron of the Southend Arts Festival, and play a gig at Chinnery's as part of the arts and media celebration, into the bargain.

Sam said: "I think Southend gets a kicking really, it gets a bad reputation of being somewhere that doesn't really have a great arts scene and yet there are a lot of talented musicians and talented young artists."

Southend is a unique place and this is a unique opportunity to celebrate the talents, the arts and media in Southend. There is nothing wrong with being from Essex or Southend. We must support our local artists, musicians, drama groups and theatre and it is important to have active local community arts and theatre projects as that is what keeps the art scene going nationwide."

Looking to the future talent of Southend, Sam offered some words of wisdom to the many music students from the College about breaking into the music industry.

"Don't compromise and just work as hard as possible. If you are playing music to get signed the chances are one in a million but you have to make the music that you love because at the end of the day I think the only point in making music is because you love doing it and you get inspiration from it and it drives you."

This year Sam has made it to the main stage at Reading and Glastonbury, after coming up through the ranks of the Carling, NME and Radio One stages. He says that it a dream come true as he has been going to the festivals

since he was 15. To the other extreme Sam has also been having somewhat more intimate performances in people's homes recording acoustic tracks.

Sam explained how the unique experience came about: "With our single *Young and Lovestruck*, I wanted to do something interesting and find different ways to record the songs. Rather than spend two days in the studio it felt like a fun idea to bring the studio to other people, you just get a different energy and dynamic."

Obviously Sam was offered copious cups of tea, but was never asked to take his shoes off. There was one experience that made for an interesting recording session, as Sam explained.

"In one of the houses in Wales we were trying to do this subtle acoustic recording and there was this parakeet just squawking in the background."

In August Sam is off to the States, minus the parakeet, to promote his new album. There is often a lot of pressure on Brits cracking the lucrative US market but Sam is going out there for the fun and experience.

"I'm not going to America to break it, I'm going out there because when the first album came out there have been people that have wanted to see us play. I don't care if we only end up playing 50 people a night and only end up selling 300 records."

This is clearly set to be a super summer for Sam and although his name is derived from a Batman inspired computer games article, Sam was clear that he wasn't ready for Spandex or superpowers.

"I don't know if I want the responsibility of being a superhero. I can't really get out of bed very well in the mornings. I wouldn't want the responsibility of this young child shouting out for me and there I am too busy over-sleeping and my alarm clocks not going off and not being able to save them."



■ **FLAME ON:** Sam Duckworth (above) will be returning to his roots in support of Southend Festival 6

## WIN A SUPPORT SLOT FOR GCWCF!

GCWCF need a support band for their Southend gig on 24 June - could it be your band? Visit [www.southendfestival.com](http://www.southendfestival.com) for details.

**Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat****Sun****Mon**

**DAVE has picked out some of the highlights of this year's Southend Arts Festival. A full listing can be seen at [www.southendfestival.com](http://www.southendfestival.com)**

# JUNE

**1**  
**BETWEEN DOG AND WOLF, CHRYSTEL LEBAS:**  
 Until 28 June; Focal Point Gallery; £Free; Tel. 01702 347418

**2**

**3**

**4**  
**XTENSIONS**  
 An evening of short films; Southend Campus, Pod, 5pm onwards.

**5**  
**GRADUATE FASHION SHOW**  
 U Block Space, Brick Lane, London, 8pm.

**6**

**7**  
**SOUTHEND BOOK FAIR**  
 Southend Campus, 10-4pm, £Free  
 See feature on pg 14

**8**

**9**  
**SPRING AWAKENING**  
 Play by Frank Wedekind explores conflict between repressive adulthood and adolescent sexual longings in a provincial town in Germany. Dixon Theatre, Westcliff; £6.

**10**  
**FIRST DIPLOMA EXHIBITION**  
 9-13 June, The Royals Shopping Centre  
 A photographic exhibition documenting mural work produced by students in conjunction with Southend Council.

**11**

**12**  
**FREE RANGE**  
 12-16 June, Brick Lane, London; A collection of further and higher educational photographic works.



**14**  
**CUT YOUR FIRST DEMO**  
 Acoustic sets outside South East Essex College, then get inside to gut your demo for FREE! For local bands only. Session needs to be booked in advance, call 01702 220400.

**15**  
**LEIGH ART TRAIL**  
 14-21 June; Various venues; £Free  
[www.leigharttrail.com](http://www.leigharttrail.com)

**16**

**17**  
**RED HOT & BLACK**  
 Students from South East Essex College dazzle with dance based on Fosse. New Empire Theatre, 7pm. £9 (£7 conc).

**18**

**19**  
**THE MEDIA SHOW**  
 Videos by moving image students; South East Essex College, Viewing Room 1 and Video Editing rooms (3rd floor), 6pm. £Free.  
**BND/HND PHOTOGRAPHY**  
 Southend Campus, Atrium and Photography studio, 3rd floor, 6pm.

**20**

**21**  
**50<sup>TH</sup> ESSEX OPEN EXHIBITION:** 21- June - 30 Aug; Beecroft Art Gallery; £Free; Tel. 01702 347418.  
**KENNY THOMAS**  
 Live performance from soul sensation Kenny Thomas; High Street, outside Odeon; £Free.

**22**  
**SUNDOWN**  
 The Poetry Link visits Southend featuring Scroobius Pip and A Poem Inbetween People, with local support. 6.30pm - 10.30pm, £3.

**23**  
**SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT**  
 South East Essex College students perform a light hearted tribute to 60s teen culture. Southend Campus, Studio Theatre. £Free.

**24**  
**GET CAPE. WEAR CAPE. FLY.**  
 Tickets available from Chinnerys, PMT, Fives Records or online at [seetickets.com](http://seetickets.com). Call 0870 264 3333.  
 See interview on pg 6.

**25**  
**THE STUDENTS' BALL**  
 Talk, 8pm, £5  
 Strictly for over 18s. Top class musical acts with all the fun and games of an end-of-year blow-out. Tickets sold to South East Essex College students only, plus one non-student ticket per person.

**26**  
**SOUTHEND FASHION SHOW**  
 South East Essex College; 7.30pm; £7.50.

**27**  
**LEIGH FOLK FESTIVAL**  
 26-29 June  
 Visit [www.leighfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.leighfolkfestival.co.uk)

**28**  
**THE RAT PACK LIVE FROM LAS VEGAS**  
 Final night (23-28 June)  
 Spectacular musical celebrating the incredible talents of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jnr. and Dean Martin.

**29**

**30**  
**CELEBRATING SUCCESS**  
 South East Essex College, atrium  
 An evening full of entertainment for students to celebrate their achievements for the year. Special Awards also issued. For more info visit [www.southend.ac.uk/celebrating-success](http://www.southend.ac.uk/celebrating-success)

**Three minute short film competition (under 16s only)**



# SHORT CUTS

GET your short-film showcased at the biggest short-film festival in Essex – the South East Essex College End of Year Show!

Send us a three minute short, on any subject, and your efforts could be showcased alongside some of the best young talent around!

Our short-film awards night features our sponsors Sony and Apple and not only will your film be put alongside these names but you'll also receive fantastic prizes with their compliments! The deadline for entries is **6th June 2008**.

Please send your three-minute short in DVD format only, with your name, contact details and telephone number, to: Mark Anthony Soye, Curriculum Leader, Media & Performing Arts, South East Essex College, Luker Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1ND.



## LEARN MOVING IMAGE

IF YOU are interested in working within the film and television industry then why not consider South East Essex College's BTEC National Diploma in Moving Image? The course covers all aspects of film and media technology including research, production techniques, studio and outdoor broadcast techniques, film theory and even sound.

For more information call 01702 220400 to speak to someone from the course.

**> JUNE 2008**  
Celebrate the best in creative arts and media across Southend venues!

**FEATURING** Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly.  
Scroobius Pip  
Kenny Thomas  
Rachel Unthank & the Winterset  
Rachel Lichtenstein

Exclusive gigs. Art & photography exhibitions. Short-film screenings. Dance and drama. Fashion shows. Publishing events. Competitions.

[www.southendfestival.com](http://www.southendfestival.com)



June 1st - 30th 2008  
**SOUTHEND FESTIVAL SIX**  
Media and Creative Arts

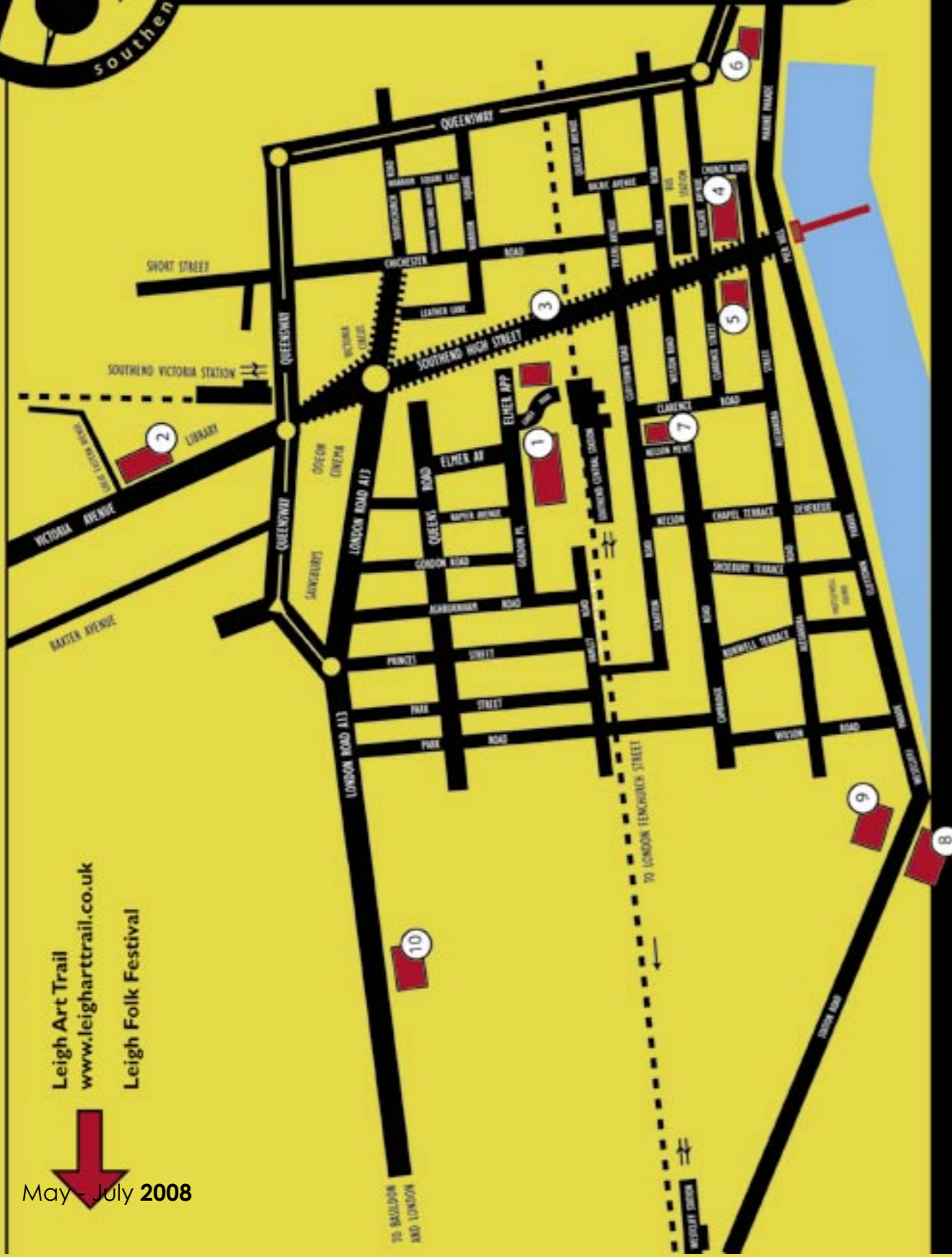
Sponsored by





**Key:**

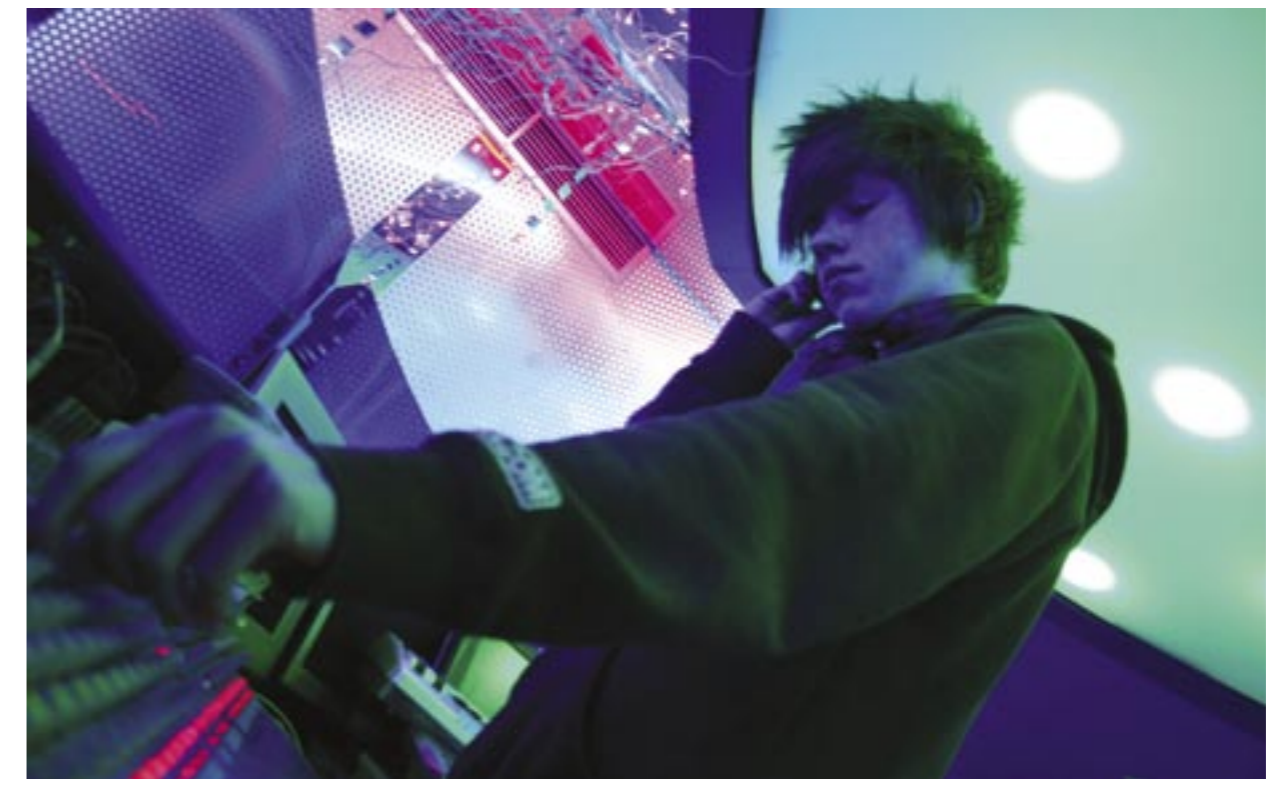
- 1 Southend Campus  
Tel: 01702 220400
- 2 The Focal Point Gallery
- 3 Southend High Street
- 4 The Royals Shopping Centre
- 5 The Royal Hotel  
Tel 01702 434106
- 6 Chinnerys
- 7 The Railway Hotel
- 8 The Cliffs Pavilion
- 9 The Palace Theatre
- 10 The Beacroft Centre



Leigh Art Trail  
www.leigharttrail.co.uk  
Leigh Folk Festival

May - July 2008

# NOT JUST A PHASE



THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE SCENE IN THIS TOWN. EXISTING OUTSIDE THE MAINSTREAM AND ANY GENRE-BOUND 'SCENE', **TELEPHASIC** HAS PROVIDED SOUTHEND WITH A REFRESHING CHANGE FROM RUN-OF-THE-MILL CLUB MUSIC SINCE APRIL 2006.

Founded by local DJs Stuart Bowditch and Paul Malone, the past two years have seen the event move from a laid-back Sunday evening at The Sun Rooms to a full-on event in The Royal Hotel bar on the third Friday of each month.

Playing host to local musical talent and numerous special guests from independent record labels, Telephasic has built a solid reputation as a night that pushes boundaries. Now coordinated by Rob Gretton, the event has maintained its edge as the ideal social club for anyone open to fresh sounds, or interested in multimedia art.

"Our strength lies in our residents," Rob states. "Like the majority of music lovers, we understand the importance of variety and we're confident in those performing for us to provide that in a consistently high quality way. We're simply not into the 'same old same old' and it's great to have a crowd who think along similar lines and trust us to deliver."

From the outset, Telephasic has also been the home of innovative live projections. Providing an outlet equally for those taking their first steps as VJs, to experienced mixers writing their own AVI software.

"Variety, quality and innovation – it's just the same for the guys running the visuals as it is for the musicians and DJs," Rob continues. "We're privileged with some of the most talented live VJs in the country, without whom we'd really be half

the night we are. You can see it in the way the crowd reacts to the sound and screen working together. Looking to the future, we're hoping to further combine the two mediums with multimedia live sets."

It's not just the monthlies that have given Telephasic a name widely known outside of Southend. Working with local arts group MediaShed has taken the event to Cambridge as part of the Arts Council's Enter\_ festival, where aside from spending four days behind the decks, they gave local kids DJing lessons.

After bringing a long line of underground artists to the town, including Ai Record's Jacen Solo and revered electronica group Digital, Telephasic is bringing the focus back to local talent.

"It's great to bring in artists we respect and introducing the Southend crowd to their music, but it's a helluva lot of work," admits Rob. "Telephasic has always been a social event rather than a club night, so that's our direction for the summer. Taking a more relaxed approach will hopefully allow our crowd to influence the nights more than before, and make it more accessible to newcomers. Plus it gives us the chance to organise some bigger parties in the future!"

■ Telephasic [TW28] is at The Royal Hotel on Friday 20 June from 10pm to 4am and continues on the third Friday of each month. Entry is free. [Visit telephasic.co.uk OR myspace.com/twsos.]

# ESSEX APPEAL

SO, YOU WANTED TO GO TO V BUT IT WAS SOLD OUT. YOU WANTED TO GO TO DOWNLOAD, BUT IT WAS TOO FAR. YOU WANTED TO GO TO READING, BUT IT WAS JUST TOO EXPENSIVE. HAVE NO FEAR AS DAVE PRESENTS YOU WITH ALTERNATIVE LOCAL MUSIC FESTIVALS.

## SUTTON WITH SHOPLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

4-5 July  
Rochford  
[www.marmaladeskateboards.co.uk](http://www.marmaladeskateboards.co.uk)

A wicked festival right on your doorstep! It's affordable, fun and everyone's invited! With over four thousand people attending last year, it's the biggest festival in your postcode! Sutton with Shopland festival has been described by many as "Local and heartfelt, and you don't get lost in the crowd!"

When you first arrive at Sutton With Shopland's you are greeted by an inviting row of trees leading to the festival site. With a beautiful garden away from the music, you can relax and become one with nature. There is also a great safe spot for camping overnight, so that you can enjoy both days of the festival.

You may be thinking that you've never heard of the Sutton with Shopland Festival. However, what started out as a family day out for the community is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year.

In these five years, Sutton with Shopland festival has grown bigger and better, with more bands playing, people attending and a total of five stages, including



outdoor stages. Each stage is hosted by a different organisation which gives it a unique feel. Sutton with Shoplands is run completely by volunteers who use their spare time to organize and arrange this festival for its many fans. None of the volunteers are paid yet they love their jobs and the festival and are passionate about making this the most unique festival you've ever been to!

## LEIGH FOLK FESTIVAL

26-29 June  
[www.leighfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.leighfolkfestival.co.uk)

Recently listed in The Observer's top twenty 'Festivals you'll never had heard of', Britain's biggest folk festival is now in its 17th year and is also a part of the Southend Festival. This year's line-up is the strongest yet, with over 60 sets across Leigh, including international artists such as Rachel Unthank and the Winterset (winners of Best Newcomers at 2008 Radio 2 Folk Awards and in Channel 4's Best Album list), the fast-rising star of Americana Rachel Harrington, Kirsty McGee & Mat Martin, Drohne and many more including local talent.



■ THANKS A LOT: Rachel Unthank and co. will want to show Leigh Folk Festival why Radio 2 voted them Best Newcomers

## fully licensed bar

open to the public on  
Tues - Weds - Thurs

From 12 till 2pm and  
from 7pm in the evening

South East Essex College  
Luker Road  
Southend-on-Sea  
Essex, SS1 1ND

# ora

For reservations  
call: 01702 220400  
or email: [ora@southend.ac.uk](mailto:ora@southend.ac.uk)

# GOALS ALLOWED

A FORMER JOURNALISM STUDENT AT SOUTH EAST ESSEX COLLEGE, CHRIS PHILLIPS HAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AT ECHO NEWSPAPERS WHERE HE REPORTS ON ALL THINGS SOUTHEND UNITED. SHATTERED FROM FINISHING THE LONDON MARATHON, CHRIS REFLECTS ON HIS RISE UP THE JOURNO LEAGUE.

## When and what did you study at South East Essex College?

I studied there between 1998 and 2001 and did two different courses. The first was GNVQ Advanced Media and after that I stayed on to do an NCTJ, which is needed if you want to work as a journalist.

## When commentating on BBC Essex, is it challenging to stifle your passion for SUFC?

Of course but as it's BBC Essex and the majority of people listening will be Southend supporters you can afford to get away with it a little bit. It would be different if you worked on a national radio station such as Five Live or TalkSport because then you are likely to have listeners from both camps and have to remain impartial. Thankfully I haven't had to do that yet!

## What is a normal week like for you?

No week is ever really the same but it's always very hectic and unpredictable. I work in the office Monday to Thursday and then head off to the games at the weekend. You never know what you're going to be writing about or what news is going to break so it's very exciting but at the same time it's very hard work and is nowhere near as glamorous as people think it is. It is great fun though and there isn't any other job I would rather do, apart from actually playing football professionally of course!

## Any advice for budding sports journos?

Get writing as early and as much as you can. Rather sadly I used to write match reports when I played Subbuteo from about seven years of age and you have to get into the habit of writing. That's the best way to learn but you need to have enthusiasm and be prepared to work hard, they are the two most important things. I started off by doing plenty of work experience and voluntary work which was hard at the time but it's worth it in the end. It's very competitive because it's something loads of people want to do. You can't afford to give up either and always be willing to do things that deep down you don't really want to.

## Greatest moment as a Southend United fan?

Blimey, that's a tough one but it has to be the two promotions that we got in successive seasons a couple of years ago. The two games that stand out are the ones where we beat Lincoln City in the League Two play off

Rather sadly I used to write match reports when I played Subbuteo from about seven years of age - you have to get into the habit of writing.



final at the Millennium Stadium and then the win over Bristol City the following year which made sure we won League One on the final day of the season.

## What does getting the new stadium mean to you and how will it affect the club?

It means a lot to the club because more finances can now be generated and it will allow them to compete at a higher level. Better players will be more likely to come to Southend and, on top of that, they will also be able to bring more through their own youth system as well because they are set to change to an academy status. That means Southend will be playing against the likes of Chelsea and Arsenal every week which will be brilliant for their development. As for me personally it means the press will have much better facilities to work with and we won't be as cramped in as we are at Roots Hall right now. It can be quite hard to move at times, especially if some of the other reporters are a bit on the large side!

■ For the record - Chris completed the 2008 London Marathon in 4 hours 23 mins and raised £3,000 for charity.

talk  
nightclub

THURSDAYS

HONEYTRAP  
essex's ultimate party night

DJs: STUMPY • MARKY T • KEITH KELSY  
DISCOUNTED DRINKS BEFORE MIDNIGHT

FRIDAYS

if you've got it...  
FLAUNT  
floorfilling anthems

DJs  
RONNIE HERREL  
CABLE (DMC Finalist) • RUGGED  
£1.80 DRINKS TILL 11PM  
DISCOUNTED DRINKS TILL MIDNIGHT

SATURDAYS

Twice as Nice  
Sexy & Stylish  
sexy mb, sultry ukg & sassy urban house

DJs: SCOTTIE B • DR. PSYCHO • LUSH  
WED - BUDWEISER - VODKA & REDBULL £3 BEFORE MIDNIGHT

Talk Nightclub . Lucy Road . Southend On Sea . 01702 600 600 . www.talk-nightclub.com



# A **P**ass 4 U



**Intensive/Crash Courses**  
**Male/Female Instructors**  
**Hourly Lessons**  
**Block Booking Discounts**  
**Free Theory Training**  
**Manual/Automatic Cars**  
**Quality Service Guaranteed**



**01702 308763**  
**www.apass4u.com**

