

...s really a colleg  
ate in a Mexican resta  
of Margaritas before the  
later learn was totally  
ew in a trade... a man of shows. The  
as, off-stage he... barrel of laug  
specially if you got him on to the subject of clowning,  
which... because it seem  
natural... about it. And it's what he  
k about more than anything else.  
'So what made you decide  
likes. Get him started. He  
ne mission  
m n

# word count

a celebration of  
The written &  
spoken word

No. 6  
MARCH-  
JUNE  
2010



All across  
East Sussex

Jackson Kay Syrad  
Bernadette Cremin Par  
Hewitt Anna Tabo  
Magdalena Reisinger  
Maria Jastrzebska  
Bodhan Piasecki Need



The East Sussex Arts Partnership is made up of four District and Borough Councils in East Sussex and the County Council, and is supported by Arts Council England South East. Working together with professional artists and performers the partnership aims to provide events and activities that everyone can get to, enjoy, and value.

The Spoken and Written Word programme has been designed to: celebrate sense of place; create opportunities to see and hear professional writers and speakers; offer new opportunities for everyone in the community to join in; and to celebrate diversity within the community.

This year the programme aims to reach out to both young people under 20 and older people over 50, with an emphasis on participation and supporting communities.

EAST  
SUSSEX  
**ARTS**  
PARTNERSHIP





# HASTINGS

## Hastings Cultural Olympiad

### CULTURAL OLYMPIAD

**H**astings Borough Council has developed ambitious plans for arts regeneration work in Hastings that will culminate in a major new venue being launched on Hastings seafront to coincide with the Cultural Olympiad in 2012. With funding from a combination of sources, The Stade will feature an outdoor performance platform with a big screen, a new Jerwood Art Gallery and excellent facilities for developing the arts in Hastings. With the accent on supporting the whole community, the project sets out to be inclusive and to give a voice to all sections of society, celebrating their stories, their histories and their journeys.

One of the key features of the project will be the development of a DCMS funded music rehearsal space for young people. Young people interested in taking part in the project can find out more by visiting: [www.myspace.com/makewavesuk](http://www.myspace.com/makewavesuk)

'Stade' is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'landing place'. The Stade is the fishing area in the Old Town of Hastings.





## HASTINGS

Sept 2010  
Coastal  
Currents

### MANY VOICES ONE HASTINGS

#### Journeys, Dreams and Video Journals

**E**ast Sussex Arts Partnership is working with Hastings Museum & Art Gallery and Hastings Youth Council to develop a project for Word County that offers a focus on the stories, histories and journeys of people from different cultural backgrounds living in Hastings. Taking a multi-media approach with film, interviews and creative writing, Journeys, Dreams and Video Journals will feature documentary videos by young people emerging from the rich cultural mix that makes up contemporary Hastings, encouraging them to explore their aspirations, hopes and dreams and culminating in a community event as part of Coastal Currents, September 2010.

If you're aged between 13 and 18 and are interested in getting involved, get in touch with [Hastings Youth Council or Hollington Youth Centre]. Alternatively, visit the **Facebook page: Journeys, Dreams and Video Journals**. Participants will learn about filmmaking, speaking in front of the camera, interviewing family and friends and telling their own story in their own words.

Project developed in partnership with Hastings Borough Council





**Tuesday 9 Feb**  
7pm  
**De La Warr Pavilion**



## **ALL RATHER ROTHER – PHASE 2**

**Bexhill High School**  
**A Sense of Place**

**W**riters **Catherine Smith** and **Ros Barber** and theatre practitioner **Nicky Blackwell** have been working with Year 7 and Year 8 students from **Bexhill High School** to develop new writing in response to the **sights and sounds of Bexhill-on-Sea**. Students have been visiting De La Warr Pavilion and other locations, and thinking about family and friends, to write and perform new poems under the guidance and encouragement of the artists.

The activity culminated in a final event by the Year 7 group at De La Warr Pavilion on Tuesday 9 February, 2010, where the students performed their writings for an invited audience of family and friends. See photos below.

An anthology of the writing will be published by the school, and Rother District Council will feature the poems on their arts website: [www.myarts.org.uk](http://www.myarts.org.uk)



**de la warr pavilion**



## ROTHER



### **Bexhill High School** **A Sense of Place: the creative tutors**

**Ros Barber** has appeared on Radio 4's Poetry Please and Radio 3's The Verb. Her Embassy Court sonnets (commissioned for Architecture Week 2002 and published in *How Things Are on Thursday*) were featured in Meridian TV's arts programme The Frame and published in the Independent on Sunday. Her latest poetry collection, *Material* (Anvil 2008) is a Poetry Book Society recommendation.



**Catherine Smith** writes prose, poetry and drama. Her latest poetry collection, *Lip*, was short-listed for The Forward Prize for Best Collection. In 2004 she was voted 'one of the top ten poets to have emerged in the UK in the last ten years'. Her short stories have been broadcast on BBC radio 4's 'afternoon reading' slot and her poems have been broadcast on Radios 3 and 4. Her first play for radio, *Jellybelly*, was broadcast on BBC Radio Four in 2005.



**Nicola Blackwell** trained at the Central School Of Speech and Drama. A selection of her credits as an actor include Market Boy (National Theatre), Hergé's Adventures Of Tintin (The Playhouse, West End), Mountain Language (Royal Court) and the award-winning Baby Jane for The People Show (Traverse, Edinburgh). She inaugurated the YoungVic Shorts programme for trainee directors, has co-created seven shows for the The People Show. She is Artistic Associate with Slot Machine Theatre and has written their upcoming site-specific project, *The Eighth Floor*.



ROTHER

Sat 22 May  
De La Warr  
Pavilion



Brigitte Bardot in  
*Le Mépris*

## LITERATURE & FILM

This event is a partnership between the De La Warr Pavilion and New Writing South, and part of the programme for the Modern Times exhibition exploring the art of the 20th Century.

### **Le Mépris Film Salon** Curated by **Jay Clifton**

What came first - the book or the film? This unique event looks at the relationship and influences between words and images, literature and film, writers and the media they work in.

### **2pm – 5pm: Workshop**

Led by **Harriet Vyner**, this session will include practical writing exercises, film clips, group discussion and listening to work created during the session. Suitable for writers of all types inspired by film, as well as film makers and enthusiasts. Maximum 20 participants.

### **6pm – 7pm: Open networking**

with New Writing South and book signing by Harriet Vyner.

### **7pm – 7:45pm: Pre-Film Discussion**

Jay Clifton in conversation with Harriet Vyner and others will discuss the influence of film on writers of the twentieth century – from F Scott Fitzgerald to Terry Southern and the particular influence of Godard's *Le Mépris* on Harriet's work.

### **8pm: Screening of *Le Mépris* (Contempt)**

Directed by Jean-Luc Godard, 1965.

Starring Brigitte Bardot, Jack Palance and Fritz Lang. A satire with teeth, Godard's most accessible but bravest film. A conflict between artistic expression and commercial opportunity parallels the progressive estrangement between a husband and wife.

Tickets: Workshop, pre-film discussion and film - £25.00

Film + discussion only - £5.00

De La Warr Pavilion booking line **01424 229111**.



new  
writing  
south



# EASTBOURNE

Wed 7 April  
7.30pm

Eastbourne  
Central  
Library



## EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL 3 April – 25 April 2010

### Head to Head Mick Jackson / Kay Syrad

Two Sussex-based novelists, Mick Jackson and Kay Syrad, in conversation with Lewes Live Literature's Artistic Director, Mark Hewitt, discuss their fascination with the eccentricity and weirdness of Victorian England with readings from their work.

**Mick Jackson's** Booker-shortlisted first novel, *The Underground Man*, is the story of an eccentric Victorian aristocrat who commissions the construction of a labyrinth of tunnels and retreats into them. But a childhood memory seems determined to haunt him. His third novel, *The Widow's Tale*, is due to be published in April 2010.  
[www.mickjackson.com](http://www.mickjackson.com)

**Kay Syrad's** recently published debut novel, *The Milliner and the Phrenologist* (Cinnamon Press, 2009) is also an exploration of identity, told through the story of Alice Heapy and John Motton, a milliner and phrenologist in 1860s London: a period of discovery, competing ideas and rigid social hierarchy.  
[www.cinnamonpress.com](http://www.cinnamonpress.com)

Books will be available to buy and get signed.  
Doors open 7pm. Refreshments included in the ticket price  
Tickets £3.00 over the counter at the library or online at  
[www.leweslivelit.co.uk](http://www.leweslivelit.co.uk)

Eastbourne Central Library, Grove Road, Eastbourne BN21 4TL  
Enquiries: **0345 60 80 196**  
Open till 6.30 Mon – Fri and 5pm on Saturday

Further information  
[www.eastbournefestival.co.uk](http://www.eastbournefestival.co.uk)

eastbourne  
FESTIVAL





## EASTBOURNE

Wed 14 April

7.30pm

Underground  
Theatre



**'Eccentricity  
is not, as dull  
people would  
have us believe,  
a form of  
madness.'**

Edith Sitwell  
(above, with  
brother Osbert)



## EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL

### Southern Winds Façade

**A**n event conjuring the atmosphere of 1920s experimentalism and decadence. Edith Sitwell's quintessentially English surrealist verses were set to music by the then emerging young composer, William Walton. Written for six musicians and voice, they were originally performed with Edith Sitwell speaking her verse through a gigantic megaphone. Elements of this bizarre first performance will be evoked by Southern Winds who will replicate the original line-up for a jazzy chamber sextet and voice. The score quotes a number of popular tunes of the day.

Singer **Pam Hewitt** performs with **Anna Tabor** directing the Southern Winds soloists.

[www.southernwinds-music.org.uk](http://www.southernwinds-music.org.uk)

Underground Theatre  
Beneath Eastbourne Library  
Grove Road  
Eastbourne BN21 4TL

Tickets £9.00 / £6.00 concessions (£3.00 children)  
from Eastbourne Theatres Box Office  
Congress Theatre, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne BN21 4BP  
or from the theatre when open.

Tel: **01323 412000**

Credit card hotline: **01323 411555**

Online booking: [www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk](http://www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk)

E-mail: [boxoffice@eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:boxoffice@eastbourne.gov.uk)

Venue website: [www.undergroundtheatre.org.uk](http://www.undergroundtheatre.org.uk)

Also available online at [www.leweslivelit.co.uk](http://www.leweslivelit.co.uk)



**EASTBOURNE**

**Thurs 15 April**

8.30pm

**Bibendum  
Eastbourne**



Anna Tabor, Pam Hewitt



Bernadette Cremin

## **EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL**

### **Pam & Anna's Cabaret Ding-Dong with guest poet Bernadette Cremin**

**G**ritty songs of destitution and resolve from the Berlin of the Weimar Republic (Brecht/Weill, Hollaender), passionate songs from the smoky Paris cabarets (Piaf, Suzy Solidor) and a smattering of Music Hall and dirty blues.

Chanteuse Pam Hewitt and musical director Anna Tabor with an ensemble of classically-trained musicians bring their 'wonderfully flamboyant and suitably theatrical' renditions of music from the classic eras of European cabaret to Eastbourne Festival.

Guest poet is Bernadette Cremin, a brilliant and engaging performer whose poems complement the stories in the songs. They have been described as 'a series of nightmarish postcards' that build 'a magic bridge between performance and the page'. Her recent books include *Perfect Mess* (Biscuit Publishing, 2006) *Speechless* (Waterloo Press, 2007) and *Miming Silence* (Waterloo Press, 2009)

'Cremin's poems are the reminder we need of forgotten people, desperate lives and sickness that doesn't grab headlines. Undaunted, bloody minded, she hands them to us with more twists and turns than a roller coaster.' – Jackie Wills  
'Where does she get these images?' – Michael Donaghy

[www.pamhewitt-annatabor.co.uk](http://www.pamhewitt-annatabor.co.uk)  
[www.bernadettecremin.co.uk](http://www.bernadettecremin.co.uk)

Bibendum (upstairs room)  
1 Grange Road, Eastbourne BN21 4EU

Tickets £5.00 – over the counter from Bibendum,  
online from [www.leweslivelit.co.uk](http://www.leweslivelit.co.uk) or on the door at the event  
Enquiries: **0797 203 7612** (LLL) / **01323 735363** (Bibendum)





Sat 17 April

8pm

The Lamb  
Eastbourne



## EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL

### Polskie Party

**Magdalena Reising and The Blue Café Jazz Ensemble  
with poets Maria Jastrzebska and Bodhan Piasecki**

**A** celebration of top quality Anglo-Polish culture: cool jazz  
ensemble of top international players and two  
poets that combine insight and wit with great delivery.

Scottish/Polish singer/harpist Magdalena Reising returns to Eastbourne Festival with her international Blue Café Jazz Ensemble singing unique jazz arrangements of Rabbin Burns and Polish poet **Gałczyński**. A sell-out at the London Jazz Festival, she has been en-chanting audiences in the UK and abroad. This Eastbourne Festival event marks the launch of Magdalena's new CD, *Coming Home*.

'Glorious, subtle, magic power' – New York Review

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

[www.myspace.com/magdalenareising](http://www.myspace.com/magdalenareising)

Polskie Party: See next page for biographies of the poets

The Lamb (upstairs music room),  
36 High Street, Old Town, Eastbourne BN21 1HH

Tickets £5.00

Available over the counter from The Lamb  
online from [www.leweslivelit.co.uk](http://www.leweslivelit.co.uk)  
or on the door at the event

Enquiries: **01323 720545** (pub) / **0797 203 7612** (LLL)





Sat 17 April  
8pm

The Lamb  
Eastbourne



### **Maria Jastrzebska**

Maria Jastrzebska was born in Warsaw, Poland and came to England as a child. Poetry collections include *Syrena* and *Everyday Angels*. Her drama *Dementia Diaries* was premiered in April 2009 by Lewes Live Literature at Eastbourne Festival, selling out over a four day run. She was 2009 winner of the Off-Press international writing competition. Her work has been translated into French, Japanese, Polish, Romanian and Slovenian. [www.south-pole.org.uk](http://www.south-pole.org.uk)

### **Bodhan Piasecki**

Bodhan is a performance poet and slam host born in Warsaw, Poland, currently based in the UK. Before his move to England, he started the first poetry slam series in his country, introducing Poles to spoken word and creating a platform for a whole new generation of performers. Bodhan represented Poland at the 2007 Poetry Slam World Cup in Paris.

**Thank you** to Polskie Eastbourne and all the Poles who contributed to Polska by the Sea at Eastbourne Station during Eastbourne Festival 2009, the launch of which was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Eastbourne. The project was developed by Lewes Live Lit and East Sussex Arts Partnership.





**EASTBOURNE**



**BEACHY HEAD**

Lewes Live Lit is also developing a project in partnership with WRVS Heritage Plus and other organisations that documents the experiences of and attitudes to one of Eastbourne's most famous and iconic landmarks: Beachy Head. From commissioned texts by well-known writers and artists that have particular links with Beachy Head to local people who walk the cliffs on a regular basis to individuals whose working lives are bound up with the place; an exploration of the relationship between people and place.

To contribute to the project, contact Lewes Live Lit's Artistic Director, Mark Hewitt, on **0797 203 7612** / [info@leweslivelit.co.uk](mailto:info@leweslivelit.co.uk)

Eastbourne's  
most famous  
and iconic  
landmarks:  
Beachy Head



# LEWES

**21–30 May**  
**Charleston**  
**Farmhouse**



Zadie Smith  
David Dimbleby

**Thurs 18 March**  
**7.45 pm**  
**Needlemakers**  
**Café, Lewes**

## CHARLESTON FESTIVAL 21–30 May

**T**aking place at Charleston, the former East Sussex home of the Bloomsbury Group, this annual festival delivers ten days of debate, discussion and entertainment.

Guests in 2010 will include Alan Bennett, Bill Bryson, David Dimbleby, Carol Ann Duffy, David Eagleman, Anne Enright, Philip Pullman, Rose Tremain and Zadie Smith.

Full details can be found at [www.charleston.org.uk/charlestonfestival](http://www.charleston.org.uk/charlestonfestival).

Charleston Trust, Firle, near Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6LL  
For further details visit

[www.charleston.org.uk/charlestonfestival](http://www.charleston.org.uk/charlestonfestival) or phone the Charleston Trust on **01323 811626**

## NEEDLEWRITERS

**T**he Needlewriters continues its highly successful programme of readings with poet Ann Seagrave, fiction writer Monica Suswin and another poet to be announced.

The summer reading on 10 June will feature poetry by Judith Kazantzis and Lorna Thorpe and prose by Irving Weinman.

Tickets £5.00 (£4.00 concessions) available in advance from **Skylark** or on the door on the night

Needlemakers Café, Market Lane, Lewes  
Doors open and meals served from 7.30pm  
Quality quarterly literature event with food and drink.



**Tues 13 April**  
7.30pm

**Hillcrest  
Community  
Centre,  
Newhaven**



## **THE GUESTHOUSE STORYTELLERS SPRING SEASON 2010**

**Rachel Rose Reid**

**B**reaking new ground with an ancient artform, Rachel Rose Reid spins yarns and weaves dreams for adults, shaking the dust from myth and legend in the hunt for impossibly perfect endings. Rachel was Young Storyteller of the Year 2007. 'A glimpse of magic' –The Guardian

Café opens 7pm, performance 7.30pm. £7.00/£5.00 concessions.  
Tickets: **01825 873477**, or [ronda@armitage493.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:ronda@armitage493.fsnet.co.uk)

## **John Copper and the Copper Family**

**T**he Copper Family traces its roots back to 1593 in the Sussex village of Rottingdean. The Family singing tradition can be traced back to the 18th Century at least.

After World War 2, the Coppers were discovered by the BBC - so began the Family's part in the folk song revival of the 1950's and 60's through to the modern age. Ron Copper's *A Song for Every Season* was published to great literary acclaim in 1971.

Tickets £5.00 online from [www.leweslivelit.co.uk](http://www.leweslivelit.co.uk)  
or on the door at the event.

Tel bookings and enquiries: **0797 203 7612**



From 6 May  
Hillcrest  
Community  
Centre



Umi Sinha

## THE GUESTHOUSE STORYTELLERS SPRING SEASON 2010

### True Stories – Community event with preparatory workshops

**T**he GuestHouse Storytellers invite local people living in the Seahaven and surrounding areas to come and tell a ten minute true story from their own lives.

In the preparatory workshops we will work on identifying a suitable story, working on giving it a structure, learn some crafting and performance skills, and practice delivering it individually and in groups. This is an opportunity to learn the basic skills of crafting a biographical story, and to invite your family and friends to hear a story from your life.

#### Interested in taking part?

Contact **Umi Sinha**: [umi@umisinha.com](mailto:umi@umisinha.com)

Umi Sinha is a writer and storyteller and teaches creative writing. She is a founder member of The GuestHouse Storytellers, a storytelling group based in Newhaven, who meet at The Hillcrest Centre.

#### Preparatory workshops

Thursday 6 May, 7 – 9.30pm

Thursday 13 May, 7 – 9.30pm

#### Community event

Thursday 20th May, 7.30 – 9.30pm

A chance to perform your story at an informal culminating event before a supportive invited audience.

Further info:

<http://guesthousestorytellers.clubbz.com>

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



Dyslexia is based on two Greek words 'Dys' meaning difficulty and 'lexic' meaning with words. Many famous people were or are dyslexic, including Albert Einstein, Jamie Oliver, Thomas Edison, Richard Branson, Alexander Graham-Bell, Muhammad Ali, Orlando Bloom and Winston Churchill. A recent study found that 35% of entrepreneurs in America and 20% in Britain are dyslexic. People with dyslexia often have special skills in creativity, the ability to think outside the box or in an unusual way, persistence and visual thinking.

Visual language was a great way for the young people to express themselves, empowered by working with two successful dyslexic role models. Many of the students quickly understood how to frame a photo, sequence some images and come up with a short narrative. Lynn and Tom worked brilliantly with the students to bring their ideas to a reality and after just 3 half-day workshops they had all created a short piece to be screened during the festival. The first screening was attended by teachers and parents who were highly impressed by the work the group created.

The eight students were: **Leo Carlos Sandberg, Holly Cobham-Weekes, Oliver Foord, Robin Hanford, Chloe Hoppen, Ben Lunato, Luke Roberts and Joshua Shellabear.**

'The platform project was an incredible experience, I could clearly see how everyone involved had a great understanding of each other and we were all working towards developing a greater public understanding of what dyslexia is all about and how it affects us. Choosing to do this creatively is of real importance, because as dyslexics we have this unique ability to think visually and so we used that talent to have a voice. The artwork produced I feel is very moving and sophisticated; the pieces highlight the sense of journey that the participants have experienced to be in the place they are now.'

(Lynn Weddle).

Other events to look out for:

**World Book Day:** 4 March

**Soundwave** (Lewes District): 30 July - 6 August

**Coastal Currents** (Hastings): throughout September

**International Older People's Day:** 1 October

**National Poetry Day:** 7 October

East Sussex Arts Partnership,  
c/o Arts Office – room C15G,  
East Sussex County Council,  
County Hall,  
Lewes,  
East Sussex BN71SW

9 February	Sense of Place	De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill
18 March	Needlewriters	Needlemakers Café, Lewes
8 April	Mick Jackson / Kay Syrad	Eastbourne Central Library
13 April	Rachel Rose Reid	Hillcrest Centre, Newhaven
14 April	Southern Winds / Façade	Underground Theatre, Eastbourne
15 April	Pam Hewitt & Anna Tabor with Bernadette Cremin	Bibendum, Eastbourne
17 April	Polskie Party: Magdalena Reising, Maria Jastrzebska and Bodhan Piasecki	The Lamb, Eastbourne
28 April	The Copper Family	Hillcrest Centre, Newhaven
6 May	True Stories workshop	Hillcrest Centre, Newhaven
13 May	True Stories workshop	Hillcrest Centre, Newhaven
20 May	True Stories Community Event	Hillcrest Centre, Newhaven
21-30 May	Charleston Festival	Charleston Farmhouse, Firle
22 May	Le Mépris Film Salon	De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill
10 June	Needlewriters	Needlemakers Café, Lewes