



Pre Festival event: Linda Rhodes - The Dagenham Girl Pipers and other inspirational local women

When: **Saturday 8 September, 1pm-3pm**

Where: **Barking Learning Centre**

Award-winning author **Linda Rhodes** has written several books about the history of Barking and Dagenham.

Following this year's theme of Women and Activism, we are inviting Linda to start the festival with a presentation about our very own **Dagenham Girl Pipers** and other women who have made an impact within our local community – with entertainment from some very special guests!

Mary Collins – Ten Bells Street

When: **Monday 10 September, 3pm-4.30pm**

Where: **Valence Library**

The East End of London, 1930. Work is scarce, food is in short supply and there is political unrest on the streets. But in the face of all this hardship, there's always friendship. Becky, Bernie and Rose - three best friends from very different backgrounds are working hard to establish themselves in pre-war Spitalfields. Becky, the daughter of a Jewish tailor, wants to become a nurse, but her father has more traditional plans for her.

Jacqueline Francis – Walk Quiet Run Quick

When: Tuesday 11 September, 2pm-3pm

Where: Dagenham Library

Jaqueline Francis debut novel - **Walk Quiet Run Quick** is a gripping story of passion, survival and of finding the strength to move forward without looking back.

From the outside Valencia Lawson Jarrett's life looks perfect: she has a great job, lives in a posh part of London and has the love of her long-term boyfriend, Liam. But looks can be deceiving.

Beneath the surface, Val's insecurities begin to eat away at their happiness. Does Liam really love her enough?

Julie Sanford – Wakefall Trilogy

When: Tuesday 11 September, 5pm-6.30pm

Where: Thames View Library

Julie Sanford is a local author of contemporary women's fiction including the Wakefall trilogy - **Sculpting Amanda, Heart-shaped Shackles** and **Love's First Fall**.

Come along and meet Amanda who will be discussing her new contemporary fantasy **The Dark Dust** series.

“A Bunch of Poets called Ann(e)”

When: Tuesday 11 September, 6.30pm-8.30pm

Where: Barking Learning Centre

Guest Poets– Anne Ryland and Anne E Cooper

Supported by - Ann Dineen, Anne MacAuley, Anne Welsh and Agnieszka Dryjas

A superb bunch of poems from six ladies called Ann(e)!

Peter Raynard and the Pen to Print Poets

When: **Wednesday 12 September, 6.30pm-8.30pm**

Where: **Barking Learning Centre**

Guest Poet - Peter Raynard is a poet and editor. He has published two books of poetry: his debut collection *Precairious* published by Smokestack Books, and *The Combination*.

Supported by Hugh Prior, Patsy Middleton, Jenny Grant and other poets.

Ingrid Dover-Vidal - Make it Shine Poetry

When: **Thursday 13 September, 2.30pm-3.30pm**

Where: **Chadwell Heath Community Centre**

Ingrid Dover-Vidal is celebrating the publication of her first poetry anthology *Make It Shine*. Ingrid's themes include school days, resilience and renewal, spiritual and cultural identity.

Ingrid is an author, teacher, Caribbean songstress, guitarist and recently published performance poet. Born in Georgetown Guyana, Ingrid moved to England during the 1960's, where she nurtured her talents in creative writing, in the vibrant multi-cultural community of Ladbroke Grove. Her poetry is both cultural and inspirational.

Anna Robinson at Valence House Archives Poetry Workshop

When: **Thursday 13 September, 2pm-5pm**

Where: **Valence Archives and Local Studies**

Try your hand at writing local history poems using **Barking and Dagenham Archives at Valence House** for inspiration.

Led by Anna Robinson, poet and historian, Anna is a poet, tutor and editor from London. Author of poetry collection *Into The Woods* and *The Finders of London*. Anna has read poetry locally, nationally and internationally.

Company Drinks – Local Food Fair

When: **Sunday 16 September, 12noon-6pm**

Where: **Company Drinks Outdoor Bowls Pavilion, Barking Park**

Company Drinks is an art project in the shape of a drinks company. It links the history of East Londoners 'going hop picking' in Kent to the formation of a new community enterprise, which brings people together to pick, process and produce drinks in east London today.

Company Drinks are holding their annual food fair at their home in Barking Park with stall of local harvested produce and entertainment.

Pen to Print writer's corner will be giving poetry readings and information on our creative writing competitions, classes, workshops, author events and more - part of **ReadFest 2018!**

Hanna Ali – The Story of Us

When: **Monday 17 September, 1pm-2.30pm**

Where: **Barking Learning Centre**

Hanna Ali was born in Mogadishu, Somalia and spent the first four years of her life there. She started writing poetry at the age of ten – first with song lyrics before she delved into writing short stories.

Hanna is set to take the literary scene by storm with her dreamlike prose in her debut publication "**Sheekadii Noloshayada**" (**The Story of Us**), a collection of four short stories published in Somali.

Sandra Prior – The Kingmaker

When: **Tuesday 18 September, 3pm-4.30pm**

Where: **Valence Library**

The Kingmaker is the fifth book in the series by local crime writer Sandra Prior. Following *Dangerous*, *Diamond Geezer*, *Mickey's War* and *Mickey's Revenge*. Mickey 'Dangerous' Taylor is the head of the Taylor crime family; will he have what it takes to ensure that the family survives their greatest challenge?

P M Middleton – Tom Johnson’s Submarine and How He Met Napoleon

When: **Tuesday 18 September, 6pm-8pm**

Where: **Barking Learning Centre**

Tom Johnson’s Submarine was shortlisted in The Pen to Print Book Challenge competition in 2016.

Tom Johnson is a smuggler with the reputation for escaping imprisonment.

During the Napoleonic war, the British government give him a pardon and employ him. But now the war is over. Tom needs a job. Returning to London he meets up with his old flame, Nancy. Tom is approached by the French to aid in Napoleon’s escape, Tom has a choice to make. Will he stay with Nancy, or will he risk helping the French?

Dolly Kaur – I’m Possible (What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Stronger)

When: **Wednesday 19 September, 10.30am-12noon**

Where: **Barking Learning Centre**

“This book is something I want a person to hold in their hands and not even have to turn to the next page!”

Dolly’s book includes moments in her life which have brought her to be the strong woman she is today. The book is full of life quotes to help you get through the challenges in daily life.

Lucinda Hawksley – March Women March

When: **Wednesday 19 September, 6.30pm-8.30pm**

Where: **Dagenham Library**

One hundred years after women were first being granted the right to vote in Britain, Lucinda Hawksley looks at the courageous campaigners who refused to accept that men knew what was best for them.

Moving from the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft to the battle cries and slogans of the Suffragette Movement, we follow the path trodden by many brave women in the

quest for equal rights. March, Women, March reveals how women's fight for equality came to change the world.

Janina Ramirez – Warrior Women

When: **Thursday 20 September 6.30-8.30pm**

Where: **Barking Learning Centre**

Janina Ramirez is a medievalist, cultural historian, and broadcaster who specializes in decoding symbols and uncovering the bigger picture behind works of art and literature.

She is course director for the Undergraduate Certificate and Diploma in History of Art at Oxford University and has been writing and presenting history programmes for BBC television and radio since 2010. She has a weekly podcast, 'The Art Detective', produced by History Hit. She has also written several academic books and articles on the early medieval period and author of **Julian of Norwich** and **The Private Lives of The Saints**.

She lives in Oxfordshire with her husband, son, daughter, and three cats. When she gets a quiet moment (rarely!) she likes to listen to audiobooks, paint and go on historical adventures. Janina will be signing copies of her debut children's novel **Riddle of the Runes**.

Gee Vaucher – Local Artist

When: **Friday 21 September, 2pm-3.30pm**

Where: **Dagenham Library**

This event may not be suitable for a younger audience

Gee Vaucher is a visual artist who was born in 1945 in Dagenham.

Her work with Anarcho-punk band Crass was seminal to the 'protest art' of the 1980s. Gee has always seen her work as a tool for social change. Gee will be talking about her life in the art world.

ReadFest is also supporting Gee in her mission to gather 20 million stick figures. They will be part of a book in honour of WWI. If you are interested in contributing to this project, come along and meet Gee or pick up a leaflet from the library and draw your stickmen!

Young Adult Author Showcase

When: **Saturday 22 September, 10.30am- 4pm**

Where: **Barking Learning Centre**

Meet authors **Anna Perera** (Guantanamo Boy), **Sufiya Ahmed** (Secrets of the Henna Girl), **Saci Lloyd** (Carbon Diaries series), and **Sara Grant** (Chasing Danger series).

Anna Perera best known for bestseller *Guantanamo Boy*, Anna will be talking about her latest book is *The Glass Collector* about 15-year-old Aaron and his life in the slums of present day Egypt, this was nominated for many awards including the Carnegie Medal.

Sufiya Ahmed is the award-winning author of the Young Adult novel *Secrets of the Henna Girl*. Zeba Khan is like any other sixteen-year-old girl, enjoying herself, waiting for exam results and dreaming of the day she'll meet her one true love. Except her parents have other plans...

Saci Lloyd was born in Manchester but raised in Anglesey where she spent a lot of time lost in nature or down by the shore. Her first novels, *The Carbon Diaries* series, came out to critical her current book *The End of The World As We Know It*, a comedy set on a parallel Earth. Imagine an extra 7 billion future Californians. You know it's not going to be pretty.

Sara Grant has inspired and edited nearly 100 books for children and teens. Her new series – Chasing Danger – is an action-adventure series. She has written two teen futuristic thrillers and a funny series for young readers.

Beezy Marsh – All My Mother's Secrets

When: **Monday 24 September, 11am-1pm**

Where: **Dagenham Library**

Beezy Marsh is an award-winning newspaper journalist and international No1 best-selling author, who believes that mothers, wives and sisters are the glue which bind families together.

All My Mother's Secrets' is the second novel by Beezy, Annie Austin's childhood ends at the age of twelve, when she joins her mother in one of the slum laundries of Acton, working long hours for little pay. In London between the wars, a girl like Annie has few choices in life – but a powerful secret will change her destiny. The book

follows hot on the heels of her Sunday Times top-ten bestseller and international No1 best seller, *Keeping My Sisters' Secrets*.

Claire Buss – Route to Publishing your Novel with Pen to Print

When: **Monday 24 September, 6pm-8pm**

Where: **Barking Learning Centre**

Claire Buss is a science fiction, fantasy & contemporary writer and poet based in the UK. She wanted to be Lois Lane when she grew up but work experience at her local paper was eye-opening.

Instead, Claire went on to work in a variety of admin roles for over a decade but never felt quite at home. An avid reader, baker and Pinterest addict Claire won second place in the Barking and Dagenham **Pen to Print** writing competition in 2015 with the award winning **The Gaia Effect**, setting her writing career in motion.

Radical ESSEX - In conversation with writer Tim Burrows and editor Hayley Dixon

When: **Tuesday 25 September, 6pm-8pm**

Where: **Dagenham Library**

An often-maligned county, Essex's recent history has been the subject of stereotypes, neatly surmised by Spitting Image's anthem, Essex is C**p.

Radical ESSEX seeks to tell another story, exploring the less-known innovations and creativity of the county. It examines living practices from retreats for Tolstoyan princes and the first practices of naturism in England and can claim to be the birthplace of British Modernism.

With a rich cultural history including musicians Depeche Mode, Alison Moyet and Dr Feelgood, and a home for artists Henri Chopin and Grayson Perry, this book demonstrates Essex as a hotbed of radical activity, open to all possibilities.

In Conversation with Laydeez Do Comics

When: **Wednesday 26 September, 6pm-8pm**

Where: **Dagenham Library**

Laydeez do Comics is a female-led but not female-only unique graphic novel forum that meets monthly in London.

They host guests to speak about their work with a focus on comic works based on life narrative, and the everyday.

Running monthly events in London and at other centres around the UK and globe, they are avid promoters for women in comics, join special guests: **Wallis Eates** and **Rachael Ball** both Laydeez do Comics co-ordinators, **Dr Nicola Streeten** and **Sarah Lightman** both co-founders of Laydeez Do Comics.

Libby Page – The Lido

When: **Thursday 27 September, 6pm-8pm**

Where: **Barking Learning Centre**

The Lido is set in Brixton and follows the relationship between two women 60 years apart in age brought together by the campaign to keep the local lido open. This is Libby's first novel released to much acclaim.

Libby Page is now a full-time writer, as well as a passionate outdoor swimmer. She and her sister run a blog documenting their swims and the benefits of outdoor exercise for mental health. Libby has also been a leading campaigner for fairer internships and has spoken on radio, TV and in parliament in support of fair pay for interns. Libby began her career writing when she was sixteen with an illustrated book, Love Pink, raising money for Breast Cancer Care.

Readers Evening with Pen to Print Authors

When: **Friday 28 September, 7pm to 9pm**

Where: **Dagenham Library**

Our popular relaxed and informal evening makes a welcome return featuring short discussions with authors who have taken part in the festival, with an opportunity to

buy their books and have a chat and a special focus on **The Pen to Print Authors**. The evening also includes poetry recitals, music and refreshments.

Pen to Print Project is working to build a network of support for aspiring writers in Barking and Dagenham.

We identify local writing talent and provide them with opportunities to produce quality writing for publication.

The programme is funded until 2022 and features the Pen to Print Competitions:

- The Book Challenge
- The Poetry and Short Story Competition
- The Michael Feld Creative Writing Competition for Young People (7 to 14 years)

In addition to the main competitions, there are a series of on-going author events and workshops supported by established creative writing experts and authors.

These events are open to everyone and are designed to inspire and encourage aspiring writers, as well as providing entertainment to the wider reading public.

The Pen to Print Project has been made possible with funding from The Arts Council, England.

The Bath Haus Spa is based within Barking Learning Centre – find the secret door on the first floor of the library!

The Bath Haus Spa is offering all ReadFest visitors **10% off** a treatment, if you attend an event or workshop at any Library between 10 to 28 September. Check your Eventbrite ticket or speak to a member of ReadFest staff for more information.

To sign up for email updates go to <http://eepurl.com/dlRut5>

<https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/readfest-events>

<https://OfficialPentoPrint.eventbrite.co.uk>

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