



MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

THE SALTMARSH COAST WALKING FESTIVAL

DISCOVER 75 MILES OF THE SALTMARSH COAST WITH A FREE WALKING FESTIVAL!

The Saltmarsh Coast Walking Festival is a 10-day festival, designed to help you celebrate and enjoy the Maldon District's rich tapestry of history and heritage along its 75 miles of coastline.

Running from **8 to 17 September 2023**, the event will provide led and self-guided walks to suit everyone, from family-friendly short strolls to longer walks for walking enthusiasts. Plus, in the evenings there will be a programme of talks and entertainment.

More details to follow soon – please visit [The Saltmarsh Coast Walking Festival \(visitmaldondistrict.co.uk\)](https://www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk)

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS £2 SINGLE BUS FARE

Travelling by bus continues to be affordable with single fare tickets costing just £2 allowing passengers to travel across Essex. All you need to do is ask your bus driver for a single ticket then sit back and enjoy your bus journey. Before you travel make sure to check your route is eligible for the £2 single fare on the [Government website](#). The **£2 rate will run to 31 October 2023**.

The capped single fare will then be extended for at least another year at **£2.50 until 30 November 2024** – when the government will review their effectiveness and future bus fares.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE MALDON & HEYBRIDGE TRANSPORT & BUS USER GROUP

Calling all bus users! The first meeting of the new Transport & Bus User Group for Maldon & Heybridge and surrounding parishes will be held at Maldon Town Hall on Wednesday the 20th of September at 7.30pm.

Further details or if you would like to get involved, please email: mhtbug.secretary@gmail.com

A SUMMER OF VOLUNTEERING WITH ESSEX LIBRARY SERVICE



To celebrate the Summer of Volunteering campaign we want to showcase some of the opportunities available to volunteer at your local library. Whether you're looking to volunteer for a couple of hours or something more regular, there are opportunities for everyone.

[Find out more about volunteering with Essex Library Service.](#)

FREE RESOURCE TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE YOUR NEXT STEPS

Have you recently finished school? Perhaps you're waiting for your exam results. Either way, the Essex Careers Magazine can help you figure out what you want to do next.

With two free digital editions full of helpful insights into career paths, learning, volunteering and more. Make the most of this invaluable resource, read the Essex Careers Magazine today.

FREE TRAINING TO ANYONE LOOKING TO ENTER OR UPSKILL IN THE CARE SECTOR

[Fully funded healthcare training](#) is now available to anyone in Essex looking to enter or upskill in the care sector. The funding will help people working in care or new to the sector reach their career goals without the added pressure of training costs.

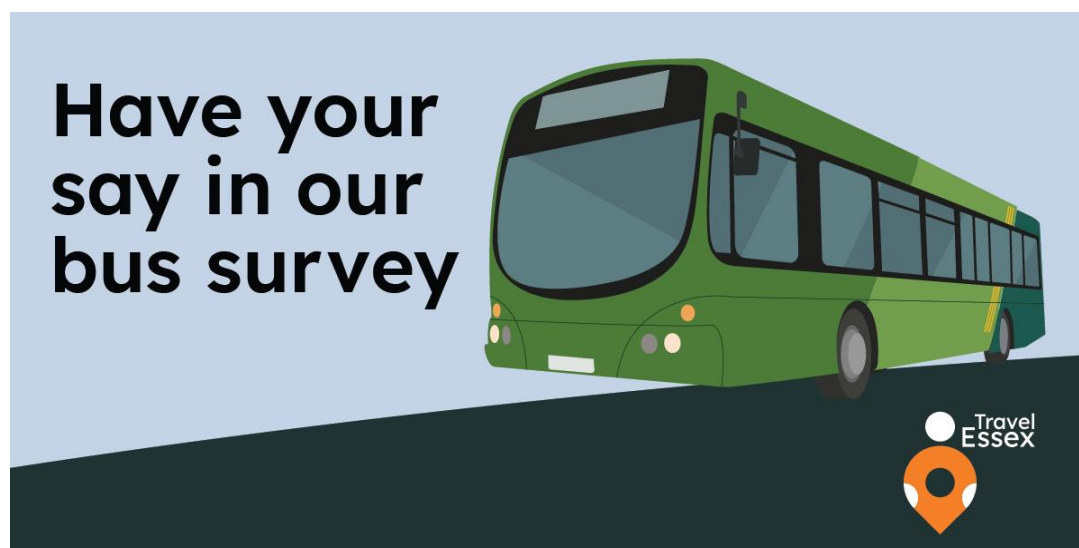
The training is funded by the council's Nightingale Care Bursary and run by the council's adult education service, ACL Essex.

BUS SERVICE CHANGES – BUS PASSENGER NEWS

A summary of each service change that we are aware of for July/August can be found in Bus Passenger News – click on link contained below:

[Bus Passenger News](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES



Essex County Council ("ECC") funds a number of bus services in Essex. Residents are being urged to share their views on the future of those 162 non-commercial services across Essex.

We want your help to ensure that our future bus network is ready to meet new levels of passenger demand and is providing value for money. ECC is therefore conducting a public consultation regarding these local bus services.

Take part in the consultation [here](#) which closes on Thursday 5 October 2023.

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know, passengers who reach pensionable age (currently 66) become eligible for a free bus pass, making new locations more accessible and maintaining independence. To apply online click here: <https://bit.ly/3zVCIZt>

ESSEX LAUNCHES PIONEERING APP TO HELP WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Join our county's fight against climate change by downloading the free [Carbon Cutting Essex App](#) today!

The app is a fantastic way for us all to keep track of our carbon footprint and discover small daily changes we can all make to reduce it through weekly quizzes, blogs and bite sized videos. Each month, the app focuses on a different theme around climate action.

The app motivates positive actions through providing points and rewards, which can be used to enter prize draws to win vouchers up to £250 for major retailers or donated to a good cause or school.

Download the app today on the [App Store](#), [Google Play](#) or the [Greenredeem website](#).

JOIN THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE ON TOUR

Come and join the outreach mobile library in some fun and exciting places for a great day out and to continue your Summer Reading Challenge in style!

[Find a full list of where we're going](#), including special events at Barleylands Farm and Hopefield Animal Sanctuary



DON'T SPEND THE SUMMER STUCK IN ROADWORKS!

Over the summer holidays the volume of traffic decreases on Essex's roads. This is the perfect time for Essex Highways to ramp up resurfacing works and carry out repairs to the county's roads. If you're planning a day trip or a holiday, make sure to [check what road works are currently underway.](#)

FORD RIDE LONDON-ESSEX SET TO RETURN FOR THREE YEARS

Following its success in 2023, [Ford RideLondon-Essex](#), one of the world's greatest cycling events, is returning to Essex for another three years (2024-2026).

We reached a three-year agreement with the organisers London Marathon Events, to host the event again until 2026. The agreement includes the Ford RideLondon-Essex mass participation events and two stages of the Ford RideLondon Classique.

NEW £7.5 MILLION GRANT PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT RESIDENT'S HEALTH

ECC have announced a new £7.5 million grant programme. The Public Health Accelerator Bids (PHAB) programme will launch later this year, supporting projects designed to improve residents' health and tackle health inequalities.

There are two levels of grant - small grants under £15,000 and major grants over £15,000. Grants are available to voluntary organisations, charities, schools, councils and more.

Applications and expressions of interest for grants will open soon. In the meantime, you can [read more about the programme](#) and email PHABApplications@activeessex.org if you have questions.

STAY SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board Online Safety campaign reinforces the importance of talking about safe internet use with children. The campaign reminds people that the risk of online harm and child exploitation doesn't disappear over the summer. Find out how to spot the signs of exploitation, check device security settings and [how to report concerns of exploitation](#).

SHARE YOUR VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES WITH US

Throughout the summer we would love to hear about the groups and organisations that make a difference in your local community. If you are currently looking for volunteers and would like us to share an opportunity on the summer of volunteering webpage, please complete the [Essex volunteering opportunities form](#).

VIOLENCE AND VULNERABILITY COMMUNITY GRANT LAUNCHES

The 2024 to 2025 [Violence and Vulnerability Community Grant](#) is now open. The grant is open for local 'not-for-profit' voluntary or community clubs or organisations based in Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

The grant funds projects that have a positive impact on the issues around serious violence. The closing date for applications is noon on 29 September 2023. Groups can [apply for the Violence and Vulnerability Community Grant](#) via the online application form.

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

[Tax-free childcare is a government scheme](#) to help working families save on their childcare costs.

Eligible working parents and carers can get up to £500 every three months (up to £2,000 a year per child). If your child has a disability, you can get up to £1,000 every three months (up to £4,000 a year per child). You can use it to pay for approved registered childcare including:

- childminders
- nurseries and pre-schools
- holiday play schemes
- before and after school clubs

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES TO OFFER APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Want to recruit an apprentice but don't know where to start? Our Apprenticeship Hub is here to help. Our team of dedicated experts can guide employers through the application, training and hiring process. Small businesses may be eligible to secure funding to cover the training costs.

Support young people, upskill your employees and retain talent. [Get in touch with the Apprenticeship Hub today.](#)

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