

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Conference: RESORTING TO THE COAST: VALUING THE PAST TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

FRIDAY 27TH APRIL 2018

10.30AM TO 4.30PM

(refreshments from 10.00am)



TENDRING  
COASTAL  
HERITAGE  
RESORTING  
TO THE COAST

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

'Resorting to the coast' has been a national pastime since the Victorian period, evolving to address demographic changes, greater mobility, fluctuating levels of prosperity and competing leisure activities.

The conference will look at the current issues in the national debate around seaside coastal resorts in relation to promoting their often unsung heritage. Specifically, our focus will be on the Tendring coastal resorts of Dovercourt, Walton, Frinton, Clacton and Jaywick Sands. Local history groups associated with these resorts are heavily involved in archiving and promoting their seaside heritage, but we ask whether this valued work is sufficient to resuscitate the 'Great British Seaside Holiday' as an object of desire, or is it time to wipe the slate clean and start from scratch?

**Getting here:** Free car parking at the venue: <http://columbinecentre.co.uk/map.html>

(Trains depart at 8:16am from London Liverpool Street to Walton-on-the-Naze, arriving at 9:50am.  
Trains return to London Liverpool Street at 5pm.)

Resorting to the Coast website: [www.tendringcoastalheritage.org.uk](http://www.tendringcoastalheritage.org.uk)

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

10:00	Registration, teas/coffees on arrival
10:30	Welcome: Resorting to the Coast project coordinator: Juliana Vandegrift  Conference host: Dr. Toby Butler (Historian)
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>SEASIDE ENTERTAINMENT &amp; TOURISM</b>
10:45	<b>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tony Lidington</b> 'British seaside entertainments 1891 to the present: an overview'
11:15	<b>Guest speaker: Dr. Kathryn Ferry</b> 'Holidays with Play: Butlin's at Clacton 1938-83'
11:45	Plenary session: Seaside Entertainment and Tourism:  Led by Toby Butler with Tony Lidington and Kathryn Ferry
12:00	Coffee & biscuits

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES: PAST, PRESENT &amp; FUTURE</b>
12:20	<p>A series of short presentations by local heritage societies, followed with discussion led by Toby Butler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Roger Kennell, Chairman of Clacton VGH Group</li> <li>· Dr. Josie Close, Curator of Walton Maritime Museum</li> <li>· David Whittle, Vice-chairman of the Harwich Society</li> </ul>
1:15	<p><b>Buffet lunch provided</b></p> <p>Lunchtime activities  <b>Cinema film screening:</b> - a selection of local seaside films</p> <p><b>History Fair :</b> Jaywick History Society, Clacton and District Local History Society, Harwich Society, Walton Maritime Museum, Mercury Theatre (Walton Primary School), Seaside Heritage Network, Friends of Jaywick Martello Tower, Curator's Corner and The Grand Theatre of Lemmings</p> <p><b>Curator's corner</b> - experts talk about their favourite seaside objects/photos</p>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>HERITAGE &amp; REGENERATION</b>
2:30	<p>Club Critical Theory discussion and debate session hosted by Dr. Andrew Branch (University of East London)</p> <p>Dr. Daniel Burdsey (Brighton University)  Dr. Tim Gale (Bournemouth University)  Tim Burrows (Journalist)  Joanne O'Connor (Journalist)</p> <p>Challenging talks on seaside cultures including forgotten communities, regeneration, resentment, Heritage culture and diversity in terms of engagement. Successful examples of coastal towns which have regenerated and also ones where it didn't work and the pitfalls to watch out for</p>

3:30	Tea and cake
4:00	Panel session Q&A (all speakers) hosted by Dr. Toby Butler, audience participation
4:30	Conference ends (trains depart from Walton at 5pm)

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Dr. Tony Lidington** - Tony is a researcher and practitioner of seaside entertainment specialising in historical popular entertainments and their application to contemporary contexts at Exeter University. Tony founded 'The Pierrotters' in 1983 (Britain's last professional seaside pierrot troupe), performing for 27 years throughout the country and opening the National Theatre of Variety at Blackpool Grand. He was presented to Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution to British popular culture. Recently, he has taught the subject to a wide range of audiences through television, radio and community projects. Currently, he is developing a project to animate the pierrot archives located in Llandudno and has filmed a SkyArts documentary about Walter Sickert's painting 'The Brighton Pierrots', as well as advised the BBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are' episode about Lee Mack's pierrot ancestry. Tony is a performer with the 'Resorting to the Coast' project and is currently in negotiation with Bloomsbury Publishing to write the book of 'British Pierrots and Concert Parties'. [www.prom-prom.com](http://www.prom-prom.com)  
[info@prom-prom.com](mailto:info@prom-prom.com)

**Dr. Kathryn Ferry** - Dr Kathryn Ferry is a historian specialising in architecture, design and seaside culture. After completing her PhD at the University of Cambridge she went to work for conservation charity The Victorian Society, campaigning for seaside heritage as part of her job. Since 2007 she has been a freelance writer and lecturer, publishing books on subjects including beach huts, holiday camps and bungalows. In 2016 she was invited to write the official history of Butlin's to celebrate the company's eightieth anniversary. She is currently researching the life of Victorian pier engineer Eugenius Birch, writing a biography of Sir Billy Butlin and compiling a history of the seaside in 100 objects to be published next year. [www.kathrynferry.co.uk](http://www.kathrynferry.co.uk) @SeasideFerry

**Mr. David Whittle** – vice-chairman of the Harwich Society, regular guest speaker with a wide-ranging catalogue of talks on the subjects of historical Harwich and Dovercourt. Mr Whittle organises the annual Harwich History Fair with colleagues and is a popular tour guide for the town. <http://www.harwich-society.co.uk/>

**Mr. Roger Kennell** - Roger has an enthusiastic interest in researching the history of Clacton-on-Sea and its local area, especially Holland-on-Sea where he was born during the Second World War. The area has a long history, and has been recognised as a vulnerable coastline through the centuries for the attention of any invader of our shores. It is however the modern seaside development from the 19th century which it is generally recognized

for. Roger is Chairman of the Clacton VCH Group, a committee member of the Clacton & District Local History Society, Historian for the Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust, and History Recorder for Holland-on-Sea. Education is an important outlet for his research not researched via presentations and publications. Living now in Suffolk for over fifty years his affinity for his place of birth has not diminished. [www.clactonhistory.co.uk/](http://www.clactonhistory.co.uk/)

**Dr. Josie Close** – volunteers for the Tendring Coastal Heritage Group and is the volunteer curator of the Walton Maritime Museum. The museum is organised by members of the Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust who are all volunteers. Josie calls herself a relative newcomer to Walton but is immensely keen on promoting Walton's long and fascinating heritage going back to its geological history – 23 million years ago – but also its 19th century expansion as a consciously planned 'resort' by entrepreneurs of that era. Being part of Resorting to the Coast aka Tendring Coastal Heritage (TCHG) makes it easier to link to others keen to highlight the area's heritage, common interests and generate new events and even jobs too.

**Dr. Toby Butler** - Dr Toby Butler is a freelance historian and heritage consultant. He has previously led history heritage studies programmes as Reader in history at the University of East London. Toby's research interests include oral history, digital heritage, historical interpretation in museums and the social and cultural history of hop picking. Toby has directed and worked on community and oral history projects in India, the USA, Wales and England. Toby is known internationally for his work exploring how history and memory can be used to interpret places and their pasts. He has a particular interest in using place-based multi-media ([www.memoryscape.org.uk](http://www.memoryscape.org.uk)). He project directed for the 'Ports of Call' project, working with community groups and artists around the docks of East London to map and historically interpret the area ([www.portsofcall.org.uk](http://www.portsofcall.org.uk)) and more recently the Bethnal Green Disaster Memorial Project ([www.bgmemorial.org.uk](http://www.bgmemorial.org.uk)) and Groundbreakers, focused on interpreting the pre-Olympic history of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford.  
Email: [tobybutler1@gmail.com](mailto:tobybutler1@gmail.com)

**Dr. Daniel Burdsey** - Dr. Daniel Burdsey is a Reader and Deputy Head of School (Research and Enterprise) in the School of Sport and Service Management at the University of Brighton, and an Associate Professor (status only) at the University of Toronto. His research addresses issues of race, ethnicity and popular culture. It is linked fundamentally by its central theme of qualitative observational research on ethnicities as lived in public cultures/spaces, and emphasises notions of social justice, sociological intervention and academic activism. Most recently his work has focused – theoretically and empirically – on the English seaside, comprising a large-scale ethnographic study in a seaside town of the ways in which this environment reinforces/challenges processes of racialisation. This work is published in the journals *Cultural Sociology* and *Patterns of Prejudice*, and in the monograph *Race, Place and the Seaside: Postcards from the Edge* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). Daniel was born, and continues to live, on the south coast in Brighton.

**Dr. Tim Gale** - Tim lectures in tourism management at Bournemouth University. His research interests include new tourism spaces, places and experiences (such as urban beaches, virtual worlds and immersive events and performances), and tourism education/ pedagogy. These interests are underpinned by ideas associated with the 'new mobilities paradigm' and critical realism as a philosophy of/ for the social sciences. Tim uses multi-method empirical studies to inform his published work, including the three books he has co-edited. Tim's involvement with the design, data capture and analysis for surveys of visitors to Bristol Urban Beach and the 2010 Isle of Man TT (Tourist Trophy) Races illustrates the potential in much of his work for industry engagement and impact.

**Tim Burrows** - Tim Burrows is a Guardian journalist and writer. A recurring subject in his writing is the politics of regeneration in London, Essex and the east of England. He is currently working on a book about Essex.

**Joanne O'Connor** - Joanne O'Connor is a journalist writing about the arts, culture and travel for the Observer, the Guardian and the Financial Times. She lives in Essex.

## TENDRING COASTAL HERITAGE GROUP AND PARTNERS

**Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust** - Established in 1984, Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust exists to consolidate historical knowledge of the local area and provide public access to the archives, artefacts and exhibits that tell the story of our community's past. [www.fwheritage.co.uk](http://www.fwheritage.co.uk)

**Walton Community Forum** - The Walton Forum was established in 2001 and has a wide range of members including representatives from local businesses, services and communities groups. It was formed to steer the regeneration of Walton. [www.fwheritage.co.uk](http://www.fwheritage.co.uk)

**Jaywick Martello Tower** - Jaywick Martello Tower supports creative collaborations relating to the themes of Community, Heritage and Environment that affect our lives today. We pursue opportunities and ventures that make this not only a gallery, workshop space or meeting point but all of these things. [www.jaywickmartellotower.org](http://www.jaywickmartellotower.org)

**Clacton & District Local History Society** - The Clacton & District Local History Society was formed in 1985 to research, record and promote the history of Clacton & District. [www.clactonhistory.co.uk](http://www.clactonhistory.co.uk)

**Clacton Museum (based in Clacton Library)** - Photos and information from the local History Society on Clacton and surrounding areas are displayed in an exhibit within the library.

**Harwich Society** - Founded in 1969, the Harwich Society now has a membership of over 2,000 in a town with a population of 18,000. [www.harwich-society.co.uk](http://www.harwich-society.co.uk)

**The Grand Theatre of Lemmings** - We are a theatre company based in Essex who first came up with the idea of Resorting to the Coast. We have a reputation for producing engaging shows across the world and are specialists in the outdoor arts, as well as educational and community projects. We will be producing a seaside entertainment show and a touring exhibition as part of the Resorting to the Coast project this year. [www.lemmingstheatre.co.uk](http://www.lemmingstheatre.co.uk)

**Jaywick History Society** - Jaywick Local History Society is a friendly group with members sharing a common interest in the history of Jaywick and the local area. We enjoy finding out about our seaside village in the past, and sharing the information that we find. <https://www.essexinfo.net/jaywick-local-history-society/about-us/>

**Mercury Theatre** - A highly respected regional theatre staging a broad mix of classics and new writing as well as working extensively within the local community. Mercury are delivering our Resorting to the Coast schools

programme with 10 primary schools across Tendring. Our website posts regular blogs about the programme and a schools resource pack will be available to download later this year. [www.tendringcoastalheritage.org.uk](http://www.tendringcoastalheritage.org.uk)

## CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

The University of East London, Essex County Council and the Cultural Engine social enterprise based in South Essex have co-organised this all day conference as part of Resorting to the Coast, a Heritage Lottery Funded and Essex County Council project, supported by Tendring District Council.

This conference is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Essex County Council and the University of East London.

RTTC Project Lead: Juliana Vandegrift (Essex County Council)

[Juliana.vandegrift@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Juliana.vandegrift@essex.gov.uk) and [www.tendringcoastalheritage.org.uk](http://www.tendringcoastalheritage.org.uk)

University of East London Civic Engagement Project Lead: Dr. Tony Sampson [t.d.sampson@uel.ac.uk](mailto:t.d.sampson@uel.ac.uk)

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Toby Butler (Historian)

Dr. Andrew Branch (UEL)

Giles Tofield and Peter Vadden (Cultural Engine Social Enterprise)

## UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON PROJECT TEAM

Social Media: Katie Holland

Programme Co-ordinators: Rebecca Gilchrist and Jessica Currie

Conference Activities and Events Management: Naomi Nanor and Amy Marks

Graphic Designer: Laetitia Zanga



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COASTAL  
HERITAGE**  
RESORTING  
TO THE COAST

**TELLING THE STORY OF THE UNIQUE SEASIDE  
HISTORY OF TENDRING RESORTS**

