

# MuseumsMonthly

The latest news and announcements from Southend Museums Service.

This month...

**Southend-on-Sea becomes a City!**

**147 Women**

On display until 27th March.

**Brothers in Art**

On display until 3rd April.

**Homeland is Presence**

**From the Planetarium:**

**Collecting the dots in the Night Sky**

**Upcoming Events**

A Teddy Bear Hunt

## Southend Museums

Southend Central Museum

The Beecroft Art Gallery

Prittlewell Priory

Southchurch Hall

[www.southendmuseums.co.uk](http://www.southendmuseums.co.uk)



Images from City Day, Tuesday 1st March 2022.

Photos from Southend-on-Sea City Council

## City of Southend-on-Sea

On 1st March 2022 Southend-on-Sea formally became a City, having been awarded City status in honour of Sir David Amess, MP.

Their Royal Highnesses (TRH) The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall presented the letters patent to The Worshipful The Mayor, Cllr Margaret Borton as part of a special council meeting.

Museums are a huge part of the city moving forward so we are happy to share our video with you showcasing the history and heritage of Southend!

You can find the video on Southend-on-Sea City Council youtube channel or our website: <https://www.southendmuseums.co.uk/>

# Beecroft Art Gallery: Exhibitions

## Brothers in Art: Walter & Harold Steggles & The East London Group

The last chance to see this wonderful exhibition that has captivated audiences, healed the sick, and brought dog and cat closer than ever thought possible.

Brothers in Art follows the journey of two brothers and a group of untrained east end artists from evening classes in 1920s Bow to the Tate, the Venice Biennale to post-war obscurity.

This exhibition captures these enigmatic works not seen together for 90 years for perhaps one last time.

To mark English Tourism Week Lord Parkinson paid visit to our Beecroft Art Gallery to see the exhibition. Lord Parkinson, who was visiting Southend for the first time, talked to us about his passion for art and found the exhibition to be 'superb'.



Brothers in Art, Beecroft Art Gallery



Lord Parkinson visiting Beecroft Art Gallery  
© DCMS

## '147 Women' by Mande Gage & Sophie Parkin As part of our #iwd2022 celebrations

147 pieces of hand-made and painted ceramic, dedicated to 147 incredible women of this country who have made the world better created by Mande Gage and Sophie Parkin. Laid out like a dinner party in homage to Judy Chicago. This work explores Brexit, British Identity, philosophy, humanity, history, memory and the collective consciousness of us all.

'147 Women' will be displayed between Saturday 5th - Sunday 27th March.



Sophie Parkin is an artist, writer, mother, broadcaster, journalist and business woman, co-owner of Vout-O-Reenees and The Stash Gallery. She has published nine books including 'The Colony Room Club: a history of Soho', 4 one women shows and co-presenter and producer of podcast @ShadowSpies.

Mande Gage is a mixed media artist, teacher, and ceramicist whose work refers to human rights, the environment and societies engagement with it. Gage ran Hybrid Art and Science group for 10 years. She has shown extensively in the UK and internationally from Oaxaca in Mexico to the Venice Biennale.

## New display: Homeland is Presence



Homeland is Presence, Beecroft Art Gallery

The Essex Feminist Forum exhibition is heading towards its final weeks. Alongside the hugely popular 'Weddings through the generations', a display of stunning Muslim wedding celebrations dresses, the exhibition is now enriched with a new display. 'Homeland is Presence' by Lora Aziz is the result of the artists research into foraging and traditional remedies.

The exhibition is the result of a series of workshops conducted by the artist with local Essex women from different cultures and nationalities.

Curious to know which seaweeds and local flowers are edible?

Want to learn exciting foraging recipes?

Come to visit the Essex Feminist Forum at the Beecroft Art Gallery!

## Constellations: Connecting the 'Dots' in the Night Sky

Constellations are groups of stars that appear to form identifiable patterns in the sky. Ancient cultures viewed the Night Sky as a giant 'dot-to-dot' and saw gods, goddesses, heroes, animals, and even objects. Many of the constellations have myths or stories associated with them.

Around 150AD the astronomer Ptolemy listed 48 constellations, and these have been added to over time. In 1925 the International Astronomical Union divided the Night Sky into 88 official constellations.

Not all constellations can be seen from the UK, and whilst some are seasonal, others are always visible in our Night Sky (British weather permitting!).

For an immersive look into constellations & other night sky objects - book a planetarium show by giving us a call on 01702 212345.



Southern Constellations Map  
© NASA



# Upcoming Events

## Barbara & the lost Teddy Bears

Our Teddy Bear Hunt is back!

From the 2nd - 18th April: get your eagle eyes ready to help find the lost teddy bears at Prittlewell Priory!

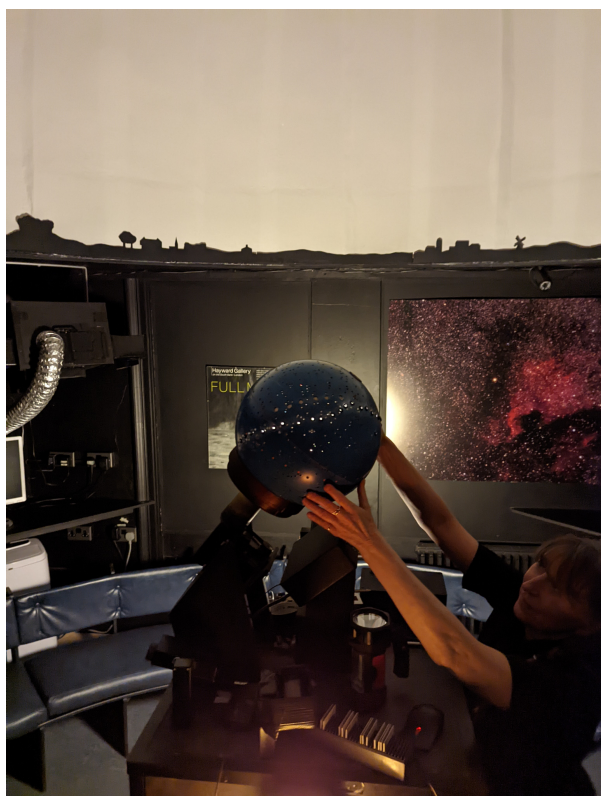
Be sure to check our website for our opening times in advance! Each trail with a pencil is £2.50!

<https://www.southendmuseums.co.uk/>

The Teddy Bear Hunt will be taking place in the Prittlewell Priory, Priory Park.



## Southend Planetarium is now open!



Explore the sun, stars and planets with us in a live presented show in our Planetarium! The Planetarium reopened on Saturday 5th March with sold out shows across the weekend. Our lovely Visitor Engagement Officers, Wendy and Jacqui expertly delivered the shows and are so excited to have the only Planetarium in the South East outside of London back open.

If you would like to see a Planetarium show yourself, tickets are £6.60 for adults and £4.60 for children, with shows happening 14:00 on Saturdays and Sundays plus school holidays. To find out about availability and to book, please call 01702 212345. We look forward to welcoming you in soon!