

All Day 28th & 29th June 2025

Sleeping with the Dead



At **12:30 -13:00** and **16:30 - 17:00** on **28th** and **29th June**, we will be **“Sleeping with the Dead”**, tuning into over a hundred heartbeats donated by the people of Canvey and beyond, energising the bedlam database over **Stuart Bowditch’s** subterranean recordings from Bedlam Mass Grave and Willow Cemetery. You don’t need to book this session, if you want to participate please bring a ground mat for comfort. **No need to book**

Stuart Bowditch is an Essex-based artist and sound recordist whose work explores the sonic landscapes of the overlooked and peripheral places.

Wallasea Island Dorodango by Sylak Ravenspine

Throughout both days, **Sylak** invites you to create shiny mud balls, or ‘Hikaru Dorodango’ in Japanese. Dive into the past and get your hands dirty with the rich, layered soil of Essex - featuring a special bucketful from Wallasea Island, where earth from the Bedlam Cemetery was relocated. **No need to book**



Sylak Ravenspine is an eco-ink maker and designer based in Essex. He gathers virtually all his materials by hand across the post-industrial landscapes of South Essex.

Sat 28th June 2025

How Did the Poor Old Bones of Canvey Arrive on the Island?

11:00–12:30: with **John & Nicola Cribb** (T. Cribb and Sons), **Robert Hartle** (archaeologist), and **Graham Harwood** (YoHa) **Please Book**

T. Cribb and Sons was established in 1881 and has served the diversity of east end families and their diaspora ever since. **John Cribb** and **Graham Cribb** have been working to



create a funerary museum and were instrumental in forming TCS Exhumations, with **Nichola** who was responsible for day-to-day operations in the exhumation. **John** will talk about “The Changing Face of Burials in London Over the Past 400 Years.”

Robert Hartle’s research focuses on the archaeology and history of bodysnatching in London, c. 1700–1832. He was a key archaeologist on The New Churchyard (Bedlam Cemetery) project for the Museum of London.



Left: T. Cribb are going to display their Funeral Bier, Shillibeer and Bedford Van. Graham (Cribb) may bring his donkeys for the weekend!

Right: Robert will bring a two third size reproduction of Captain Matthew Flinders’ coffin from Bedlam Cemetery for this talk.



Bedlam, AI, Grief and Loss by Syd Moore

14:00–16:30: This workshop explores how artificial intelligence encounters grief and loss, contrasted with John Tickhill, a rent collector in 1395, describing a walk into Bishopswood which at that time was a wooded area near the old Bethlehem Asylum. Today, that forest is gone, buried beneath roads and concrete—but the emotion survives. **Please Book**



Syd Moore is a British author, former television presenter, and activist best known for her Essex Witch Museum Mysteries series, blending supernatural themes with historical intrigue and feminist narratives.

Sun 29th June 2025

What is the Place of Art and Cultural Practice Within Death and Remembrance?

11:00–12:30: Roundtable with **Tom King** (Writer/journalist), **Andrea Cunningham** (Metal Culture Southend), **Graham Harwood** (YoHa, Goldsmiths) **Please Book**

HS2 has requested the excavation of over 30,000 bodies from its intended path—just one of many infrastructure projects that involve large-scale disinterment and reburial. How can socially engaged art or cultural practice operate in this space? What role can artists play in archaeology—or when life is ending?

Tom King was a chief features writer for the Southend Echo. He



is the author of *Thames Estuary Trail: A Walk Round the End of the World and The Long Path Through the Woods*, documenting a 1,500-mile walk through England’s ancient forests.

Andrea Cunningham is Director of Metal Culture Southend, a national arts organisation, and was previously Head of Learning & Skills at the V&A Museum of Childhood.



Graham Harwood is co-founder of YoHa and Reader in Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Nicholas Culpeper, Palestinian plant medicine by Lora Aziz



11:00–15:00: A walk and talk focusing on specific plants, weaving in Nicholas Culpeper’s radical democratisation of medical knowledge (associated with the grave), women herbalists in 17th-century London, and contemporary Palestinian plant medicine being used today. **Please Book**

Lora Aziz is a British-Egyptian interdisciplinary artist, author, and wildcrafter based in Essex, known for her work in visual anthropology, herbalism, and experimental calligraphy.

Canvey: A Space of Dreams by Lesley Morris & Jill Westwood

14:00–16:30: You are invited to a Social Dream Matrix for “Sleeping with the Dead”. Lets re-remember the forgotten souls of Bethlehem Cemetery—collapsed bones beneath the city’s muddy veil. Under the skin of the living, shrouds of memory unfold. Let the spirit of Dr. Feelgood guide us in awakening the echoes of the past, releasing the soul of a place too often overlooked.



Lesley Morris

Social Dreaming Matrix is where people participate in one another’s dreams—whether night dreams or associations. This session explores how shared social meaning can emerge through art-making and group discussion. Participants are encouraged to observe and reflect on their dreams in the lead-up to the event.

Please Book

Lesley Morris & Jill Westwood are artists, art psychotherapists, and educators whose 15-year collaboration—rooted in life along the Thames—draws on new materialist thought. They use art as enquiry to explore materiality, space-time entanglements, and the call of the wild within the cosmic unknown.



Jill Westwood

Accessibility: If you have any specific access requirements (such as BSL interpreter) please contact Graham or Matsuko to discuss how we can meet your needs, we will do our best to accommodate you. Email <info@yoha.co.uk>

We will have a large marquee with a good stock of art supplies so if you want to add your own thoughts or art to the activities please come along and draw, paint, perform, meditate, cast a spell or say a prayer for the poor old bones of Canvey.

Please book for all workshops to avoid disappointment as places are limited. Although you can also just turn up and take a chance.

<https://www.estuaryfestival.com/event2025/detail/sleeping-with-the-dead.html>



Access to booking page

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About YoHa

YoHa (余波 Japanese for ‘aftermath’) Graham Harwood and Matsuko Yokokoji

For over 20 years, international artists **YoHa** have lived and worked around the Thames Estuary. From 2004–2007, they co-founded the **Mediashed** in Southend and restored Lady B an 80-year-old yacht with help from the Belton Way Small Craft Club in Leigh. In 2014/15, they co-produced **“Wrecked on the Intertidal Zone”** with Arts Catalyst, involving local artists, fishermen, and international collaborators. The project helped inspire the first Estuary Festival in 2016.

YoHa later created the **“Wasted”** series, exploring pollution and waste with retired waste workers from Southend, **“Wasted Bird Hide”** (Estuary 2021) and **“Wasted Museum”** (Erith, 2022). For Estuary 2025, they have developed **“Sleeping with the Dead”** in collaboration with the people of Canvey and beyond.

About “Sleeping with the dead”

“Sleeping with the dead” is co-produced with **Creative Estuary**, with support from **Castle Point Borough Council’s** UKSPF fund, **Arts Council England** and is a commission of **Estuary Festival** for Estuary 2025.

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Estuary Festival

Estuary 2025 - Vessels: looking beyond the boats and ships of the Thames Estuary, to explore how communities, people, flora, fauna and even art events might be thought of as vessels too, carrying stories, memories and ideas.

Estuary Festival Contact:
info@estuaryfestival.com
<https://www.estuaryfestival.com/>
<https://www.instagram.com/estuaryfestival/>
<https://www.facebook.com/estuaryfestival>

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