



Write On

SEPTEMBER

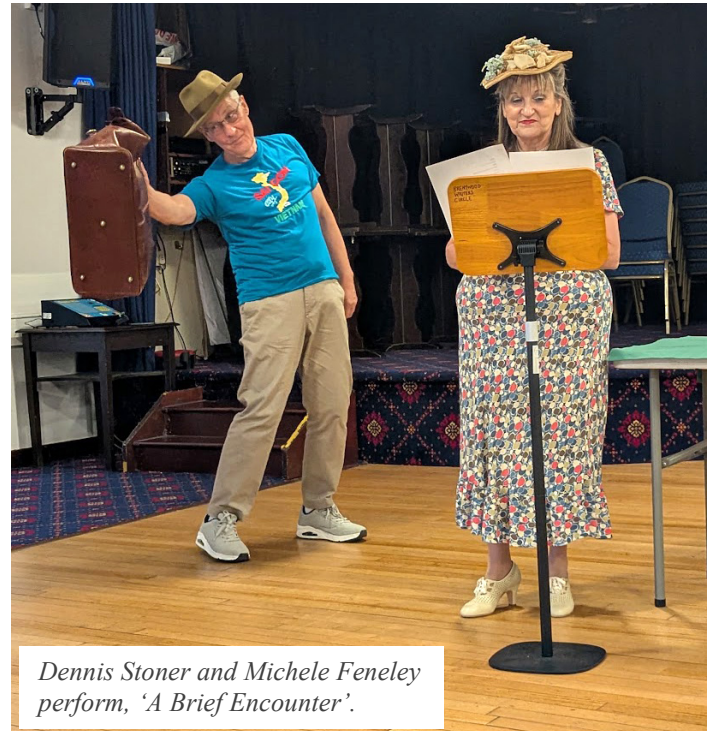
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AUGUST REPORT

The Circle's wannabe thespians seeking accolades such as an Oscar nomination may be disappointed, but everyone entered into the spirit of our August script writing workshop with gusto and the entertainment value could not be faulted. A few had come prepared with their 150 to 200 word script, having responded to the notes sent in advance of the meeting, while others applied themselves diligently to writing one on the spot. **Dennis Stoner**, whose idea it was for a script writing/screenplay workshop, introduced the session with some guidelines, before performing his own script, entitled, 'A Brief Encounter' with the help of fellow 'actors', Robert Welham and Michele Feneley, who was wonderfully attired in period costume. As Rachel Langham couldn't make the meeting, there was some spontaneous doubling up of parts, which only added to the fun, although it was probably meant to be a serious romantic piece.

Eight other people performed their screen plays, some recruiting fellow members to act parts, others presenting a monologue. All the pieces were jovial and contained a punch line, which kept the audience engaged and entertained. When **Brian Hughes** read his monologue, he also provided some tips about performing on stage, for example, always address the audience, not the other actors. **Eve Bolt** told us to send scripts to the BBC as PDFs and **Janet Howsen** mentioned that writing for radio is more difficult than writing for TV, as the dialogue has to express what is happening, there being no visual clues. In her time as a journalist, **Sylvia Kent** has interviewed many celebrities, which is probably how she came across a few pages of a script for the long-running TV series based on Colin Dexter's novels, 'Morse'. It was useful to see how a script is professionally formatted. It also contained hand-written notes, added by an unknown hand, perhaps the director. Befitting what is known as, 'The Silly Season' (a phrase first attested in 1861, apparently) there was much laughter during this fun session, but for those who are interested in writing scripts there was some helpful information too. There are many writing courses run by the Open University, including writing for radio and writing a play. Some courses are free. <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>



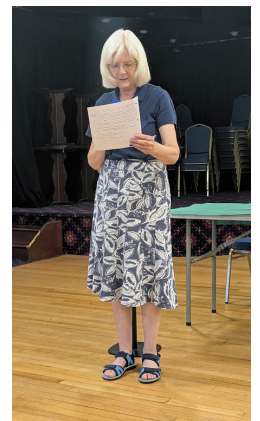
Dennis Stoner and Michele Feneley perform, 'A Brief Encounter'.

In addition to the scripts, Michele Feneley read her winning story for the Jack Kendall Fiction Competition, 'The Granite Pulse of Oslo', about a cartographer who is grieving the loss of his wife. He comes across a statue, described in Michele's story as a stampede of humanity, which suggests to him that people connect to one another. The experience leads him to accept a new post and to continue with his life in a more positive manner. Jim Reeve ended the meeting by reading the synopsis of his recently published novel, 'The Survivor's Daughter'.

Julie Gowers



Left: Patrick Forsyth and Sam Hammerson, and right: Julia McKay were among the afternoon's performers.



SEPTEMBER MEETING
AGM and Members' Showcase

Join
ESSEX LIFE
at our wonderful Literary Lunch

MEET TWO OF ESSEX'S MOST LOVED AUTHORS

presented by
VALKYRIE



Essex Life brings you the opportunity to meet 2 of Essex's best-known authors, Liv Andrews & Syd Moore, whilst also enjoying a three-course lunch. This exclusive, limited ticket event will be held at the beautiful Little Channels, Chelmsford, on 22nd September 2026.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Welcome drink, 3 course lunch with wine, tea and coffee and petit fours • Meet Essex Life's editor, Katy Pearson
- Hear from Liv Andrews and Syd Moore reflecting on their new and previous books • Exclusive book signing
- With the talented Lauren Adams providing background music during the afternoon this is sure to be an event not to miss.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

Scan the QR code to book your tickets or visit [store.essexlife.co.uk/essex-life-literary-lunch-ticket](https://www.essexlife.co.uk/essex-life-literary-lunch-ticket)



Essex Life Literary Lunch features authors Liv Andrews and Syd Moore. The event takes place on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026**, at Little Channels in Chelmsford, offering a three-course meal, live music, and Q&A sessions.

Reminder:
Only members may read at Showcase Meetings.

OUR PROGRESS

MICHELE FENELEY – I submitted 'In Two Minds' (the Rachmaninoff thriller story) to Writers' Magazine for a competition.

COLIN TAYLOR – Completed children's story, 'A Mystical Quest'. Cover being made.

DENNIS STONER – 'Hearts & Minds', my semi-autobiographical book with added short stories has been sent to publisher for final formatting.

JULIE GOWERS – Read 'Parents' Evening' and performed 'Hen Picked' at The Great Dane, East Preston.

JIM REEVE – Novel, 'The Survivor's Daughter', published.

SYLVIA KENT – Three articles in Essex Press and a book signing in Waterstones.

SELF PUB-FEST

Dennis Stoner told us about the Self-Pub Fest, a non-profit book festival founded by Morgen Bailey that celebrates and supports independent and self-published authors through free online events, held every second Sunday of the month.

There are also live meet-ups, such as events in Aylesbury, with ticket proceeds supporting charities. Virtually all online sessions and author participation are completely free, operating on a donation basis. To get a flavour of an online meeting and an in-person event visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMwzGsFgMjE>

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRHpRICBwgQ>

The next Full-Day In-Person Festival is on:

Sunday 4th October 2026: at The Holiday Inn, Aylesbury. This includes multi-author panels, a bookshop to buy and sell works, and networking opportunities. Dennis will be on the marketing panel.

Two guests were welcomed to the meeting: **Richard Watts**, who attended as a student back in the 2000s, and **Eve Bolt**, who joined at the August meeting.

ATTENDANCE FOR AUGUST: 18 members; 2 guests = 20



Left: Jim Reeve with his newly published novel. Right: Julie and Colin perform, 'Hen Picked'.

NOTICES

1 Julie Gowers, who was standing in for Chair, Helen Finch, reminded members that the September meeting is our AGM, followed by a Members' Showcase. The current committee members are prepared to stand for re-election to the committee, except for Rachel Langran, who has had to step down sadly for personal reasons.

2 The October meeting is our Writers' Day, with two speakers and the usual complimentary refreshments and buffet lunch. Tickets are £15 for members and £20 for guests. Posters will be sent to members for distribution to friends, bookshops, libraries etc.



Brentwood Writers Circle
is a member of
Brentwood Arts Council

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2026

October 3rd Writers' Day 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

with Margaret Mills and Erica James.

Members: £15. Guests: £20. Ticket includes refreshments and buffet lunch.

November 5th – Members' Showcase

Members showcase their writing. Nancy Meggs Competition closing date.

December 5th Christmas Party

Winners of the Nancy Meggs Non-Fiction Competition read their entries.
Sale of members' published work.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Write On is compiled
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