The Visit Essex board

George Kieffer – Chairman

George Kieffer is Chairman of the Haven Gateway Partnership, a public private sector partnership for the growth area of North Essex and South Suffolk, to encourage economic development and build on the area's significant maritime assets. He is also currently Vice-Chair of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership comprising the local government administrative areas of East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend & Thurrock and a Member of the National Growth Programme Board for European Structural & Investment Funds as well as Chair of the South East ESIF Committee.

He is Chair of Estuary Housing Association and Deputy Chairman of the Harwich Haven Authority, the conservancy and pilotage authority for the Haven Ports, covering the ports of Felixstowe, Ipswich, Harwich International, Harwich Navyard and Mistley. George serves as a member of the Enterprise and Industrial Advisory Boards of the University of Essex and the Greater Essex Business Board and is also a Trustee of Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, near Maldon.

He served on the East of England Tourist Board as the nominee of EEDA from 2002 until 2007 and was instrumental in restructuring the business and the Board.

Councillor Sue Lissimore

Sue Lissimore has been a Borough Councillor at Colchester for 8 years and a County Councillor for over 2 years. She grew up around Clacton-on-Sea and worked for the tourist industry as a teenager. Having lived in Colchester for 25 years now, she is very proud of the town's Roman heritage and enjoys walking her dogs around the local archaeological parks. She became involved in Visit Essex as Deputy Cabinet member for Economic Development and enjoys visiting different parts of the county and relishes the diversity of attractions, eateries and accommodation on offer. She has enjoyed promoting Essex when visiting the Jiangsu province of China on behalf of the County Council.

David Adlington

David is Head of Enterprise at Essex County Council, overseeing ECC’s programme of strategic enterprise and innovation initiatives aimed at securing economic growth and prosperity, which includes ECC’s tourism promotion activity, Visit Essex.

Prior to joining ECC, David worked in the electronics & communications industry in a number of design, engineering management and leadership roles at several UK and overseas locations, latterly including a variety of marketing and communications, external relations and facility management responsibilities.

David is a Chartered Engineer and a Member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, and a Member of the Industrial Advisory Board of the University of Essex.
Chris Philpot

Chris is a director of the family owned and operated tourism destination, Barleylands. He has been heavily involved in the development of the business over the last 19 years. Chris has always been keen to see all sectors of the Tourism Industry in Essex working together and is very pleased to serve on the new Visit Essex board.

David Eve

David is Managing Director of Standing Ovation Entertainments Ltd who since 2007 have operated the website www.essex-live.co.uk a one stop shop for Essex entertainment and events tickets. Over 15 years David has gained a wide range of experiences working in the entertainment ticketing, international travel trade and restaurant industries.

Dominic Petre

He helps his father, Lord Petre, to run the family estate, including Ingatestone Hall, which comprises of both in-hand and let farms, woodland a historic house open to the public and a variety of let residential property. Since the year 2000 he has served on the management committee of the Essex Tourism Association, now part of Visit Essex, including a period as chairman (2003-2008). He is also involved in a diverse number of societies, organisations and charities.

Graham McGregor

Graham is the hotel manager of the County Hotel in Chelmsford, with some 28 years’ experience in the industry, for the last 12 years he has been a general manager. He is as enthusiastic now about delivering high levels of hospitality as he was when he started. He also believes in supporting local suppliers and buying fresh and seasonal produce, and actively encourages training and development of his team.

Jim Gallie

Proprietor of the Battlesbridge Antiques Centre and Frasers Guest House. He is also involved with the Motorcycle Museum and associated Classic Car and Motorcycle Shows held throughout the year at our showground. We also host other events including The Essex Boat Jumble several Caravan Rallies and Classic Vehicle Club Days. Jim has been a past Chairman and Director of the ETA.
Karen Turnbull
Karen has worked in economic development and tourism for Colchester Borough Council for over 20 years having previously worked in marketing in the private sector. She is responsible for the strategic direction of tourism in Colchester and the surrounding area, developing the destination and tourism infrastructure of Colchester and working with tourism operators to improve services for visitors once they arrive.

J Peter Murphy
Owner & Chief Executive of CHMC Peter has over 20 years’ experience working with Starwood Hotels and Resorts throughout Europe, one of the world’s leading hospitality companies. He then became Managing Director for Macdonald Hotels UK where his role was to spearhead change, innovation and structural initiatives to build the profitability of the business. Peter is now Chief Executive of CHMC Hospitality, a consultant with Hotel Solutions Partnership in London and joint owner of Lifehouse Spa & Hotel. He is an established figure in the hospitality industry, with a reputation within the sector for delivering operational excellence, leadership and financial performance.

Richard Karn
Richard is Managing Director of regional media business, Local World in the South East. Local World was formed on 1 January 2013 to lead a rejuvenation of regional media in the UK and is the parent organisation for familiar and popular newspaper brands like the Essex Chronicle and Brentwood Gazette and websites like essexchronicle.co.uk. Richard's responsibilities for the last eleven years cover publishing strategy and editorial/commercial performance across four publishing centres based in Chelmsford, Hertford, Bishops Stortford, Redhill, Tunbridge Wells, Broadstairs and Folkestone.

Scott Dolling
Scott is Head of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism at Southend Borough Council. With tourism marketing, resort management and visitor attraction all in Scott's brief, he has a close liaison with various aspects of the industry. Prior to joining Southend in 2008, Scott was the destination marketing manager for the Suffolk Tourism Partnership setting up some of the early stages of its development. Scott's aspirations for the Visit Essex board are to help improve the perception of the county, which he knows to be of high quality but can suffer from negative misconceptions.
Sheila Charrington

Sheila and her husband Nick are the owners of Layer Marney Tower where they live with their children. They also own Tymperleys, in Colchester which they are slowly bringing back to life as a tearoom, restaurant with private hire as well.

Sheila is involved with the following organisations: Chairman of Invitation to View, Warner Textile Archive and Braintree Museum Trust. She is also a member of Essex Houses and Gardens.

Stephen Bromberg

Stephen is Head of Communications at Lee Valley Regional Park, a 10,000 acre, 26 mile mosaic of attractions which follows the path of the River Lee from the Thames, though east and north London into Essex and Hertfordshire, and attracting more than six million visits a year. The park owns three London 2012 venues and Stephen created and led the communications campaigns which took them from elite sporting venues to world class arenas in which anyone can take part in sport and leisure activities. Lee Valley White Water Centre, Lee Valley VeloPark and Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre are now all established, increasingly busy and vibrant venues and are part of the excellent offer of the Lee Valley.

Stephen previously worked at the Science Museum in South Kensington where he led award winning PR and Marketing campaigns and has been a reporter on newspapers and news wire services here and in Australia.

Sue Carter

Sue joined RHS Garden Hyde Hall in 2006 and is responsible for the marketing, PR and events at this beautiful garden. Having lived in Essex all her life, she has a keen interest in tourism and was one of the original members of the Essex Tourism Association.