

The Primary Times Star Awards 2018

We present... the winners!

Once again we asked you, the Primary Times readers, to vote for your favourite places to go and things to do in Essex. Here are the results of your many nominations. Thank you to everyone who voted. And the winners are...

Primary Times
STAR AWARD
2018
AS CHOSEN BY READERS



The lemurs at Colchester Zoo with their award

BEST FAMILY FRIENDLY ATTRACTION IN ESSEX

WINNER:
COLCHESTER ZOO
RUNNER UP:
ADVENTURE ISLAND

"Colchester Zoo is pleased to once again be presented with not one but two Primary Times 2018 Awards! It is fantastic to have been voted the winner by the public in two great categories so thank you to all of those who voted! We are always developing Colchester Zoo with both our animals and visitors needs in mind; with the aim of conserving endangered species so it is great to be recognised in this way." *Alex Downing, Development Director, Colchester Zoo*



Park Rangers Laura Boreham & Claire Bunn

BEST 'FUN FOR FREE' ATTRACTION FOR FAMILIES IN ESSEX

WINNER:
GREAT NOTLEY COUNTRY PARK, BRAINTREE
RUNNER UP:
HYLANDS PARK, CHELMSFORD

"Thank you so much to everyone who voted for Great Notley Country Park. The award means a lot to everyone here especially as it is voted for by the readers of Primary Times. We look forward to another fun year at the park." *Claire Bunn, Senior Park Ranger, Great Notley Country Park*

BEST SCHOOL TRIP IN ESSEX

WINNER:
COLCHESTER CASTLE MUSEUM
RUNNER UP:
BARLEYLANDS, BILLERICAY

"We're absolutely delighted to have once again been voted for in a category for Primary Times' Star Awards. The Museums staff work tirelessly to ensure the experience for our visitors is both educational and enjoyable for all ages. We'd like to thank everyone who voted for us as Winner of the Best School Trip category." *Councillor Tim Young, Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture, Colchester Museums*



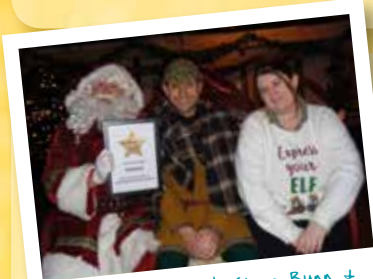
Councillor Tim Young, Colchester Museums

BEST HALLOWEEN ATTRACTION IN ESSEX

WINNER: **COLCHESTER ZOO**
RUNNER UP: **BARLEYLANDS, BILLERICAY**



The Colchester Zoo Meerkats celebrate their award!



Santa's Helpers! Steve Bunn & Gemma Clayton at Cressing Temple

"Our Country Parks team are thrilled that Primary Times readers voted for our Magical Grotto at Cressing event. It is one of our favourite events in the calendar and the team enjoy making the experience so special for families and children." *Steve Bunn and Louise Flavell - Area Manager & Events Manager for Essex Country Parks*

BEST SANTA'S GROTTTO OR CHRISTMAS ATTRACTION IN ESSEX

WINNER:
CRESSING TEMPLE
RUNNERS UP (JOINT):
AUDLEY END MINIATURE RAILWAY & MARSH FARM ANIMAL ADVENTURE PARK



Jack Bolton, 8, learning about nature at Hyde Hall

BEST AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY/CLUB IN ESSEX

WINNER:
JUMP STREET, COLCHESTER
RUNNER UP:
WILD FOREST ACTIVITY CENTRE, BRENTWOOD



Dominic Fenton, Neil Lewis, Jack Burkett & Rob Brand at Jump Street

"We're very proud to win this award and want to thank everyone that voted for us. Our team put a lot of effort in to make sure everyone who comes through our doors has as much fun as possible. It's definitely put a spring in our step and the perfect way to kick off 2018." *Neil Lewis, General Manager, Jump Street*



Evie Whiteman meeting the pigs at Marsh Farm

OUR WINNER:
Marie Swanson from Billericay won £20 shopping vouchers for this picture taken at Barleylands Farm Park.



Twins, Harriet and Jessica, at Barleylands



"A Day Out with Thomas at the East Anglian Railway Museum" from Caroline Roberts



"The Wind In The Willows Trail at EWT Hanningfield" from Carly Barrett



"Enjoying Southend's Adventure Island" from Louise Overington



"You're never too old to have fun!" from Tracey Cooper



Sidney and Angelina at Adventure Island in Southend

READERS' RECIPES!

We asked you to send us your favourite recipes. Here's the pick of our favourites. Thank you for sharing them with us.

Banana loaf

Dawn Middleton, Wickford

- 3 bananas mashed up
- 1 egg
- 200g caster sugar
- 60g melted butter
- 200g plain flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

Preheat oven to 170°C/fan 150°C/gas 3. Grease a 23cm x 13cm loaf tin. Mix together bananas, egg, sugar and butter in a bowl. Mix flour and bicarbonate of soda together in a different bowl. Stir into banana mixture until it is just mixed. Add salt. Pour mixture into the loaf tin. Bake in the oven for about 1 hour.



Cheese Straws

Sophie Taylor, Brentwood

- 350g pack ready-rolled puff pastry
- 100g of grated Parmesan, mature Cheddar or Red Leicester

Heat oven to 220°C/fan 200°C/gas 7. Unroll the puff pastry, scatter over half the grated cheese, then fold in half. On a lightly floured surface, roll out to the thickness of a £1 coin. Cut into 1cm wide strips, then twist the strips 3-4 times. Lay on a baking sheet, scatter over the rest of the cheese and bake for 10 mins, or until golden. Leave to cool. Keep them in an airtight container for up to 3 days.



Frozen blueberry yogurt bark

Rachel Griffiths from Colchester wins £20 shopping vouchers!

- 500ml Greek-style natural yogurt
- 2 tbsp maple syrup or runny honey
- 1 tsp vanilla extract or pinch ground cinnamon
- 250g blueberries

In a bowl, mix together the yogurt, syrup/honey and cinnamon/vanilla. Stir in the blueberries. Lightly grease a shallow 16cm x 26cm baking tray and line with nonstick baking parchment. Pour in the mixture and spread out evenly. Cover with cling film and freeze for 2 hours, or until solid. Cut into pieces and serve immediately.



Reader Winners...

Congratulations to our reader winners, chosen at random from Star Awards voters! **Diana Shadforth from Maldon** won a family day out at Festival Leisure Park, Basildon. **Hannah McCann from Epping** won a Pamper & Prosecco Spa Day for two at Lifehouse Spa & Hotel.

Thank you to our Star Awards sponsors:

