



# PRESS RELEASE

EXCELLENT ESSEX • GILLIAN DARLEY • HISTORY/TRAVEL

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**NOW WITH NEW  
'WALKS & WANDERS'  
SECTION**

## *Welcome to England's Most Misunderstood County*

'Original and beautifully written... filled with genuine feeling for Essex people and places.' **GUARDIAN**

'Darley has a fine sense of history and an appreciation of architecture and landscape... all this comes through in her fact-packed and often entertaining book.' **SPECTATOR**

'A delightful new biography... akin to barrelling through Essex lanes in an open-topped sports car while Darley swigs from a hip-flask yelling "Ask me anything".' **OBSERVER**

'A sort of revelation... a generally stellar performance.'  
**HISTORY TODAY**

'Even if you've never been there, you may find yourself reading passages out loud and dreaming of Epping Forest... or even Butlin's'  
**COUNTRY LIFE**

'A loving treatment of a slice of England made schizophrenic by the push-and-pull of London. [Essex] will now be a little less misunderstood.' **LITERARY REVIEW**

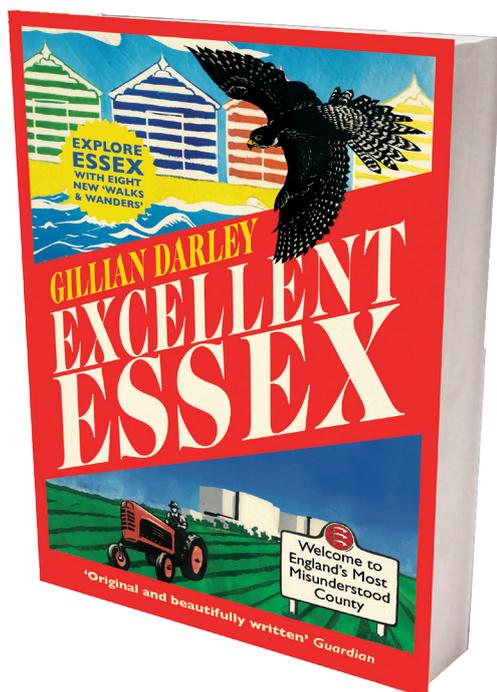
'Darley illuminates the landscape and its inhabitants, revealing how generations of people wanting to escape social conventions and limitations have been drawn to those vast, open horizons. The book is as thrillingly eclectic as Essex itself.' **FRANCIS WHEEN**

- Packed with unexpected Essex: the trade route between Colchester and Yokohama; how the Braintree Earthquake changed buildings forever; the Tolstoyan Anarchist colony near Southend...

- Explore the county further with 'Walks and Wanders' section (passports and quarantine not necessary...)

- Many ever-current talking points: Essex Girls (recently cut from the OED), refugees (high Leave vote; long history of immigration); the USA (settled by Essex Puritans)

- Darley's BBC Radio 3 series, with Billy Bragg and other Essex 'names' was broadcast in January; regular contributor to R3 and R4 and a seasoned journalist, up for quick comment and think-pieces, features and interviews



**'Original and  
beautifully  
written'  
Guardian**

GILLIAN DARLEY was brought up on the Essex-Suffolk borders, which may explain her love of distant horizons and towering skies. She is the author of several acclaimed books, including *Ian Nairn* (with David McKie) and *John Soane*. She is a regular presenter on BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4.

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