

## EVENTSHIGHLIGHTS



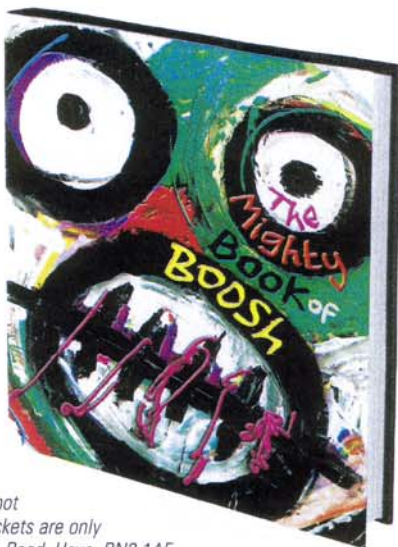
## The Mighty Boosh book signing

The Mighty Boosh aka Noel Fielding and Julian Barratt are in Brighton for their sell-out show this Saturday.

Beforehand, there's the chance to get a signed copy of *The Mighty Book of Boosh*. The book is a chance to venture deeper into the surreal world of this prize-winning show through the stories and pictures of Howard Moon, Vince Noir, Naboo, Bollo, Bob Fossil, and the rest of the cast. Retailing at £19.99 for the hardcover edition, grab your *Mighty* book and take it along to the Brighton Centre to get your copy signed by the boys.

Tickets and books for the signing are not available from the Brighton Centre. Tickets are only available from City Books, 23 Western Road, Hove, BN3 1AF. Call 01273 725 306

The book signing takes place at the Brighton Centre, Kings Road, Brighton at 1pm.



## Events at Coldean Library

The newly opened Coldean Library is following the city centre Jubilee Library by hosting music and rhyme classes for toddlers and their families. Now, people who live in East Brighton and around the Hollingbury area can benefit from learning sessions at their local library. The sessions are part of a programme of events at the facility in Beatty Avenue just announced by the council.

On the first Monday of each month, Baby Boogie classes take place between 9.15 and 9.45. Art, singing and stories for under-fives also happen the third Tuesday of each month, year-round between 3.30 and 5pm. Coldean library also runs a homework club every Monday from 3.30 to 5pm during termtime.

For the adults, a housing benefits advice surgery occurs fortnightly between 2.30 and 4pm. The next date is Monday 24 November.

Cabinet member for culture Cllr David Smith said: "These new services stem from our priority to increase opportunities for people – particularly for learning. It's important to have services available where people can easily access them."

For more info visit [www.citylibraries.info](http://www.citylibraries.info) or call 01273 296902

Coldean Library, Library Court, 24 Beatty Avenue, Brighton, BN1 9EW.

## Children in Need

There are plenty of fundraising events taking place for Children in Need (CIN) this month. If you're not sat at home tuned in to the happenings on BBC, get along to Hove Town Hall, where Captain Bob presents his annual shindig to raise funds for CIN.

12 Stone Toddler headline and there's plenty of events and festivities for all ages to enjoy.

Get your tickets from the Brighton Centre and Hove Centre box office, Rounder Records or Hove Town Hall. Saturday 15 November, Hove Town Hall, 6.30pm, £6.

## EVENTSLISTINGS



## Tuesday 11

**Buzz Community Dance Group** Creative dance that welcomes people with and without disabilities. St Richard's Church Hall, 7pm–8.15pm, £4 adults/2 children.

## Wednesday 12

**Brighton City Singers** Weekly meet for those who love to sing. Somerhill Junior School, 8pm–10pm

## Friday 14

**BBC Children in Need event** Fundraiser with Captain Bob. 12 Stone Toddler headline.

Buy tickets from Brighton Centre and Hove Centre box offices, Rounder, Resident and the receptionists at Brighton Town Hall, Hove Town Hall and King's House. Hove Town Hall, 6.30pm, £6.

## Saturday 15

**Dances of Life Transformation** Personal dance workshop about expressing yourself and developing a caring connection with yourself. Call 01273 401973 or visit [www.biodanza-brighton.org.uk](http://www.biodanza-brighton.org.uk) to confirm venue. 2pm–7pm, £40/35 for both days, £25/20 for one day. Also Sun 16.

## Write club



Looking for love? John Davies explores a world where a young woman's search for a husband becomes a spiritual quest

When people talk of Brighton and Hove being a multicultural city, I always have a chuckle. I'm from Birmingham, Britain's largest local authority and one of the most culturally diverse cities in Europe. It's affectionately known as the Holy City. The reason for that goes back to the time of the Cadbury's when Brum was a city ruled by the hand of Temperance. But Brum is holy in other ways too. Even in the seventies, there were around forty different types of belief with established places of worship plus many more sects and cults. That number has no doubt increased dramatically, but now one faith makes Birmingham's monica ring truer than ever. It's forecast that by 2015 the majority of the population will be Muslim.

By 1980 I was 'last man standing' in Birmingham amongst my peers and my family. My mother's family had been silversmiths in the city at least since the 1600s yet not one relation nor one school friend remained there. Voluntarily, they (as I was soon to do) joined that little discussed phenomenon known as 'white flight'. It's still going on quietly and inevitably – to Cornwall, Scotland, the Hebrides, Ireland and Australasia. It's all part of a swirling pattern of worldwide migration that seems to leave many people, of many different creeds and backgrounds, feeling somehow homeless, with no sense of belonging.

The reason for mentioning all this is that I have just read a despatch from the front line of cultural tectonics. Nasreen Akhtar has written the kind of book I would never normally read, a personal memoir of a young woman seeking a husband – *Catch a Fish from the Sea (Using the Internet)*. I'm halfway through reading it but I'm hooked. For the casual reader it's a romantic journey. But it's also a fascinating insight into the mind of a young person who sees themselves as both British, Islamic and South Asian. This multiple-layered ethnicity is both a blessing and a burden. *Catch a Fish...* is about trying to find a cultural as well as a marriage partner. After a slow start it gathers narrative pace as Nasreen gets involved with an ardent admirer who forces her to re-examine her attitude to Islam. The book becomes a journal of a spiritual quest. Some of us may feel it's misguided, but there is no denying Nasreen's honesty and passion.

'I was scared lonely and lost. Walking in the dark, not knowing where I was going, feeling that I had not belonged anywhere. However, for the first time in my life, I felt at ease. Amongst this room of total strangers I mattered, and there was a place for me. I realised that all the colours of mankind from Africa to Indonesia to Canada to Pakistan to Brazil and Albania, we were all connected by one thing: our belief... This Islam thing wasn't bad. It was supposed to be bad but then why was it making me feel good?'

I look forward to reading the remaining chapters and telling you more. One thought occurs to me though. Beyond belief, perhaps we're all connected by displacement?



## BOOKSLISTINGS



## Thursday 13

**Catalyst Club Special** Two authors in debate. Latest Music Bar (formerly Juggleberry Playhouse), 7.30pm, £6.

**Poetry South** Poetry from Annie Freud and Muso Okwango. Redroaster Café, 8pm, £6/4

## Wednesday 19

**Shoreham Writers Showcase** Readings of poems and short stories on a Shoreham theme, with wine and nibbles. Tickets from Shoreham library. Shoreham Library, 7pm

## Thursday 20

**An Audience With Tony Benn** Hear first hand some of the stories in his diaries from 1942–1990, and the next volume 'Free at Last' from 1990–2001. The Hawth, 7.30pm, £15.

**High Octane Short Story Slam** 500 words max on the theme of 'Fancy'. Take your fiction to the mic to win £££s. Komedia, 8.30pm, £5. 11am–4pm, £30.