

ARTS COUNCIL

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**Evening Echo**

Southend

Planner No. 67B-13

Daily - 60,800

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24.11.77

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## Video shows at library

NOW you can watch videos in Southend library.

Arts Council secretary general Luke Rittner pressed the button when he launched the library's arts video centre.

Essex libraries and the Arts Council paid half each towards the £15,000 development.

It costs watchers 25p per half-hour showing and the films, made by the Arts Council, are chiefly on fine arts.

Essex county arts librarian Mark Thres, who is based at Southend, said: "These videos are normally available for groups or schools to hire. This way they are being made more widely available."

There are films on artists, ranging from Picasso to fairground artist Fred Faule. There is one on the Notting Hill Carnival, and others covering architecture, dance and film-making.

Worried bookworms need not fear. Library silence will not be wrecked by the videos as the watchers — up to four at a time — will listen with headphones.

Mr Rittner said: "It's the first video centre the Arts Council has helped set up in a public library, and it is the first time the public can view on demand films made by the Arts Council."

He said it was another way of extending the arts to reach as many people as possible.

In future, locally made films could be added to the 140 Arts Council ones.

The video centre is on the second-floor in the art department.