

LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL 2023 EVENT PLAN

	WED 18 OCT	THU 19 OCT	FRI 20 OCT	SAT 21 OCT	SUN 22 OCT	MON 23 OCT	TUE 24 OCT	WED 25 OCT	THU 26 OCT	FRI 27 OCT	SAT 28 OCT	SUN 29 OCT
9AM												
10AM	Follow @LivIrishFest Tag #LIF2023											
11AM		#CCEN PRACTICE DAY The Bluecoat	IN THE WINDOW: MEET THE ARTIST - NIAMH GRIMES Bluecoat Display Centre		IRISH EXPERIMENTAL WRITING DAY Museum of Liverpool	IRISH CENTRE MEMORIES COFFEE MORNING Liverpool Irish Centre	SONG WORKSHOPS WITH MAZ O'CONNOR Liverpool Philharmonic Music Room		JOHN JOE: INTERMEDIATE BODHRAN SKILLS Liverpool Philharmonic Music Room		SCOTLAND ROAD WALKING TOUR Liverpool Central Library	IRISH FAMINE MEMORIAL St Luke's Bombed Out Church
12PM												
1PM												
2PM												
3PM												
4PM												
5PM												
6PM												
7PM	INDIECORK: FESTIVAL PREVIEW The Box at FACT	#LIF2023 LAUNCH Liverpool Irish Centre	DOORS			DOORS						
8PM		THE LONDON LASSES AT 25 Liverpool Irish Centre	NIGHT VISITING: LISA LAMBE AND FRIENDS The Tung Auditorium, UOL	TONY BIRTILL: COMRADE AGUS DEARHAIR (COMRADE AND BROTHER) Liverpool Irish Centre	BRANDIES BAND AND FACTOR 7: YEARS TO MUSIC LEAF Bold Street	NORTH CIRCULAR (2021, 86 MINS) The Box at FACT	TWO PLAYS @ LEAF A BOLT FROM D'BLUE LEAF on Bold Street		GREEN & BLUE Hope Street Theatre	LIVERPOOL ENGLISH WITH TONY CROWLEY Liverpool Central Library		
9PM												
10PM			PK'S SEISIÚN Peter Kavanagh's									
11PM												
12PM												

FAMILY DAY

Museum of Liverpool

Don't forget to visit our website to find out more about this year's programme!



Scan QR code using a smartphone camera to visit our website

liverpoolirishfestival.com

#LIF2023 EXHIBITIONS

IRISH MYTH AND LEGEND

Available during Library opening hours across the Festival and throughout Nov, St Helen's Library at Heart of Glass, Free, just turn up. In 2020 Gael Linn and An tUtach partnered with the Liverpool Irish Festival to create a one-off creative commission to celebrate Irish language and folklore. Selected for this commission, was storyteller and artist Nuale Monaghan. The resulting work tells five key stories from Irish myth and legend, each with an artwork to help communicate the power of the story. Initially shown at The Reader (Calderstones Park), the exhibition connected Liverpool with Ireland through thousands of years of use and symbolism. This exhibit reveals the connections folklore continues to have with our modern world. Now on display with St Helen's Libraries, we hope to spread the connection in to the region.

LIVER HARP AND SEEK: PAM SULLIVAN

In this limited-edition series of miniature works, Pamela takes the Festival's Liver Harp, creating a small gift for people to find. Celebrating 21-years of the Liver Harp (for 21 Festivals), Pam's Liver Harps relate some of the anniversaries important to Liverpool and Ireland's shared history. Liver Harps will be hidden in trees, under benches, on walls and across Liverpool's town centre. Liver Harp seekers should think about points of relevance to the Festival and Liverpool Irish Famine Trail. Each Liver Harp will boast a QR code, so people can scan them to report where they found theirs. Anyone who finds a Liver Harp may keep it. Additionally, seekers/ finders can take a photo, upload to social media and tag @LivIrishFest and hashtag #LIF2023. The gifts offer a little knowledge and provide a lovely keepsake.



IN THE WINDOW: NIAMH GRIMES

The Bluecoat Display Centre and Liverpool Irish Festival are delighted to announce our 2023 maker: Niamh Grimes. This continues our annual In The Window partnership. A recent graduate from Manchester Metropolitan University, Niamh is an artist jeweller. Her work explores ideas of folk history, tactile memory and ritual. Specialising in metal casting -used in conjunction with other jewellery making processes- Niamh creates wearable objects. In each she celebrates the magical thinking of bygone days, in an endeavor to nurture belonging and protection. Niamh incorporates inherited and found objects into her -often talismanic- works. Such objects have recently included salt crystals, quenched coal and vials of anointed oil, set into cast brass.

Spanning the month, Niamh's pieces will on show throughout October, with a blend of exhibition and retail pieces. We'll host a Meet the Maker event, at Bluecoat Display Centre, at 11am on Fri 20 Oct 2023.



MATERIALS LIBRARY

Mon 16 Oct-Fri 3 Nov, Everyman Street Café. Free, open during business hours. No booking necessary. Over the years, Liverpool Irish Festival has amassed something of an archive of books and papers, journals and materials.

Though we weren't been able to share it during the Covid years we're back to showcasing the archive in the fully accessible and friendly drop-in space at Everyman Street Café. There'll be colouring sheets for the kids; fiction for light reads and some historic tomes for a deeper interrogation of identity. By no means a full library, this is a resource for anyone to dip in and out of, to while away a half-term afternoon or a bit of time over lunch.

BRAVE MAEVE: CHILDREN'S BOOK

Available during Centre opening hours across the Festival, Liverpool Irish Centre, Free, just turn up. Follow Brave Maeve as she adventures through enchanted places, encountering characters from Irish myth and legend. Commissioned by the Festival, Gael Linn and An tUtach, written and illustrated by Stuart Harrison, in Liverpool, the book features his friend's daughter. Brave Maeve celebrates characters from thousands of years of Irish and Liverpoolian folklore, in an energetic romp through time and tale.

Stu will chat about his book and give kids a chance to pose with an illustrated Brave Maeve, sword, Tir Na nÓg book and/or píuca at:

- the Liverpool Irish Festival launch (19 Oct)
- the Family Day at Museum of Liverpool (21 Oct)
- a writer's reading at The Williamson (28 Oct)
- and Samhain Céili at Liverpool Irish Centre (29 Oct).

We'll be giving away Brave Maeve copies at the Family Day and Samhain Céili. The book can be bought on Kindle. Remaining copies will be available for £4.99 + P&P from our online shop liverpoolirishfestival.com/shop



Follow @LivIrishFest Tag #LIF2023

#LIF2023 - CELEBRATE OUR 'KEY-TO-THE-DOOR' YEAR WITH US!

Liverpool Irish Festival has made it to twenty-one (festivals, that is). Symbolically, this is the age when children are deemed to be adult and, when you pick up 'senior' status in the family. Customarily, keys were given to mark this birthday, which made us think about anniversary, commemoration and marking time.

2023's anniversary list is overwhelming. As well as 15-years since Liverpool became European Capital of Culture, 25-years since The Good Friday Agreement and 100-years of Ireland, it's 10-years since the UK legalised same-sex marriage, Seamus Heaney and Nelson Mandela died and The McAleese Report was published.

So, what do we do with day-to-day events? How do we create memories for ourselves that help us to mark time, create memories and show people we care? What are the day-to-day rituals we use to shape our days, keep us healthy and connected or fuel our minds? How do they build to create, share and highlight life-events? Anniversary seems to be key to this. Whether it's a week since your first date, 60 years of marriage, your child's first day at school, World Book Day, your cousin's bar mitzvah or Super Bowl parties, people across the world have developed celebrations to lay down memories, bring people together and document their time on this spinning ball we call 'Earth'.

This year, as with any year, anniversaries straddle everything. They mark moments of peace and terror, love and hate, silence and noise. They document reconciliation, struggle, searches for justice and societal reform.

Key anniversaries we'll be considering within our programme include:

- 10-years since the McAleese Report
- 25-years since The Good Friday Agreement, the opening of Liverpool's new Irish Centre and the installation of the Liverpool Irish Famine Memorial and Trail in Liverpool
- 175-years since the seven-year migration caused by An Gorta Mór (Irish Famine).

In looking back, we can see how far we have come, but -additionally- how far there is still to go.

For the Festival, we have created a timeline (Scan QR → Code) that looks at the last year then 5-year interval markers. By no means is it a complete history of anniversaries (even of the years represented), but in this list we see a world building towards a recognition of individual freedoms and one of swift technological advances. We bear witness to struggles for personal identity and (collective) societal change. We can see violent defiance and defiance for positive change.

As we consider our programme, and the anniversaries we hope to make, we'll think about what future timelines might look like and they might say about us, today. We invite you to join us in that vision, into laying out your hopes and aspirations and to thinking about what your next big milestone might be.

Our Festival is made of stories about Irishness and reveals people searching for -and finding- their identity. We encourage you to join us in the physical and virtual spaces we build. We hope you can celebrate, reflect and build with us. We can't wait to see you and share time with you. In the meantime, gabh cùram agus fuirich sábháilte/take care and stay safe!

TIMELINE

- 1845-1852**: 175-years ago The seven-year stretch of An Gorta Mór sees 1.27m Irish Famine poor come to or through Liverpool
- 1923**: 100-years ago Brendan Behan is born as Ireland becomes its own republic, following Home Rule's success the previous year
- 1948**: 75-years ago Nye Bevan opens the National Health Service in the United Kingdom
- 1998**: 25-years ago The Good Friday Agreement is signed
- 2003**: 21-years ago The Liverpool Irish Festival holds its first Festival
- 2008**: 15-years ago Liverpool receives European Capital of Culture status
- 2013**: 10-years ago The McAleese Report on the Magdalen Laundries is released
- 2018**: 5-years ago #YesTogether changes Ireland's abortion laws

The timeline below shows a handful of meaningful events. It's a snapshot of moments that shaped or shook British and Irish lives. They show philosophical shifts, political activism and cultural icons move through time. For a fuller timeline visit: liverpoolirishfestival.com/anniversary2023

LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL

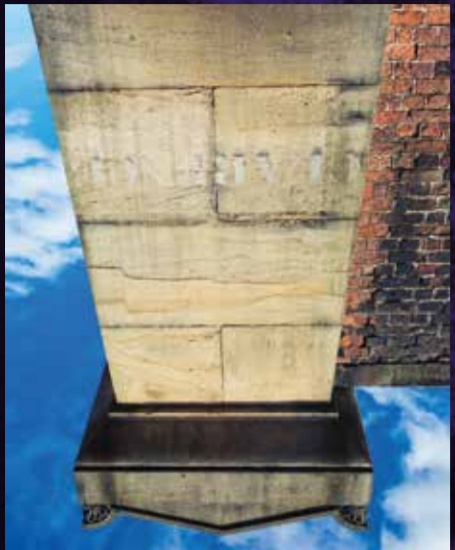
Since *The National Lottery* began in 1994, *National Lottery* players have raised over £4.3 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK. More than £30 million raised each week goes to good causes across the UK.

Following *HeritageFundUK* on *Twitter* @HeritageFundUK and *Facebook* and *Instagram* and use *HeritageFund.org.uk*

Using money raised by *The National Lottery*, we inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage. *The Liverpool Irish Famine Trail* commemorates 175 years since the Irish Famine. During this year's Festival, there are several events, including a memorial that share information about this history and our sites. Open this leaflet fully for more details.

Related events

The Liverpool Irish Famine Trail commemorates 175 years since the Irish Famine. During this year's Festival, there are several events, including a memorial that share information about this history and our sites. Open this leaflet fully for more details.



Press information for more details

Creative people needed

To work with these community groups, we'll be hiring four *Citizen Research Group* lead facilitators. They will need to be available to work on the projects between Nov 2023 and July 2024. These leads will develop the creative projects, co-authored with the groups, around specific Trail sites. Whatever the groups create must then be digitised, to be used in the Trail's app and online. We're looking for a range of artistic media, which could include film, music, pod casts, paintings, collages, quilts or other art forms.

Are you a creative practitioner and love to work just the project for you? We'd love to work with you on protected character groups, but most important is your interest in community heritage, Irish culture and Liverpool.

To find out more about the *Citizen Research Group* lead facilitator roles, visit: liverpoolirishfestival.com/engage/volunteer

We would like to thank *National Lottery* players for making this possible, and *The National Lottery Heritage Fund* for their interest, support and trust. We would also like to thank Greg Quirey and the *Liverpool Great Hunger Commemoration Committee*, with us and care for the Trail over years. We will forever be indebted to them and the services they developed in the 1990s, along with their onward generosity to the project.

The book, *Liverpool Irish Famine Trail*, produced a book and downloadable map. *ArtsGroupie CIC's* John Maguire, and led by *ArtsGroupie CIC's* John Maguire, and research all 15 Trail sites and document them. In 2021, this allowed us to plunder the archives, regeneration project with an initial fund of £46,000 in late 1990s, the Festival began a Trail *Great Hunger Commemoration Committee*.

Originally researched and built by the *Liverpool Previous Project*

Plans and funding

More recently we secured a further £99,590 from *The National Lottery Heritage Fund*. This grant will allow us to undertake several community-based creative projects. These projects will help us to develop and populate an app, so that the Trail is accessible on handheld devices, as well as online spaces. We'll undertake additional research, make links with other Irish who would like to get involved in one of these *Citizen Research Groups*, or in the *History Research Group*, should contact johnmaguire@liverpoolirishfestival.com



Citizen research

FUNDING SUCCESS!

The *Liverpool Irish Festival* has secured a second round of funding from *The National Lottery Heritage Fund*. This funding will allow us to continue our work regenerating the *Liverpool Irish Famine Trail*.

Previous Project

Originally researched and built by the *Liverpool Great Hunger Commemoration Committee*. In late 1990s, the Festival began a Trail regeneration project with an initial fund of £46,000 in 2021. This allowed us to plunder the archives, research all 15 Trail sites and document them. *ArtsGroupie CIC's* John Maguire, and led by *ArtsGroupie CIC's* John Maguire, and produced a book and downloadable map. The book, *Liverpool Irish Famine Trail*, is still available to purchase from *The Museum of Liverpool* gift shop and online (liverpoolirishfestival.com/shop/).

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

ACCESSING TICKETS

Where we stipulate that 'booking is required' you can access ticket sites via the Festival's website and clicking 'Events', or liverpoolirishfestival.com/events

Please note we work in numerous venues so booking links may take you to venue websites or *Eventbrite* booking pages. This is normal.

Search our event pages for the event you're looking for and the booking link button will take you to the official ticket vendor. Events are listed chronologically. This is the address we refer to when stating: 'book online': liverpoolirishfestival.com/events

All events are in 2023, unless otherwise stated.

Bursary tickets

The Festival is aware ticket prices can prevent people from attending. We've done as much as we can to keep all costs to a minimum. However, if you would be unable to attend, on the basis of cost, you can request a bursary (free) place. Your enquiry should be marked 'Bursary request' (or similar) and addressed to emma@liverpoolirishfestival.com. Your request will be treated with absolute confidentiality. Where it's possible for us to provide you with a free ticket (based on lead-time and availability) you'll be notified how you can redeem it.

This is an honour system, designed to help those who need it most. We ask that people are respectful of this. Your support in ticket buying assists us to deliver a generous Festival, with reduced barriers to access.

Venues

The Festival takes place in many venues across Liverpool and Merseyside. We have a full list of venues, with travel details, here: liverpoolirishfestival.com/events/venues/

Strands of work to look out for

The *#LIF2023* programme crosses artistic disciplines, from niche to popular. Throughout the Festival we're making links to anniversary, whether through daily rituals or centenary commemorations. We hope you'll find something to please and surprise, entertain and challenge you; whether via music, family activities, theatre or discussion. To help quickly identify art forms, use our colour key.

EVENTS KEY

FILM, ARTS AND ANIMATION

PERFORMANCE, LITERATURE AND POETRY

MUSIC & SONG

TALKS AND TOURS

COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND SPORT

LIVERPOOL IRISH FAMINE TRAIL AND AN GORTA MÓR

To identify work strands, use these symbols:

- ♀ In:Visible Women and women's work
- ♥ Family
- ♀ Nook and Cranny Spaces
- ♣ Irish Famine Trail, identity and heritage

Don't forget to visit our website to find out more about this year's programme!

liverpoolirishfestival.com



Scan QR code using a smartphone camera to visit our website!



What fills my heart?
The stunning views



Lough Tay, Co. Wicklow

Start planning your visit now!
Discover more on Ireland.com

Fill your heart with **Ireland**

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

Liverpool Irish Festival brings Liverpool and Ireland closer together using arts and culture.

We provide access to Irish culture through participation, creative ingenuity and value for money. Our festival is accessible, fun and high quality, taking you to many parts of the city.

#LIF2023 provides artful, cultural storytelling via traditional and contemporary creative practices. We involve you, your friends and family in activities that reflect and share Ireland's history and its influence on Liverpool.

As a commissioner, a showcase for diverse expression and as an international collaborator, we build a dynamic, inclusive and affordable programme.

We proudly challenge assumptions and celebrate Ireland's multifaceted creative life.



Pick up your newspaper for more of everything, including news, events and stories!
liverpoolirishfestival.com/news for all features.

#LIF2023'S THEME: ANNIVERSARY

Liverpool Irish Festival has made it to twenty-one

Symbolically, this is the age when children pick up 'senior' status in the family. Customarily, keys were given to mark this birthday.

It's perhaps not surprising that anniversaries are on our mind this year. It's 15-years since Liverpool became *European Capital of Culture*, 25-years since *The Good Friday Agreement* was signed and 100-years of the Republic of Ireland.

So, what do we do with day-to-day events? How do we create memories for ourselves that help us to mark time, create memories and show people we care? As Festival organisers we host and share work, create spaces for conversation and invite you to join in.

This year, as with most, anniversaries straddle everything. They mark moments of peace and terror, love and hate, silence and noise. They document reconciliation, struggle, searches for justice and societal reform. We encourage you to look at the programme and pick some events to attend that will help you mark an occasion.

We're looking forward to meeting you. You can also follow us on social media, using @LivIrishFest or hashtagging us with *#LIF2023*.

FESTIVAL FUNDERS



FESTIVAL SPONSOR

Fill your heart with **Ireland**

18-29 OCTOBER 2023

LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL

MUSIC
DANCE
POETRY
CULTURE
ARTS
FAMILY
WOMEN
THEATRE
HERITAGE
FILM

Brave Maeve

Bringing Liverpool and Ireland closer together using arts and culture.

liverpoolirishfestival.com

Exhibition coming to Liverpool!

50 years of the Irish in Britain

Irish 50 YEARS
in Britain
1873 - 2023



The Florrie | 377 Mill St | Liverpool | L8 4R
Opens Wednesday 8 November until Sunday 12 November | Free entry | All welcome

Come along and hear stories of the lives and experiences of the Irish community over the past 50 years in this specially curated national exhibition of personal oral histories.

An open house celebration of the unique contribution of Irish migration to modern Britain.

Made possible with **Heritage Fund**

The exhibition is part of a heritage project created by the national charity, Irish in Britain, with the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to mark its 50th anniversary.

Also touring to:

London:	Irish Cultural Centre	1-5 Nov
Leeds:	Slung Low	15-19 Nov
Birmingham:	ThinkTank	22-26 Nov

www.irishinbritain.org

November 2023 Tour

Sat 4th	Liverpool	Metal Culture, Edge Hill Station
Sat 18th	Liverpool	The Reader, Calderstones
Sun 19th	Salford	Kings Arms
Thu 23rd	Liverpool	Athenaeum
Sat 25th	Lancaster	The Storey

The Signolman
A Ghost Story by Charles Dickens
An ArtsGroupie CIC Production
Adapted and Directed by David Griffiths

Tickets available at ArtsGroupie.org

IRISH CREATIVE WRITING HALLOWEEN
OCTOBER HALF TERM 2023

Join ArtsGroupie CIC and unleash your creativity with our brilliantly fun Creative Writing Workshops

Liverpool Irish Centre
6 Boundary Lane
Liverpool
L6 5JG

Our Workshops are:

- FREE!
- Children Age 9-12
- Creative and Fun
- Safe and Supervised

Sign Up ArtGroupie@outlook.com