

# LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL 2024 EVENT PLAN

	WED 16 OCT	THU 17 OCT	FRI 18 OCT	SAT 19 OCT	SUN 20 OCT	MON 21 OCT	TUE 22 OCT	WED 23 OCT	THU 24 OCT	FRI 25 OCT	SAT 26 OCT	SUN 27 OCT	MON 28 OCT	SAT 2 NOV
9AM														
10AM		#GCEN PRACTICE DAY <i>The Bluecoat</i>		BRAVE MAEVE: WRITER READING FOR KIDS <i>Children's Library at Liverpool Central Library (c.1 hour)</i>					SCAN THIS QR CODE BELOW TO EXPLORE THE LIVERPOOL IRISH FAMINE TRAIL					
11AM														
12PM														
1PM														
2PM														
3PM														
4PM														
5PM														
6PM														
7PM														
8PM														
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12AM														

## #LIF2024 EXHIBITIONS

**IN THE WINDOW: MEET THE ARTIST – MICHAEL 'MUCK' MURPHY**  
Open during gallery hours, Tue 1 Oct-Sat 2 Nov, *Bluecoat Display Centre*, Free, just turn up.



As part of *Liverpool Irish Festival 2024*, the artist Michael Murphy will display his work at *Bluecoat Display Centre*. Michael's practice is rooted in the use of traditional tooling to produce modern and innovative forms in both furniture and sculpture. His current body of work aims to immortalise ash trees in sculpture, exploring the limits of their form, having them drift into a liminal space between existence and non-existence, which is the state of their species. The works have a sense of ritual about them. The artist likes to think of himself as exhuming the tree, gathering up its limbs and allowing them to be reborn as tactile objects.



**BRAVE MAEVE**  
Open during library opening hours, Mon 7 Oct-Sat 30 Nov, *St Helen's Library at World of Glass*, Free, just turn up



**CELEBRATING IRISH CRAFT**  
Open during gallery hours, Tue 1 Oct-Sat 2 Nov, *Bluecoat Display Centre*, Free, just turn up

*Brave Maeve* is a Liverpool girl. In 2023 she was taken on an amazing adventure, through Irish folklore, when something was stolen from her Grandad Mac by a pesky píca. Now she's back, returning an item from the Famine to an Irish King, lost in the annals of time!

Having partnered with the *Liverpool Irish Festival* over years, to celebrate and share the work of Irish makers, *Bluecoat Display Centre* hosts a retrospective of those artisans including more that are seen through their annual portfolio of creatives. With silver, ceramics, glass, paintings, textiles and more besides, there is something to suit every budding creative, interest and price point. Whether you're just looking for the sheer fun of it or searching for a unique gift, this is an exceptional display of contemporary talent in one of the longest serving display centres in the country.

To complement the richly illustrated (second) book, this exhibition for children offers a fun way to pass some time with the child in your life. Aimed at 7-11-year-olds, the book and accompanying exhibit, will allow children to take selfies with characters from Irish folklore, so bring your cameras and phones.

Co-commissioned in partnership with *Gael Linn, An tUltach and Gaelbhreach*.



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

[liverpoolirishfestival.com](http://liverpoolirishfestival.com)

Event details may be subject to change. Please check all dates and times online prior to travelling.

# #LIF2024 EXHIBITIONS



**SATURDAY GIRL: FIVE-YEARS**  
Open during building opening hours (subject to building use), Mon 7-Sun 27 Oct, *The Shed at Baltic Creative*, Free, just turn up. To ensure the gallery is open, visit between 9am-5pm Fri 18-Sun 20 Oct or Fri 25-Sun 27 Oct. These times have been reserved for Festival visitors. This is a self-guided exhibit.

*Saturday Girl* is a brave body of work that – in its entirety – spans thousands of portraits, many cities and a colossal number of shows. The brainchild of Casey Orr, the portraits began when Casey realised how hair was being used to reflect and project identity. Aspects of the work were first made and shown in Liverpool during *LOOK/15*. Five-years ago, we revisited this work at *TATE*, as part of the *TATE Exchange* programme.

Printed on blue-back paper – a staple of the music and entertainment industry – they are impermanent, time-specific and time-limited. They're expected to depart, degrade, devalue and yet here they are, five-years on. Is there something subversive about using a temporary material to produce an artwork or document a life?

Shot in Liverpool and Belfast can you guess which is from where? What do these images say to us about leaving our youth; did COVID change how we get ready to go out and is the term 'girl' ok in today's woke world?

Find out more about *Saturday Girl* and Casey's work at [caseyorr.com](http://caseyorr.com)



**POSTCARDS FROM A PILGRIMAGE**  
9am-4pm daily, Mon 7-Sun 27 Oct, *Northern Lights* (5 Mann Street, L8 5AF), Free, just turn up. This is a self-guided exhibit.

In May 2024, the Festival's Artistic Director and CEO, Emma Smith, and the *Liverpool Irish Famine Trail's History Research Group* leader, John Maguire, teamed up with 10+ walkers to bring a pair of bronze shoes from Strokestown to Liverpool. Walking along the *National Famine Way* and helping to forge a new *Global Irish Famine Way*, the shoes are the emblem of the *Strokestown National Famine Museum, Estate and Way*.

Whilst on their pilgrimage, Emma and John created a series of daily postcards, taking photos and writing messages, to document their journey.

Here, the nine postcard fronts and backs are enlarged, reproduced and transcribed, detailing the walkers' experiences, feelings and events. Shown in *Northern Lights*, where the Festival has an office, these postcards document 220km+ walked over nine-days and the full journey of the bronze shoes coming to Liverpool.

In time, they will find a permanent home, but right now – just like the 1,490 migrants forced from Strokestown in 1847 – that home is yet to be found. Visitors interested in seeing the shoes up close, and learning more about the *Liverpool Irish Famine Trail*, should visit the *Revealing Trails* exhibition.

Visitors may also be interested to note that a documentary about the walk, funded by the Irish Government, will be released in 2025.

Funded by *The National Lottery Heritage Fund*.

**REVEALING TRAILS**  
10am-1pm, Wed 9 Oct, Sun 13 Oct, Wed 16 Oct and Sun 27 Oct

10am-5pm, Sun 20 Oct and Sat 26 Oct at *The Docklands Trail* containers at Collingwood Dock, Free, just turn up (donations welcome)

This exhibition documents Liverpool's role in the foundation of the *Global Irish Famine Way* and how it came to be involved.

The first section briefly tells the story of *The Walk of the Bronze Shoes*, whilst the second considers the resilience of Liverpool's people through the research and expressions of contemporary participants. Featuring collaborative community artworks – led by local artists Lydia O'Hara, Tadgh Devlin, Pam Sullivan and Nicola McGovern – the creations respond to the *Liverpool Irish*

*Famine Trail's* plaque sites, telling rich stories. These share how people connect with this history, their heritage and how what happened maintains a connection with what is happening in our world today.

*The Docklands Trail* is a volunteer led organisation that have loaned us these spaces. We are very grateful.

Funded by *The National Lottery Heritage Fund*, this exhibition includes art works, artefacts and memories. Everything presented was created in 2024, though items may have roots and references going back through the generations.



