

# 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											
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## #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 tUlltach* 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 *Nuala 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 Festival 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 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.

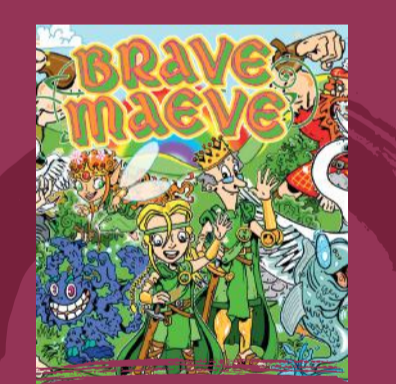
Though we weren't been able to share it during the Covid years we're back to showcasing the archive in the fully accessible and friendly drop-in space at *Everyman Street Café*. There'll be colouring sheets for the kids; fiction for light reads and some historic tomes for a deeper interrogation of identity. 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 tUlltach*: 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.

- 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](http://liverpoolirishfestival.com/shop)



## FAMILY DAY



Museum of Liverpool

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

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



Scan QR code using a smartphone camera to visit our website

All dates and times should be verified before travel and may be subject to change. See online event listing for final confirmation

## #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

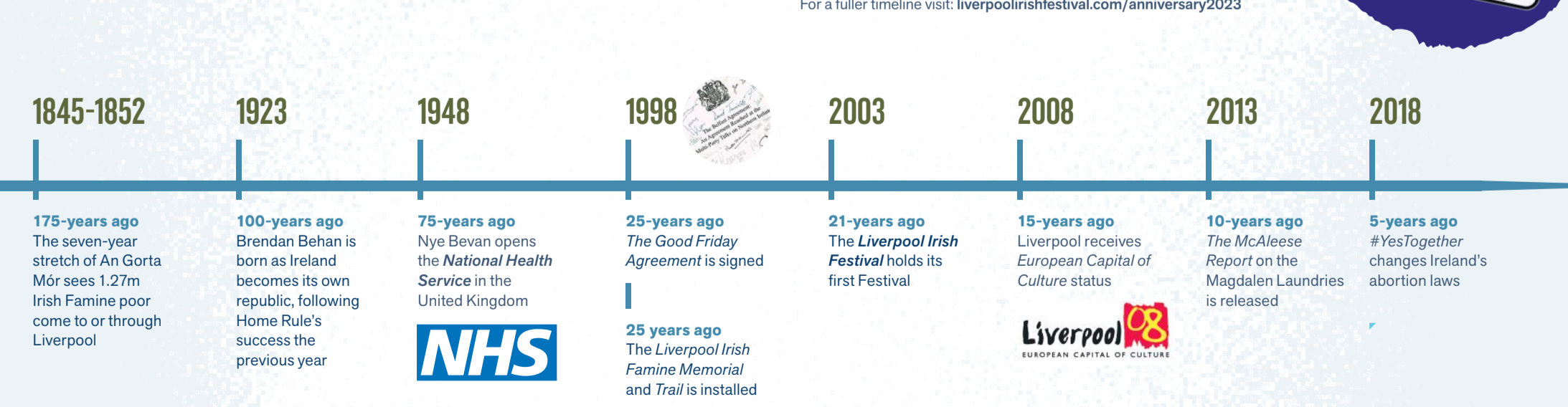
of individual freedoms and one of swift technological advances. We bear witness to struggles for personal identity and (collective) societal change. We can see violent defiance and defiance for positive change.

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 sàbhailte/take care and stay safe!



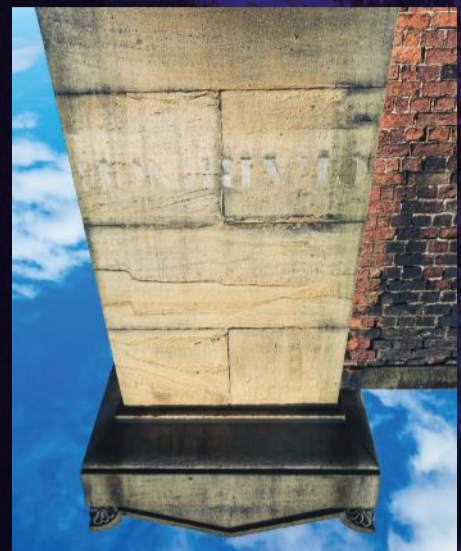
## TIMELINE



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](http://liverpoolirishfestival.com/anniversary2023)

**LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL**

Since 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**

Using money raised by *The National Lottery Heritage Fund* and use of *The National Lottery*, we inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage and communities, now and in the future.

**About The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Developed in the 1990s, along with their own generosity to the project.

forever be indebted to them and the services they with us and care for the trail over years. We will **Committee** for their work, and the **Great Hunger** in us. We would also like to thank Greg Quirey **Heritage Fund** for their interest, support and trust for making this possible, and **The National Lottery** players would like to thank **The National Lottery** players **com/engage/volunteer** For more on volunteering, visit **liverpoolirishfestival.com/citizen-research-leads** led facilitator roles, visit **liverpoolirishfestival.com/citizen-research-leads** To find out more about the **Citizen Research Group** heritage, Irish culture and Liverpool.

but most important is your interest in community, with creatives from protected character groups, but just the project for you? We'd love to work **Emigrant Support Programme** received **Arts Council England's HM Government Cultural Recovery Funding (2020-21)**. The festivals **Liverpool Irish Famine Trail** works funded using **National Lottery Heritage Funds**

**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 be developed and delivered in partnership with people from four different community groups, across Merseyside. Anyone who would like to get involved in one of these additional research, make links with other Irish devices, as well as online spaces. We'll undertake experiences and team activities.

**Famine Trails and develop** no people with training. **Research Group** should contact John Maguire **Citizen Research Groups**, or in the **History** on **faminetrail@liverpoolirishfestival.com**

**Previous Project**

Originally researched and built by the **Liverpool Great Hunger Commemoration Committee**. In the late 1990s, the festival began a trail regeneration project with an initial fund of £4,000 in 2021. This allowed us to plunder the archives, research all 13 trail sites and document them online (**liverpoolirishfestival.com**). We formed a community **History Research Group**, led by **ArtsGroupie CIC's** John Maguire, and produced a book and downloadable map.

The book, **Liverpool Irish Famine Trail: News From Home** (60 St. Street, Liverpool), the **Museum of Liverpool** gift shop and Review, is still available to purchase from **liverpoolirishfestival.com/shop**.

**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.**

**Press information for more details**

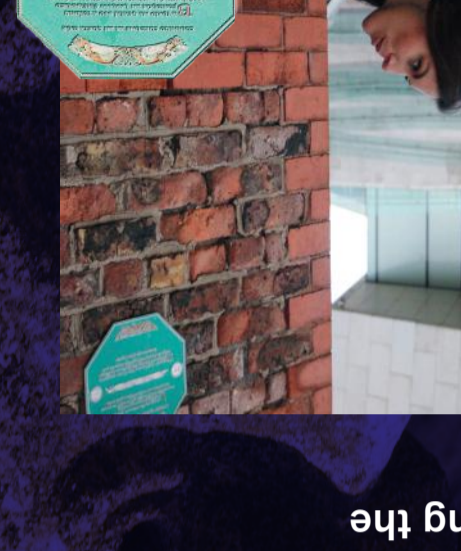
Founded in 2003, the festival brings Liverpool and Ireland closer together, using arts and culture. As the most diverse celebration of Irish culture in the UK, we have become a ten-day festival of music and song, visual arts, performance arts, co-authoring with the groups, around specific trail sites. Whatever the groups create must then be digitised, to be used in the Trail app and online. We're looking for a range of artistic media, which could include film, music, podcasts, paintings, collages, quilts or other art forms.

Government's **Department for Foreign Affairs** **Emigrant Support Programme** received **Arts Council England's HM Government Cultural Recovery Funding (2020-21)**. The festivals **Liverpool Irish Famine Trail** works funded using **National Lottery Heritage Funds**

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**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.



**#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.

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

**FESTIVAL FUNDERS**

Culture LIVERPOOL  
Liverpool City Council  
Government of Ireland  
Ciste Dlíreachta Heritage Fund

**FESTIVAL SPONSOR**

Fill your heart with Ireland

**LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL**

**MUSIC DANCE POETRY CULTURE ARTS FAMILY WOMENS THEATRE HERITAGE FILM**

**19-29 OCTOBER 2023**

**Brave New Eve**

Bringing Liverpool and Ireland closer together using arts and culture.

**liverpoolirishfestival.com**

**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/**

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

**liverpoolirishfestival.com**



OPEN THIS LEAFLET FOR FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

**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



Start planning your visit now! Discover more on **Ireland.com** Fill your heart with **Ireland**

**Exhibition coming to Liverpool!**

**50 years of the Irish in Britain**

**Irish 50 YEARS in Britain 1973 - 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**

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**