Liverpool Literary Festival
19 - 21 October 2018
Book your tickets at: www.liverpool.ac.uk/literary-festival
Welcome

Welcome to the second Liverpool Literary Festival, hosted by the University of Liverpool. Our first Festival in 2016 was a huge success, bringing internationally renowned writers to discuss important issues and present their work to audiences of all ages from the Liverpool region and beyond. We are delighted to be holding the Festival again in 2018, as part of the city’s European Capital of Culture 10th anniversary celebrations.

We open the Festival on Friday night with a lecture by that wonderful polymath crime writer Val McDermid, and on Saturday morning TV star and author Sir Tony Robinson tells us about his relationship with history. We’re bringing back Frank Cottrell-Boye, who was a great hit at our first Festival. Frank will read to family audiences and close the Festival with reflections on the way robots are about to change our lives. We have a strong Irish strand, supported by the University’s Institute of Irish Studies and the Liverpool Irish Festival. The highlight is Sebastian Barry, acclaimed novelist and winner of the Costa Book Award, while Eavan Boland shares his knowledge of the legendary Van Morrison’s Belfast lyrics. Guardian critic Alex Clark introduces three new voices - Man Booker Prize longlisted Sally Rooney, Lisa McInerney and Anthony Joseph. And the bestselling Sarah Perry, author of prize-winning The Essex Serpent, is in conversation with the BBC’s James Naughtie – who is recording the Radio 4 Book club as part of the Festival.

There’s also a session on peace poetry, women’s poetry and image, a celebration of Paul McCartney and Liverpool music, and of women’s suffrage and Virago Modern Classics. Life writing is on the agenda with two distinguished memoirists Claire Tomalin and Blake Morrison, and there’s a debate about why working-class experience gets a raw deal in family history and publishing. If you want to try your hand at writing for radio, we have an Arches scriptwriter and drama producer on hand to show you how. And there’s a celebration of graphic novels at Tate Liverpool.

If you bring the kids along on Sunday, our Family All Day Pass will give you experiences of donut diaries, extreme surgery, good focks, and runaway robots.

Helen Taylor
Director, Liverpool Literary Festival

Supported by:

bruntwood

Our partners

BBC Maker

Tate

The Royal Society of Literature

The Cavern Club

hope street hotel
NEW VOICES WITH ALEX CLARK
Three exciting figures from a new generation of writers will be talking about and reading from their work with Alex Clark, distinguished Guardian and Observer critic and Bath Literature Festival Director. 2018 Man Booker Prize nominee Sally Rooney, Lisa McInerney and Anthony Joseph have already enjoyed considerable critical success and are clearly writers to watch in future.

10am - 11.15am Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £8 / Concession £6

A DATE WITH TONY ROBINSON
Tony Robinson has always been fascinated by history. “How do you know who you are, if you don’t know where you came from?” he says. He talks about his life and work, Blackadder, and how a subject that most people can’t even spell became a 20-year smash-hit TV series.

11.45am - 12.15pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £10 / Concession £8

GRAPHIC NOVELS WITH BRYAN AND MARY TALBOT
Come and hear collaborative writers, Costa award-winners Bryan and Mary Talbot, demonstrate the power of the graphic novel to communicate complex material in an accessible way. Emotionally charged biographical details, tangled historical events or the contemporary challenges of climate change - whatever the subject, the graphic novel’s unique combination of word and image can render it compelling. This will be an illustrated talk in the fabulous setting of Tate Liverpool.

11.30am - 12.45pm Tate Liverpool, 4th floor Auditorium
Cost: Standard £6 / Concession £4

BBC RADIO 4 BOOKCLUB
James Naughtie and Andrew Michael Hurley
We are delighted to welcome Radio 4’s Bookclub to the Liverpool Literary Festival as the programme celebrates its 30th anniversary. Presented by James Naughtie, Bookclub invites leading writers to discuss their best known novel with readers. Jim is joined by Andrew Michael Hurley to discuss The Loney, which was Book of the Year at the British Book Industry Awards and won the Costa First Novel award in 2015. Firmly rooted in the British Gothic tradition, The Loney is set on the Lancashire coast and follows a Catholic family who are on a pilgrimage from London at Easter time, with their new, controversial parish priest Father Wilfred, to find a cure for Hanny, the oldest son, who is mute. The book is told through the eyes of Smith, the youngest brother. On its original publication, the book was hailed as a modern classic with glowing reviews from Stephen King amongst others. A unique chance to take part in one of Radio 4’s most popular arts programmes. The recording will be on BBC Radio 4 in December 2018.

12.30pm - 1.30pm Foresight Centre, University of Liverpool
Cost: FREE (Please note booking is essential for this event)

TALKING McCARTNEY & LIVERPOOL MUSIC WITH PAUL DU NOYER
Come and hear Liverpool-born Paul Du Noyer in conversation with Mike Lewis. Paul began writing about music on the punk-era NME in London. He later became the editor of Q magazine and in 1993 was the founding editor of Mojo.

1.15pm - 2pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £8 / Concession £6

A WOMAN’S CENTURY
With 2018 marking 100 years since women first won the right to vote and the 4th anniversary of the Virago Modern Classics series, historian June Purvis, novelist Linda Grant and Modern Classics editor Donna Coogan join together to discuss these life-changing feminist milestones.

2.30pm - 3.30pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £8 / Concession £6
Saturday 20 October

MEMOIR AND LIFE WRITING – CLAIRE TOMALIN AND BLAKE MORRISON

Two distinguished memoir writers discuss the challenges and constraints of memoir and life writing with the award-winning biographer Dame Hermione Lee. The event will feature Claire’s latest book, A Life of My Own, and Blake’s new novel, The Executor.

4pm - 5.15pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £8 / Concession £6

SEBASTIAN BARRY IN CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR ROY FOSTER

This event is sponsored by the Institute of Irish Studies and is in partnership with the Liverpool Irish Festival. Acclaimed author and playwright Sebastian Barry talks to distinguished historian and critic Roy Foster about his life and work. Barry’s latest novel, Days Without End, won the Costa Book Award and Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction.

6pm - 7.15pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £10 / Concession £8

SARAH PERRY READING AND IN CONVERSATION WITH JAMES NAUGHTIE

Sarah Perry’s second novel The Essex Serpent was nominated for numerous awards and has been a huge bestseller. Shortlisted for the Costa Book Award for Best Novel, the Encore Award and the International Dylan Thomas Prize, it was Waterstones Book of the Year 2016 and won the overall Book of the Year Award at the British Book Awards, 2017. She will read from her brand new novel Mermaid and discuss her writing with BBC Radio 4’s James Naughtie.

8pm - 9.15pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £10 / Concession £8

Sunday 21 October

PEACE POETRY BREAKFAST AND READINGS BY FIONA SAMPSON

Wilfred Owen’s poems documented the horrors of the First World War. He died a week before the war ended so didn’t live to see the arrival of peace in Europe. But what if, instead of a war poet, we remembered Wilfred Owen as a poet writing for peace? The Royal Society of Literature (RSL) has commissioned some of its poet Fellows to write their own peace poems to mark and offer contemporary perspectives on the centenary of Owen’s death.

This event sees the launch of the RSL’s Peace Poetry pamphlet, with internationally renowned poet Fiona Sampson reading her poem and discussing peace poetry with Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, Professor Dame Janet Beer.

9.15am - 11am Victoria Gallery & Museum café and Leggatt Theatre
Breakfast will be available to purchase in the café between 9.15am-9.45am.
Cost: Standard £6 / Concession £4
(not including breakfast)

SHORT STORY COMPETITION PRIZEGIVING
Chair: Professor Dinah Birch

This year, the University has launched a 500-word short story competition in association with the Festival, with entries judged by best-selling author Philip Pullman, who will send a personal message to prize winners. China Stories received entries on a Chinese theme, to coincide with Liverpool’s China Dream season, from primary and secondary school children, and from our students in Liverpool and our partner university in Suzhou, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. Winners will see their work published in a special anthology and take part in a writing session with the Royal Society of Literature, as well as receiving vouchers to spend as they wish. Frank Cottrell-Boyce will present the winning writers with their prizes at this very special awards ceremony.

11.15am - 12.15pm Mountford Hall, University of Liverpool
Cost: FREE

BLAKE MORRISON IN CONVERSATION WITH JANE DAVIS

In 2008, Blake Morrison penned a piece for The Guardian exploring the idea of ‘The Reading Cure’. The article studied literature’s power to heal and console and included several accounts of ‘unusual’ book groups taking place in care homes, homeless shelters, libraries, acute psychiatric wards and day centres across Merseyside.

Led by Dr Jane Davis, Director of The Reader, an outreach unit at the University of Liverpool, a project called ‘Get Into Reading’ was credited as the force behind this pioneering work. 2018 marks a decade since Liverpool’s year as European Capital of Culture, and The Reader’s 10th anniversary as an independent charity. Jane Davis joins Blake Morrison in conversation at this special event to discuss the growing movement that ‘The Reading Cure’ helped to spark, and the role of literature in creating a healthy, well-connected society.

1pm - 1.45pm Teaching Hub, University of Liverpool
Cost: FREE
WRITING FOR THE ARCHERS AND ADAPTING NOVELS FOR RADIO

With Mary Cutler and Sara Davies

Radio drama gets far less attention than TV or film, so this event will examine its variety and complexity with two experts. The Archers is the world’s longest-running soap opera and has aired over 18,000 episodes since 1950, many covering controversial storylines. BBC drama is the envy of the world, so come to see Mary Cutler and Sara Davies discussing how writing for radio is done. Mary is the longest-serving Archers scriptwriter, and Sara is a Gold award-winning BBC producer and adapter of fiction and non-fiction for Radio 4.

11.30am - 12.30pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £6 / Concession £4

RADIO DRAMA WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1
BE YOUR OWN ARCHERS SCRIPTWRITER
With Mary Cutler

At a mock script conference Mary Cutler will discuss a current Archers script idea and where it may go next, so that the group creates a mini-storyline. She will explain the restrictions on numbers of characters, scene, location and so on, and then small groups will produce a scene by scene outline for the episode and present them to the whole workshop. Participants will then return to their group to write a couple of pages of dialogue.

1.15pm - 3.30pm
Teaching Hub, University of Liverpool
Cost: Standard £8 / Concession £4

Workshop 2
HOOKING YOUR LISTENER
With Sara Davies

An introduction to some of the basic elements of radio drama, exploring how to hook your listeners in 90 seconds and then how to keep them. Using examples from recent radio dramas, Sara will talk about what makes a good radio idea and a good opening scene. What can only happen and NOT happen on radio? What are the different ways of telling the story? The group will do some exercises to look at what works and what doesn’t.

1.15pm - 3.30pm
Teaching Hub, University of Liverpool
Cost: Standard £8 / Concession £4

FAKE NEWS – A SATIRICAL NOVEL ABOUT DONALD TRUMP

With David Hutter

Named as one of the 10 best books on the Donald Trump presidency by The Independent, David Hutter’s Fake News is a satire in which Trump’s behaviour towards North Korea, Theresa May and Alex Salmond is inspired by obscure historical events from, for instance, ancient China, Tudor England, the French Revolution and the Cold War.

1pm - 1.30pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £6 / Concession £4

COMMON PEOPLE

With Alison Light, Kit de Waal, Durre Shawar and Nathan Connolly

The history and experiences of working class people are coming into focus more sharply than ever. Alison Light’s acclaimed Common People told her own family’s story in terms of a public history that has no records, diaries, letters or even gravestones. Kit de Waal has crowdfunded for a new collection of writings by and about working class people – also called Common People. Nathan Connolly’s much-discussed Know Your Place is a collection of essays by working class writers, including Durre Shahwar. They will discuss with Dr Sam Solnick, Lecturer in English Literature, what the notion of ‘common people’ means today.

2pm - 3.15pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £8 / Concession £4

AFTERNOON TEA WITH CLAIRE TOMALIN AND MICHAEL FRAYN

Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea on the 5th floor of Hope Street Hotel, overlooking the city. You’ll be joining an informal discussion with Claire Tomalin, acclaimed biographer of Mary Wollstonecraft, Thomas Hardy and Charles Dickens, and her husband, renowned journalist and playwright (Noises Off, Copenhagen) Michael Frayn. Your host is Professor Sally Sheard, Andrew Geddes and John Rankin Professor of Modern History at the University of Liverpool.

3pm - 4.30pm Hope Street Hotel, 5th floor
Cost: Standard £16 / Concession £14
POETRY AND IMAGE WITH BIDISHA AND HOLLY CORFIELD CARR

In conversation with Deryn Rees-Jones

Two cutting-edge poets who work across genres and disciplines will perform their poetry and discuss with poet Deryn Rees-Jones their practice in writing, film, performance and image.

3.45pm - 4.45pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £6 / Concession £4

‘THE TRAIN AND THE RIVER’ - VAN MORRISON’S BELFAST

With Eamonn Hughes

Eamonn Hughes draws on his experience of working with Van Morrison to examine the ways in which Morrison’s representation of Belfast offers a very different view of the city from the more usual images of it as a city of conflict. In turn this offers an insight into the originality and innovation that Morrison brings to the art of songwriting.

5.15pm - 6.30pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £8 / Concession £6

FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE, ‘WHAT WILL WE DO WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE?’

Chair: Professor Dinah Birch

The age of the robots is already here. Robots already perform financial transactions, medical diagnoses, and drive cars. When robots have taken all the jobs, what will be left for humans to do? What will humans BE?

7pm - 8.15pm Victoria Gallery & Museum
Cost: Standard £10 / Concession £8
THE DONUT DIARIES
Join author Anthony McGowan as he takes you through the adventures of Dermot Milligan, hapless, overweight hero of the best-selling Donut Diaries trilogy. Rude and rascally fun for 8-12 year olds.

10am - 10.45am
Cost: Child £4 (including one FREE adult)

BROCK/PIKE/ROOK with Anthony McGowan
Anthony McGowan’s Rook is shortlisted for the 2018 Carnegie Medal – the most prestigious prize in children’s books. It is the conclusion of a trilogy about brothers Nicky and Kenny, taking them from the depths of despair and social deprivation to the heights of joy and friendship. The books are tragic, funny, and ultimately uplifting. The event is perfect for readers of 12 and older.

3pm - 4.15pm
Cost: Child £4 (including one FREE adult)

LIFE & DEATH, EXTREME SURGERY, LYING, AND GOOD FROCKS with Catherine Johnson
How long would it take to cut off a leg in the 18th century? Why were French surgeons over the moon about the guillotine? How do you fool a whole nation and make them believe you are something you’re not? Come and join writer Catherine Johnson as she talks about her recent novels, Blade and Bone, Sawbones and The Curious Tale of the Lady Caraboo. Good for all ages, especially young adults.

2pm - 2.45pm
Cost: Child £4 (including one FREE adult)

SPUTNIK’S GUIDE TO LIFE ON EARTH & RUNAWAY ROBOT with Frank Cottrell-Boyce
A heartwarming and hilarious tale of an unlikely friendship between a one-legged robot and Eric, a boy who loves hanging out at airports. Perfect for 8-12 year olds.

11.15am - 12.15pm
Cost: Child £4 (including one FREE adult)

£10 ALL DAY PASS
# Timetable at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 19 October</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Liverpool Literary Lecture</td>
<td>6pm - 7pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Val McDermid - Killing People for Fun and Profit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 20 October</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Voices with Alex Clark</td>
<td>10am - 11:15am</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Date with Tony Robinson</td>
<td>11:15am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Novels with Bryan and Mary Talbot</td>
<td>12:15pm - 12:45pm</td>
<td>Tato Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBC Radio 4 Bookclub</td>
<td>12:45pm - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking McCartney &amp; Liverpool Music with Paul Di Noyer</td>
<td>1:30pm - 2pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Woman’s Century</td>
<td>2:30pm - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memoir and Life Writing - Claire Tomalin and Blake Morrison</td>
<td>3:30pm - 4:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian Barry in conversation with Professor Roy Foster</td>
<td>4:30pm - 5:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Perry Reading and in Conversation with James Naughtie</td>
<td>5:30pm - 6:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 21 October</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Poetry Breakfast and Readings by Fiona Sampson</td>
<td>9:15am - 11am</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Donut Diaries FAMILY EVENT</td>
<td>9am - 10:45am</td>
<td>Mountain Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sputnik’s Guide to Life on Earth &amp; Runaway Robot FAMILY EVENT</td>
<td>10:45am - 11:45am</td>
<td>Mountain Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing for the Archers and Adapting Novels for Radio</td>
<td>11:45am - 12:45am</td>
<td>Mountain Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fake News - A Satirical Novel about Donald Trump</td>
<td>12:45am - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Morrison in Conversation with Jane Davis</td>
<td>1:30pm - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Teaching Hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be Your Own Archers Scriptwriter WORKSHOP</td>
<td>2:30pm - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Teaching Hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooking your listener WORKSHOP</td>
<td>3:30pm - 4:30pm</td>
<td>Teaching Hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life &amp; Death, Extreme Sorgery, Lying, and Good Procks FAMILY EVENT</td>
<td>4:30pm - 5:30pm</td>
<td>Mountain Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common People</td>
<td>5:30pm - 6:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon Tea with Claire Tomalin and Michael Frayn</td>
<td>6:30pm - 7:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blocks/ Pike/ Rock FAMILY EVENT</td>
<td>7:30pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry and Image</td>
<td>8:30pm - 9:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The Train and the River” - Van Morrison's Belfast</td>
<td>9:30pm - 10:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Cottrell-Boyce, “What will we do with all those people?”</td>
<td>10:30pm - 11:30pm</td>
<td>Victoria Gallery &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Map and key

![Map of Liverpool](image)

- **Foresight Centre**
- **Mountford Hall**
- **Teaching Hub**
- **Hope Street Hotel**
- **Tato Liverpool**
- **Victoria Gallery & Museum**

# Planning your visit

The 2018 Liverpool Literary Festival is held across the city in some of Liverpool’s most atmospheric buildings, and is easily accessible by road, rail, water and even air!

Please visit: [www.liverpool.ac.uk/literary-festival/plan-your-visit/](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/literary-festival/plan-your-visit/) for more information about venues, accommodation and accessibility.