

LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL

LIVER HARP AND SEEK

Congratulations you have found one of our secret Liver-Harps produced by artist Pamela Sullivan for the *Liverpool Irish Festival* 2023.

Each Liver Harp has a unique design. They celebrate and/or commemorate some of the amazing people -and events- that have shaped Irish and Liverpool culture over the last 200 years. From historical events to popular culture, local heroes from the past and today, each Liver Harp tells a small story of our shared history.

The *Liverpool Irish Festival* is 21 years old this year, so a little 'key to the door' has been added to each Liver Harp in celebration.

You will find a number on the label attached to each Liver Harp. You can scroll down the list below to find out a little more about your harp's design and who or what inspired it. When you find a Liver Harp, we would ask you to [register your find, using this link](#). Let us know the number of your Liver Harp so we can tick it off as having a new home.

There are 40 Liver Harps altogether. Please only take one Liver Harp and leave the rest for other people to find.

The Liver Harps are unique pieces of artwork. Some may have sharp edges; some are covered with gold leaf. The keys are tied on with ribbon, which could come lose and present a choking hazard. Please do not give these harps to children and keep them away from pets.

Happy Hunting,

Pam Sullivan, artist.

1. John Chandler. Founder of the *Liverpool Irish Festival* in 2003

The appreciation and celebration of the unique links between Liverpool and Ireland were primary motives for the creation of the *Liverpool Irish Festival* in 2003. John established a Board to form the *Liverpool Irish Festival Society* and created the charitable company (1100126) in 2003. The rest is history.

2. Saoirse Exton

Saoirse describes herself as a "climate justice activist, an almost-gaeilgeoir (Irish speaker or learner), a wannabe seanchaí (Gaelic Storyteller) and the ultimate ginger".



Earlier this year, the 18-year-old Irish climate activist from Limerick, joined the *UN* Secretary-General's *Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change*, becoming the group's youngest ever member.

"I am struck by the absurdity of our current situation - world leaders praise one another for maintaining growth, maintaining exploitation painted with a green brush, while those who are most vulnerable to this crisis are screaming in their ears and banging on their doors".



3. Anne Tannam

...is the current *Poet in Residence* with *Poetry Ireland* (2023-2025) from Drimnagh in Dublin.

The Art of Listening (extract)

I'm not talking about a half-hearted
following the words but not the meaning
type of listening, that uses only one ear
And the occasional *Oh, I see*.

That type of listening you come across
every day of the week.

No, what I'm singing my hymn of praise to
Is a higher form of communication altogether.
I'm talking about employing all the tools at our disposal:
two ears, two eyes, the heart, the gut,
that place inside where compassion and empathy lie.



For the full poem visit <https://www.annetannampoetry.ie/>

4. Paul O Grady (1955 –2023)

Gay and trans rights activist, drag queen, animal rights campaigner and lover of all things canine -and one of our own- Paul was born in Tranmere on the Wirral. He sadly died in March this year (2023) and is hugely missed, but his legacy -and his presence- will live on in our hearts and minds. On returning to Ireland to visit family he states

"I love the smell of it. That to me is the smell of Ireland:
a turf fire with a frying pan with rashers going on and
a bit of black pudding ... anything for a bit of turf."



5. Saidie Patterson (1906 -1985)

First female union leader in the textile branch of the *Transport and General Workers Union*, in Belfast, with special responsibility for women workers.

Saidie lived her life in Woodvale Street in Belfast, where she campaigned throughout her life for women and workers. Her passion for fairness stemmed from her personal tragedy when her mother, a linen industry outworker, died during childbirth. She'd been unable to afford the doctor's fee of 3s.6d or 17p.

Aged 14, Saidie started work at *Ewart's Mill*, on the Crumlin Road, and from the start she fought to alleviate the struggles of the women workers. She called for the full unionisation of *Ewart's* workforce and called a strike. When the demand was rejected, almost 2,000 workers joined the strike, and female staff marched through the streets of Belfast in their Sunday best.

<https://www.acenturyofwomen.com/sadie-patterson/>



6. Tony Birtill. (1954-2021)

Tony was a socialist, republican, trade unionist and environmentalist. He was on the *Liverpool Great Hunger Commemoration Committee*, the *Liverpool 1916 commemoration Committee* and the *Liverpool Irish Festival* board. Always good company, he was renowned for his sense of humour and loud laugh. He remained dedicated to his local area, campaigning to maintain rights of way and cycle routes, and continued teaching Irish classes in Liverpool until shortly before he died. A sadly missed legend.



7. Carl Bernard Bartels. (1866 – 1955) Creator of the Liver Bird Sculptures

Bartels, a wood carver from Stuttgart, moved to Britain after visiting the country during his honeymoon in 1887. In the early years of the twentieth century, while living and working in Harringay, London, Bartels entered and won a national competition to design the Liver Birds. Sadly, he was never recognised in his lifetime for his achievements because of his German heritage. This wrong was put right in 2021, during the centenary commemorations of the *Liver Building* construction. Bartels was awarded the 'Citizen of Honour' award from Liverpool City Council which was received by his grandson Tim Olden.



8. Bella and Bertie

History suggests that the Liver Birds are a female and male pair that go by the names of Bella and Bertie. The female, Bella, looks to the sea, watching for the seafarers to return safely home. While the male, Bertie, gazes into the city, watching over the seafarers' families. The Liver Bird statues, which stand at 18ft tall with a wingspan of 24ft, were installed atop the *Liver Building* in 1911.



The Liver Birds are a mythical creature, but are said to have been inspired by cormorants. Sailors always knew they were almost home when they could see the cormorants drying their wings on the shores at the mouth of the Mersey.

9. In 2023 Liverpool hosts *Eurovision* on behalf of Ukraine

This year, Liverpool took centre stage hosting *Eurovision* on behalf of Ukraine. To say we smashed it is an understatement. It was the most watched *Eurovision* final, with over 9.9 million viewers tuning in around the world. Presenter Rylan Clark said of the Liverpool people

"thank you to the people of Liverpool, because everywhere I've been over this past few days, people have just been so lovely, so welcoming and so accommodating".



10. Walter Aubrey Thomas (1859–1934) Designer of the Liverpool *Liver Building*

Aubrey was born in Tranmere, Birkenhead. Known as Aubrey Thomas, he was an English architect, he practised from an office in Dale Street (Liverpool). The *Royal Liver Building* was the tallest building in the UK for 50 years after its completion. Although he was celebrated for his work, he shunned publicity. After the *Liver Building* was completed, he was offered a knighthood, which he declined.

The *Royal Liver Building* has the largest clock faces in the UK, which means they are even bigger than of those on *St Stephen's/Elizabeth Tower* (which houses *Big Ben*) in London. The clocks are named the *Great George Liver Clocks* and were set into motion when King George V was coronated on Thursday the 22nd of June 1911.



11. Selina Martin (1882 – 1972); suffragette and a 'woman most unknown'

Voting rights were won in 1918 for women who owned property. For working class women it would take another 10 years to gain recognition and the right to vote. In 1909, Selina Martin threw an empty ginger beer bottle at Prime Minister Herbert Asquith's car, at a demonstration, outside a public meeting in Liverpool. She was arrested, with fellow suffragette Leslie Hall, and taken to *Walton Gaol*. As un-convicted prisoners they should have been offered bail and been allowed to contact their friends, but this didn't happen. They were left in freezing wet clothes, dragged along the floor, force-fed almost immediately, shackled and held in custody for six days.



The rough treatment they received made headlines and caused outrage in the *Women's Social and Political Union*. Mary Gawthorpe exclaimed to her friend and fellow suffragette Lady Constance Lytton: 'Oh, and these are women quite unknown – nobody knows or cares about them except their own friends.'

12. Everton Football Club

Everton FC was founded in 1878, a full 14 years before *Liverpool FC* kicked their first ball. They were among the twelve founding members of the *Football League*, the first professional football competition in the world. Even for a club based in the "Cradle of Football", *Everton's* history is startling. In their 145-years of existence, they have spent only four years outside the topflight of English football. During this time, they have won nine League titles, five *FA Cups* and the 1985 *Cup Winners' Cup*. Since 1892, the club has been playing its home games at *Goodison Park*, the first major football stadium in England. This will change in 2024 as they move to their new stadium at *Bramley Moore Dock*.



Everton FC has sired namesakes in Chile and Argentina, but closer to home a piece of Ireland is also forever *Everton*. In 1971, *Club Everton Atha Cliath* (*Club Everton of Dublin*) was formed and is still playing regularly on a Sunday. For the full story:

<https://www.toffeeweb.com/season/12-13/comment/editorial/24926.html>

13. Sinead O' Connor (1966-2023)

Irish born, singer, writer and activist who sadly passed away this year.

President Michael D Higgins stated:

"To those of us who had the privilege of knowing her, one couldn't but always be struck by the depth of her fearless commitment to the important issues which she brought to public attention, no matter how uncomfortable those truths may have been. What Ireland has lost at such a relatively young age is one of our greatest and most gifted composers, songwriters and performers of recent decades, one who had a unique talent and extraordinary connection with her audience, all of whom held such love and warmth for her ... May her spirit find the peace she sought in so many different ways."



14. Happy 75th Birthday to our *National Health Service*

The *National Health Service Act* came into effect on 5 July 1946, establishing a national public health system for the United Kingdom, free at the point of delivery. Today the **NHS** treats over a million people a day in England. The **NHS** touches all our lives. When it was founded, in 1948, the **NHS** was the first universal health system to be available to all, free at the point of delivery. Today, nine-in-10 people agree that healthcare should be free of charge. More than four in five agree that care should be available to everyone and that the **NHS** makes them most proud to be British.



15. Mary Jane Seacole (1805 – 1881) -a 'herbalist' not a nurse

Is often described as "nursing" on the battlefield, but she never called herself a "nurse". Her pioneering practices certainly paved the way for the modern nursing techniques used today. In the 18th century, Jamaican doctresses mastered folk medicine, including the use of hygiene and herbs. They had a vast knowledge of tropical diseases and had a general practitioner's skill in treating ailments and injuries, acquired from having to look after the illnesses of fellow slaves on sugar plantations. Mary Seacole adapted these skills on the battlefield of the Crimean war, using hygiene, ventilation, warmth, hydration, rest, empathy, good nutrition and care for the dying. She was largely forgotten, for almost a century, after her death. Today she is widely recognised for her role in the advancement of health-care over the last 100-years, most notably in Liverpool at *Mary Seacole House* (a health and mental wellbeing charity). Her autobiography, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* (1857), was the first autobiography written by a black woman in Britain and is still widely read today.



16. *Superlambanana* - 25th Anniversary

The *Superlambanana* won the hearts of most Liverpoolians back in 1998. The bright yellow sculpture appeared in the dock area of the city, weighing almost 8 tonnes, and standing at 5.2 metres tall. It is intended to be a cross between a banana and a lamb and was designed by New York based Japanese artist Taro Chiezo. The artist only created a four-inch model, leaving the full-size replica to be made by local artists Andy Small, Julian Taylor, Tommy Reason and Ray Stokes. The sculpture is said to reflect the history of Liverpool, as both sheep and bananas were historically common cargos in the city's docks, whilst also being a comment on the potential dangers of genetic engineering.



17. *Liverpool Irish Famine Trail* (1998) - 25th Anniversary

The *Liverpool Irish Famine Trail* was originally researched and built by the *Liverpool Great Hunger Commemoration Committee* in the late 1990s. The trail originally commemorated 15 significant sites of historical importance, linked to the movement of Irish diaspora during the 1840's and later. The Great Hunger, or An Gorta Mór, changed the shape of Britain's society, particularly here in England's Northwest. The existing trail offers a missing link in the search many Irish diaspora people undertake to trace their families. The trail is 25-years old this year and much has changed in the city. This year, with funding from *The National Lottery Heritage Fund* there are plans afoot to bring the trail up to date. For more information and maps of the remaining sites visit <https://www.liverpoolirishfestival.com/liverpool-irish-famine-trail-map/>



18. *Liverpool Football Club*

The club was formed in the year 1892 and in their 129 years, Anfield has remained their home, but where did the name come from? There are many thoughts on this...

The main story appears to be linked to a farmhouse in Ireland. It is believed that the name Anfield came from the old town land of Anfield in New Ross, County Wexford meaning River Field. Other stories say that the name Anfield comes from the 'Hangfields' or narrow strips of land that were there long before the famous football stadium came along. Other sources claim the stadium is named after the surrounding area, Anfield. The word originated in the combination of Old and Middle English words, which mean "a field on a slope". Anfield, and its deviations, has been associated with the area since at least 1642. Who knows? They are all pretty good stories, however a football ground on a slope would not be good unless it always sloped toward the home team end.



shutterstock.com · 2033010476

19. *Treaty of Maastricht* - Happy 21st birthday to the Euro

The Euro, a single currency designed to strengthen and unify the financial position of all European countries in the global markets, was rolled out in January 2002. The UK government under Tony Blair decided not to opt into this singular currency. Ireland however embraced the Euro and everything being part of Europe had to offer.



Continues...

The Euro is the official currency of 20 of the 27 member states of the European Union. This group of states is officially known as the Eurozone and includes about 344 million citizens (2023). The Euro is the second-largest reserve currency, as well as the second-most traded currency, in the world after the United States Dollar. As of December 2019, with more than €1.3 trillion in circulation, the Euro has one of the highest combined values of banknotes and coins in circulation in the world.

20. Emma Rodgers, sculptor

Emma Rodgers is recognised as one of Britain's leading sculptors working in ceramic and bronze. Her work, acclaimed for its vibrancy, strength and flexibility has been exhibited all over the world as well as in her hometown of Birkenhead. Emma is well known for her beautiful sculptures of animals and wildlife, but it is the commission from the family of Cilla Black that has placed her firmly in the hearts of the people of Merseyside and across the country. The memorial, commissioned by Cilla Black's three sons -Robert, Ben and Jack- is situated outside the original entrance to the world-famous **Cavern Club** where the late singer and TV presenter had worked as a cloakroom girl.



Unveiling the statue, Robert Willis said his mother "never really appreciated getting old but now she will be forever young". "It was incredibly comforting and it moved us deeply and gave us hope at a time when we didn't have much hope. He told on lookers at the unveiling "we were overwhelmed by the incredible support after our mother died, especially from the people of this great city".

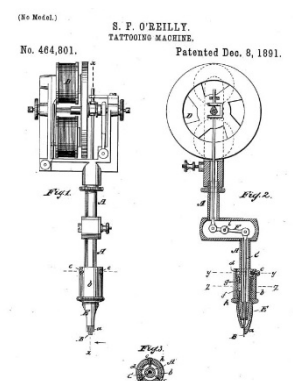
21. David Nicholas - local legend

Dave, at 87, believes he is one of the "oldest in the business". He performs for the **Philharmonic** film screenings and has never missed a single show during the 33-years he's been there. He's well-known for his incredible dedication and passion for theatre and cinema music and of course his organ playing skills. Being the longest serving resident organist at the **Liverpool Philharmonic**, becoming full-time in 1989, Dave said there is "nowhere like it, as it brings joy to so many people across the world".



22. Samuel O'Reilly (1854 -1909) - bringing fine art to the masses

The modern tattoo machine was invented by an Irishman in New York in 1891. Not much is known about Samuel O'Reilly's early life, but in 1875 he had made a name for himself as a tattoo artist with his own shop at number 11, Chatham Square in the Chinatown section of Manhattan's Bowery. There are no authenticated photographs or images of O'Reilly and the somewhat colourful stories weaved about him and his family are unlikely to be true, but who wants to stand in the way of a good story?



23. James Francis Partridge (1916-2004) – inventor of the portable defibrillator

Frank Partridge, was a Northern Irish physician, cardiologist, and professor who transformed emergency and paramedic services with the invention of the portable defibrillator. A County Down native, he was a physician and cardiologist responsible for transforming emergency and paramedic medicine into the lifesaving service we know it as today. After serving in the second World War, and working as a pathology lecturer in Belfast's Queens University, he established a world-famous specialist cardiology unit in the *Royal Victoria Hospital*. There he introduced the modern system of CPR and developed the portable defibrillator. His first model -in 1965- weighed 70kg and operated on car batteries, but in just three-years he had redesigned it to an instrument weighing just 3kg, leading to countless lives being saved since.



24. Polo Mints are 75-years old

The peppermint flavoured *Polo* was first manufactured in the United Kingdom in 1948, by employee John Bargewell at the *Rowntree's Factory*, York, and a range of flavours followed. There are several stories as to why it has a hole in the middle, but perhaps the most reasonable idea is that it would not present a choking risk for small children. Over the years flavours have included, strawberry, blackcurrant, orange, lemon and lime. Less successful flavours have included butterscotch, melon, banana and coconut.



25. Tutankhamun's burial chamber - 100th Anniversary of its discovery

Every child the length and breadth of the country, including Ireland, has made King Tut's mask or a sarcophagus whilst marvelling over all the gory details of mummification. Archaeologist Howard Carter had discovered the entrance to the tomb of the 14th century BC Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings on 4 November 1922. On 16 February 1923, Carter opened the sealed doorway to the burial chamber, containing the boy pharaoh's sarcophagus. In March 1923, Carter's patron, Lord Carnarvon, was bitten by a mosquito. The bite turned septic and he died in April. Stories have circulated about his death being brought about by the disturbed pharaoh's angry spirit. Was it the curse of Tutankhamun!?



Continues...

26. Europe Day, 2023

This year, Ireland celebrated 50 years of membership of the European Union. Speaking ahead of *Europe Day* activities, the Tánaiste said:

“Joining the European Communities was a transformational moment in the history of this country. Over the last 50 years, Ireland has made remarkable progress, but has also contributed so much in the development of our modern European Union. We should be proud to celebrate all that has been achieved, and to look forward to the next 50 years”.



27. The Good Friday Agreements 25th Anniversary

The British-Irish Council was established as part of *The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement*. The aim of the Council was “to promote the harmonious and mutually beneficial development of the totality of relationships among the peoples of these islands”.

Now the Sun Breaks Through is an anthology of poems to mark the 25th anniversary of *The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement*:

<https://www.britishirishcouncil.org/now-sun-breaks-through>



The Good Friday Moon by Dairena Ní Chinnéide

I saw her	Chonac ansan í
In the time of agreement	Tráth an chomhaontaithe
My heart filled	Mo chroí ag líonadh le mórtas
For all things binding	Don don uile ní a thugann le chéile sinn
The moon of peace in our time.	Ré an síochána.

28. Dr Martin Luther King (1929 –1968) - 60th anniversary of “I have a dream” speech

"I have a dream" is a public speech, delivered by American civil rights activist and Baptist minister Martin Luther King Jr, during the *March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom* on August 28, 1963. In the speech, King called for civil and economic rights and an end to racism in the United States. Delivered to over 250,000 civil rights supporters, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the speech was one of the most famous moments of the civil rights movement and among the most iconic speeches in American history.



“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.”

29. Emma Smith (1978-) Artistic Director and CEO, *Liverpool Irish Festival*

Originally from Leicester, Emma came to Liverpool as a student and stayed, lured by its cultural offer, buildings and civic personality. Since then, she's worked with innumerable artists, partners and audiences, building strong relationships and a reputation for excellence. Appointed by the *Liverpool Irish Festival* board, Emma was selected for her extensive experience in multi-stream programming and project management in festivals and cultural organisations.



“We celebrate heritage and creative futures by sharing Irish culture. We offer a warm Liverpool invitation to participate in high quality, unique expressions of our Liverpool Irish identity. Our work provides a positive contribution to the arts, the cultural fabric of our city and shares stories worldwide”.

30. Ulster Fry (vegans look away!)

Described as a “plenitude of fried pork products”, it's the meal that made Ulster. The traditional fry up that set up millions for a day of hard work or play. Two fried eggs, the all-important lightly browned potato and soda bread, perfect pork sausages, crispy bacon, black and white pudding and a juicy red tomato– a great start to any day. It's also the perfect recovery the morning after an evening of overindulgence.



31. Scouse

Warm and filling, scouse was originally brought to Liverpool by northern European sailors. The original name of what was once a lamb stew was 'lobskause' or 'labskause', which over the years has been shortened to 'scouse'. I'm sharing with you my Auntie Lizzie's ingredients list, simple and to the point. She had a pan on the go for over 20-years, refilling it most days. It was by far the best Scouse I have ever had.



Ingredients

- Stewing beef (any cut)
- Lamb (mince or cubes)
- Onions, chopped
- Carrots, chopped, diced or sliced
- Potatoes, quartered
- Water or OXO cube
- Worcester sauce (optional, but put it in)
- Any other seasonal root vegetable you have and want to use up; e.g., turnip, swede, etc.

32. *The Meeting Place* by Jackie McKenna

This famous sculpture is located in one of Dublin's most popular shopping areas. Unlike many of the city's statues, which honour famous Dubliners -such as James Joyce, Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw- *Meeting Place* was designed to reflect everyday city life. The bronze sculpture was created by Jackie McKenna and put in place in 1988 in one of Dublin's busiest shopping areas. It shows two women chatting together while sitting on a stone bench. At their feet are two shopping bags, also sculpted in bronze. One of the bags is from **Arnotts**, the oldest and largest department store in Dublin, which has its flagship store on nearby Henry Street. Shortly after the statue's inauguration, one of the bags was stolen. It was replaced, and now both are securely attached to the ground.



33. Happy 35th birthday to *Tetris*

The Tetris video game was created by Russian designer Alexey Pajitnov in 1985. It allows players to rotate falling blocks strategically to clear levels. Pajitnov claimed he created the name of the game by combining the Greek prefix tetra, which refers to the four squares contained in each block, with the word tennis. *Tetris* had been around for several years, but it was not until it was released at the end of the 1980's as a **Nintendo Game Boy** cartridge, did figures soar to 35-million copies sold. The endless nightmare of mini block frustration has followed us through to the current day with versions for mobile phones and even a film starring Taron Edgerton with a somewhat suspicious moustache released in April 2023.



34. Anyika Onuora - Olympic medal winner and inspirational Black woman

Anyika was born and grew up in Liverpool and often comments on the 'huge network of support' she has always enjoyed in the city. She has retired from the track, but now gives hope and inspirational talks to young people and students.

"Don't allow other people to dictate how they think it's going to be for you. Just give it a go and if you can't do it, you can't, you move on to something else that's going to be bigger and better. Trying is crucial in whatever it is that you want to do.



Anyika released her book, *My Hidden Race* (2022), which focused on the realities of being a black female athlete during the era of **Black Lives Matter** and the **#MeToo** movement. She freely admits that her experience of racism and sexual assault had a huge impact, but she focusses on her achievements on the track as an undeniable reminder to young people that "you do not have to be defined by those experiences, you can achieve your dreams in spite of them".

35. Heinz ketchup is (possibly) 150-years old

Some sources no pun intended state that ketchup -or catsup- was developed around 1880, whilst another site states that the sauce was launched in 1876. For definite, tomato sauce predates the invention of the lightbulb and the completion of the *Eiffel Tower*. Yes, there's a real **Heinz** behind the operation. Henry J. Heinz started selling produce from his mother's garden when he was just eight years old. In 1869, **Heinz**



started selling sauces in clear bottles around Pittsburgh. His first product was called 'Pure Evaporated' Horseradish. You would be forgiven if you wanted to give that sauce a miss.

36. The Singh Twins

The Singh Twins, Amrit and Rabindra Kaur Singh, are contemporary British artists who work together on their artworks at their studio in Birkenhead. Their work draws on both traditional Indian, in particular Sikh tradition, and Western medieval illuminated manuscripts. Their 2018 exhibition, *Slaves of Fashion*, held at the **Walker Art Gallery**, explored hidden narratives of empire, colonialism, conflict and slavery through the lens of India's historical textile trade and their relevance to modern day legacies and debates around ethical consumerism, racism and the politics of trade. The Singh Twins have received many awards and official recognition for their work. Most notably, they were made Honorary Citizens of their home city of Liverpool in 2009 and received an MBE from the Queen for 'Services to the Indian miniature tradition of painting within Contemporary Art' in 2011.



<https://www.singhtwins.co.uk>

37. The Giant's Causeway, County Antrim, Northern Ireland

The Giant's Causeway was formed just under 60 million years ago. At that time, Ireland was still attached to North America. Europe was starting to rip away from North America and, as it did so, it created huge rifts in the earth's surface. Those rifts produced cracks, and up through those cracks came lots of molten rock and lava.



Much later, erosion then caused rivers to form in the basalt. Then more lava came, which flowed through the river valleys. In this river valley, *the Giant's Causeway* we think of today was formed.

Alternatively, you can imagine the giant Finn McCool striding those basalt cliffs and columns determined to finish that bridge to Scotland to defeat the Scottish giant, Benandonner. There is another story about how Finn McCool built the bridge for love. You can find out more here:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/northern-ireland/giants-causeway/history-of-giants-causeway>

38. Edward Rushton - *Royal School for the Blind* - 232-years and counting

Edward Rushton (1756–1814) was a British poet, writer and bookseller from Liverpool. He was a remarkable human rights campaigner.

Apprenticed to a slave ship aged 18, he opposed the brutal treatment of the captured Africans and was accused of -and almost charged with- mutiny. He contracted ophthalmia during this voyage, which blinded him and many of the captive slaves. On his return to Liverpool, he became a staunch abolitionist and campaigned for the end of slavery. Reflecting on his own sight loss he became aware of the poor treatment and life chances of many less wealthy blind people and resolved to create a school to offer training and skills.



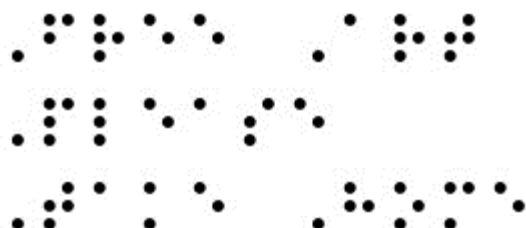
The Liverpool School for the Indigent Blind, now renamed *The Royal School for the Blind*, was founded in 1791 and situated on Hardman Street in Liverpool City Centre, the oldest such school in continuous operation in the world. Although the school was ground-breaking in terms of what it offered it was found wanting after educational reform in the late 19th and 20th century. A new junior school was built in the suburb of Wavertree in 1898. Sixty years later, the whole school moved out to the Wavertree site, where it remains to this day.

Translation of the Braille found on the Liver Harp

free art

please

take home



39. *Doctor Who* - 60th anniversary

Doctor Who first appeared on the *BBC Television Service* on 23rd November 1963. In short, 'The Doctor' explores the universe in a time-travelling spaceship called the TARDIS. The TARDIS exterior appears as a blue British police box, which was a common sight in Britain in 1963 when the series first aired. With various companions, the Doctor combats foes, works to save civilisations, and helps people in need. Did I mention the Tardis is much bigger on the inside?

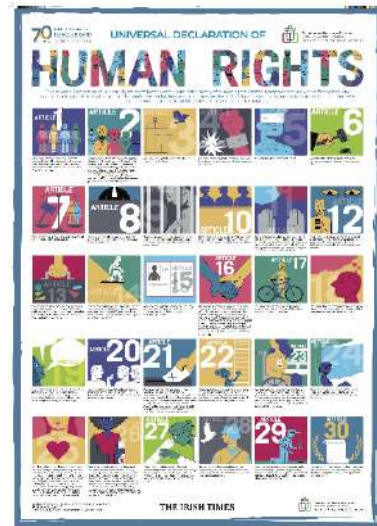


Doctor Who spans the generations and everyone has their favourite Doctor. Everyone has an episode that scared them. For me *The Empty Child* ("are you my mummy") gives me the shivers. Again, for me, *Vincent and the Doctor*, where the Doctor (actor Matt Smith) brings Vincent Van Gogh from the 1890's to modern day London to see his work on display, loved by thousands of people, gives me the happy shivers.

40. *Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 - 75th Anniversary*

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Sadly, today across the world -and in our own country- so many of these basic human rights have been forgotten, broken or ignored.



<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

All the research above was undertaken by Pam Sullivan as part of the *Liver Harp and Seek* project. Images have been sourced from free online services and links were correct as of 12 Oct 2023. This is a learning resource not a commercial document.

To follow Pamela, visit **Facebook @pamela.sullivan.547** or **Instagram @pamelasullivanartist**

The ***Liverpool Irish Festival*** (registered charity No.110126, Company No. 4800736) is governed by a volunteer board, chaired by John Chandler, an original founder. We receive regular funding from Liverpool City Council's *Culture Arts Investment Programme* and the Government of Ireland's ***Department of Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Programme***. In 2020, we received HM Government's *Cultural Recovery Funding: #HereForCulture*. We have been fortunate to receive a second round of ***National Lottery Heritage Funds*** for work on the *Liverpool Irish Famine Trail*, which we will be developing until 2024 under this project. ***Tourism Ireland*** are a 2023 Festival sponsor and we are pleased to have ***The Irish World*** as a 2023 media partner. To each we say thank you and go raibh maith agat/may you have goodness.