

**wow**  
writing on the wall Festival



Moazzam Begg, Brian Reade, Claire Shaw, Sugar Dean,  
John Belchem, Grace Nichols, Benjamin Zephaniah,  
Jean 'Binta' Breeze, Jimmy McGovern, Gladys Mary Coles,  
Louis de Bernieres, Levi Tafari, Aileen La Tourette, Zion Train,  
Kevin Sampson, Niall Griffiths and many others

Festival Guide: May 14th - May 20th 2007

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greater merseyside

## WoW 2007

Through words, music, lyrics, song, dance and discussion, Writing on the Wall calls upon you to explore the legacy of slavery and exalt in the history of rebellion, as Liverpool celebrates 800 years as the bastard outcast of the British Isles, and 200 years since the abolition of a trade, the mark of which runs through our history like a name through Blackpool rock.

Writing on the Wall aims to celebrate diversity in all of its forms and to promote inter-cultural tolerance and understanding.

Unless stated otherwise, entry payment for individual events will be made on the door.

For any access requirements please contact the WoW office on 0151 707 4313

For further details and directions to venues please visit [www.writingonthewall.org.uk](http://www.writingonthewall.org.uk)

*The publishers have made every effort to ensure that the information within this festival guide is accurate. The information contained within this publication is correct at the time of going to print. Under no circumstances whatsoever will Fortis accept liability for any error in, or omission of, any entry, whether relating to spacing, artwork, position, wording or contact details.*

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**Design:** Leanne Gilmurray at Fortis - Tel: 0151 281 4994



**MONDAY 14th**

**Moazzam Begg with Brian Reade**



6.30pm

Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre  
34 Princes Rd, L8 1TH

Moazzam Begg is an 'ordinary' man who has endured an extraordinary fate: he is one of the nine Britons detained in Guantanamo, Cuba. Held for almost three years, without access to a lawyer, Moazzam had not been charged with any crime. He was released in 2005 without explanation or apology. The US government had simply labelled him an 'enemy combatant'.

Moazzam will talk about his experiences and his book, *Enemy Combatant*, with Mirror journalist, Brian Reade.

Entry £4.00/£2.00 on the door

## TUESDAY 15th

### History Day

£5.00/£3.00 day ticket. Gives entrance to all or any event during the History Day. Pay at event.

Since the first Festival (2000), WoW has featured a history strand with an emphasis on hidden histories, 'history as mystery', looking for history in cracks and crevices. This year, WoW's History Day combines talks, walks, drink, discussion and looks at the "mythery" of the Mersey:

### Slavery Walk with Eric Lynch

(History Day)

10.30am

Meet Outside Maritime Museum



View history through the eyes of the oppressed. Eric will take you on a journey of discovery over three hundred years from Liverpool, a sleepy fishing village, to the coasts of Africa, the Caribbean, South and North America.

Places must be booked. Phone 0151 707 4313

## Lowry Walk With Michael Carson



(History Day)

10.30am

Meet at Mersey Ferry Ticket Office

Malcolm Lowry is one of Merseyside's most famous writers. This walk, guided by Lowry-expert Michael Carson, will begin at the Mersey Ferry Ticket Office. After a ferry trip, you will walk from Seacombe, along the promenade of Lowry's childhood. You'll pass the New Brighton funfair site - an inspiration for a scene in *Under the Volcano*. Taking in Lowry's birth place you will stop for refreshments with a chance to look at Michael's Lowry collection.

Approx journey time: 3 hours from Liverpool Pier Head  
Places must be booked.

Phone 0151 707 4313

Please bring own ferry and train fare.

## **Staying Pure in Liverpool - The Welsh Community in the late Nineteenth Century with Mike Benbough-Jackson**

(History Day)

1.00 pm - 2pm

Dean Walters, LJMU, St James Rd L1 7BR

How did young Welsh people avoid getting corrupted by urban life? Benbough-Jackson looks at how urban areas were perceived by Welsh nonconformists and their fears for the younger members of their flock moving from rural areas to seek their fortunes.

## **Edgy Cities**

(History Day)

2.30 pm - 3.30pm

Dean Walters, LJMU, St James Rd L1 7BR

Comers and goers, dodgers and drifters, grafters and grifters - these are the characters that, throughout history, have been attracted to port cities. Steve Higginson and Tony Wailey launch *Edgy Cities* - a book which explains why port cities are unique.

## The Shrewsbury Pickets

(History Day)

4.00-5.30 pm

Dean Walters, LJMU, St James Rd L1 7BR

Des Warren suffered permanent injury to his health from drugs (the *Liquid Cosh*) administered in jail, which ultimately led to his death in April 2004. Des was jailed along with Ricky Tomlinson as one of the Shrewsbury pickets after the 1972 Builders Workers strike. The Justice for Shrewsbury Pickets Campaign re-launch Des Warren's autobiography, *The Key to My Cell*.

Following a documentary screening, Joe Sim, Professor of Criminology at JMU, will discuss the use of legal drugs by the state to control prisoners. Steve Tombs, Professor of Sociology at LJMU, will discuss corporate crime and the construction industry today.





## The Real History Boys

(History Day)

6.00–7.30 pm

Dean Walters, LJMU, St James Rd L1 7BR

Join three of Liverpool's most inspiring historians as they grapple with questions of Liverpool's past to inform Liverpool's future:

The Real History boys are:

John Belchem, Professor of History at the University of Liverpool and editor of *Liverpool 800: culture, character and history*.



Mike Boyle, of Go Higher, Liverpool University, is expert in the historic ethnic make-up of Pitt Street and Park Lane areas.

Ray Costello, author *Liverpool Black Pioneers: A Biographical Dictionary*.



## Putting The Beat In.....

(History Day)

8.00 pm

Pilgrim Pub, 34 Pilgrim St. L1 9HB

In 1962 the Beatles and Mersey-beat exploded onto the 'scene' and thereafter music was accompanied by myth. Experts will look at the jazz scene in Liverpool, the coffee bars, the clubs and the roots and routes of this scene, exploring the rich, largely still untold, history of black music, clubs and musicians who were passed by; and consider the Beatles' industry mythology.

Speakers are Sugar Dean, legendary member of The Harlems - key and influential in the history of Mersey-beat, Bill Mitchell - a jazz enthusiast and



manager of numerous jazz clubs and Dr Holly Tessler - an authority on the early Beatles.

Chair: Wes Wilkie, Director of MZONE and son of the famous Mr. Derry Wilkie.

## **Writing Workshop with Marc Gee**

6.00 pm – 8.00 pm  
Wallasey Central Library,  
Earlston Road, Wallasey



Led by Marc Gee (Al's Lads), this workshop gives a unique insight into the scriptwriting process.

Entry: £5.00/£3.00 on door, although places must be booked in advance by calling 0151 707 4313.



## **Pulp Idol**



5.00 – 7pm

Hemingways, 52 Duke St., L1 5AA

Continuing our quest for new writers, and ways to get beneath the skin of the publishing industry, WOW presents Pulp Idol, an event where unpublished writers get on the catwalk to flaunt their flashy prose and subtle plots to a panel of wide-eyed and world weary judges looking for the 'face of WOW 2007'.

Our special guest is Dan Franklin from legendary publishers, Random House and Caroline Dawnay literary agent for PDF. Prizes include three-day residential writing course at Ty Nwydd, the National Writers' Centre for Wales.

Heats take place from Tuesday to Thursday with the final on Friday. For application forms telephone 0151 707 4313 or visit [www.writingonthewall.org.uk](http://www.writingonthewall.org.uk) to download a copy.

## **In the Red – Poetry Magazine Launch**

7.30pm

Revolution Bar, St. Peters Sq, Fleet Street, City Centre

In the Red invites you to the launch of the 5th edition

of the JMU literary magazine with a night of live readings from the magazine's best poetry and prose.

Free Entry

**WEDNESDAY 16th**

**Grace Nichols, Clare Shaw & Soul Purpose  
An Evening of Poetry & Song**

8pm

Rodewald Suite,  
Philharmonic Hall (side entrance),  
Hope Street, L1 9BP



Grace Nichols, winner of the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, is perhaps best known for her humorous characterisation of the fat black woman; funny, relaxed and a fleshy challenge to all that is thin and mean in western society.

Clare Shaw has been described by Carol Ann Duffy as 'probably the best, most electrifying, new young reader on the circuit'.



*Soul Purpose* are a brilliant acapella women's choir.

Tickets £8/£5 Available from the Philharmonic Hall box office on 0151 709 3789

## Gordon Bowker on Malcolm Lowry

7.30pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Linghams Bookshop

248 Telegraph Road, Heswall,

Wirral, CH60 7SG



Gordon Bowker has written extensively on writing legend, Malcolm Lowry, and was awarded the New York Times' *Notable Book of the Year 1994*. Sourcing his own extensive Lowry knowledge, Gordon will read from Lowry's writings. For Lowry fans, this will be a great night out; for the uninitiated, there's no better introduction.

Entry £5/£3 on the door, although places must be reserved in advance by telephoning 0151 342 7290. Refreshments provided.

**THURSDAY 17th**

## Liverpool's Literary Heritage

5.00 pm

Revolution Bar

St. Peters Sq, Fleet Street,

City Centre, L1 4DQ



Gladys Mary Coles celebrates the re-launch of her award-winning anthology *Both Sides of the River*, an

illumination of Liverpool in the words of writers across the centuries including Melville, Hawthorne, Dickens, Woolf, Sassoon, Greene, Lowry, Russell and McGough. Novelist Ramsey Campbell will treat the audience to a 'chilling story'.

Entry: Free

**Artist Talk: Leroy Cooper in Conversation  
with Bryan Biggs**

6.00pm

Auditorium, Tate Liverpool, Albert Dock,  
Liverpool, L3 4BB

Leroy Cooper is a photographer who has focused on the multi-cultural community of Toxteth since 1984. The work represents Cooper's unique relationship with his immediate community which, he believes, has been marginalised and excluded from the mainstream of Liverpool life.

On the occasion of *Centre of the Creative Universe: Liverpool and the Avant-Garde* at Tate Liverpool, Cooper converse with Bryan Biggs, Artistic Director, Bluecoat Arts Centre. Cooper will give an illustrated account of his own work and respond to the exhibition as a whole.

Tickets £7/£5.50/ £4 (members) from Tate Liverpool  
on 0151 702 7400

## **Ade Jackson – Poetry & Music Night**

8.00 pm

Pilgrim Pub (Upstairs)

34 Pilgrim St. L1 9HB



Headland Publications present the launch of Ade Jackson's first poetry collection, *LateNight SisterSongs*. Ade's poetry will be followed by music from Chiba Sprawl (voodoo blues) and guests.

Entry: free

## **Hillsborough Screening with Jimmy McGovern & Phil Scraton**

7.30 pm (doors open at 7.00pm)

Liverpool Lighthouse, Oakfield Road,  
Anfield, L4 0UF



On 15 April 1989, 96 people died as a result of the Hillsborough football stadium disaster. These are uncontested facts but several versions of 'The Truth' have been put forward. Some of these 'Truths' have been accepted as such by those who were present, and some of these 'Truths' have been lies. This year these lies were disgracefully reiterated by Kelvin MacKenzie, former editor of The Sun.



Jimmy McGovern, BAFTA-award winner and scriptwriter for Hillsborough will introduce the film and Professor Phil Scraton will discuss notions of 'Truth' as they relate to Hillsborough. Phil, Chair in Criminology at Queen's University, is the author of *Hillsborough: The Truth*.

Tickets £5/£3 on the door

It is advisable that you reserve a seat in advance on  
0151 476 2342

## **Louis de Bernieres & Ilone Antonius-Jones**

8.00 pm

Blackburne House, Blackburne Place,  
Liverpool, L8 7PE



A sparkling and entertaining show of poetry, classical and traditional music and badinage. Rated as 'unmissable' by Edinburgh Fringe critics in 2005.

Louis de Bernières author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, delivers poetry and plays an amazing variety of instruments, accompanied by flautist Ilone Antonius-Jones.

Tickets £10 /£8. Available from Philharmonic Hall  
Box Office 0151 709 3789

FRIDAY 18th

## Aileen La Tourette

5.15pm

Revolution Bar, St. Peters Sq, Fleet Street,  
City Centre, L1 9BP

'...big in vision, open in attitudes, generous in sympathies, ready for poetic adventurousness. Words are placed so that they go off like firecrackers...' Rosie Bailey on Aileen La Tourette.

Aileen will launch - and read from - her first solo collection of short stories, *Oral History* (Headland Fiction).

Entry: Free

## Benjamin Zephaniah back *inna* Liverpool with Friends

Friday 18th at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)  
Royal Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street,  
L1 9BP

Benjamin Zephaniah is joined by his co-conspirators of dub poetry, Jean 'Binta' Breeze and our own Levi Tafari. Featuring



the MDI African Dancers, this extravaganza of rhythm and rhyme is the pinnacle of Wow's commemorations of the bicentenary year of the abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade. Let's rhyme 'n' rock in the belly o' the beast!



Tickets £13.50/£10.00 Available from Philharmonic Hall Box Office on 0151 709 3789



### **After Party with Zion Train**

10pm till late  
Magnet 45 Hardman St, Liverpool L1 9AS

Dub/Dance pioneers and undisputed leaders in the genre for more than 15 years, Zion Train are one of the finest international live dub acts, with their dynamic onstage dub mixing, acoustic instruments and the best live vocalists.



£3 on presentation of Philharmonic/Benjamin Zephaniah ticket



£5 advance tickets available from [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk)  
£6 on the door of the Magnet

Presented in partnership with Gold in the Shade

**SATURDAY 19th**

**Martin Smith on John Coltrane**

Doors open 8pm

Show 8.30

Rodewald Suite, Philharmonic Hall,

Hope Street, L1 9BP

WoW, in partnership with After 8, present an evening dedicated to John Coltrane.

Almost every modern jazz player has fallen under Coltrane's spell. His saxophone playing revolutionised jazz music and continues to influence hip hop, rock and drum & bass.

Martin Smith, author and prolific music journalist, explores jazz, racism, and resistance through the life of John Coltrane.

Tickets £10 available from Liverpool Philharmonic Hall Box Office on 0151 709 3789

## Liverpool, After Dark

10pm till late

Everyman Bistro (3rd Room) Hope Street  
Liverpool

Join WoW for a 'lock in' with some of Liverpool's most talented writers, guiding your imagination through the city by night; a dangerous yet sublime and exhilarating experience. With Kevin Sampson (*Powder, Clubland, Stars are Stars*) Niall Griffiths (*Grits, Stump, Bring it Back Home*), Kath McKay, (Kirkby born poet and writer), and Rachel Bowman (winner of Pulp Idol 2006), and Mark Diston (local writer and editor of [cultcargo.net](http://cultcargo.net)).

Entry on the Door: £4/£2



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"Merseytravel is always working to explain how it operates as well as participating and supporting the voluntary sector. Our working relationship has enabled Age Concern to connect Merseytravel with service users so that those at risk from social exclusion will receive information and support they need."

Age Concern



## Working with Children and Young People

Community Links works closely with educational bodies, teachers, students and schoolchildren. Because young people will be the passengers of the future, we have to make sure that they and their teachers understand how important transport is in our lives.

We work closely with children and young people in a way that they understand. We respect what they think. This shows that we really care about involving them in what we do.



COMMUNITY LINKS ACCESS TEAM WORKING 4 YOU

# Celebrating 10 great years of access for all!

As Merseyside's public transport system continues to evolve to service the region's population to the best effect, Merseytravel is delighted to celebrate the tenth anniversary of its team that works with, and involves the local community with transport issues that affect their lives.



### What do we do?

Find new and exciting ways of working with children and young people.

Tell people about Merseytravel's services.

Meet people and find out how we can work together with them.

Work in partnership so that that people can get to where they want to travel.

"Striving to work together with communities and involve them in transport issues which effect their lives"



Students are provided with hands-on experience teaching key factual information relating to fire, road and rail safety. This is designed to create empathy and understanding of the problems experienced by the emergency services and other partners involved in the scheme.

Your Choice aims to provide students with the opportunity to appreciate the full value of the emergency and public services and the role they play in the everyday life of the community.

There is also a special event for parents and carers on 13 Sept.

Conference dates: 13 Sept, then every Wednesday until 25 October  
Workshops at: Bosco CLC, City Learning Centre



YOUR CHOICE IS A UNIQUE ONE DAY CONFERENCE DESIGNED TO EXPLORE THE MANY ASPECTS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

## Helping young people make the right choices