



Above: Chair Dr Ann Hoskins (left) with former Chair and @LivIrishFest founder, John Chandler (right).

Dear Irish Film Festival Board,

## Liverpool Irish Festival welcomes new chair

**Incoming:** *Liverpool Irish Festival* has a new chairperson. Dr Ann Hoskins comes to the role, from a career dedicated to improving health opportunities for all, particularly via health work. Ann is a retired public health physician who's held local, regional and national senior public health leadership positions and successfully led innovations in health strategy, policy development and programme implementation. She's previously been a trustee of *Irish in Britain*, as well as chair of national charity, *Best Beginnings*.

Born in Belfast, Ann studied at *Queen's University*, before working in the Republic of Yemen for 10-years. She settled in Liverpool in 1990. Welcome, Ann, we're looking forward to the years ahead as *Liverpool Irish Festival* continues to thrive under your guidance.

**Departing? Not quite yet...** Ann accepts the baton from Festival stalwart, John Chandler. John's been Festival chair for the majority of time, since establishing the Festival 21-years ago! Under his watchful eye, the programme's blossomed into today's multi-faceted cultural celebration. John, who's worked in social care, health, education and the statutory, private and voluntary sectors (and is also a brilliant guitarist!) says: "When I started, I told the Board, who were essentially a group of friends, that I would chair for three years and then we'd bring in fresh blood. It didn't quite work out like that! We've had 54 trustees since the first festival, in 2003, and it's been a great privilege to work alongside them and our management team to deliver our fantastic Festivals and other events throughout each year".

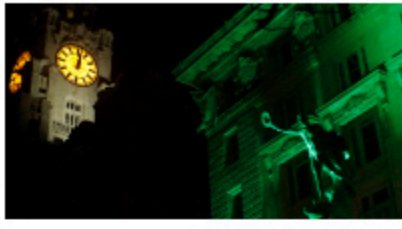
John will stay on as a company secretary to the Festival board where his wisdom, focus and humour will continue to be much appreciated. Thank you, John, for ensuring the last 21 years were so incredibly special. Thank you both so much! Go raibh mile maith agaih!

[To read more about this change, click here.](#)

## Liverpool Irish Festival 2024

This year's celebration runs from 17-27 Oct 2024, with the theme: 'departures'. For 2025 it'll be 'arrivals'. This link feels doubly poignant as we bid a fond farewell to one much-loved era and begin our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary year with new energies, as we welcome Ann's arrival as chair.

Team *LivIrishFest* is currently preparing for October's ten day gala, alongside projects surrounding the development of *Liverpool Irish Famine Trail*. These consider the complex and heart-breaking history of Irish migration into Liverpool, during the period of the Great Hunger (1845-1852). As part of this work, there's an open call for a song submission (closes 4 March, so not long to get your entries in), details of which can be found [here](#).



## #GlobalGreening for St Patrick's Day (17 Mar)

For the last few years, we've led the way with marking St Patrick's with #GlobalGreening, inviting locations across the region to green in honour of our Irish diaspora communities and as a means of helping us think about environmentalism.

Already enrolled this year are *St George's Hall*, the *Cunard Building*, *Liverpool Town Hall*, *Sefton Park Palm House*, *Lister Steps*, *Steve Prescott Bridge*, *Georges Dock*, Seacombe clock tower and Woodside ventilation station, with more to follow.

We thank everyone that's going to be involved and invite you to send us your photos on social media (@LivIrishFest on Facebook, Insta and Twitter).

## Fréa's Big Irish Breakfast

*Fréa* is a partnership of three charities based in Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool who offer support to people in the Irish community. This year, in the week leading up to St Patrick's Day, they're running a fundraising initiative: *Fréa's Big Irish Breakfast*.

All they want us to do is enjoy a good breakfast; post an image of said breakfast online using the hashtag #FréaBigIrishBreakfast and — where possible — donate. There's a QR code on the leaflet below and a donate button on their website [here](#).

So, whether it's a cup of tea and a bit of toast, a totally massive full Irish or maybe a bowl of muesli with soya milk – *Fréa* wants us to enjoy this initiative however we choose. #FréaBigIrishBreakfast runs 11-17 March. Please consider taking part.



Celebrate St Patrick's Day by joining *Fréa's Big Irish Breakfast* - and support vulnerable Irish communities across the North of England.


From a cup of tea to a Full Irish, enjoy it your way wherever you are in the world.

You can do it solo or get family, friends or colleagues together to celebrate *Fréa's Big Irish Breakfast* - in person or online.

We're simply asking you to do three things: take a photo, enjoy your breakfast and donate to *Fréa*.

Post your picture online with the hashtag #FréaBigIrishBreakfast - and inspire others to support *Fréa's* life-changing work.




**Take a photo - enjoy your breakfast - donate to Fréa**  
**11-17 March 2024 | #FréaBigIrishBreakfast**  
[www.frea.org.uk](http://www.frea.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 1197939

## SHOUT comes to Liverpool

**SHOUT LIVERPOOL** — a festival about mental health — will take place Thurs 18-Fri 19 Apr 2024, at *The Bluecoat*, Liverpool's contemporary arts centre. This ticketed, free event encompasses

film, music, theatre, dance and poetry. The festival is calling for submissions for original artistic content across film (both features and shorts), theatre, dance, spoken word, music and other art forms.

Applications are welcome from Liverpool — and across the UK — and should be sent to [info@shoutcelebration.com](mailto:info@shoutcelebration.com) by Monday, 18 March. **SHOUT LIVERPOOL** especially welcomes

submissions from people with lived experience of mental health issues.

## Keep well

We know there is a lot of hardship out there now. If you're looking for new or different connections with Liverpool's Irish community, visit the [Liverpool Irish Centre](#). For welfare support, contact Irish Community Care. It's ok to be alone, but don't be lonely. [Irish in Britain](#) can also be a useful organisation to be in touch with. You are always welcome to get involved with one of these organisations.

With best wishes from everyone at the Liverpool Irish Festival

FESTIVAL FUNDERS AND CODES EARNED












SPONSOR AND MEDIA PARTNER




Lead writer: Pascal O'Loughlin. Editor: Emma Smith

Copyright © 2024 *Liverpool Irish Festival*. All rights reserved. You are subscribed to the newsletter from Liverpool Irish Festival. Our mailing address is:

Liverpool Irish Festival  
 FF9 Northern Lights  
 Liverpool, Merseyside L8 5AF  
 United Kingdom