

Bootle Children's Literary Festival

Fairy Tale, Myth & Legend

• Project report Nov 2023



Introduction



Bootle Children's Literary Festival is a project of Ykids, a charity set up to improve the lives and prospects of children and young people in Bootle and Merseyside.

The purpose of the festival is to bring quality cultural and literary opportunities to children in order to improve their engagement with literature, story and inspire them to read, write and think creatively. By promoting a love of story and encouraging children to read for pleasure studies show this will have a long term impact on their attainment, mental well being and life long prospects.

A National Literacy Trust study found that children who enjoyed reading were significantly less likely to have mental health problems, while the Centre for Longitudinal Studies found that reading for pleasure has a four times greater impact on academic success than one parent having a degree.

The BCLF 2023 is our fourth children's literary festival and it is our ambition that the project should eventually become a calendar event in Merseyside, running alternate years and growing in terms of partners, influence and positive outcomes for children, making a lasting impact for generations to come.

The festival offers a range of exciting projects, engages with schools, local business, community groups, artists, authors, libraries and the local authority.

Bootle Children's Literary Festival is based out Kingsley and Co, Ykids' Steampunk Victorian Explorer children's bookshop and literacy projected based in Bootle Strand Shopping Centre. The shop offers an imaginative space with hidden classrooms, discovery rooms, story doors, a time machine, and coffee shop. In addition to offering free family workshops, events and after school clubs, the project sells quality pre loved children's books for just £1 making stories accessible for everyone.

One of the key values of the BCLF is to support local authors and artists including young artists. We do this both through offering opportunities and buying their books but also employing them to deliver workshops and activities. Young artists are given a platform to share their work both written and performed, and we endeavour to publish a book of written work at each festival, giving young people opportunity to see their work published and recognised. We are honoured that Frank Cottrell Boyce – renowned local author is a patron of Kingsley and Co and the Literary Festival and we are grateful for the support he lends to us.

Bootle Children's Literary Festival 2023

Each year the BCLF has a different theme and for 2023 we chose 'Fairy Tale, Myth and Legend'. The BCLF 23 was an ambitious event with multiple strands which sought to engage thousands of children in creative literary workshops and the wider community in cultural events.

Events included:

- A 3 day Medieval Fair in the Strand Shopping Centre
- An interactive fairy door trail in the local park
- Fairy door workshops in local libraries
- The publication of a book of short stories written by children
- The book launch for the children's story book
- A Literary Fair
- Two weeks of authors visiting schools
- Two weeks of schools visiting our steampunk children's bookshop for workshops
- A Dragon themed escape room
- An interactive Dragon trail throughout the shopping centre
- A huge dragon installation
- A Dragon festival day
- The distribution of 3000 golden tickets – each allowing the bearer to collect a free brand new book from Kingsley and Co.



Need for the Bootle Children's Literary Festival

Bootle in Merseyside has communities ranking in the highest 1 and 2% in the multiple indices of deprivation. There are no bookshops (except Ykids' Kingsley and Co) There are few cultural opportunities, no cinema, theatre, bowling alley or other town centre amenities. A very high proportion of families are on low incomes with more than twice the national average of children on free school meals (an indication of poverty).

In some wards as much as 84% of children leaving schools do not achieve the national standard for English and Maths.

45% of children starting school are already behind when they leave key stage 1.

Literacy rates are in the bottom 6% in the country despite having a relatively low community of people with English as a second language.

A child born in Bootle will live 12 years less than the national average and 20 years less than some of the UK's most affluent areas.

Poverty, low attainment and hopelessness drive young people into a subculture of gangs, violence and crime.

Child poverty in Bootle has increased by 17% over the last 5 years.

Unlike many Literary Festivals, we determined at the outset, that all activities for the public were to be free, while school visits and workshops were to be heavily subsidised through fundraising. This gave opportunities for children who would not normally have access to authors, artists and cultural activities. This has been an effective tool to engage children, young people and families who have previously been categorised as 'hard to reach' audiences.





Intended outcomes:

Our purpose is to have a positive impact through literature and the arts, promoting attainment, positive wellbeing and better life long outcomes for children and young people, and in particular those living in poverty. Our objectives are:

To give children and young people opportunities to meet authors and artists in order that they may be inspired to read, write, create and imagine.

To give schools a cost effective opportunity to welcome authors and artists into the classroom as part of a larger event that promoted literacy and had a greater impact.

To inspire families to engage in literature through free and engaging literary based events and activities.

To get books into the hands and homes of children through our Golden Ticket scheme.

To give young people opportunities to exhibit their work and share their skills with a wider audience.

To give local artists and authors opportunity to share their work, engage with audiences and schools.

To put on an event that put Bootle on the map, creating civic pride, promoting well being and engaging the wider community.

Pre-Festival:

A large amount of preparation took place before the festival began. This included:

- Engaging schools through an expression of interest pack
- Engaging artists and authors to take part in the event
- Coordinating with partners
- Fund raising
- Logistical and venue planning
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Marketing
- Risk assessments and contingency plans
- Writing of staff and contributor handbooks
- The commissioning of art installations
- Delivering the short story competition
- Transforming our discovery room into a Dragon's Lair Escape room.
- Decoration of the lower mall of the Strand including hanging banners , medieval tents and wrapping pillars to look like castle walls.





Delivery

The festival ran over 3 weeks and delivered a variety of events and activities including:

A 3 day Medieval Fair in the Strand Shopping Centre

The three-day festival took place on the lower Mall of the Strand and in and around Kingsley and Co. The Mall was decorated in a medieval theme with medieval tents and banners. We offered free activities including indoor archery, stocks, giant Angry Birds with a bespoke giant catapult, themed crafts, and performances from a medieval Jester. Story telling and workshops took place including 'Medieval Sword fighting in stories' and 'How to be a Knight' workshops. We also commissioned a 'Sword in the Stone' which contained an electromagnet and was controlled by an app, allowing small children to release the sword and adults to be unable. Ykids staff and volunteers also donned medieval costumes to add to the atmosphere. Other activities on offer included making fairy jars and fairy doors, dragon hats and lolly stick catapults. Families could also take part in our Dragon escape room or collect a passport to follow the dragon trail.



Fairy door workshops in local libraries

Sefton Library Service partnered with us during half term and ran free fairy door workshops. Children were each given a small wooden fairy door to decorate and encouraged to write a story about the fairy, woodland or magical creature that lived behind the door. Every participant in the 6 libraries across the borough was given a golden ticket to claim a brand new book from Kingsley and Co.



An interactive fairy door trail in the local park

We commissioned Ian Nenna, a local poet, to write a short story in verse which was then recorded with sound effects. Using the 'Echoes' App we set up a geolocated trail through the park, placing highly decorated and themed fairy doors at every location. Participants downloaded the free app and as they followed the trail, a story played on their phone as they walked into each zone. The rhyming tale featured a kidnapped fairy and children were drawn into a quest to save her from the evil Boggart. The trail stayed live for a month.



The publication of a book of short stories written by children

We ran a competition for children to write a short story with the best entries and illustrations to be included in a book launched at the festival. Children were able to write a story in any one of 5 categories including Modern Fairy Tale, Fable, Scary Beasts, Magical Creatures and Myths and Legends. 117 children aged between 7 and 16 entered stories, with 28 of the best being chosen for publication by judges including Shanna Woolsey from Sovini Group who sponsored the book, Lesley Davies from Sefton Library Service and Author, Poet and Artist in residence at Kingsley and Co - Ali Harwood. The book was then designed by the Ykids staff team.



The book launch of the children's story book

The book launch took place in the shopping centre and 22 of the young authors attended with their families. Each young person sat at a long table so that guests could have their books signed by the authors. Each child received 3 free copies but we also encouraged people to buy the book – so that children could see that their work had value. Our special guest for the event was Frank Cotrell Boyce who thrilled young people with stories about the Paddington Bear films he is working on and encouraged them in their writing.





A Literary Fair

The Literary Fair was open to local authors to take a free stall and promote their books. There was a wide variety of authors from established to aspiring, and a full programme of storytelling, poetry and performances. Young people from Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts took place alongside workshops and costumed actors. A professional medieval knight and squire wandered around chatting to the children and shared workshops on the life of a Knight, while other volunteers dressed as characters for books and history.

Two weeks of authors visiting schools

The main focus of the project was to bring authors into schools and inspire children to read for pleasure, write and create their own stories. We were fortunate to have an amazing group of local and celebrity authors and performers including Levi Tafari and Frank Cotrell Boyce, Alan Gibbons, Rapper Jamie Broad, Curtis Watt, Nick Jones, Natalie Denny, Vince Cleghorn, Ali Harwood, Jude Lennon, Dave McCluskey, Ian Brown, Altru Theatre Company and Ian Nenna. Each author delivered a full school assembly as well as at least 2 workshops.

We offered schools a package valued at £2500 for just £400, This included:

An author /artist in school for half a day

A half day visit to Kingsley and Co for one class including a workshop with an author, a visit to our escape room, a literary quiz, cake, hot chocolate and a free book of choice for every pupil.

100 golden tickets to be given to children in school which could be exchanged for a free new book at Kingsley and Co

Flyers for every child telling them about the free half term and weekend activities they could access.



A Dragon themed escape room

To create an escape room we reimagine and redecorated our discovery room, covering the walls to create a cave like space and replacing lighting with ambient flickering lanterns. The room was filled with artefacts and themed puzzles. Children were told that they were entering the lair of Smaug the dragon. He was asleep but would be waking in 20 minutes and they would need to escape before he awoke if they did not want to get eaten. They then had to complete 4 puzzles to find 4 numbers to open a locked chest. The puzzles included literacy and numeracy skills, visual skills and practically finding objects. While the children sought to complete the tasks working as teams, a sound track with instructions, dragon sleeping and dripping cave sound effects added to the atmosphere. Time warnings were also given and a ticking watch and continually building music added to the tension. A staff member dressed in a monk's habit sat silently for the first 10 minutes and then was able to help children with clues if they were struggling.

The Dragon escape room had three different versions, one for key stage 1, key stage 2 and a family version for weekends which meant that returning children who thought they knew the answers discovered they did not!



An interactive 'Dragon trail


Situated throughout the shopping centre, the dragon trail offered children a passport with 'Top Trumps' style pages for them to complete. Ali Harwood our author/artist in residence, drew 10 original pictures of dragons from story, myth and legend which were then printed on large foamex boards and situated around the shopping centre. Each dragon had a QR code that took them to a hidden page on the Kingsley and Co website with information about each dragon that they could complete in their passport. This encouraged children to interact digitally and engage in story and imagination.



A Dragon installation

A volunteer came into our shop one day and told us that he made masks and we asked him if he would be willing to create a giant dragon for us. Many weeks later a huge dragon head art installation with arms and tail took pride of place above Mons square in the shopping centre, as the dragon peeked out over shoppers looking like he was ready to pounce. Many hours went into creating the 5 foot long head, 15 foot tail and huge claws.





The 'Dragon Fest


The finale of the festival was our Dragon Fest. In addition to the many games and activities such as the stocks, Angry Birds, crafts, sword in the stone we also offered workshops in Dragonology, Viking runes and storytelling. Our main attraction was a huge animatronic dragon and his keeper, Merlin. With a 'How to Train your Dragon' theme we also welcomed the Wirral Vikings, who set up a camp and showed children how Vikings lived. 3 fully armed warriors escorted the dragon on walkabout which made for very exciting and entertaining performances for our audiences.



Golden Tickets

We were fortunate to gain funding to buy brand new books which we could distribute to children free of charge through our golden ticket scheme. The funding provided by the Siobhan Dowd Trust enabled us to buy over 3000 new books, and give out golden tickets in schools, youth groups, uniformed organisations and libraries and to families attending some of our workshops. A series of bookcases was dedicated to the golden tickets and featured books for all ages, covering a wide range of genres. We also included some non fiction and historical books for children who prefer non fiction, as well as books for children with dyslexia or late readers and even a range of bilingual books. We also bought a selection of books from every author who took part in the festival giving children who met them the opportunity to have their book even if they were not able to afford one.

Each golden ticket enabled a child to choose a free new book. They could not be used for schools to fill their libraries and must be put into the hands of children. This was hugely important in our area as few children are able to afford to purchase a book at full price.



Kingsley and Co

In addition to converting our discovery room into a Dragon's Lair escape room and hosting workshops in our secret classroom accessed through a Narnia wardrobe, staff also created a special fairy tale themed menu for the event including Goblin Snot Chocolate, Troll Water and Fairy Elixir. They also created new fairy tale merchandise such as Ogre toe nail clippings, Dragon Earwax and Giant's Shoe Laces. The staff and volunteers dressed in a range of costumes helping to create an atmosphere of creativity and imagination.

Marketing; How we reached audiences

We had an extensive marketing strategy around the festival learning from previous years and considering best ways to reach our audiences.

We engaged schools early, gauging their possible participation through an expression of interest form. This is not always foolproof as we found, as schools regularly change literacy coordinators, head teachers and their circumstances change, however it is very useful as a starting point.

We employed a part time schools and authors coordinator to help us deal with the administration and relationships around bookings for the festival.

We engaged schools the previous term through the story competition, creating excitement and anticipation as well as a sense of ownership over the festival.

We did a mailshot to all Merseyside region schools with digital flyers and sent flyers for every child in each participating school and schools local to us.



Website

We created a new website sharing information pre festival and updated daily, allowing schools to book their preferred author/date/time etc unlike previous years where we had internally allocated. We ensured that all funders and partners were listed and hyperlinked on the website, and funder logos were included on all printed materials

Social Media

Publicity about the festival and family weekend events were published across all our social media platforms including, Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn. We scheduled regular updates and created video teasers and links to all family events. Individual event assets were shared directly to a vast number of social media pages who then consistently re shared and we delivered individual introductions/welcome for all authors across socials who then continued to reshare.

The Guide Liverpool and Culture Liverpool published pages within their online what's on guide, and event timetables were shared across socials, website and displayed around the shopping centre.



Other Media

We had weekly mentions and the opportunity to be guest speakers on Liverpool Live Radio and BBC Radio Merseyside alongside numerous online articles, local news pages across the region including the Liverpool Echo sharing regular posts across their family based pages. Liverpool Literacy Cycle played a huge role sharing information pre and post festival, expanding the reach of our audience.

Print Media

20,000 double sided A5 flyers advertising the 4 free family weekend events were distributed to registered schools for every student, and to libraries, public places, businesses and shopping centres. A3/A4 posters visually displayed at Kingsley & Co/Ykids and in all registered schools. 5000 Golden tickets were printed and distributed to registered schools, family events, libraries etc. We worked closely with Sefton Council and Green Sefton, allowing us to advertise the Fairy Door Trail within Bootle North Park notice boards and on railings throughout the park.



Reach

During the 3 week span of the festival all of our social media platforms received a lot of traffic however we received a lot less engagement from families sharing their photos etc than anticipated based on previous events. Our reach over X increased dramatically. Across Ykids and Kingsley & Co Facebook and Instagram we reached 25,079 people whilst both X accounts reached 78,281 more between them.

Followers/likes increased on Ykids Facebook by 90% and 41% on Instagram.

Kingsley & Co followers/likes increased by 35% on Facebook and 123% on Instagram

From setting up the BCLF website to the end of the festival the new site was viewed 2471 times. Although our highest overall reach was from X, 60% of views were direct traffic from sharing the website compared to 25% from Facebook and just 6% from X. Following the festival until the end of the year, the site was visited a further 123 times.

During the festival, compared to the previous 30 days, visits to the Kingsley & Co website increased 186% by direct links, Google searches 54%, Facebook 206% and by external sites by 283%

Since the festival the Kingsley & Co visits to the website have continued to increase directly +116%, by Facebook +500% and from X +260%

Visits to the Ykids website also increased by 79% directly via the Kingsley & Co website



Traffic Source 1/09 - 11/11	BCLF Website	Ykids Website	Kingsley & Co Website
Direct clicks	60%	28%	36%
Facebook	25%	21%	13%
Google	7%	45%	39%
Twitter	6%	5%	8%
Insta	2%		
Other		1%	4%



During the Festival 21/10 - 11/11	Facebook Reach	Facebook Followers	Instagram Reach / Impressions	Instagram Followers	X	Website visits
Ykids	13,100	+90%	9400 / 22,813	+41%	103,327	+79%
Kingsley & Co	9,400	+35%	1266 / 22,414	+123%		+186

Outcomes and Impact

The Bootle Children's Literary Festival set out to:-

- To give children and young people opportunities to meet authors and artists in order that they may be inspired to read, write, create and imagine.

We did this by taking authors/ artists into schools, bringing schools into Kingsley and Co, setting up a story writing competition and subsequent book launch and putting on community events.

- To give schools a cost effective opportunity to welcome authors and artists into the classroom as part of a larger event that promoted literacy and had a greater impact. We did this by heavily subsidising the offer for schools who were mainly from deprived communities.

- To inspire families to engage in literature through free and engaging literary based events and activities.

We did this by offering free interactive events, an escape room, workshops and trails during the 3 weeks of the event.

- To get books into the hands and homes of children through our Golden Ticket scheme. We did this by distributing 3000 golden tickets entitling children to a free brand new book of choice. Tickets went out to schools, libraries and youth and children's groups so that children could come down to Kingsley and Co and choose from a vast range of new books.

- To give young people opportunities to exhibit their work and share their skills with a wider audience.

We did this through our story competition, development of a children's story book and a public book launch where children could sign their work. We also gave opportunity for young performers from Liverpool Institute of Performing arts and Heather Stark a young Harpist from the Royal Northern School of Music, all of whom took part in events and performances.

- To give local artists and authors opportunity to share their work, engage with audiences and schools.

We did this by employing local authors to work in schools and at our events, giving them a free platform to share their work at a Literary Fair, promoting them through our social media and website, and by purchasing their books to be given to children as part of the Golden Ticket scheme.

- To put on an event that put Bootle on the map, creating civic pride, promoting well being and engaging the wider community.

Bootle is a town that has very few annual events or calendar moments. We have no destination venues or attractions. By putting on the festival we created a sense of civic pride, engaged the wider community through events and schools work and positively promoted Bootle across the region.



Impact

In order to measure impact, we took a multifaceted approach.

- All school workshops and visits from authors had evaluation forms asking for comments from both the teachers and the children.
- We collected feedback from social media.
- We collected feedback cards at events.
- We collected anecdotal evidence and photographs.



Some of the Feedback from schools:

'The children not only enjoyed themselves but it was educational. They learnt new techniques. It really engaged the children, especially the boys, promoted speaking and listening skills too.'

'Jamie was so engaging and he made the task of creating a rap so clear and exciting. The children were completely engaged and so enthusiastic and it was a great session.'

'Frank always captures the children's imaginations and entertains the school with his wonderful stories. This has linked beautifully with what we are doing at the moment - 'Desirable' by Frank!'

'The children were very engaged and were excited to write. They were keen to read their stories aloud, even the ones that are very shy'

'Author workshop with Dave McCluskey was fantastic - he really got the children engaged with writing.'

'Staff went above and beyond looking for specific books our pupils wanted. Amazing visit - thank you.'

'We received a lovely warm welcome into the bookshop and the children thoroughly enjoyed their hot chocolate and cake.'

'The escape room was exciting with just the right amount of trepidation - they thoroughly enjoyed solving the clues.'

This has been a lovely experience to introduce the children to imaginary play, teamwork & creative expression. Thank you



Feedback from children



I was inspired to be an author when I'm older

We have loved our visit and it is amazing that we can take two books home.

This has been a lovely experience to introduce the children to imaginary play / teamwork & creative expression. Thank you

Loved to colour and make a kings hat. The dragon was scary but good. I liked him breathing smoke. The escape room was very good too. Thank you

"We learnt how to work as a team to solve problems. This is the best day ever!"

"We enjoyed the dragon trail but also the crafts, meeting authors and the escape room, amazing!"



We gave out feedback forms at our events and asked participants to answer the following questions:

Feedback forms

What activity did you enjoy most?

- Participants commented positively about every aspect of the BCLF events, enjoying the performances, crafts and workshops. They particularly enjoyed the Escape room and Dreygo the Dragon.

How would you rate the BCLF out of 10?

- The average score for the event from all feedback forms was 9.7 out of 10.

Do you value the opportunity to access free cultural events?

- 95% of people commented yes. A number of people expanded telling us
- 'My child will benefit from these events as we could not afford to take them anywhere' and one parent on hearing the event was free, burst into tears.

Has this event had a positive impact on your mental wellbeing?

- While we recognise that an event such as this will not solve the world's problems, it can help to make people feel more positive about themselves and their community/environment or take pressure off (mum Guilt) as one parent told us, for those who cannot afford to take their children to attractions and on holidays.
- 89% of those who completed feedback forms told us that the project had a positive impact on their mental wellbeing.

Has the BCLF encouraged you/your child to read to read more on a scale of 1 to 5.

- Participants were asked to score 1 to 5 with the highest being 5. The average score was 4.8.



'This is exactly what every community needs'





Bootle Children's Literary Festival

43 Schools involved

81% Primary Schools

14% Secondary Schools

5% Special provision schools



88 Workshops delivered

42 Authors/Artists Contributing

27 Volunteers

28 Stories published

5213

Number of children participating through school

1486

Audience for performances (adults and children)



209

People who contributed to the festival

2700 Golden Tickets distributed

1040 Free Books distributed

176,487

Social Media Engagements



Thank you to everyone, we've been every weekend and every time just gets better and better

This place is a little bit of magic in the middle of every day life - for both kids and adults

Really great way to encourage and support families



Challenges

As with any event the Bootle Children's Literary Festival '23 there were huge successes, it was not without its challenges.

Schools financial challenges

Each participating school was asked to contribute £400 to the event. For this they received a half day author visit, half a day of workshops for one class with another author at Kingsley and Co and 100 golden tickets equivalent to £800 of new books.

Unfortunately despite over 30 schools expressing an interesting in participating in the festival, many found they could no longer afford it due to increased costs of the Cost of living Crisis and an imposed pay increase of 6% for teachers with no additional resources from government. This coupled with the need for transport for some made the trip too costly despite our huge subsidy.

Vinci Construction and a local councillor contributed to the festival allowing 5 schools to attend for free.

'Booking system

This year we introduced a new booking system allowing schools to book their own author and dates from our calendar. This worked well but also meant that lesser known authors were not taken up as much and we did have some unused availability. We also found that schools were much less likely to book Key stage 1 authors despite evidence that early intervention in literacy is highly impactful. While the system lessened our workload, and meant schools took responsibility for their own booking (we have previously had 2 schools turn up to the same event because they asked to change a date and this was not passed on to the teachers bringing the children) but it meant we were less able to ensure every author was at full capacity.

Next Steps

BCLF 23 was our fourth literary festival and each has built upon the last. We are finding it increasingly difficult to give the festival the time it needs to develop, without increasing our capacity. To this end we are seeking funding to employ a festival development worker. This role will be part time initially, developing on the legacy of previous festivals and delivering a range of projects and programmes in the run up to the next event on 2025. The post would allow us to expand our reach and continue to build upon the good work which has already taken place, building in continuity and legacy both for the children and schools involved but also the authors and artists.

Kingsley and Co Move

In January 2024, Kingsley and Co was forced to move from its former location to new premises in the shopping centre as part of the redevelopment of the town centre. Ykids has been fortunate to be given a new shop in prime location, enabling us to open longer hours, and offer a much wider range of activities. The building, a former bank. However, needs a great deal of work and Kingsley will be forced to be closed while this takes place.

To ensure the community do not think we are gone for good we arranged a human chain to enable us to move books from one location to the other. 300 people and 7 schools turned out for the event which made the regional news.

We have also taken a stall in the local market twice a month, and offered 'pop up' Kingsley to schools, giving children the opportunity to choose a book for £1 from a selection of 1000.

The new building will need a £100,000 to see it properly refurbished, however £70,000 has already been raised in kind from local businesses who are offering their services free of charge, have donated a new kitchen and new kitchen appliances and equipment.

The new premises for Kingsley and Co and the base for the Literary Festival will mark a significant step forward both for us as an organisation and for the future of the BCLF.



Summary

The BCLF 23 took months of planning and preparation but had a huge impact on the thousands of children and families, authors and artist who took part.

Schools valued the promotion of literacy in new and inspiring ways while parents valued access to free cultural and educational activities that engaged their children.

Local authors and artists including new and emerging talent, had the opportunity to perform, exhibit their work, deliver workshops, and sell their books.

The festival gave the opportunity for the town to have a calendar event and drew people across the city to attend.

Kingsley and Co was recognised as a year round destination promoting literacy through story and enhancing cultural experiences for children and young people.

Thousands of children received free quality books of their own choosing, were inspired to read, write, tell stories and use their imaginations.



None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our funders, partners artists, authors and volunteers. Thank you for helping us to bring the magic of story to the children of Merseyside.

Thank You!

Author's:

- Alan Gibbons
- Ali Harwood
- Altru Theatre Company
- Curtis Watt
- Dave McCluskey
- Frank Cotrell Boyce
- Ian Brown
- Ian Nenna
- Jaime Broad
- Jude Lennon
- Levi Tafari
- Natalie Denny
- Nick Jones
- Vince Cleghorn

Partners

- Green Sefton
- In Another Place
- Liverpool Literary Cycle
- Liverpool Live Radio
- May Logan
- Phee's Films
- Sefton Council
- Sefton Libraries
- The Gateway Collective

Funders

- Cargill Care Council
- Cllr Trish Hardy
- Eleanor Rathbone
- Living Well Sefton
- One Vision Housing
- Peel Ports
- Vinci
- PH Holt Foundation
- Rank Foundation
- Siobhan Dowd Trust
- Steve Morgan Foundation
- The Strand Shopping Centre

Local Business

- Bank of New York (Pershing)
- Delta Taxis
- Mann Roberts Solicitors
- Pladis/Jacobs
- The Big Onion
- Vinci
- Warwick Development North West
- Write Blend

Schools

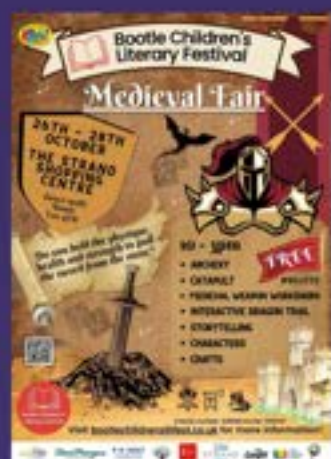
- All Saints Catholic Primary School
- Archbishop Blanch CofE High School
- Bank View High School
- Bedford Primary School
- Chantham Grammar School
- Childwall Valley Primary School
- Christ Church CE Primary School
- Deyes High School
- English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School
- Forefeild Juniors Primary School
- Great Crosby Catholic Primary School
- Hatton Hill Primary School
- Holy Family Catholic Primary School
- Holy Rosary Primary School
- Lander Road Primary School
- Linacre Primary School
- Litherland High School
- Newfield School
- Northway Community Primary School
- Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School
- Queen's Park Primary School
- Springwell Park Primary School
- St Benedict's RC Primary School
- St Elizabeth's RC Primary School
- St George's Primary School
- St Luke's Halsall CE Primary School
- St Moncia's RC Primary School
- St Oswald's CE Primary School
- St. Benedict Catholic Primary
- St. Edmund's & St. Thomas' RC Primary School
- St. Hilda's CE High School
- St. Monica's Catholic Primary School
- St. Patrick's Primary School
- St. Robert Bellarmine Primary School
- St. Edmunds Primary School
- St. John's Primary School
- The Salesian Academy of St. John Bosco
- Thomas Gray Primary School
- Ursuline Catholic Primary School
- Wellesbourne Primary School
- Woodlands Primary School
- Woolton Primary School

Artists, Performers and Creatives

- All Star Experience Group – Archery
- Big Foot Events – Dreygo and baby dragon
- Bootle Toolshed – Creating our wooden signs
- Flying Colours Entertainment – James the Jester from Chester
- Heather Stark – Harpist
- James Griffiths – creating our huge paper mâché dragon installation
- Jean and Dave – Tudor dancers
- Keith Farrell – Academy of Historical Arts
- Liverpool School of Performing Arts – performing poetry and theatre
- Mike Walker – Start Creative CIC creating our sword in the stone/angry birds catapult
- Scott Carson - Time Jesters
- Wirral Vikings – warriors and weaving demonstrations
- Write Explorers - Ian Nenna – fairy door trail poetry

Story Fair Contributors

- Ali Harwood - artist, poet, writer and teacher. Artist in Residence at Kingsley&Co
- Carran Waterfield (Author)
- Comics Youth - Anna with young author Ray
- Cristina Mihailovici & Nicole Noelia Mihailovici - Little Globy
- Delta Taxis
- Jude Lennon - Author & Storyteller
- Julia Piper - Puppeteer
- Kayleigh Hayes - Face Painter
- Lari Parc (Bard)
- Liverpool Lighthouse (Geoff Head)
- Liverpool Literacy Cycle
- Peter Hill - Mickey the Scouse Seagull
- Stu Harrison - Children's Illustrator
- Susanne Schroder - Author & Storytelling
- Ykids



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