

BOOKS ALIVE!

ONCE UPON A TOWN

24-31
OCTOBER

STEP INTO A WORLD OF IMAGINATION
AND ADVENTURE IN SOUTHPORT

FESTIVAL
OF STORIES

THE JOLLY
POSTMAN
BOOK TRAIL

FRINGE
FESTIVAL

FREE family festival across Southport town centre
Explore the full programme online: visitsouthport.com/BooksAlive

2026
SOUTHPORT
Elegantly eccentric

Sefton Council



METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

home **bargains**
for better homes

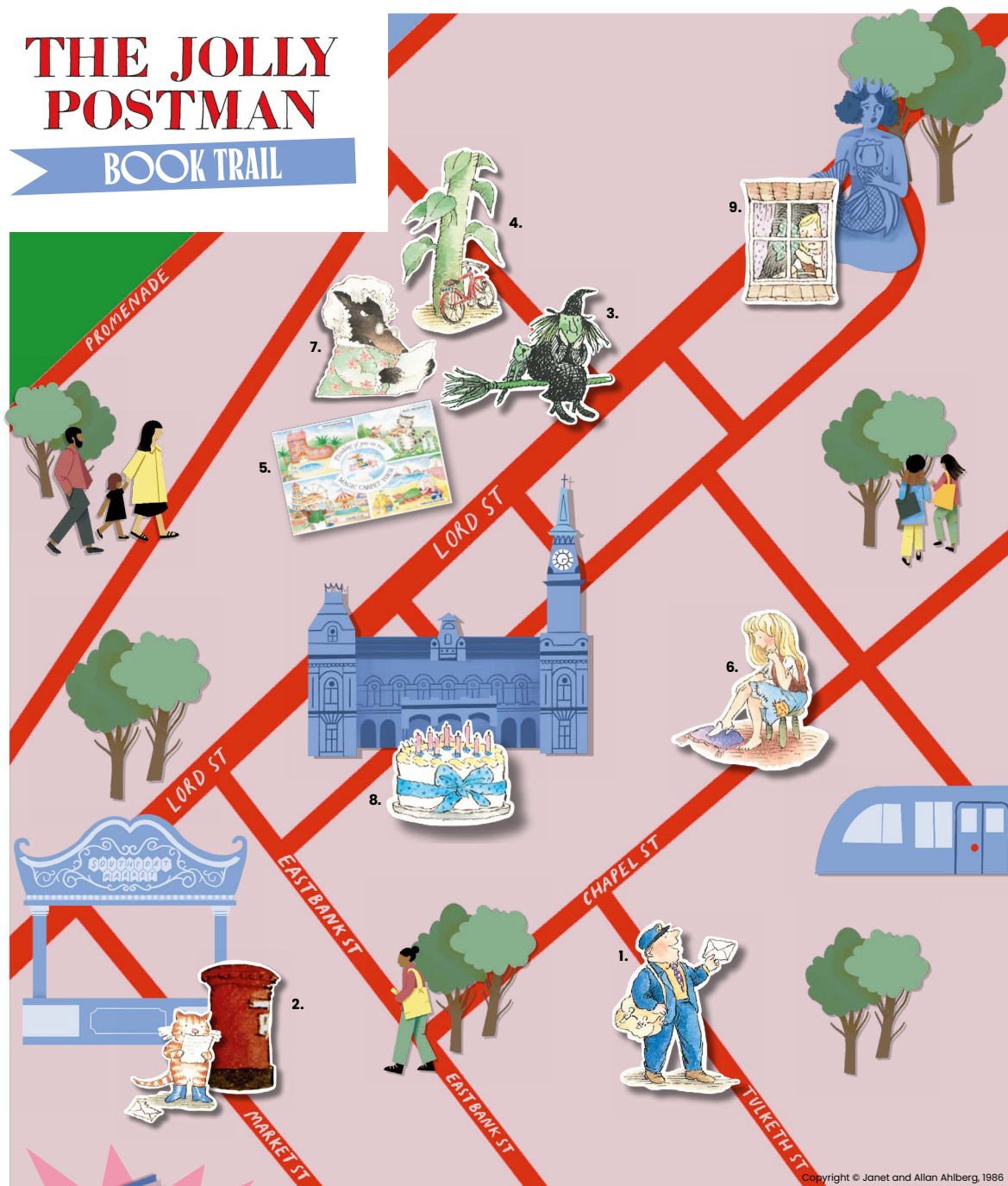


Merseyrail



THE JOLLY POSTMAN

BOOK TRAIL



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1. Postman Greeting
Marble Place
Tulketh Street



4. The Giant
Wayfarers Arcade
Lord Street



7. Grandma's Cottage
Wayfarers Arcade
Lord Street



2. Postbox
Southport Market
Market Street



5. Giant's Postcard
Beales Window
Lord Street



8. Goldilocks
Town Hall Gardens
Lord Street



3. The Wicked Witch
Wayfarers Arcade
Lord Street



6. Cinderella
Waterstones
Chapel Street



9. Postman's Home Time
Mermaid Gardens
Lord Street

24-31 OCTOBER ACROSS SOUTHPORT TOWN CENTRE

Inspired by the beloved children's book by Janet and Allan Ahlberg, The Jolly Postman Trail transforms Southport town centre into a living storybook, inviting families to follow his journey as he delivers letters to favourite fairytale characters. Make CIC have been commissioned to work with artists from across the Liverpool City Region to create the nine installations and bring memorable characters and moments from the story to life. The installations can be visited in any order, so you can create your own storybook adventure through the town centre.



SCAN ME...

Make.
CIC



In partnership with Children's Books North Network, Festival of Stories brings together celebrated children's authors and illustrators for two days of interactive storytelling, creativity and family-friendly experiences, hosted by CBeebies star and author Katy Ashworth.

BE INSPIRED! AT SOUTHPORT LIBRARY

Lydia Monks: Meet the Artist and Draw-Along

Join bestselling illustrator Lydia Monks for a fun talk and draw-along! Hear how she became an illustrator, discover what it's like working with Julia Donaldson, enjoy live drawings of favourite characters, then create your own picture inspired by The Tooth Fairy and the Crocodile.

Natalie Denny: Meet the Author and Interactive Storytime

Calling all mini activists! Join Natalie Denny for interactive storytelling and crafts, and discover how to stand up for what you believe in. Create your own placard or banner, take the Bee Squad pledge and learn the special Bee Squad handshake!

Dapo Adeola: Meet the Artist and Draw Along

Fly into an empowering event with bestselling author and award-winning illustrator Dapo Adeola as he introduces his latest picture book, Super Goat Girl. Enjoy drawing, laughter and plenty of fun as you discover what makes you super and celebrate the joy of being yourself.

Kate Pankhurst: Meet the Author – Fantastically Great Women

Celebrate ten fantastic years of Fantastically Great Women with bestselling author and illustrator Kate Pankhurst! Discover incredible women who changed the world in this wildly wonderful anniversary event, inspired by the million-copy bestselling series.

Ashley Thorpe: Meet the Author – The Boy to Beat the Gods

Step into a world of gods, myths and adventure with Ashley Thorpe, author of The Boy to Beat the Gods! Discover the Yoruba gods and their links to mythologies around the world, then learn how to create your own exciting characters and worlds.

Joseph Coelho: Meet the Author & Playwright – Inspiring Poetry

Join former Children's Laureate and Carnegie Medal for Writing Winner – Joseph Coelho as he dives into all things poetry, sharing his favourite poems from his collections and inspiring young audiences to pick up a pen and write. Joseph is the author of over 50 books for children.

BE CREATIVE! AT SOUTHPORT LIBRARY

Salomey Doku: Meet the Artist and Draw Along

Get creative with illustrator Salomey Doku in a fun-filled session inspired by Sir Lenny Henry's Tyrone stories! Enjoy storytelling, dream up your own adventure, design a rocket and learn how to draw Tyrone, before giving him a brilliant new hairstyle.

Metaphrog: Graphic Novel Workshop

Join award-winning graphic novel duo Metaphrog, creators of Wilomina: The Land of Dreams and Nightmares, for a fun, interactive comic workshop. Pick up top tips for creating comics and let your imagination run wild as you draw your own characters and monsters!

Ruth Awolola: Interactive Poetry Workshop

Join poet Ruth Awolola for a fun-filled, interactive poetry workshop! Play with words, rhythm and imagination to create bold and brilliant poems. Perfect for writers of all ages, this creative session is a chance to write, share ideas and create together.

Gabrielle Kent: Meet the Author – How Stories Begin

Where do great stories begin? Join author Gabrielle Kent to discover how ideas can appear in the most unexpected places! Explore playful prompts, ask curious questions and learn how to find inspiration in the world around you to create stories of your own.

BE PART OF IT! AT THE ATKINSON STUDIO

Altru Drama: Hansel & Gretel

Follow the breadcrumbs into the world of Hansel and Gretel in a special performance by Altru Drama. Bored and searching for adventure, the pair have no idea what their stepmother has planned or where their journey will lead!

EggPeople: Poetry Slammed!

Expect the unexpected as EggPeople bring standout poems by Sefton's talented young writers to life. With no idea what's coming next, each poem inspires a spontaneous and completely unique piece of live theatre.

Tmesis Theatre: The Wondershelf

Step inside a magical bookcase where myths and legends come to life! Packed with puppetry, music and laughter, this imaginative adventure celebrates the joy of reading and is perfect for curious minds and dreamers of all ages.

Little Seeds Music: Tales from the Lighthouse

Set sail on a magical adventure as a lonely lighthouse keeper learns to overcome his fear of the stormy sea. Featuring storytelling, traditional music, original songs and spellbinding puppetry.

MAKE-IT! WORKSHOPS AT THE ATKINSON ART BOX

Get crafty with artist Dot Rogers in a free family workshop inspired by favourite children's stories. Create a lion inspired by The Lion Inside or a colourful caterpillar inspired by The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

NOISY NOISE NOISE AT THE ATKINSON FOYER

Shhh... just kidding. Make some noise! Explore a playful sound library of over 90 books triggering weird, wonderful and occasionally rude noises. Created with kids, for kids, it's a brilliantly chaotic celebration of sound and play.

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER

LOCATION	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	12:00	12:15	12:30	12:45	13:00	13:15	13:30	13:45	14:00	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	15:15	15:30	15:45	16:00
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THE ATKINSON FOYER	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise	Noisy Noise Noise
THE ATKINSON ART BOX																									

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

LOCATION	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	12:00	12:15	12:30	12:45	13:00	13:15	13:30	13:45	14:00	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	15:15	15:30	15:45	16:00
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BOOKS ALIVE!

FRINGE FESTIVAL



VISIT THE WEBSITE AND LOOK OUT FOR FRINGE FESTIVAL STICKERS IN SHOP WINDOWS ACROSS SOUTHPORT TO DISCOVER EVEN MORE BOOKS ALIVE! FAMILY FUN IN THE TOWN CENTRE.



WHAT'S YOUR BOOKS ALIVE! STORY? SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE FESTIVAL MOMENTS WITH US! TAG @VISITSOUTHPORT IN YOUR PHOTOS AND TELL US WHICH EVENT YOU LOVED MOST.