

## Looking back at 2005

As we approach the end of 2005 here are some Capital of Culture highlights from the last 12 months.

### May - Homecoming Parade

Liverpool Football Club's fifth European cup victory was celebrated with a massive homecoming parade through the neighbourhoods and city centre with the streets running with fans' red shirts and scarves.

### June - Mersey River Festival

Tens of thousands of people descended on Liverpool's world-famous waterfront to take in a host of maritime activity.

### July - HUB

Examples of daring BMX displays, plus skateboarding and roller blading brought hundreds of teenagers to the Pier Head in a celebration of youth culture.

### August - Mathew Street Music Festival

Old favourites like Tony Christie and tribute bands of the Beatles brought the Pier Head to their feet with up and coming talent on a special 'new bands' stage.

### September - Start of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race

Setting sail from Liverpool, ten identical Clippers are circumnavigating the globe in an exciting race, which will finish in Liverpool in July 2006.

### November - Homotopia

Liverpool's celebration of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender arts returned for a second year following a highly successful pilot in 2004.

### November - DaDaFest

The UK's biggest deaf and disability arts festival celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2005, with a diverse programme that ranged from poetry to performance art.

### December - Launch of the Art of Inclusion

The Liverpool Culture Company launched a far-reaching study into the impact of its Creative Communities programme.

The start of 2006 heralded a new Capital of Culture themed year: Liverpool Performs. Get set for a year-long celebration of Liverpool's outstanding reputation as a city of top class performances - from the football pitch all the way to the recording studio. For the latest information visit [www.liverpool08.com](http://www.liverpool08.com)

## Brussels Officials see Business Plan

LIVERPOOL took its plans for European Capital of Culture 2008 to the heart of Europe by presenting its Business Plan to an influential audience in Brussels.

Artistic Director Robyn Archer joined Culture Company Deputy Chair Loyd Grossman to show high-profile delegates how the Culture Company intends to make Liverpool's 2008, the best ever Capital of Culture.

The Business Plan is available at [www.liverpool08.com](http://www.liverpool08.com)



Mersey Beatles

## Sayers Sign Up

THE LATEST Official Partner to sign up with the Liverpool Culture Company is bakers Sayers.

In a deal worth £2m, the local firm is looking forward to working with cultural partners in the city by giving money plus goods and services in kind.

## For Further Information

**We would love to hear from you!** If you have any stories, news, views or people you think deserve praise, then get in touch: call 0151 233 2008 or email [clare.trenholm@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:clare.trenholm@liverpool.gov.uk) or [helen.johnson@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:helen.johnson@liverpool.gov.uk). For more news on Liverpool,

**eu&merseyside**  
European Funding is Creating New Opportunities

European Capital of Culture 2008,  
visit [www.liverpool08.com](http://www.liverpool08.com)

# 08 UPDATE

ISSUE ONE - JANUARY 2006

## From Sea to Stage

A PACKED 12 months has seen a massive cultural programme in Liverpool which has touched tens of thousands of people.

Annual events went from strength to strength, new projects and activities impressed both local people and government officials, plus a comprehensive community programme has seen a host of exciting new developments.

The Mersey River Festival and Mathew Street Music Festival attracted huge crowds and combined old favourites like shanty singers, with new up and coming bands along the world-famous waterfront.

The HUB Festival showcased breathtaking BMX biking, skateboarding and rollerblading, and ten sailing crews set off around the world as part of the Clipper 05/06 Race.

Liverpool Football Club's fifth European cup triumph was celebrated with a massive homecoming parade.

Six new Official Partners pledged £2m in cash and value in kind and an Official Supplier also came on board.

Looking forward to January 2006, the 08 businessconnect group will be launched and the theme of Liverpool Performs will take to the stage.

The whole year will take a close look at sports, art and business with a host of events, projects and programmes to celebrate Liverpool's culture.

## Lantern Bright

HUNDREDS of people took a candlelit walk through Sefton Park in Liverpool to take part in the beautiful Lantern Parade.

Celebrating both Halloween and the Mexican tradition of the Day of the Dead, lanterns depicted everything from skeletons to abstract works of art.

Front cover photography by Mark Loudon



call 0151 233 2008 or visit [www.liverpool08.com](http://www.liverpool08.com)



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



[liverpool08.com](http://liverpool08.com)

FIND OUT  
MORE BY CALLING:  
0151 233 2008 OR VISIT  
[WWW.LIVERPOOL08.COM](http://WWW.LIVERPOOL08.COM)

# MPs Champion Liverpool 2008

A House of Commons event on Westminster's terrace kicked off the All Party Parliamentary group which will consult on Liverpool's European Capital of Culture status.

Containing more than 30 MPs and chaired by Rt Hon George Howarth MP for Knowsley North and Sefton East, the group will meet several times a year to discuss how both Liverpool and Britain can benefit from the city's award.

With London to host the Olympics in 2012, the committee will also take a look at how the two accolades can learn from each other and work together.

The event in December hosted by Lord Owen, also launched the independent research report, the Art of Inclusion. It looked at how successful the Creative Communities programme of projects across the city had been over the last year, with overwhelmingly positive findings.

Amongst attendees were Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism, James Purnell, and popular celebrity, Cilla Black.



Cilla Black at the launch of Art of Inclusion

# Gay Festival a Great Success

Homotopia repeated last year's success by running a cultural festival based around the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

From arts to poetry, performance and exhibitions, the festival also included a debate with gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell.

Highlights included Hollyoaks actors performing in the Laramie Project and an opening party with a Kate Bush tribute act using puppets.



Mat Fraser

# Children's Commissioner Visits Liverpool

Children's Commissioner for England, Al Aynsley Green, visited Liverpool recently and sang the praises of Culture Company projects.

Prof Aynsley Green visited Barlows and White Thorn School in Fazakerley to look at the Friend Ship, a primary school project which takes a portable vessel around the city and the country, packed full of treasure chests of cultural items.



Image Caption



Christmas lights switch on

# Switched On

Britain's greatest Olympian switched on Liverpool's biggest-ever Christmas lights display.

Sir Steve Redgrave flicked the switch on November 20 – triggering a spectacular pyrotechnic display and more than four miles of lights across the city.

The five-time Olympic Gold Medallist was joined at St George's Plateau by Everton FC's Australian ace Tim Cahill and Liverpool FC's Norwegian star John Arne Riise.

Ex-Atomic Kitten singer, Liz McClarnon, topped a live music bill which included X-Factor finalist Tabby. The show also saw the launch of the environmental campaign 'Love Liverpool'.

# Deaf and Disability Arts Festival

Deaf and disability arts received recognition with the DaDaFest programme.

A musical play about the drug thalidomide started off events and a host of comedy, performance and music took centre stage after that.

The festival ended with an awards ceremony and the announcement of a new patron, Mat Fraser, for organisers the North West Disability Arts Forum.

He also met a variety of children's representatives to talk about the violence awareness project for teenagers, called It's Not OK!

Prof Green said: "I'm really, really impressed, not least with the Friend Ship project. Just seeing how incredibly engrossed these children were, they were entranced by what was going on. Their little eyes were lighting up with the dance and the messages that were coming through. As they were walked through by the dancers afterwards, what they'd learned from this is quite clear. Some deep impressions had been made in their minds."

Find out more call: 0151 233 2008 or visit [www.liverpool08.com](http://www.liverpool08.com)



Frakture - June    Generations of visions - June    HUB - July    Boxing, England Vs Canada - July    Launch of street entertainment - July    Walk of Faith - September    Sea Cycles pub workshops - September    Homotopia - October    Fireworks night at the Palm House - November    Christmas lights switch on - December    Adam Reynolds, winner of a lifetime achievement award at DaDa Awards - December