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Sound City

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Foreword

Take a vast, dramatic sky. Hang it above an amphitheatre of hills. Run a river through the middle and gather your cast of characters from every corner of the Earth. In these spectacular ways the stage was set for the rise of Liverpool, a city that has been putting on a show for almost 800 years. Everywhere you look are signs of Liverpool's vitality in the performing arts. And among the architectural splendours are many reminders, humbler in scale but no less glorious, of its unique importance to the history of popular music.

Of course it was The Beatles who brought the Liverpool music scene to global attention. But the story reaches back much further. Every tide brought sailors ashore to find a town more than willing to entertain them. Soon, to the din of folk song and sea shanty were added the sounds of countless new arrivals, whether exiles or adventurers, who brought their own ingredients to the melting pot. It's small wonder that generations of Liverpoolian seafarers felt compelled to return with as many musical souvenirs as they could carry. John, Paul, George and Ringo were not the inventors of Liverpool music, but the inheritors of a rich tradition.

You will find traces of The Beatles at nearly every turn in modern Liverpool. But don't overlook their many predecessors, like Britain's first great rock'n'roller Billy Fury, or their contemporaries in the 1960's Merseybeat movement that would revolutionise pop culture. Stars of this Liverpoolian upsurge such as The Searchers, Swinging Blue Jeans and The Big Three were crucial to the British Invasion of America. From its epicentre at the Cavern in Mathew Street, Merseybeat then moved uphill to the city's student quarter, where poets and painters merged their talents with the rock groups to create an experimental arts scene of world renown.

Remarkably, the 1970s spawned another Mathew Street institution, Eric's Club. From here there sprang a host of fabled names such as Echo & The Bunnymen, Frankie Goes To Hollywood and Lightning Seeds. Meanwhile across town there emerged a promising folk singer called Elvis Costello and the soul superstars The Real Thing. Since then the supply of new names has seldom faltered: The La's, Atomic Kitten and The Coral are just a few of the later Liverpool success stories. By the time of the Millennium, the super-club Cream had joined that list of Merseyside legends, home to a dance brand that has since crossed continents.

Now we see a city whose night life thrives like never before, where festivals abound and music is still the beat of every street. Liverpool is a performers' paradise because, at heart, every Liverpoolian is a performer too – whether on the stage, from the stalls or on a barstool. There has never been a better time to become part of the show.

Paul Du Noyer (author of Liverpool: Wondrous Place)

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Introduction

Welcome to Liverpool's guide to the sites associated with its musical heritage. Follow the trail which begins at Mathew Street in the heart of the Cavern Quarter through the Mersey Beat era to Eric's in the 70's. The Cream Era in the heart of Liverpool's night scene around Wolstenholme Square area looks at the Liverpool music scene in the 80's and 90's until the present day.

Liverpool is acknowledged by the Guinness Book of Hit Singles as "World Capital of Pop" for producing more number one hit singles per capita than any other city around the globe.

Liverpool's Wall of Fame in Mathew Street celebrates this achievement featuring 54 Liverpool Number 1 chart hits since 1952.

Merseybeat had a major impact on music across the world in the 1960's through the Beatles, Gerry & the Pacemakers and many others.

However, Liverpool's musical talent and innovation has been at the forefront of every genre in every decade through bands such as OMD, Elvis Costello and the Attractions, Echo and the Bunnymen, The Christians, The Teardrop Explodes, Wah! Heat, The Zutons, The Dead 60's, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Lightning Seeds, Atomic Kitten and The Coral.

The Liverpool Summer Pops, Africa Oyé and the Mathew Street Music Festival are just some of the annual events which showcase the city's musical magic.

Merseybeat to Psychedelia

When the Beatles first shot to fame in the early 1960's, the population of Liverpool, a provincial Lancashire city, on the edge of the River Mersey, was about a half million. The birth of this phenomenon began in a basement club called the Cavern, at 10 Mathew Street followed by the rise of Beat clubs in the city's suburbs.

It was Brian Epstein's stable of acts, led by The Beatles, Cilla Black and Gerry & The Pacemakers, Billy J Kramer and the Fourmost who made Liverpool a world famous music city. Other huge acts of the Merseybeat era were The Searchers, and The Swinging Blue Jeans. Their early 1960's haunts, such as the Cavern, the Jacaranda and the Grapes, are still going strong.



Merseybeat

All too often, books about the Beatles intimate that the group virtually created the Mersey scene, presuming that it was only in the wake of their success that groups in Liverpool began to emerge.

In fact, the groups were already active in what was probably the most amazing nucleus of youth culture in the world between the years 1958 and 1964.

At a time when the British music scene was firmly controlled from London, the Beatles forced a crack in the barrier through which groups from the provinces poured, until the powers that be in the capital closed it again.

In fact, the Hamburg scene has been given more prominence in the 'birth of the Beatles' story.

It's true, as I've always pointed out, that the Beatles' initial months in Hamburg, from August to December 1960, were a real baptism of fire. It made them a better group than they'd been previously, but it was their battles with the other bands in Liverpool over the following two years that gave them their edge.

In the late 1950s groups began to thrive in Liverpool in 'jive hives', the ballrooms and town halls booked by enterprising local promoters such as Brian Kelly, Doug Martin, Wally Hill, Vic Anton, Dave Foreshaw, Les Dodd and Charlie McBain, who are among the unsung heroes of the Mersey scene.



The most popular line-up was a quartet with three guitarists - lead, rhythm and bass - plus a drummer. The three guitarists up front would engage in vocal harmony. The Beatles were particularly adept at this as Paul McCartney, being left-handed, could use the same microphone as John Lennon, when they sang together - also producing a visual effect that many of the other groups couldn't imitate.

This basic line-up was the one generally referred to when people later talked of the 'Liverpool sound' or the 'Mersey sound', and it was most apparent with groups such as the Beatles, the Searchers, Faron's Flamingos and the Swinging Bluejeans. However, this image tends to make people forget just how extensive the range of the music scene in Liverpool was: there were duos, trios, quintets, and groups with pianos and saxophones in their line-ups.

Liverpool had been called the 'Nashville of the North', because it had the largest Country music scene in Europe. There were approximately 40 C&W bands contemporary with the Beatles. They had their own clubs such as the Black Cat club and Wells Fargo, their own Country Music Federation and they ran their 'Grand Ole Opry' annually at the Philharmonic Hall. Their attempt to revolutionize country music, just as the rock groups in Liverpool revolutionized rock 'n' roll, has never been properly acknowledged.

There was also a black music scene on Merseyside. Apart from artists such as Derry Wilkie and Steve Aldo, there were several vocal outfits in the Liverpool 8 district such as the Chants, the Valentinos, the Sobells, the Challengers and the Poppies. Only the Chants were to have a limited degree of success. It seemed that when Britain eventually accepted black artists into the charts - with the Motown acts and soul music, the black hit artists were almost exclusively American. Few black British artists made it until the 1970s. Ironically enough, the group to make the breakthrough and hit the top of the charts was the Real Thing, formed by Eddie Amoo of the Chants - it had taken him 15 years to achieve the success.



Coexisting with the rock, folk, country and black music scenes was the poetry scene. Local poets used to hold readings at clubs such as Streaties. I also organized and promoted a poetry-to-jazz concert at the Crane Theatre - the first concert of its kind to be held in the north of England. Three of the Liverpool poets, Roger McGough, Adrian Henri and Brian Patten, established themselves as the leading British poets of the decade.

I decided to write to national newspapers, such as the Daily Mail, to inform them that what was happening in Liverpool was as unique as what had happened in New Orleans at the turn of the century, but with rock 'n' roll groups instead of jazz.

Having received no reaction to my appeals to the press to cover what was happening, I decided to do something about it myself. Instead of a jazz magazine, I'd write about the local rock 'n' roll scene.

Sitting alone in the office at about two in the morning, I was attempting to think of a name for the new paper. Having decided that I'd cover the entire Merseyside region - Liverpool, Wirral, Southport, Crosby, St. Helens, Widnes, Warrington and so on - I suddenly visualised it as a policeman's beat. The image of a copper walking around a map of the surrounding area came into my head, along with the name 'Mersey Beat'

The reaction to 'Mersey Beat' was literally phenomenal locally and all 5,000 copies of the first issue sold out. 'Mersey Beat' became a catalyst for the scene and groups, managers and anyone connected with the music took to visiting the office.

Soon, groups began calling themselves Beat groups instead of rock 'n' roll bands and venues which had been advertising 'Twist sessions' and 'jive sessions' began calling them 'Beat sessions', while the 'jive hives' were now being called Beat clubs. Once the Beatles had achieved their initial success on record and the papers were looking for a tag to identify the movement they first began to call it the 'Mersey Sound' and 'The Liverpool Sound'. Some years later they adopted the name of the paper and 'Mersey Beat' became part of the English language.

Bill Harry founder of Merseybeat
www.mersey-beat.com

Mathew Street and Cavern Quarter

1) NEMS, 12 Whitechapel

Now an Ann Summers shop, former office of Brian Epstein and NEMS (North End Music Store). It is alleged that a chance enquiry here on 28th October 1961 sparked the biggest pop phenomenon of our time, when a customer walked into the NEMS shop and asked for a record, "My Bonnie" by The Beatles. The assistant called the shop's manager, Brian Epstein and the rest is history...

2) Rushworth & Drapers Whitechapel

It was the largest musical instrument store in Liverpool where most of the Merseybeat artists were regular customers. Paul McCartney's first guitar was bought by his father from "Rushworth's" when he was 14. In 1962, James Rushworth presented John Lennon and George Harrison with two guitars as a prize for being voted Liverpool's leading band in the Merseybeat poll.

3) Frank Hesty Ltd (Hesty's) - Stanley Street

Hesty's was located at 62 Stanley Street, at the corner of Whitechapel and across the street from Rushworth's, it was Liverpool's other main supplier of musical instruments in the 60's. Hesty's sold John Lennon his first acoustic

guitar, bought by his Aunt Mimi for the sum of £17 in 1957. The site is now occupied by a Lacoste shop.

4) The Kardomah Cafe - Whitechapel

Popular hangout in the 60's for music scene people and musicians as it was close to the music shop NEMS and Mathew Street

5) The White Star, Button Street

Around the corner from Flanagan's, in a side street called Rainford Gardens, is a traditional pub, the White Star, named after the shipping line that owned the Titanic. The pub has changed little since the 1960's, when the Beatles drank there.



6) Eleanor Rigby Statue

This was sculptured and unveiled by the artist and musician Tommy Steele as a thank you to the people of the city for all the happy moments he had spent here. He placed a number of objects inside the figure which had "magical properties", an adventure book for excitement, a page from the bible for spiritual guidance, a clover leaf for good luck, a pair of football socks for action and a poem for love.

7) 13 Temple Street

Hidden beneath Liverpool's long and winding roads, at 13 Temple Street - was a music venue known as the Iron Door. During the early and mid 1960's music fans poured into the door of this warehouse, to the basement.

8) Mathew Street and the Cavern Quarter

This former warehouse district has been transformed in the last 25 years from a back street to a Mecca for Beatles fans with bars, memorabilia shops, fashion boutiques and art galleries.

9) Cavern Wall of Fame: Mathew Street

The entire front wall of the Cavern Pub is the Cavern Wall of Fame, unveiled by Gerry Marsden in 1997, each brick is engraved with the name of one of the bands that appeared at the Cavern from 1957-1973.



The Wall of Fame is a reminder of all the groups who played at this world famous club such as The Beatles, Gerry & The Pacemakers, The Searchers and The Hollies and also many popular groups who never quite made it to world prominence but were stars on the local scene such as The Fourmost and The Merseybeats.

10) John Lennon Statue - Mathew Street

This representation is modelled on the cover of John's 1975 album Rock and Roll and was unveiled on the 16th of January 1997.

11) Cavern Club, 8-10 Mathew Street

The birthplace of the 'Mersey Beat' was a jazz cellar on first opening as a music venue in 1957.

The club came into the ownership of Ray McFall in 1959, and Rock and Roll began to find its way in. The Beatles made their debut performance in the Cavern on 21st February 1961, and it was on 9th November of that year that Brian Epstein first heard them play in the crowded basement.

The club finally closed its doors in 1973, the warehouses above it were demolished, and the site filled in to make way for improvements to the underground railway system.

The club was rebuilt in 1982; the site was excavated by architect David Backhouse and was found to be intact. However, the foundations were unsafe so the original had to be demolished.

In 1984 the Cavern was rebuilt out of bricks of the first club, a symbolic testament to the endurance of the music that emerged there over twenty years earlier.

+44 (0) 151 236 9091

www.cavern-liverpool.co.uk

12) Cavern Pub

Opened in August 1994; The Cavern Pub is opposite the Cavern Club and is also owned and operated by Cavern City Tours. The Pub highlights the fact that between 1957 and 1973 most of the all-time greats of Rock, Pop, Soul, R&B and Jazz played at the Cavern Club including The Beatles, Eric Clapton, The Rolling Stones, The Who and Jimi Hendrix.

13) Beatles Shop, 31 Mathew Street

The Beatles Shop first opened its doors on Mathew Street in 1984. It has a large range of Beatles merchandise and has a permanent display of original memorabilia from the 60's. 0151 236 8066

www.thebeatleshop.co.uk

14) From Me To You, Upper Level, Cavern Designer Shopping, Mathew Street

Situated on the upper level of the Cavern Designer Shopping Mall, above the site of the original Cavern Club, it stocks a large range of officially licensed merchandise.

0151 227 1963

www.beatles64.co.uk

15) Liverpool Wall of Fame

The Wall was inaugurated in 2001 to celebrate local artists who have had UK Number 1 hit records. It includes 54 number 1 bronze discs from 1953 to the present day. It was originally unveiled by Lita Roza, the first Liverpool artist to reach number 1. It was refurbished in 2005 by the Liverpool Culture Company.

16) Dooley Statue

Erected in 1974 this sculpture by local artist Arthur Dooley represents the Beatles as four cherubs from plastic children's dolls. The figure representing Paul has disappeared and is referred to on a plaque alongside in the words "Paul has taken wings and flown". The small figure on the bottom right carries a guitar and

is surrounded by a halo of words "Lennon lives" It was placed after John's assassination in 1980. It was also the location of the basement club Erics.

17) The Grapes, Mathew Street

The Grapes was a favourite Beatle hangout, located a few doors down Mathew Street from the Cavern, which did not have a license to sell alcohol. The Beatles would often go to The Grapes before or after Cavern sets, as it was the only pub in Mathew Street.

18) Flanagan's

Opposite The Grapes is Flanagan's, the second pub to open in Mathew Street, around 25 years ago. It opened as an Irish-style pub, long before they appeared in British high streets in the 1990's.

Waterfront

The Beatles Story - The Beatles Story exhibition charts The Beatles' meteoric rise to fame through a fantastic new 'Living History Audio Tour' that is available in seven languages. The audio tour, narrated by John Lennon's sister Julia, gives personal insights into the "Fab Four" from those who really knew them - such as Brian Epstein, Sir George Martin, Cynthia Lennon and Paul McCartney to name a few.

The Beatles Story is a multi award winning attraction situated in Liverpool's historic Albert Dock.
0151 709 1963
www.beatlesstory.com

Mersey Ferries, Ferry Terminal, Pier Head

There's no better way to experience Liverpool than a trip on the famous Mersey Ferry, immortalised in Gerry and The Pacemakers' song Ferry Cross The Mersey.
0151 330 1444
www.merseyferries.co.uk



Tours / Tourist Information

08 Place, Whitechapel

Multi media centre offering a range of services including tourist information, tour bookings, accommodation and attraction bookings, event information, ticketing, gifts and souvenirs and a wide collection of Liverpool music.
0151 233 2008
www.liverpool08.com

Magical Mystery Tour

This daily two hour tour starts from "The Beatles Story" and finishes at the world famous Cavern Club. The tour will introduce you to the lives of The Beatles, their homes, schools, and birthplaces, Penny Lane, Strawberry Field and many other landmarks. Tickets can be booked and patrons collected for the tour at the 08 Place.
0151 233 2459
www.cavern-liverpool.co.uk

Mendips and 20 Forthlin Road

Fascinating tour of John and Paul's childhoods where the Beatles first met, rehearsed and composed the first songs. Tickets can be purchased at the 08 Place.
0151 233 2457
www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Outskirts

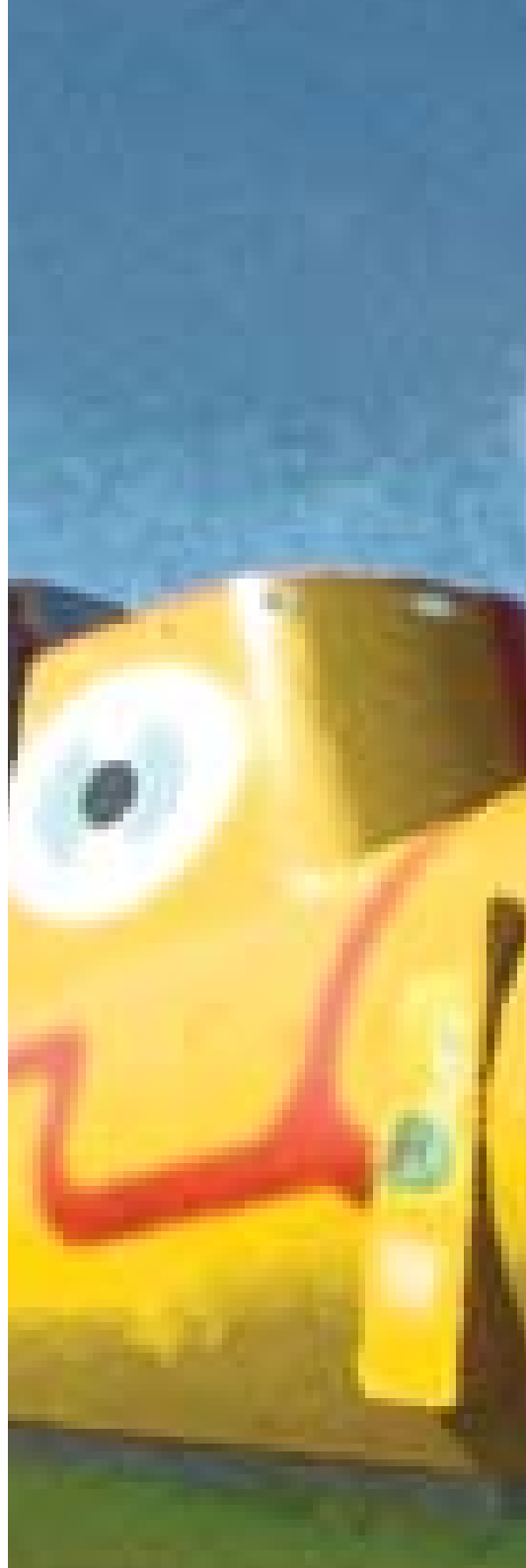
Casbah Coffee Club, 8 Hayman's Green, West Derby

The basement of Mona Best's home was turned into the Casbah Club, a coffee house and venue for bands. The Beatles played there often and, in the summer of 1960 Pete Best, Mona's son, became their drummer.
0151 280 3519

www.casbahcoffeeclub.com

Yellow Submarine, Liverpool John Lennon Airport

Built in honour of the Beatles song and film "Yellow Submarine", at Cammell Laird Ship building yard on the Mersey. This formed part of the Liverpool International Garden Festival in 1984 in Otterspool. Liverpool City Council moved the submarine to the city centre in August 2000. It is now located at John Lennon Airport.



City Centre

19) Liverpool Playhouse Theatre, Williamson Square

0151 709 4776

www.everymanplayhouse.com

20) The Sink, Hardman Street

A popular 1960's beat club in the basement of what is today The Magnet.

21) Bluecoat Chambers, College Lane

Art gallery, a craft shop with excellent pottery, a cut-price bookshop and a café which is closed due to refurbishment until 2007. The Display Centre is open to the public. There is also a courtyard garden. Yoko Ono held a "Happening" at the Bluecoat in 1967.

0151 709 4014.

www.bluecoatartscentre.com

22) Liverpool Town Hall, Water Street

The Beatles returned to Liverpool for an official civic reception and the northern premiere of their first feature film, "A Hard Day's Night" at the Town Hall on July 10th 1964. They appeared on the balcony to acknowledge their fans prior to the premiere at the Odeon cinema on London Road.

0151 236 5181

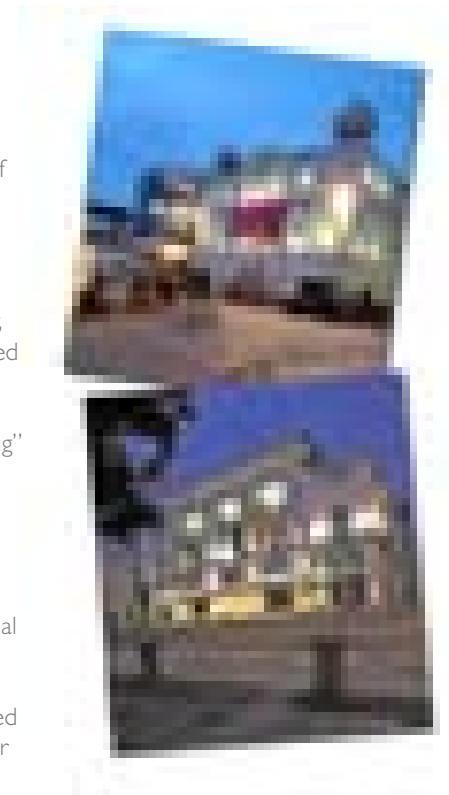
www.liverpool.gov.uk/town_hall

23) Empire Theatre, Lime Street

The Beatles played at the Empire seven times. On 7th December 1963, BBC TV recorded the special It's The Beatles at a concert organised by the Northern Area Fan Club. Today the Empire is a venue for large scale touring productions, musicals and concerts made possible by its recent extension.

0870 606 3536

www.livenaction.co.uk



Liverpool 8 District

24) The Jacaranda - 23 Slater Street

The Jacaranda Coffee Bar opened in an old watchmaker's shop and was a popular hangout for art students. The Jacaranda was owned by Allan Williams, who became the Beatles' first manager. The Beatles often played, rehearsed and hung out at the Jacaranda, where Stuart Sutcliffe's murals can still be seen on the basement walls.
0151 707 8281

25) The Blue Angel - 108 Seel Street

The Blue Angel was a 60's club run by Allan Williams, and was the scene of the Beatles' 1960 audition for impresario Larry Parnes which landed them their first tour outside Liverpool, supporting singer Johnny Gentle on a tour of Scotland. This dark and atmospheric nightclub once welcomed stars such as Bob Dylan and is still popular today.
0151 709 1535

26) Former MerseyBeat Offices - 81a Renshaw Street

Merseybeat was a seminal music paper founded by Bill Harry in the early 60's. The magazine helped to launch the Beatles and many of the other 400 groups performing in and around Liverpool in the many dance halls, jive rooms and working men's clubs. Inspired by this publication, the name Merseybeat was later used to describe all music emerging from Liverpool and heralded the start of the Sixties.

www.mersey-beat.com



27) Everyman Theatre, Hope Street

Founded in 1964 in an area of Liverpool noted for its bohemian environment, the Everyman quickly built a reputation for innovative work. Today it is a production theatre where you can catch some of the best home-grown talents.
0151 709 4776

www.everymanplayhouse.com

28) Liverpool Institute for Performing Art (LIPA), Mount Street

George Harrison and Paul McCartney were both accepted into the prestigious Liverpool Institute High School for Boys, (formerly the Mechanic's Institute) in the 50's. It was closed in the mid 1980's along with all of the city's grammar schools, and was due to be demolished. A campaign to save the building was launched and Paul McCartney played a major role in re-opening the Liverpool Institute as a "Fame" style school specialising in performing arts such as music, dance, acting, sound technology and community arts.
0151 330 3000

www.lipa.ac.uk

29) Liverpool College of Art - 68 Hope Street

John began attending art college in 1957 while Paul and George were still at the neighbouring Liverpool Institute (the Art College faces Hope Street at the corner of Mount Street and Hope Street, and backs onto the Liverpool Institute), making for easy meetings and impromptu rehearsals after school and while cutting class. John met Stuart Sutcliffe, his friend and Beatle bass player, at art college, as well as his future wife, Cynthia Powell. It is now part of Liverpool John Moores University.

www.jmu.ac.uk



30) Ye Cracke, 13 Rice Street

Ye Cracke is a popular pub with nearby art students and was a favourite meeting spot for John Lennon, Stuart Sutcliffe and other students.
0151 709 4171

31) The Philharmonic Pub, 36 Hope Street

The stunning interior of this grade II * listed public house was fitted by some of the city's finest craftsmen and artists. Entering the pub via Hope Street you will pass through intricately worked Art Nouveau gates. As it is a short walk from Ye Cracke, The Beatles often visited The Philharmonic.
0151 709 3789

32) Philharmonic Hall

The present hall, was designed by architect Herbert Rowse and opened in 1939 and is home of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

It is a major classical music venue but also holds contemporary musical events and hosted early performances by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Buddy Holly.

As part of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's 150th anniversary celebrations, composers Carl Davis and Paul McCartney collaborated on the work Liverpool Oratorio. It premiered at the Anglican Cathedral, in June 1991.

Broken up into eight separate movements, the story of the Oratorio loosely follows McCartney's own lifeline, with the main character, Shanty, who is born in 1942 in Liverpool, raised to believe that "being born where you were born carries with it certain responsibilities".

www.liverpoolphil.com



Eric's and the Liverpool Punk Scene

When punk rock swept Britain, Liverpool responded with a new wave style of its own. Eric's Club scene produced Echo & The Bunnymen, The Teardrop Explodes, OMD, Pete Dinklage's Wah! Heat, Deaf School, Big in Japan, The Lightning Seeds, Pete Burns' Dead Or Alive, the KLF and Frankie Goes To Hollywood. Also pushing Liverpool to the fore were Scouse soulsters The Real Thing, the impeccable Christians and pop acts Icicle Works and China Crisis.

On 1 October 1976 a new club opened on Mathew Street, beneath the present site of the Dooley statue. Despite closing its doors just four years later, its impact on the Merseyside music scene is legendary. Roger Eagle, Ken Testi and Pete Fullwell were the co-owners.

Eric's provided a stage for talented local groups to explore their musical abilities and interests with like-minded people.

The club staged music rarely heard in other city centre venues - from jazz, reggae and folk music to performance art and poetry, and especially punk.

Recognisable regulars included Jayne Casey with a lampshade hat on her shaved head, Holly Johnson and Margi Clark. People could see bands like XTC or Dead or Alive for £1.50. On busy nights people would queue along the length of Mathew Street. The late 70's saw mounting debts which caused Eric's to close.

Eric's

33) Ted Baker, Mathew Street

Former site of Probe Records

Famous record shop and for many years the centre of Liverpool's alternative music scene. Geoff Davies, famous for his caustic musical opinions opened Probe in 1971 on Clarence Street, in the basement of Callans, which was then a jeans store called Silly Billy's. In 1976, Davies moved Probe to Button Street. Pete Burns of Dead or Alive and Paul Rutherford of Frankie Goes to Hollywood worked here. Elvis Costello bought his records here as did many other local artists. Probe is now on Wood Street.

34) Zoo Records

The office of Zoo Records was above Chicago Building, Button Street. It was a local independent label in the late 70's. Echo and the Bunnymen released their debut single, Pictures on My Wall on Zoo Records in March 1979 which earned them a record deal with Sire.

35) Curly Music, 45 Ranelagh Street

Curly Music has been established in Liverpool since 1977, originally occupying small premises on Smithdown Road and then opening at 58, Stanley Street... In the late 70's and through the

80's, 90's Curly Music thrived and prospered as a progressive and modern Music Store.

More recently, Curly Music can count Oasis, Cast & Space, amongst its customers. The shop moved to the current address in 1999.

0151 709 8484

www.curlymusic.co.uk

36) The Bears Paw, Dorans Lane

There was a vibrant gay scene in Liverpool in the 60's but it was very underground, customers had to knock on the door of The Bears Paw three times. These clubs were important in the 70's though, as they were among the few places that would tolerate customers dressed in flamboyant fashions such as Pete Burns and Jayne Casey.

37) Radio City 96.7, St. John's Beacon, I Houghton Street

The radio station started broadcasting from Stanley Street in 1974. Now dominating Liverpool's skyline from St John's Beacon.

0151 472 6800

www.radiocity.co.uk

38) Royal Court Theatre, Roe Street

One of Liverpool's largest venues, it attracted a wide variety of shows, including plays, ballets and musical events. Many internationally famous bands have played such as R.E.M., David Bowie and George Michael. The past decade has seen a return to the varied programme in comedy, music and theatre being brought into the Capital of Culture.

0870 787 1866

www.royalcourtLiverpool.co.uk

39) St Georges Hall, Lime Street

Thousands of fans held a vigil on St George's plateau the Sunday after John Lennon's murder in 1980. The Hall was also the evening venue for Echo and the Bunnymen's Crystal Day to promote the Ocean Rain album in 1984.

0151 233 3000

www.liverpool.gov.uk

40) Probe Plus Records

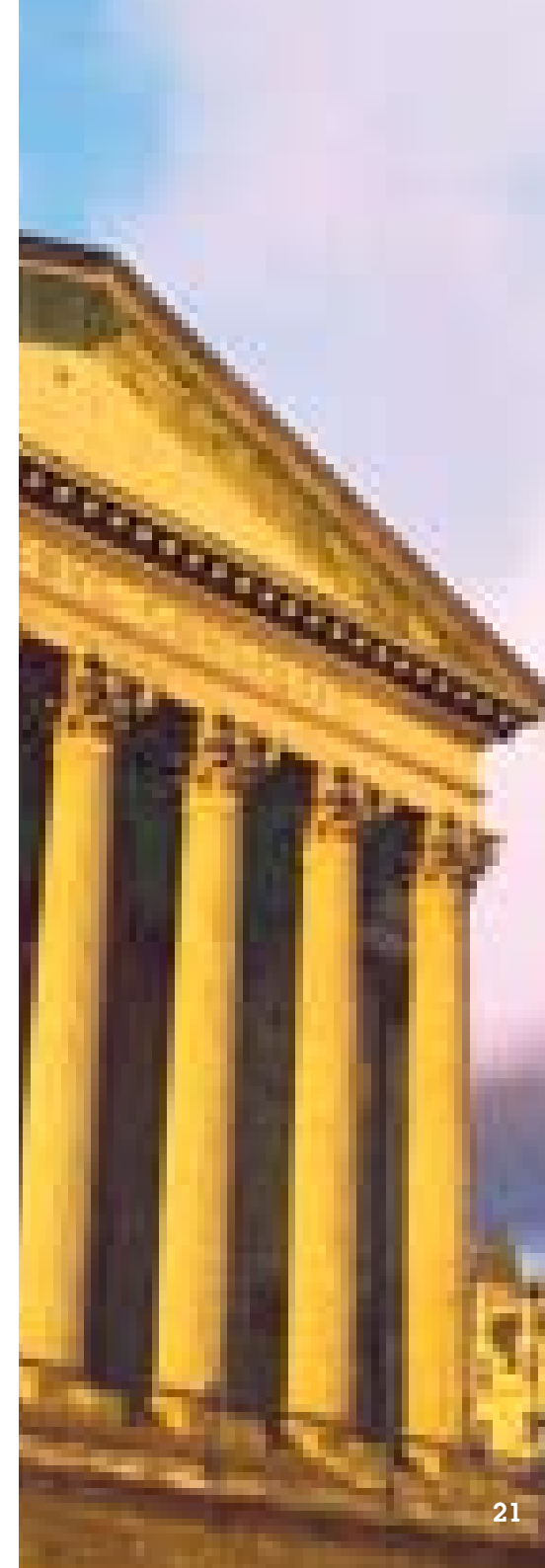
Geoff Davies started Probe Plus as a record label in early 1981 wholesaling and distributing independent record in conjunction with Rough Trade. It is Liverpool's oldest and most prolific record label.

www.probeplus.co.uk

41) Masquerade, Cumberland Street

The Masquerade is an original feature on Liverpool's gay scene and the perfect place to start an evening of partying.

www.masqueradebar.com



Cream Era



Melodic guitar pop is a Liverpool tradition and in the 1980s The La's were its most influential exponents. But another band, The Farm, reflected the city's burgeoning dance culture, which found its fullest expression in the phenomenal super club Cream, an old warehouse in Wolstenholme Square.

Birth of Cream

There have been more clubs in the few square miles of Liverpool's city centre than in any other British city. James Barton took the club away from the inglorious legacy of gangsters and old footballers.

By the early 80s The State was Liverpool's best big night out. Frankie Goes to Hollywood's Relax video was filmed here as well as scenes from Letter to Brezhnev. In 1988 Barton experienced Acid House clubs in London and decided to bring it to Liverpool. He set up Daisy in the State with Steve Proctor and Andy Carroll as the djs. This group then moved to Underground, a 'great little dingy club' and built their following further, making strong connections with The Farm.

G-Love at The Mardi was also doing good business and moved to The Academy (now Nation).

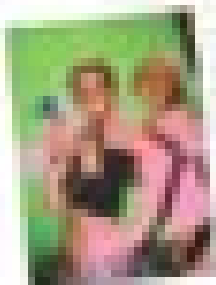
While Barton & co were running The Underground, Quadrant Park in Bootle became a huge venue, drawing in up to 4,000 for their all-nighters. It was here that people started travelling to Liverpool clubs from outside the city (even London). When The Underground began running into trouble with the authorities Barton & co moved out to Quadrant Park but this was just starting to go downhill so Barton and John Smith (former manager of Cook Da Books) set up the 051 to go head-to-head with the Hacienda in Manchester. Adrian Sherwood performed at the opening night and M-People performed at the next.

In October 1992, five weeks after leaving the 051, Barton and Darren Hughes launched Cream at The Academy to 450 customers. Attendance dropped to 250 the next week but steadily rose to a sold-out 900 within nine months. One Boxing Night they had to lock 1000 people out; the club was going ballistic. They expanded into the adjacent rooms, vying with Ministry of Sound in London. Coach-loads of customers began arriving, Cream became a company and in 1994 dance music exploded.

Cream's biggest Liverpool event was the millennium party, Cream2000, at the Pier Head.

By 2002 the general decline in UK super clubs had taken its toll and the regular Saturday nights at Nation stopped, but Cream still spends its summers at Amnesia in Ibiza and Creamfields is a huge success attracting over 50,000 visitors to the Liverpool region every year.

www.cream.co.uk



42) Former Site of Cream, Wolstenholme Square

The heart of Liverpool music in the 1990's was an old warehouse in Wolstenholme Square. The first internationally branded Super club of its kind was formed by James Barton and Darren Hughes in October 1992 and in five years had become the greatest Club of its kind in Europe. The club expanded into the adjacent rooms until it arguably overtook Ministry of Sound in London.

0151 707 1309

www.cream.co.uk

43) The State, 14 Dale Street

In the 80's The State was one of the venues offering big club nights in Liverpool. The State was the temporary home to Garlands when it burnt down in 2001.

44) The Warehouse, Fleet Street

A former 80's venue considered to be the successor to Eric's as a place for local and visiting bands to play live. Killing Joke, Dead Kennedy's, Chelsea, Vice Squad, John Otway, Flux Of Pink Indians played there. The last band to play there was Big Country.

45) The Club Zoo

The Club Zoo was run by Bill Drummond for a few months in late 1981. It was located in Temple Street, in the same building as 1960s venue The Iron Door.

46) The Picket Club, 61 Jordan Street

Philip Hayes founded the music venue The Picket, during the bleak 1980's, at a time when venues were closing their doors to live bands in favour of dance music. The Picket rapidly established itself as one of the best places for emerging talent in the city including the La's, Cast, The La's, Happy Mondays, Travis & Space. Most of the equipment was donated by Yoko Ono, Elvis Costello, Paul McCartney, Oasis, and Joe Strummer of the Clash & Pete Townsend of The Who. The venue also presented performances by Billy Bragg, Senegalese superstar Baaba Maal, and Crowded House front man Neil Finn.

The Picket was also home to the Pinball Wizard recording studios, a demo facility for local bands originally opened in 1986 by Pete Townsend of the Who.

The new Picket has re-opened in the Independent District of Liverpool in Jordan Street. The legendary Liverpool Art School band Deaf School and new Liverpool band The CB's appeared at the opening ceremony on 27th May 2006.

0151 708 6789

www.picketliverpool.com



Dance Music and Live Performance in the 90's

47) Juice FM 107.6 Fleet Street

The 107.6 frequency began broadcasting from 27 Fleet Street Liverpool as Crash FM on the 27th March 1998. The original concept for the station was devised by presenter Janice Long.

0151 707 3107

www.juicefm.com

48) Former site of The Lomax, 34 Cumberland Street

Opened in 1993, the original Lomax was one of the best venues for live music performance in Liverpool, famous for attracting top performers such as Oasis, the Verve, Radiohead & Paul Weller.

49) Carling Academy, 11-13 Hotham Street

It opened in 1997, providing a long needed venue for top acts. The venue, now the Carling Academy Liverpool has established itself as a major player on the UK touring circuit.

www.liverpool-academy.co.uk

www.carling.com/music/venue/carling_academy_liverpool

50) Liverpool Academy

University of Liverpool, 160 Mount Pleasant

The Academy is now well-established as a main venue on the UK tour circuit and has played host to many big names including: Coldplay, Elvis Costello & The Human League.

0151 794 6868

www.liverpoolacademy.co.uk



51) Garlands, Eberle Street

Liverpool's biggest gay club opened on the 24th of June 1994. It rapidly came to symbolise a new cosmopolitanism in the city - welcoming people of all sexualities, races and cultures to socialise together.

0151 236 3307

www.garlandsonline.co.uk

52) Parr Street Studios, 33-45 Parr Street

Parr Street Studios started as Amazon in Bootle and subsequently moved to the converted 19th-century warehouse in 1993. For the past 12 years the three-studio complex, the largest in the city and the biggest outside London, has been used by Diana Ross, The Beautiful South & Coldplay.

0151 707 1050

www.parrstreet.co.uk

53) BaaBar, 43-45 Fleet Street

The Baa Bar was the place to start your Cream pre-party in the 90s and is still a Liverpool institution.

0151 708 8673

www.baaabar.co.uk

54) Zanzibar, 43 Seel Street

The Zanzibar is an underground club always flying the flag for new bands in Liverpool and the rest of the UK. The likes of the Corals and the Zutons played their earlier gigs here.

0151 707 0633

www.thezanzibarclub.com

55) Krazyhouse

The Krazyhouse celebrated its 15th birthday in August 2006; In that time it has gone from one floor to three, from 400 people a weekend to 4,000 and has become not only Liverpool's premier Alternative Nightclub and venue, but one of the UK's top 10 Alternative clubs.

www.thekrazyhouse.co.uk

56) Chibuku Shake Shake, 90 Seel Street, The Barfly

From its early nights at the Lemon Lounge above the Metropolitan on Berry Street, Chibuku has grown to be one of the coolest clubs in town. Chibuku was Mixmag's club of the year and the focus is firmly on the crowd and the music. As the night's grown the eclectic mix of music has been delighting clubbers from all over the UK. One of the key Liverpool nights out.

0151 708 5051

www.chibuku.com

57) Circus, 90 Seel Street, The Masque

Yousef's night was voted Radio 1 club of the year. As the man himself says, "The concept of Circus is simple: serious house music and fun times - booking DJs and acts that have, and will, inspire me."

www.circusclub.co.uk

58) Magnet, Hardman Street

The Magnet has a long and varied history in the Liverpool music scene from its early beat scene to one of the most eclectic nights in Liverpool today.

0151 709 6969

59 Le Bateau, Duke Street

Two floors of the best indie music in Liverpool. Darkly exciting with a real sense of atmosphere.

0151 709 6508

60) Society, Duke Street

A beautifully designed interior, glamorous people and the most polite door staff in the world. Radio City broadcast the club live from midnight every Saturday night.

www.societyuk.com



Liverpool Today

The Liverpool music scene is healthier than ever: bands like Ladytron, The Coral, The Zutons, The Little Flames, The CB's and Dead 60s make hits and headlines, while the city's night life has never been more vibrant. Lively new clubs and bars are everywhere. The annual Creamfields and Mathew Street Music Festival are just two of the many events that make the city a magnet for music fans and the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts (LIPA) seals the city's pre-eminence.

Many as yet unsigned bands and artists such as Young Kof, Violet and The Compulsives are forming a new Liverpool underground using band nights and podcasts to get their music out there.

Nightlife

The city's nightlife is continually evolving; new clubs seem to appear overnight and rise and fall in their dominance of the scene as tastes and fashions dictate. There are some, however, which seem to have been around forever becoming perennial classics. Whatever your preferences we hope that you find in this selection of the many night time venues in the city centre, something that will appeal to you.

The highlighted areas of the map indicate identified centres of nightlife where you can find many more clubs, bars and venues.

As with most big cities, there are new nights being put on every week - which are usually the coolest nights. So your best bet is to check flyers in some of the bars listed, designer clothes shops or record shops.

61) Concert Square, Concert Street/ Slater Street

This outdoor piazza is the epicentre of Liverpool's buzzing nightlife scene. Here you will find such night time Mecca's as Modo, Arena and Walkabout and trendy bars, popular with students crowds and young people. Adjacent is Wood Street with its alternative Rockers venue the famous Swan pub and also conveniently close to the bustling Slater Street, with the legendary Jacaranda.

62) Stanley Street / North John Street / Cumberland Street

Thriving gay scene with new venues such as G-Bar, Superstar Boudoir and Navy Bar. In the same quarter is the Lisbon, Paco's and Masquerade bar.



Festivals

The city has an impressive programme of festivals including Africa Oyé, Brouhaha Street Festival, Summer Pops, Liverpool NOW, Mathew Street Music Festival and many more. Visit www.liverpool08.com for more information.

Liverpool Now

APRIL

A two-week programme of events for young people aged 14-25, which includes gigs, workshops and seminars.
0151 708 6789.

www.thedrybar.org.uk

Africa Oyé

JUNE

The largest African Music Festival in the UK.
0151708 6305

www.africaoye.com

Liverpool Summer Pops

JULY

International Top Artists perform at the Docks.

www.visitliverpool.com

Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival

JULY

Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival originally emanated from the energy of the Yemeni community which has been in Liverpool for 140 years, and its Circle of Literary Friends. The festival presents a wide range of different Arabic cultures and their arts including music, dance and community celebrations.
0151 709 5297

Liverpool International Street Festival/ Brouhaha

JULY

Carnival of street theatre, music and dance performances.

www.brouhaha.uk.com

Wimfest

JULY

Wimfest is Liverpool's own Women's International Music Festival. It is also the premier women's music event in the UK! We set up in 2003 with the express aim of showcasing the diversity of what women contribute in the field of music.

www.wimfest-liverpool.com



International Beatle Week

AUGUST

Formerly known as The Beatles Convention, which has catered since 1981 for Beatles fans from around the world. Its growing success led to the development of the Mathew Street Music Festival and the two now co-exist. Cavern City Tours, The Cavern Club, 10 Mathew Street, Liverpool L2 6RE. 0151 236 9091.

www.cavern-liverpool.co.uk/beatleweek

Mathew Street Music Festival

Bank Holiday Weekend AUGUST

One of the biggest musical attractions in Liverpool is the annual Mathew Street Music Festival, created to take music out of The Cavern and onto the streets of Liverpool. It is Europe's largest free city centre music festival, held over the August bank holiday weekend. It began as a Beatles celebration, but now it has broadened out to encompass international performers as well as showcasing new talent from around the world.

0151 233 2008

www.liverpool08.com

Creamfields

AUGUST

One of the UK's most-loved outdoor dance festival featuring international artists and DJs. Creamfields usually takes place at the Old Liverpool airfield in Speke on August bank holiday but recent plans are to move the event to Runcorn.

0870 242 7326

www.creamfields.com

Liverpool Irish Festival

OCTOBER

The Festival celebrates the significance of Irish traditions, music, literature, theatre and art in defining Liverpool's culture and status as a great European city. The Festival is now in its third year and celebrates the links between Liverpool and Ireland.

www.liverpoolirishfestival.com

Black History Month

OCTOBER

Black History Month provides a wide and lively range of performances, exhibitions, talks and gatherings which acknowledge the long presence and contribution to Liverpool of people of African descent.

www.liverpoolblackhistory.co.uk

International Guitar Festival

NOVEMBER

Major event featuring the world's greatest guitarists.

0151 647 0752

www.bestguitarfest.com

Cornerstone Festival

NOVEMBER

Based at Hope University this festival highlights the best in contemporary orchestral and art music in the city.

www.hope.ac.uk

Liverpool Music Week

NOVEMBER

Involving all aspects of local music, from small record labels to iconic music legends, Liverpool Music Week is a coming together of the local industry for one week every November.

www.liverpoolmusicweek.co.uk



Record Shops



Probe

9 Slater Street

0151 708 8815

Hairy Records

124 Bold Street

0151 709 3121

Virgin Megastore

Unit 8-10 Clayton Square

0151 708 6708

HMV

22-36 Church Street

0151 707 2368

Wesley Owen Books and Music

6 Roe Street

St John's Precinct

The Beatles shop

31 Mathew Street

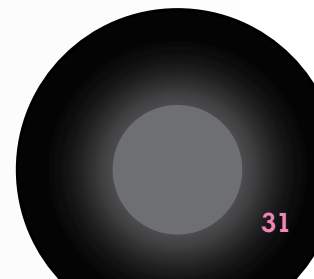
0151 236 8066

3Beat Records

5 Slater Street

0151 709 3355

www.threebeatrecords.co.uk



Selected Further Reading

Liverpool: Wondrous Place- Music from the Cavern to the Coral

By Paul du Noyer – Virgin Books 2004

Head-On: Memories of the Liverpool Punk Scene and the story of “Teardrops Explodes”, 1976-82

By Julian Cope – Thorsons 1999

In Search of the LA’s – A Secret Liverpool

By MW Macefield – Helter Skelter Publishing 2003

Words and Music (Liverpool Music Symposiums)

By John Williamson – Liverpool University Press 2005

The Musical Work: Reality or Invention? (Liverpool Music Symposiums)

By Michael Talbot (Editor) Liverpool University Press 2000

The Best of Fellas :The Story of Bob Wooler- Liverpool’s first DJ, the Man who introduced “The Beatles”

By Spencer Leigh – Drivegreen Ltd 2002

Liverpool, the 5th Beatle : an African-American Odyssey

By P.Willis Pitts- Amazon Press 2002

Ceilis, Jigs and Ballads (Irish Music in Liverpool)

By Kevin McManus – Institute of Popular Music, University of Liverpool 1994

Legends of Liverpool : 25 classics recorded by the Beatles

Warner Bros Publications -1999

Let’s Go Down the Cavern: Story of Liverpool’s Merseybeat

By Spencer Leigh, Pete Frame

The Complete Guide to the Beatles Liverpool

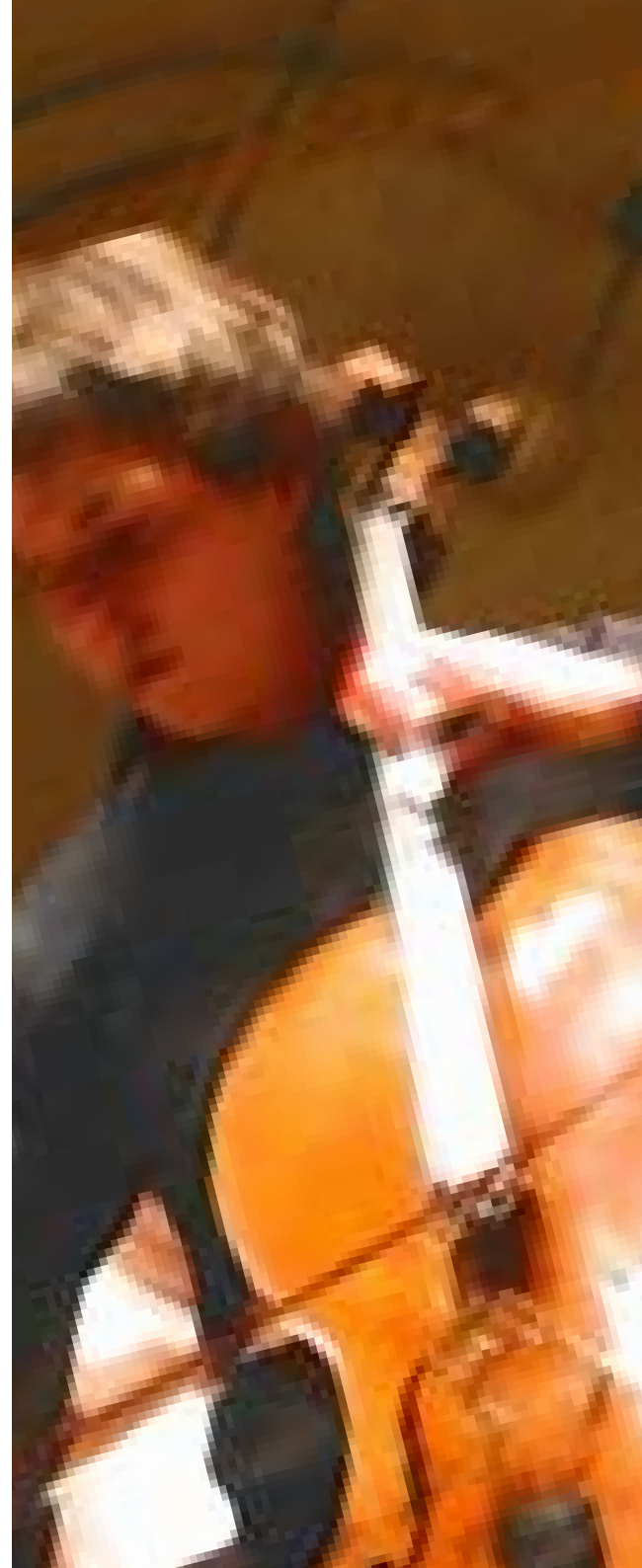
By Ron Jones

Revolution In The Head. ‘The Beatles’ records and the Sixties’.

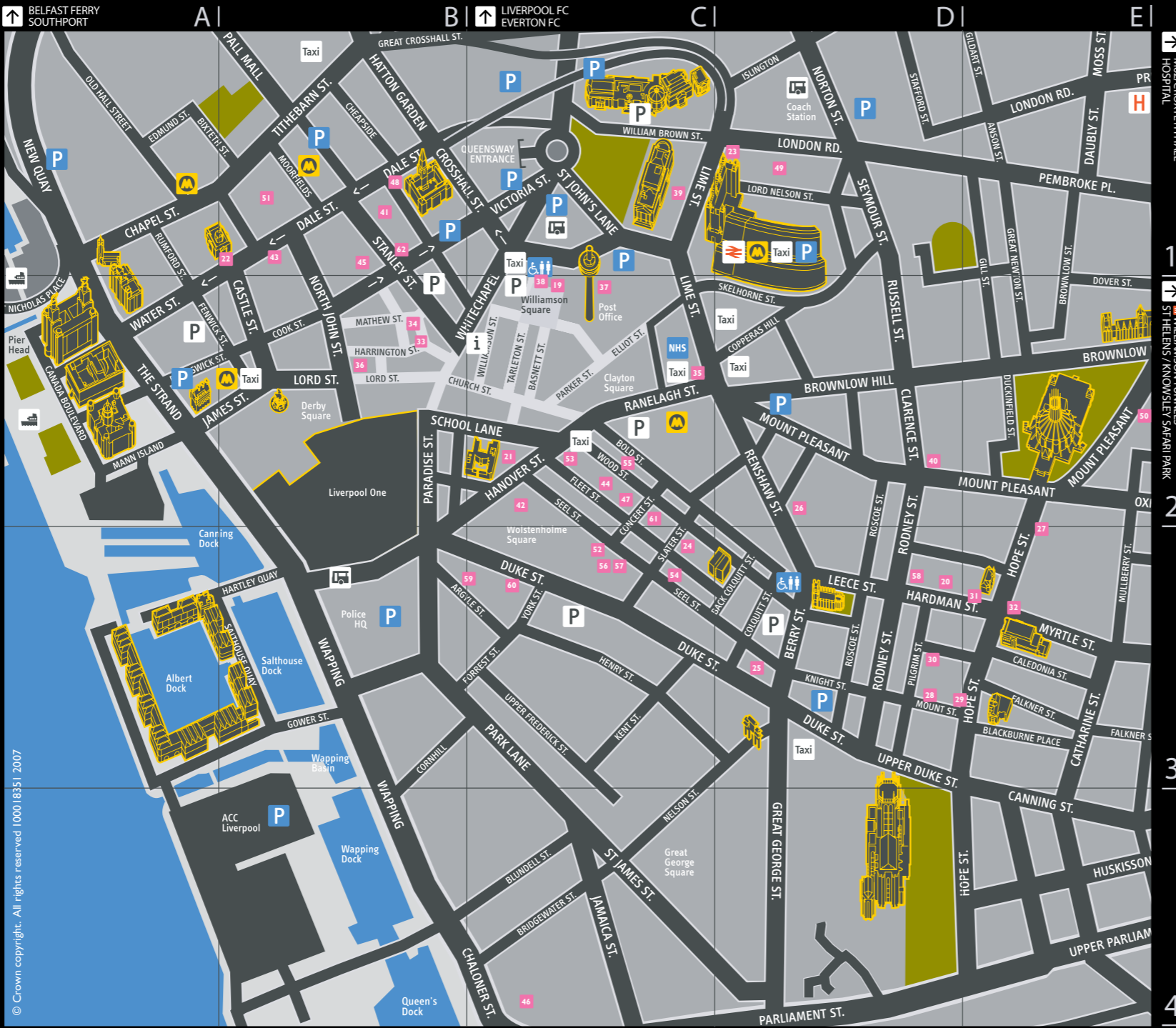
By Ian Macdonald. Pimlico.

Many Years From Now.

Paul McCartney.
By Barry Miles. Secker and Warburg.



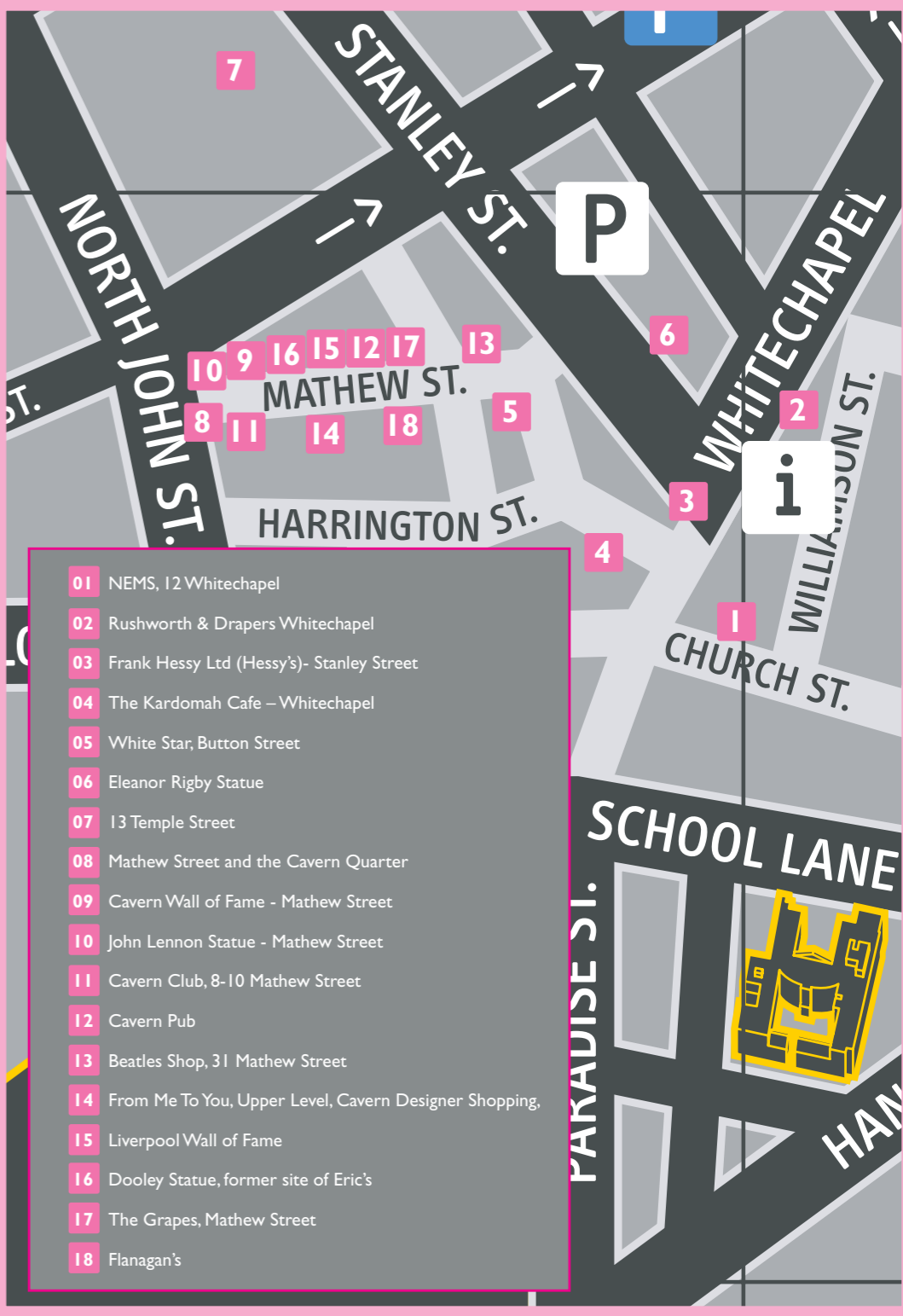
- 01 NEMS, 12 Whitechapel
- 02 Rushworth & Drapers Whitechapel
- 03 Frank Hesty Ltd (Hessy's)- Stanley Street
- 04 The Kardomah Cafe - Whitechapel
- 05 White Star, Button Street
- 06 Eleanor Rigby Statue
- 07 13 Temple Street
- 08 Mathew Street and the Cavern Quarter
- 09 Cavern Wall of Fame: Mathew Street
- 10 John Lennon Statue - Mathew Street
- 11 Cavern Club, 8-10 Mathew Street
- 12 Cavern Pub
- 13 Beatles Shop, 31 Mathew Street
- 14 From Me To You, Upper Level, Cavern Walks, Mathew Street
- 15 Liverpool Wall of Fame
- 16 Dooley Statue, former site of Eric's
- 17 The Grapes, Mathew Street
- 18 Flanagan's
- 19 Liverpool Playhouse Theatre, Williamson Square
- 20 The Sink, Hardman Street
- 21 Bluecoat Chambers, College Lane
- 22 Liverpool Town Hall, Water Street
- 23 Empire Theatre, Lime Street
- 24 The Jacaranda - 23 Slater Street
- 25 The Blue Angel - 108 Seel Street
- 26 Former MerseyBeat Offices - 81a Renshaw Street
- 27 Everyman Theatre, Hope Street
- 28 Liverpool Institute for Performing Art (LIPA), Mount Street
- 29 Liverpool College of Art - 68 Hope Street
- 30 Ye Cracke, 13 Rice Street
- 31 The Philharmonic Pub, 36 Hope Street
- 32 Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street
- 33 Ted Baker, Mathew Street
- 34 Zoo Records
- 35 Curly Music, 45 Ranelagh Street
- 36 The Bears Paw, Dorans Lane
- 37 Radio City 96.7, St. John's Beacon, 1 Houghton Street
- 38 Royal Court Theatre, Roe Street
- 39 St Georges Hall, Lime Street
- 40 Probe Plus Record
- 41 Masquerade, Cumberland Street
- 42 Cream, Wolstenholme Square
- 43 The State, 14 Dale Street.
- 44 The Warehouse, Fleet Street
- 45 The Club Zoo
- 46 The Picket Club, Jordan Street
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- 59 Le Bateau, Duke Street
- 60 Society, Duke Street
- 61 Concert Square, Concert Street / Slater Street
- 62 Stanley Street / North John Street / Cumberland Street



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SCALE: 400M/3 MINUTES WALK

LIVERPOOL AIRPORT/SPEKE HALL
OTTERSPOOL PROMENADE



- 01 NEMS, 12 Whitechapel
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- 13 Beatles Shop, 31 Mathew Street
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- 18 Flanagan's