# Carnival of Reading

## 7th Nov

## 10am – 5pm

## St Helens Library



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National Year of Reading 2026

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ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

# St Helens Carnival of Reading

## Stage Area – Library Space

All events are **FREE** to attend, no need to book.



### The Wonder Shelf (Tmesis Theatre) ▸ 10am to 11am

Step into a magical bookcase where myths and legends burst into life! Join us on an unforgettable adventure packed with puppetry, music, and laughter. A celebration of imagination and the joy of reading. Perfect for curious minds and dreamers of all ages.

**Location: Stage Area ▸ Audience: Children (under 11) & Families**




### We Are Family: Six Kids and a Super Dad – Oliver Sykes ▸ 12noon – 1pm

There's Dad's disgusting nettle soup and peculiar pancakes, horrible home haircuts, punishing press-ups and scum in the bathtub. BUT then there's the joy of boxing lessons with Dad, fun family outings, jokes and pranks – and storytelling round the fire. Not to mention a home-made birthday cake like no other!
Oliver's real-life childhood – rough, tough but happy – is taken from the page to the stage in this groundbreaking live poetry adventure!

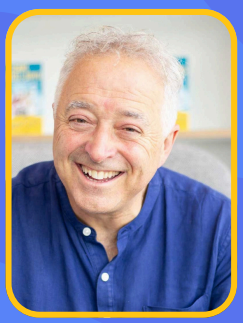
**Location: Stage Area ▸ Audience: Children (5+) & Families**



### Books & Biscuits – Jen Carney ▸ 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Join children's author Jen Carney for a fun and interactive session based on her hilarious B.U.G. series, featuring readings, games, activities, an author quiz, and, of course, biscuits!

**Location: Stage Area ▸ Audience: Children (7+) & Families**



### Desert Island Books with Frank Cottrell-Boyce ▸ 4pm – 5pm

Join award-winning author Frank Cottrell-Boyce for a special edition of Desert Island Books. Discover the stories that have inspired him, hear about his favourite reads, and enjoy an entertaining discussion about books, writing, and the power of storytelling

**Location: Stage Area ▸ Audience: Adults**

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# St Helens Carnival of Reading

## Children's Area – Library Space

All events are **FREE** to attend, no need to book.



### Local Author Story Time – Joe Crowther ▸ 11:30am – 12noon

Try not to get sucked down the plughole! Join local author Joe Crowther for a fun, laugh-out-loud story time featuring Don't Get Sucked Down the Plughole!.

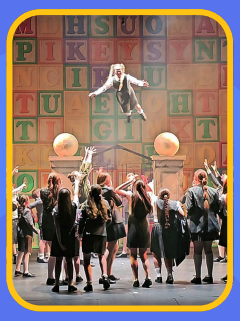
**Location: Children's Area ▸ Audience: Children & Families**



### Local Author Story Time – Brian Agger ▸ 1pm – 1.30pm

Join local author Brian Agger for a special storytime as he shares Counting Christmas Trees. A fun-filled Christmas adventure packed with storytelling, counting, and seasonal cheer for young families!

**Location: Children's Area ▸ Audience: Children (5+) & Families**



### Aspire Performing Arts Academy ▸ 2pm – 2:30pm

Aspire Performing Arts Academy presents a dazzling showcase of songs from some of the best-loved musicals. Performed by talented young people from across St Helens and beyond, this lively performance is packed with energy, confidence, and theatrical flair.

**Location: Children's Area ▸ Audience: Everyone**

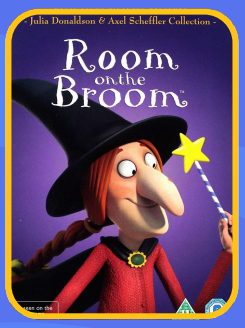
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# St Helens Carnival of Reading

## Auditorium – The World of Glass

All events are **FREE** to attend, no need to book.




### Lucem House Film Showing ▸ 10:30am

Hop aboard for a magical screening of Room on the Broom with Lucem House Cinema, followed by broom-tastic themed crafts and creative fun for little witches, wizards, and animal friends!

**Location: Auditorium ▸ Audience: Children & Families**



### Lucem House Film Showing ▸ 11:30am

Take a stroll through the deep, dark wood with a special screening of The Gruffalo from Lucem House Cinema, followed by Gruffalo-themed crafts and creative fun for the whole family!

**Location: Auditorium ▸ Audience: Children & Families**



### Captain Parrot and his Ship of Stories ▸ 2pm – 2:45pm

Captain Parrot has got his hands on a brand new ship and he needs a crew! Join him on his adventure to find treasure with stories, songs, and plenty of audience interaction! It's a thrilling journey filled with excitement and fun for all ages. Ready your sea legs and prepare for a voyage like no other!

**Location: Auditorium ▸ Audience: Children & Families**



### Making Magic for Young Audiences with Austin Mitchell-Hewitt ▸ 2:55pm – 3:45pm

If you are a writer, actor, director, designer – or maybe a writer/illustrator of children's stories and picture books – and you want to know about creating work for younger ones, join us for a conversation with Austin of Altered Scale Theatre and Kevin Dyer – whose play 'The Monster Under the Bed' won the prestigious Writers' Guild of Great Britain 'Best Play for Children' award. We will unpick the 'rules' of making work for young audiences – and answer any questions you have.

**Location: Auditorium ▸ Audience: Adults**

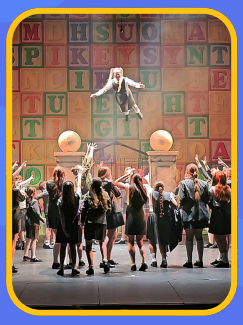
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# St Helens Carnival of Reading

## Garden View – The World of Glass

All events are **FREE** to attend, no need to book.



### Aspire Performing Arts Academy ▸ 11am – 11:30am

Aspire Performing Arts Academy presents a dazzling showcase of songs from some of the best-loved musicals. Performed by talented young people from across St Helens and beyond, this lively performance is packed with energy, confidence, and theatrical flair.

**Location: Garden View ▸ Audience: Everyone**



### Illustrator & Doodler: Jamie Stockley ▸ 11:30am to 12:30pm

Join Jamie Stockley, a local artist and art director, for a creative doodle workshop to learn about the world of illustration.

**Location: Garden View ▸ Audience: Children & Families**



### St Helens Concert Band ▸ 1pm – 1:45pm

From page to screen to stage, join St Helens Concert Band for a thrilling musical journey featuring unforgettable songs and scores from films based on some of the best-loved books.

**Location: Garden View ▸ Audience: Everyone**



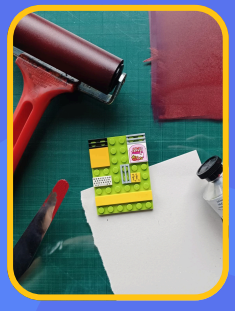
### Face Painting ▸ 11am – 2pm

**Location: Garden View ▸ Audience: Everyone**



### Children's Crafts 10am – 11:30am

**Location: Garden View ▸ Audience: Children & Families**



### Lego Printing ▸ 11am – 3pm

**Location: Garden View ▸ Audience: Children & Families**

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# St Helens Carnival of Reading

## Sankey Suite & Mezzanine – The World of Glass

All events are **FREE** to attend, no need to book.



### Poetry Readings with John Lindley ▸ 11am – 12noon

Enjoy an entertaining and thought-provoking performance from acclaimed poet John Lindley, former Cheshire Poet Laureate. John will share favourite works from his 11 published collections, blending sharp observation, rural charm, urban magic and plenty of humour.

A must-see for poetry lovers and anyone who enjoys a good story well told.

**Location: Sankey Suite ▸ Audience: Young Adults & Adults**



### Lewis Hancox: Welcome to St Hell ▸ 12noon – 1pm

Join St Helens born author and filmmaker Lewis Hancox as he shares the story behind his bestselling graphic memoir Welcome to St Hell. Through photos, film clips and family stories, Lewis offers a funny, honest and inspiring look at growing up in St Helens as a trans teenager and finding creativity through comics, comedy and film.

**Location: Sankey Suite ▸ Audience: 16+**




### Creative Writing Workshop with Oliver Sykes ▸ 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Join award-winning children's author and poet, Oliver Sykes, for a fun-filled poetry-writing workshop. Create your own poem, inspired by your own life experiences! The workshop will be tailored towards both children and grown-ups. All welcome!

**Location: Sankey Suite ▸ Audience: Children & Families**



### Graphic Novels Uncovered with Nick Brokenshire & David Kennedy ▸ 2.30pm

Join comic creators Nick Brokenshire and Dave Kennedy for a lively discussion on comics, illustration and visual storytelling. Hear about their creative journeys, blockbuster projects and behind-the-scenes experiences in an event packed with inspiration, insight and plenty of comic book magic!

**Location: Sankey Suite ▸ Audience: Everyone**

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## Sankey Suite & Mezzanine – The World of Glass

All events are **FREE** to attend, no need to book.



### Graphic Novel Hub: Lewis Hancox, Nick Brokenshire & David Kennedy

Drop in throughout the day to meet graphic novel creators Lewis Hancox, Nick Brokenshire and David Kennedy. Whether you're a lifelong fan or just curious about the world of graphic novels, come along for a chat about storytelling, illustration, characters and the creative process behind bringing stories to life.

**Location: Mezzanine ▸ Audience: An interest in graphic novels**



### Junk Journaling & Blackout Poetry ▸ 11am – 3pm

**Location: Mezzanine ▸ Audience: Young Adults & Adults**

### Computer Xplorers ▸ 11am – 1pm

'Build the Setting' challenge in Minecraft - children build the Great Hall from Harry Potter, or design a Pirate Ship from Treasure Island.

**Location: Library Mezzanine ▸ Audience: 8 - 11 years**

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Libraries Development Framework

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