



MEDIA RELEASE - Wednesday 8 November 2017

## Festive fun at Calderstones with The Reader and Independent Liverpool The Reader's Christmas Courtyard Fair, Saturday 2 December

Following the success of September's Courtyard Fair celebrating Heritage Open Days, The Reader and Independent Liverpool are once again joining forces for a special Christmas community event at Calderstones Park next month.

The Reader's Christmas Courtyard Fair in partnership with Independent Liverpool on Saturday 2 December will be a bumper day of festive fun for all the family. Makers, creatives and small businesses from across the city will be selling their wares at a specially curated market including vintage, craft and local produce – perfect for Christmas shopping. Visitors will also have the chance to see the Neolithic Calder Stones up close, find out more about The Reader's refurbishment plans for the Georgian Mansion House and get creative with a variety of workshops making festive decorations and hand-crafted goods with The Reader's Knit and Natter group.

Families can enjoy a variety of traditional games and activities, and there will be free storytelling sessions at The Storybarn, The Reader's interactive story centre for children where The Storyhunters will be exploring a *Winter Wonderland* of poems and stories.

The day's events will also include pop-up poetry, face painting, festive food, music and much more. Jane Davis, director of The Reader said: "*Everything we do at The Reader is about bringing people together and Christmas is the perfect opportunity for a community gathering at Calderstones. It will be a big week at The Reader as we attempt to raise vital funds to train and support 50 new volunteers who will bring Shared Reading to lonely older people here in Liverpool and right across the country. If visitors to The Christmas Courtyard Fair want to find out more they can come and talk to us about how they can double their donation and make a Christmas gift go even further!*"

Running between Tuesday 28 November (Giving Tuesday) and November 5 December, The Reader are taking part in The Big Give Christmas Challenge. During this period, The Reader will be fundraising to support their work with socially isolated older people across the UK and every pound donated will be doubled by Big Give Supporters The Reed Foundation and two individual donors.

ENDS

## NOTES TO EDITOR

### MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES –

Saturday 2 December:

10am – 3pm: Christmas Stalls,

11am – 1pm: Knit & Natter Family Workshops

11am – 2pm: Heritage Tours

The Reader's Christmas Courtyard Fair

Calderstones Park

Saturday 2 December, 10am – 3pm

For further information, interviews and images please contact:

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### **About The Reader** [www.thereader.org.uk](http://www.thereader.org.uk)

The Reader is an award-winning, charitable social enterprise which brings people together, changes lives and builds communities through sharing great literature. Our unique Shared Reading model brings small groups together each week to read aloud a story and poem with group discussion led by a trained Reader Leader.

For over a decade The Reader has been working in partnership with CCGs, Public Health Bodies and NHS Trusts across the UK to support thousands of people with a wide range of health and social issues including, mental health conditions, dementia, chronic pain, isolation and recovery from substance misuse.

Whether delivered by volunteers, partner staff or Reader staff, Shared Reading offers people a practical way to improve well-being, build confidence and connect with others.

### **About Independent Liverpool** [www.independent-liverpool.co.uk](http://www.independent-liverpool.co.uk)

Breaking free from the Chain Gangs, Independent Liverpool is about linking up all those little places that fill life's little spaces. Funny how many of us go travelling all around the world, yet how often do any of us take the time or trouble to do our exploring closer to home?

Sure too, don't we all know that it's the little things that mark a moment, make a difference, that make you smile... The big idea of Independent Liverpool is to explore what the city has to offer, from the less well-known to the best kept secret gems that deserve a place in your heart. We're looking beyond the uniform. And the uniforms. We're searching for somewhere different, something unique, just like you, for you.

Our website sets out to showcase and highlight the diversity of taste and talent of the individual and the independent places that abound in the city if you care to take delve a little deeper and take a walk around the corner of your eye. We've spent the last 5 years writing a love letter to Liverpool and as a result have held events where tens and thousands of people regularly come. This recently resulted in us officially getting our own warehouse based in the iconic Cain's Brewery. It's called Baltic Market and has 8 independent pop-up restaurants, a bar with local beer and alternating markets every Sunday.