 

MEDIA RELEASE EMBARGOED UNTIL – Thursday 29 March 2018 **(2pm)**

The Storybarn’s Treasure Island adventure to launch at Liverpool ONE

A Liverpool-based national charity and social enterprise is set to bring children’s books to life in the heart of Liverpool’s retail district with a thrilling new interactive reading adventure. The Reader, the charity that brought Michael Rosen’s *Bear Hunt, Chocolate Cake and Bad Things* to the city and runs The Storybarn in South Liverpool’s Calderstones Park, is partnering with Liverpool ONE once again on a brand-new immersive experience to inspire families. Taking inspiration from a treasure trove of children’s books, including Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic novel, *The Storybarn’s Treasure Island* will set sail as part of Liverpool ONE’s Story Season.

Part-interactive theatre, part story-telling, Storybarn’s Treasure Island at Paradise Street, Liverpool ONE includes a tropical desert island, a sensory underwater grotto and pirate shipwreck to explore. The 45-minute sessions will run daily at 10am, 12noon, 2pm and 4pm with the Crafting Cove open for free, 10am – 5pm seven days a week. Taking inspiration from the very best children’s stories and poems including Quentin Blake’s *The Green Ship*, Maurice Sendak’s *Where the Wild Things Are* and Edward Lear’s *The Owl and the Pussycat, The Storybarn’s Treasure Island* is a celebration of great books and fun-filled family reading adventures.

*The Storybarn’s Treasure Island* is set to open on Monday, April 9. But the fun is set to start earlier, with three daily Treasure Trails starting from Thursday, March 29. The guided trail will take parents and children around the streets of Liverpool ONE in search of story clues and pirate treasure. Adventuring families can sign up for free, in person, at Liverpool ONE’s Reading Trees.

The Reader’s Founder and Director, Dr. Jane Davis MBE said: *“We are thrilled to be bringing The Storybarn's Treasure Island interactive family experience to Liverpool ONE this Spring. We’re incredibly proud of our work at The Storybarn at Calderstones Park, but we want to read with a lot more families across the region to help kick-start a life-long love of books. Research from UNESCO shows that ‘reading for pleasure is the single most important thing that will make a child successful in life;. The single biggest impact on a child’s independent reading is whether a parents reads to them. We know this can be daunting, so we need to find new ways to reach and inspire families to read together, and that’s why we’re delighted to be able to bring The Storybarn’s Treasure island to the city centre”.*

Donna Howitt, Marketing Director at Liverpool ONE, said: *“We are proud to play our part in encouraging people to discover or grow their love of reading. We're also delighted to be working again with The Reader, bringing a taste of their popular Storybarn to Liverpool ONE.*”

Story Season is Liverpool ONE’s three-month celebration of all things literary with visitors encouraged to swap their books at the much-loved Reading Trees, enjoy special appearances, book reviews and competitions.

Tickets for *The Storybarn’s Treasure Island* are available to pre-book now at [www.thestorybarn.org.uk](http://www.thestorybarn.org.uk). Suitable for children, new-born – eight and their families, tickets are only £4.50 per person and under 1s do not require a ticket. So pack your telescopes, compasses, buckets and spades and as we head for the horizon in search of sensational stories.

While *The Storybarn’s Treasure Island* experience is for children and their families, The Reader team will also be on hand to speak to visitors about their free weekly *Shared Reading* groups for adults. These groups are accessible for all and you don’t have to be a reader to join. Anyone interested in joining a group, or volunteering to run their own group is welcome to pop in at any time to find out more.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR

The Reader and Liverpool ONE present

The Storybarn's Treasure Island

Supported by Liverpool City Council, Arriva, Waterstones and Arts Council England

Wednesday 28March – Sunday 3 June 2018

Full details and tickets available about [www.thestorybarn.org.uk](http://www.thestorybarn.org.uk)

For further information, interviews, press view tickets and images please contact:
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About The Reader [www.thereader.org.uk](http://www.thereader.org.uk)

Supported using public funding by Arts Council England, The Reader changes lives and strengthens communities by inspiring and supporting people to read great literature aloud together. Since 2008, The Reader has pioneered the use of *Shared Reading* to improve well-being, reduce social isolation and build resilience in diverse communities across the UK and beyond. We inspire and support people to read great literature aloud together. This simple idea changes lives and builds communities. Groups we work with include looked after children, people in recovery from substance mis-use, prisoners, individuals living with dementia, parents, teachers, people with mental and physical health conditions and many more.

About The Storybarn [www.thestorybarn.org.uk](http://www.thestorybarn.org.uk)

In 2016, The Reader launched The Storybarn, the North West’s interactive story-telling centre for children and families, with a simple mission of inspiring a life-long love of reading. Located in the heart of Liverpool’s Calderstones Park, The Storybarn creates a thrilling world of imagination where children can embark on a literary adventure with live-reading from our friendly Storysharers, lots of exciting crafts and games, and a giant slide!

Offering a unique setting where *Shared Reading* can take place, The Storybarn is open for families to explore every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and during the school holidays. Schools and nurseries can visit The Storybarn for exclusive mid-week sessions targeting key National Curriculum links.

About Liverpool ONE [www.liverpool-one.com](http://www.liverpool-one.com)

Liverpool ONE is a contemporary open-air shopping complex, described as one of Europe's leading retail and leisure destinations. Built around the existing streets of Liverpool and located right by the iconic waterfront, Liverpool ONE is a stylish must-visit destination for those who love to shop, eat, drink and relax.

Liverpool ONE has over 170 stores, bars and restaurants, a 14-screen cinema, an indoor adventure golf course and an award winning five-acre park. Stores include high street favourites such as Topshop, Zara, Victoria’s Secret, John Lewis and Debenhams.

Peter’s Lane, Liverpool ONE’s designer fashion hub, is the home of big brand style. It plays host to stores including Michael Kors, The White Company, Reiss, Ted Baker London, Karen Millen and Flannels. You’ll also find the first Beauty Bazaar, Harvey Nichols in the UK, it’s the ultimate luxury beauty experience and one-stop destination for all things beauty.

Liverpool ONE has been awarded Green Flag Status for its popular Chavasse Park. The prestigious Green Flag Award Scheme is judged by Keep Britain Tidy. Surrounded by a bustling and varied leisure terrace, the park plays host to many events for all the family throughout the year. Liverpool ONE is the only new city centre commercial development in the country to include a park that has Green Flag status.

For more information on Liverpool ONE please visit: [www.liverpool-one.com](http://www.liverpool-one.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LiverpoolONEOfficialPage](http://www.facebook.com/LiverpoolONEOfficialPage)

Twitter: @Liverpool\_ONE

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About Story Season <https://www.liverpool-one.com/events/story-season/>