

FREE FESTIVAL GUIDE

THE LAKES INTERNATIONAL COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

2-4 OCTOBER 2026
Kendal, Cumbria



www.licaf.co.uk

Main Funder



Funded by
UK Government



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Events

9-16

Times, dates and venues for this year's amazing events



Comics Market

18-19

Check out the fantastic Comics Market at the Westmorland Campus



Family Fun

24

Marc Jackson returns for Little LICAF powered by the Phoenix



Exhibitions

20-23

Thought-provoking artwork from around the world



Workshops

26-27

Take part in one of LICAF's inspiring workshops for all ages

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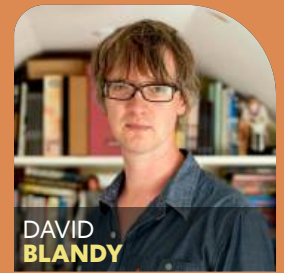
LUKE
MCGARRY

NATIONAL CARTOONISTS SOCIETY

EST. 1946

THE LAKES INTERNATIONAL COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

GUEST LIST



To book your weekend or day pass go to
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**KELI
LARK**



**KHALED
JARADA**



**LÉONIE
BISCHOFF**



**LOUIS EVANS
(AKA FELTMISTRESS)**



**LUKE
HEALY**



**LUKE
MCGARRY**



**MARC
JACKSON**



**MARCOS
MARTIN**



**MARY
TALBOT**



METAPHROG



**MICHAEL
LARK**



**MIKE
DERDERIAN**



MOBIDIC



**MUNTSÁ
VICENTE**



**NICOLAS
PITZ**



**NINA
SIX**



**PETTERI
TIKKANEN**



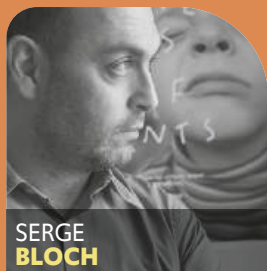
**PIETER DE
POORTERE**



**ROBERT
DEAS**



**SEAN
PHILLIPS**



**SERGE
BLOCH**



**SONIA
LEONG**



**STEVE
MCGARRY**



**SIMON
THORP**



**YOMI
AYENI**



**ZARA
SLATTERY**



to read the biographies and see
images of work of guests go to
www.licaf.co.uk/festival/guests
or scan the QR code.



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Guest list is correct at the
time of publication, please
see our website & social
media for updates



Welcome to Kendal!

LICAF is delighted to return to Kendal in 2026... after all, everything started here way back in 2013. If you haven't visited before, we think Kendal will surprise you – the streets are alive!

Where to pick up your tickets and passes

The Hub for information about the festival, and for passholders to collect their wristbands or lanyards, is located in the Foyer of the Brewery Arts Centre (venue A4 on the map) and will be open at the following times:

Friday 2 October from 10am to 8pm
 Saturday 3 October from 9am to 6pm
 Sunday 4 October from 9am until 3pm



Festival Map

VENUE KEY

- A** **Brewery Arts Centre** (LA9 4HE)
 - A1** BAC - Main Theatre
 - A2** BAC - Malt Room
 - A3** BAC - Studio Theatre
 - A4** Festival Information Hub and Ticket Collection
 - A5** Serge Bloch Interactive Exhibition
 - A6** BAC Warehouse Cafe
- B** **Westmorland Campus** (LA9 4TN)
 - B1** College Campus
 - Workshops
 - B2** Campus Event Space
 - Comics Market
 - Graphic Novel Reading Room
 - La Belle Adventure bookshop
 - International Rights Market
- C** **Kendal Town Hall** (LA9 4DA)
 - Little LICAF powered by The Phoenix
- D** **Cross Lane Projects** (LA9 5LB)
 - In The Last Passage.
An Exhibition by Khaled Jarada
- E** **Abbot Hall** (LA9 5AL)
 - Landscapes of Contemporary Belgian Comics Exhibition
- F** **Ruskins** (LA9 4ND)
 - Evening Social
- G** **Elsewhere Bar** (LA9 4DP)
 - Evening Social
- P** **Parking**



To book your weekend or day pass go to
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قصاصات QUSASAT2



After the resounding success of the Qusasat Summer Camp in 2025, we were proud to co-present its sequel, Qusasat 2, in Bethlehem in July 2026.

Power Group in Bethlehem and LICAF once again led the way with another brilliantly organised 10-day camp, bringing together 12 talented artists from across Palestine and from a range of creative backgrounds, including animation, illustration, and product design.

Most of the participants had never created a comic before and were expertly guided by UK artist Jim Medway, with additional input from Palestinian artist Basel Nasser.

Over the course of 10 days of workshops, creative sessions, and a wider cultural programme, all 12 participants successfully completed their own four-page comic.



also in partnership with



COMICON



To book your weekend or day pass go to
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Event Listings
Friday 2 October 2026

LICAF 2026 OPENING EVENT



plus presentation of the Sergio Aragones International Award
for Excellence in Comic Art

8-9.30pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre

Tickets

£8 and £5 concessions

LICAF's most popular opening night event dates back to 2016 when we entertained our audiences and guests with The Clash of the Toon Titans – Asterix vs Tintin. It was a close call but in the end Asterix won the public vote after 6 brave creators had made the case for one or the other. Asterix's triumph was sealed when Graham Dury from Viz argued, in a highly convoluted way, that Herge couldn't draw horses!

10 years on and we feel it's time for a re-match! Two teams of internationally-renowned creators jeopardise their health and reputation to battle it out once more. Along the way you, the audience, will be asked to vote for one side or the other and throughout the evening some of the fastest cartoonists on the planet will bring this epic battle to life. MCed by the brilliant and impartial Keli Lark.

Opening Night Social events at The Fnarr Bar (Ruskins)

There will be Karaoke from 8pm - 10pm followed by the return of Macclesfield's Kings of Hip Hop, The Dopes at The Fnarr Bar (Ruskins) and Karaoke until late. See the details of all Social events on pages 30-31



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Event Listings

Saturday 3 October 2026

NCS 80th Anniversary Bash

10-11.00am

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre **A1**

We mark the 80th Anniversary of the National Cartoonists' Society of America with an array of talent from its illustrious membership. Featuring **Bill Morrison, Luke McGarry, Gemma Correll, Viz** and **Colleen Doran** plus festival guests **Bim, Petteri Tikkanen, Pieter de Poortere** and **Dagsson**. MCed by the inimitable **Steve McGarry**.



In partnership with NCS 80th



Frank Quitely

Printed Cinema Comics with Mike Derderian

10-11.30am

Workshop **£10**
Concession **£8**

@ Westmorland Campus **B1**

Join **Mike V Derderian** a.k.a. **Sardine**, a professional comic artist from Jordan, for a dynamic talk and hands on workshop demonstrating the links between comics panels and the big screen. You'll be guided through writing and drawing your own comic strip in this 90 minutes session. No experience necessary. Age 12+

Supported by the British Council



Mike V Derderian

The Art of Joris Mertens

10.15-11.15 am

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Malt Room **A2**

Joris Mertens is a Belgian graphic novelist, living in Flanders, Belgium. His debut graphic novel, *Beatrice*, won multiple international prizes and accolades and he has followed up with the stunning and atmospheric *Dry Cleaned*. Come and find out more with Joris in conversation with **Andy Oliver** of Broken Frontier.



Jacob Phillips and Michael Lark Draw Live

10.15-11.15 am

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Studio Theatre **A3**

Two LICAF stalwarts tell us what they've been up to since 2025 and what is on the cards for 2026 and beyond. Hosted by **Keli Lark**.

Romo the Wolfboy

10.30-11.30am

@ Westmorland Campus Event Space **B2**

ILYA (pen name of **Ed Hillyer**) is an experienced comic strip writer, artist and editor with 100s of comics and more than 30 book titles to his name. His latest is **ROMO the WolfBoy**, an all ages character-based series released to great acclaim as a handsome hardback and now also newly available in paperback. Indulge yourself in **ROMO's** world courtesy of a 45 minute presentation by Ilya himself.

Giant Phoenix Comic Club

10.30am-12.30pm

@ Kendal Town Hall **C**

Draw characters from your imagination guided by two Phoenix Comic superstars, **James Turner** and **Robert Deas**. Take part in our first ever giant Phoenix Comic Club, enjoy free comics and find out more about one of the UK's favourite weekly comics.



Legends of Olympus by Robert Deas

Frankly Speaking

11.45am-12.45pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre **A1**

Frankly speaking **Frank Quitely** is one of the most revered artists of his generation. For years he has worked with Mark Millar on some stellar titles and is currently working with the legendary Grant Morrison. Find out more about his extraordinary career in comics with **Andrew Sumner** from Forbidden Planet TV. In partnership with NCS 80th



Crossing Boundaries

11.45am-12.45pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Malt Room **A2**

David Lumsden is a Scottish writer/director of award-winning short films, features, commercials and music videos. **Joanna Lorho** from Belgium oscillates between music, animation and drawing and **Mobidic** is a Belgian comics creator who also trained in animation. They discuss their current work and the art of crossing boundaries with **Alex Fitch**.

In partnership with CBBB, WBI and Creative Scotland



Petteri Tikkanen and Bim Eriksson Draw Live

11.45-12.45pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Studio Theatre **A3**

Meet two brilliant artists who hold legendary status in their home countries of Finland and Sweden respectively. Find out more about their distinctive styles in a fascinating live draw event hosted by **Andy Oliver**, Broken Frontier.

BIM is supported by the Swedish Arts Council and the Embassy of Sweden, UK as part of the Stories From Sweden programme. **Petteri** is supported by the Finnish Institute in London.



To book your weekend or day pass go to
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VENUE KEY

A Brewery Arts Centre (LA9 4HE)

A1 BAC - Main Theatre

A2 BAC - Malt Room

A3 BAC - Studio Theatre

B Westmoreland Campus (LA9 4LR)

B1 Westmorland Campus

B2 Westmorland Campus Event Space

C Kendal Town Hall (LA9 4DH)

D Cross Lane Projects (LA9 5LB)

E Abbot Hall (LA9 5AL)

LICAF

Shining Through – Female Pioneers in Comics

Noon-1.00pm

@ Westmorland Campus Event Space **B2**

Celebrating the unsung contributions of 2 cultural, pioneering women Mary Wollstonecraft and Stella Benson. **Bryan and Mary Talbot** join **Nina Six** from Belgium to examine the roles these women played and the comics in which their work comes to life. Introduced by John McShane.

In partnership with
CBBB and WBI



Create your own Manga Characters

Noon-1.30pm

Workshop **£10**

Concession **£8**

@ Westmorland Campus **B1**

Learn from professional Manga artist **Sonia Leong** as she teaches you how to create characters with a stylish Manga/Anime aesthetic! Understand how to build up faces from easy shapes and ratios, design sparkly eyes and spiky hair, try different angles and poses and get body proportions mapped out correctly. This workshop will help you get up to speed on all the basics and more.

Recommended for 9-12 year olds

An Audience with Bill Sienkiewicz

1.30-2.30pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre **A1**

What to say about **Bill**? He's celebrated the world over and is a multi-Eisner award-winning and Emmy award-nominated artist known for bringing a new and distinctive style to comic and graphic novel illustration. We're excited and honoured to welcome him to LICAF. In this special session Bill will draw live whilst fielding questions from the audience, incorporating some of these exchanges into an original piece. Introduced by film-maker **Dylan Southern**.



Bill Sienkiewicz

Chrissy Williams - An Introduction to Poetry Comics

1.15-2.15pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Malt Room **A2**

Chrissy is an award-winning comic book writer, poet, and editor based in the UK, whose writing has been featured on BBC radio and television. She co-edited *Over the Line: An Introduction to Poetry Comics* (Sidekick Books) with Tom Humberstone, about which Alan Moore said 'I really can't recommend this venture highly enough'. Come and find out why.

Kate Charlesworth (A National Treasure!)

1.30-2.30pm

@ Westmorland Campus Event Space **B2**

Kate Charlesworth's cartoons first appeared in the gay press in the early 1970s.

Subsequently her work appeared across the media, including comics in *The Guardian* and *New Scientist* and later, in comic anthologies and graphic novel. She's an icon and a patron of LICAF. Here she discusses her current work, future plans and aspirations for Scottish comics with John McShane.



Kate Charlesworth

Room 4 Comics

1.30-3.30pm

@ Kendal Town Hall **C**

Marc Jackson returns to LICAF to lead a giant live draw session in which a roll-call of our fantastic international guests will draw their own well-known characters with you in an inspiring and energetic drawing jamboree.

Plus throughout each day join artist **Jenny Robins** for a collage comic extravaganza 10am-4pm each day. With scissors and glue, anything can be a sticker, anything can be a comic.

Steve & Luke McGarry

1.15-2.15pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Studio Theatre **A3**

Steve and **Luke** return to LICAF from California in a father and son live draw in which they will regale us with their most recent cartooning capers. Active NCS members and captains of humour so expect an event full of insights and laughs hosted by NCS Foundation President **Bill Morrison**.

In partnership with
NCS 80th



Steve & Luke McGarry

Sketching your surroundings with Leonie Bischoff

2-3.30pm

Workshop **£10**

Concession **£8**

@ Westmorland Campus **B1**

Join **Leonie Bischoff** from Belgium in this fun and inspiring workshop where you will learn how to document your surroundings through guided sketching exercises. If you're interested in taking your sketching skills onto another level then this is one for you. No previous experience necessary.

Age: 15+

In partnership
with WBI & CBBB



Inspirational Comics on Neurodiversity & Disability

2.45-3.45pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Malt Room **A2**

Gemma Plum (The Great Marc Evers, Sep 2026), **Francisco de la Mora** (The Most Amazing Saturday Morning Rubbish Club, 2025) and **Zara Slattery** (Coma, 2021) discuss their graphic novels exploring neurodiversity and disability.

In partnership with
Selfmadehero



Event information is correct at the time of publication, please see our website & social media for updates



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Event Listings

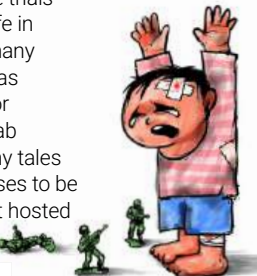
Saturday 3 October 2026

Celebrating Emad Hajjaj

2.45-3.45pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Studio Theatre **A1**

Emad is a Jordanian cartoonist, well-known as **Abu Mahjoob**, and is one of the most famous cartoonists in the Arab world. Emad has documented the trials and tribulations of life in the Arab world for many years. In 2020 he was briefly imprisoned for upsetting certain Arab leaders. He has many tales to tell in what promises to be an exhilarating event hosted by **Terry Anderson** of Cartoonists Rights.



Emad Hajjaj

David Leach's 40th Anniversary Bash

3-4pm

@ Westmorland Campus Event Space **B2**

David Leach's career as a cartoonist, writer and editor celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. It started on January 2nd 1986, when at the age of 23 he started working as British



Psycho Gran by David Leach

animator, Bob Godfrey's 'ghost artist' drawing Henry's Cat comic strips. He created his most popular character, Psycho Gran in 1987 for the much-loved kids comic, Oink. He's also worked for Whizzer & Chips, Gas, Brain Damage, UT, Casper, Action Man, and LEGO Adventures. And there's much more.....come and find out more guided by your host **John McShane**.

Dog Days with Luke Healy & Gemma Correll

3.15-4.15pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre **A1**

What do one of the UK's most popular comic book artists - **Luke Healy** - and an expat (now living in the USA) cartoonist with a global following - **Gemma Correll** - have in common? Sharp wit and dogs! Luke's latest book 'Dogs on Dates' is the 'perfect romance comic' full of self-effacing humour whilst Gemma has built a massive following for her cartoons about anxiety and pugs! See them draw live and discuss their love of observational comics and cartoons. MCed by **Keli Lark**.

Supported by
Faber & Faber



Poetry Comics Workshop

4-5.30pm

Workshop **£10**

Concession **£8**

@ Westmorland Campus **B1**

What happens when you mix poetry with comics? Find out in this exciting 90 minute workshop! You will see some fun examples and start making your own poetry comics, with poet and comic book writer **Chrissy Williams**. All materials provided.

Ideal for all ages from 7+.



Bear by Chrissy Williams

New Comics from Palestine Launch with Yomi Ayeni

4.15-5.15pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Studio Theatre **A3**

LICAF is proud to continue to support the growth of the comics scene in Palestine through a range of projects in partnership with The Power Group from Bethlehem. In July 2026 we co-ran Qusasat 2, a Summer Camp for young Palestinian creators and we launch the resulting anthology here. We also launch The House My Father Built by **Mollie Ray**, a personal account of the Nakba of 1948 published by LICAF in 2026.

In partnership with
The Power Group and
supported by the
Amos Trust



Catherine Johnny Mattar

Dylan Southern in Desert Island Comics

5-6pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre **A1**

Internationally-acclaimed film-maker and lifelong comics fan **Dylan Southern** reveals his favourite comics and reflects on how this artform has influenced his work with recent collaborator and comic artist **Lucy Sullivan**.

Followed at **6-7.30pm** by a special screening of his film **'The Thing with Feathers'** (running time 98mins) based on Max Porter's bestselling book. Dylan worked closely with comics creator Lucy Sullivan on this project.

Guided exhibition tours for public

Not That Into Comics

with Serge/Mathieu at 11am-noon

@ Brewery Arts Centre (LA9 4HE) **A**

Find out why Serge Bloch and Mathieu Diez are not that into comics! Discover the thinking behind this thought-provoking and fun installation created by 2 giants of the French comic scene.

In partnership with



In The Last Passage

with George Al Alma at 2.30pm-3.30pm

@ Cross Lane Projects (LA9 5LB) **D**

Meet one of the most celebrated young artists from Gaza, Khaled Jarada, and experience a guided tour of his fine art and comics work led by one of Palestine's cultural experts George Al Ama who will be joining LICAF from Bethlehem. Supported by the Amos Trust



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Event information is correct at the time of publication, please see our website & social media for updates

Saturday 3 October 2026

Events Timeline

LICAF

	A BREWERY ARTS CENTRE			B WESTMORLAND CAMPUS			C TOWN HALL		EXHIBITION TOURS									
	Main Theatre	Malt Room	Studio Theatre	Workshops	Event Space	Comics Market	Little LICAF powered by The Phoenix		A	D								
10.00am	NCS 80th anniversary bash 10-11.00am	The Art of Joris Mertens with Andy Oliver 10.15-11.15am	Jacob Phillips and Michael Lark live draw 10.15-11.15am	Printed Cinema Comics with Mike Derderian 10-11.30am	Romo the Wolfboy 10.30-11.30am	Comics Market, Graphic Novel Reading Room & La Belle Adventure bookshop 10am-4pm		Jenny Robins for a collage comic extravaganza 10am-4pm each day	A	Exhibition Tour Serge Bloch - Not That Into Comics 11am-12pm @ BAC	10.00am							
10.15am											10.15am							
10.30am											10.30am							
10.45am											10.45am							
11.00am											11.00am							
11.15am											11.15am							
11.30am							10.30am-12.30pm				11.30am							
11.45am											11.45am							
12.00pm	Frank Quitely 11.45am-12.45pm	Crossing Boundaries 11.45am-12.45pm	Petteri Tikkanen and Bim draw live 11.45-12.45pm	Create your own Manga characters Noon-1.30pm	Shining Through – Female pioneers in comics Noon-1.00pm	Also: International Rights Market No public access					12.00pm							
12.15pm													12.15pm					
12.30pm													12.30pm					
12.45pm													12.45pm					
1.00pm											1.00pm							
1.15pm											1.15pm							
1.30pm		An introduction to poetry comics	Steve & Luke McGarry								1.30pm							
1.45pm	An audience with Bill Sienkiewicz 1.30-2.30pm	1.15-2.15pm	1.15-2.15pm	Leonie Bischoff from Belgium - Workshop 2-3.30pm	Kate Charlesworth (a national treasure!) 1.30-2.30pm		1.30-3.30pm		D	Exhibition Tour Khaled Jarada Exhibition 2.30pm-3.30pm @ Cross Lane Projects	1.45pm							
2.00pm																2.00pm		
2.15pm																	2.15pm	
2.30pm																	2.30pm	
2.45pm											2.45pm							
3.00pm		Inspirational Comics on Neurodiversity & Disability	Celebrating Emad Hajjaj								3.00pm							
3.15pm	Dog Days with Luke Healy and Gemma Correll 3.15-4.15pm	2.45-3.45pm	2.45-3.45pm		David Leach's 40th Anniversary Bash 3-4pm						3.15pm							
3.30pm																	3.30pm	
3.45pm																		3.45pm
4.00pm																		4.00pm
4.15pm				Poetry Comics Workshop							4.15pm							
4.30pm			New Comics from Palestine launch with Yomi Ayeni 4.15-5.15pm	4-5.30pm							4.30pm							
4.45pm											4.45pm							
5.00pm			4.15-5.15pm								5.00pm							
5.15pm	Dylan Southern in Desert Island Comic 5-6pm										5.15pm							
5.30pm											5.30pm							
5.45pm											5.45pm							
6.00pm											6.00pm							
6.15pm	The thing with feathers screening 6-7.30pm										6.15pm							
6.30pm											6.30pm							
6.45pm											6.45pm							
7.00pm											7.00pm							
7.30pm																		

Evening Social events		The Fnarr Bar @Ruskins	Elsewhere Bar
8.00pm			
9.00pm		Black Peider (8.30pm - 9pm)	
10.00pm		Pop Noir (9.30pm - 10.30pm)	Chill out space 8pm - 12pm
11.00pm		Yomi (10.30pm onwards)	
12.00pm			

VENUE KEY

A Brewery Arts Centre (LA9 4HE)

A1

BAC - Main Theatre

A2

BAC - Malt Room

A3

BAC - Studio Theatre

B Westmoreland Campus (LA9 4LR)

B1

Westmorland Campus

B2

Westmorland Campus Event Space

C Kendal Town Hall (LA9 4DH)

D

Cross Lane Projects (LA9 5LB)

E

Abbot Hall (LA9 5AL)

Event Listings

Sunday 4 October 2026

Create a Creature with Felt Mistress

10.00-12.30pm

Workshop £15
Concession £10

@ Westmorland Campus

B1

Louise aka Felt Mistress will guide you through the process of making your own sewn felt creation. No previous sewing skills needed and all materials will be supplied. Everyone will go home with new skills and a new felt friend.

Suitable for adults and children 8 +
£15 includes materials



Louise Evans aka Felt Mistress

Charlie Adlard - Altamont with Andrew Sumner

10.15-11.15am

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Studio Theatre

A1

Charlie Adlard is best-known for his long stint on The Walking Dead (TWD). He's been working on a range of titles since retiring from TWD and one of his most recent (and favourite) comics, Altamont, is the focus of this event. Charlie will draw live from its pages whilst discussing why this is the work he's most proud of with **Andrew Sumner** of Forbidden Planet TV.



Altamont by Charlie Adlard

It's Zen! Sunday Morning Big Live Draw & Music

10.30-11.30

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre

A1

What better way to start your Sunday morning than relaxing and being mesmerised by a live draw with chilled live music? Featuring Nina Six, Lucy Sullivan and Nicolas Pitz. Hosted by Keli Lark

In partnership with
CBBB and WBI



Qader/Qadera Launch with Mike Derderian

10.30-11.30am

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Malt Room

A2

Mike Derderian is the founder of F.A.D.A. 317, a studio in Jordan for comics, cartoons and graffiti among other oddities. When he is not moonlighting as a comic & graffiti artist, he is a radio disc jockey and news presenter. In 2018 he founded the comics collective Fanzeen, which is now at issue 7 and called Qader / Qadera meaning 'Able' in which young Jordanian comic artists have drawn inspiration from the real life stories of disabled people. Here Mike discusses the comic scene in Jordan and launches this Fanzeen anthology at LICAF. Hosted by Yomi Ayeni.

In partnership with
the British Council



Bara'a Lahham

The NCS Turns 80!

10.30-11.30am

@ Westmorland Campus Event Space

B2

With membership roster that boasts superstar names such as Charles Schulz, Walt Disney, Will Eisner, Sergio Aragones, Ronald Searle, Gary Larson, Charlie Adlard and Sean Phillips, the National Cartoonists Society is the world's premier organization of comics and cartoon art professionals. Join Bill Morrison, Steve McGarry, Karen Evans, Jason Chatfield and more for a look inside the NCS as the Society celebrates its 80th anniversary.



Belgian Comics Now

11.45-12.45pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Studio Theatre

A3

Find out more about the exhibition 'Landscapes of Contemporary Belgian Comics' at Abbot Hall Gallery and meet a selection of its featured artists. This touring exhibition, starting at LICAF, offers a vibrant portrait of a generation shaping the new Belgian comic scene. Hosted by Belgian comics creator

Sacha Georg.

In partnership with
CBBB and WBI



Marcos Martin & Muntsa Vicente with Alex Fitch

12.15-1.15pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre

A1

Marcos and **Muntsa** (Catalonia) are a dynamic duo both on and off the comic page. Marcos is creators' choice gaining huge popularity for his Marvel and DC work and more recently for his partnership with Ed Brubaker on 'Friday'. Muntsa is a renowned illustrator whose command of colour has transferred to her work on comics. Find out more about their work and unique partnership with **Alex Fitch**.



Marcos Martin and Muntsa Vicente



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B2 Westmorland Campus Event Space

C Kendal Town Hall (LA9 4DH)

D Cross Lane Projects (LA9 5LB)

E Abbot Hall (LA9 5AL)

LICAF

Blueprints for Comics in the Classroom launch with Ray, Sim Leech and Hester Harrington

12.15-1.15pm

@ Westmorland Campus Event Space **B2**

For just over a year the LICAF team has been working with primary and SEND schools and the University of Cumbria PGCE course to develop a set of blueprints for comics in the classroom. We have big ambitions for these tried and tested templates, aiming to roll them out to schools across the UK and embed into teacher training courses in the medium term. Join the UK Young Comics Laureate, who has illustrated these blueprints, and the LICAF team who produced them, as we begin the process of launching them to the wider world.

Supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation

phf Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Taking the High Road

12.30-1.30pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Malt Room **A2**

John McShane explores the growth of Scottish comics with independent creators **David Lumsden**, **Eve Greenwood** and **Faye Stacey** accompanied by internationally-acclaimed **Frank Quitely**.

In partnership with Creative Scotland



Faye Stacey

Build Your Own Beast: Illustrating and Storytelling for Table Top Role Playing Games with Dan Locke and David Blandy

1.30-3pm

Workshop **£10**

Concession **£8**

@ Westmorland Campus **B1**

This playful drop-in, all ages and abilities workshop will engage participants in character design illustration through a series of tasks. Using elements of game play, creative writing and drawing each participant will design a unique Dungeons and Dragons style character sheet. This activity will be supported by **Daniel Locke**, an award winning graphic novelist and role playing game artist and **David Blandy** an award winning role play designer.

Supported by Arts Council England

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Build your own beast

OiNK!: Piggs, Puns & Plops

A Film by Claire Bend & Rob Reed

1.30pm - 2.30pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Studio Theatre **A3**

A short documentary looking at the creation, life and legacy of the hugely influential cult British comic OiNK!

Featuring Patrick Gallagher, Charlie Brooker, Jamie Smart and many more creators and lifelong fans, this documentary delves deep into the pig-pen and covers you in sensational swill!

Dickie vs Dagsson

2-3pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre **A1**

LICAF is proud to present an original exhibition 'The Tree of Life' by two European masters of black humour. **Hugleikur Dagsson** (Iceland) and **Pieter De Poortere** (Belgium) share a sharp sense of humour packaged in seemingly innocent drawings. However, behind the childlike surface lies a world of cruelty, absurdity and taboos which are turned upside down and mocked.

Join Dagsson and De Poortere as they present 'The Tree of Life' through a live draw with some distractions and flights of fancy thrown in for good measure.

In partnership with Flip Through Flanders presented by Flanders Literature



FLANDERS LITERATURE

Meet Metaphrog

2-3pm

@ Westmorland Campus Event Space **B2**

John Chalmers and Sandra Marrs are a graphic novel duo, also known as Metaphrog, and authors of Wilomina: The Land of Dreams and Nightmares. Their acclaimed graphic novels have received multiple Eisner Award nominations, were Highly Commended for The Scottish Children's Book Awards, and won the Sunday Herald Scottish Culture Awards Best Visual Artist. Here John and Sandra present Wilomina, their new middle grade graphic novel published by Scholastic, and discuss its creative process.

In partnership with Creative Scotland



Wilomina cover artwork

Event information is correct at the time of publication, please see our website & social media for updates



To book your weekend or day pass go to **www.licaf.co.uk** or scan this QR code



Sunday 4 October 2026

Events Timeline



Colleen Doran

An Audience with Colleen Doran

2.15-3.15pm

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Malt Room **A2**

Colleen's roll call of comics creation is extraordinary from 'The Sandman' and 'American Gods' to illustrating works by Alan Moore, Margaret Atwood, Anne Rice, Clive Barker, 'Amazing Fantastic Incredible Stan Lee', and graphic novels for The Doors, Blondie and Tori Amos to name a few. In conversation with **Alex Fitch**.
In partnership with NCS 80th



Live Draw Life Draw Finale

3.30-4.30

@ Brewery Arts Centre - Main Theatre **A1**

Our finale in 2025 saw well-known comic artists posing for their peers in a unique life draw event. This year we build on its success by introducing a new element – the dressing up box! See some of your favourite artists pose with an assortment of comic art props and enjoy some great banter courtesy of our MC Keli Lark. Featuring **Bill Sienkiewicz, Sean Phillips, Frank Quitely, Michael Lark, Charlie Adlard, Gemma Correll** and many more....

A BREWERY ARTS CENTRE			B WESTMORLAND CAMPUS			C TOWN HALL	
Main Theatre	Malt Room	Studio Theatre	Workshops	Event Space	Comics Market	Little LICAF powered by The Phoenix	
10.00am							10.00am
10.15am							10.15am
10.30am							10.30am
10.45am							10.45am
11.00am							11.00am
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Signings

At the Comics Market Westmorland Campus

B

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2026

	Table 1	Table 2
10-11am	Charlie Adlard	Marcos Martin & Muntsa Vicente
11-12pm		
12-1pm	Kate Charlesworth	Michael Lark
1-2pm	Sean & Jacob Phillips	
2-3pm		
3-4pm	Bill Sienkiewicz*	Frank Quitely
4-5pm		Joris Mertens & Bim Eriksson

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2026

	Table 1	Table 2
10-11am		Gemma Correll
11-12pm	Luke Healy	
12-1pm	Bill Sienkiewicz*	Colleen Doran (until 1.30pm)
1-2pm		
2-3pm		Chrissy Williams
3-4pm	NCS Crew: Bill Morrison, Colleen Doran, Jason Chatfield, Luke McGarry, Steve McGarry	Belgian Artists: Joanna Lorho, Leonie Bischoff, Mobidic, Nicolas Pitz, Nina Six
4-5pm		



Please bring your own books or purchase in advance from
La Belle Adventure located in the Comics Market, Westmorland Campus

* One free signature, by Bill Sienkiewicz, for pass holders. Prices for subsequent signatures and for non-pass holders, plus prices for remarks and sketches will be displayed at the signings table.



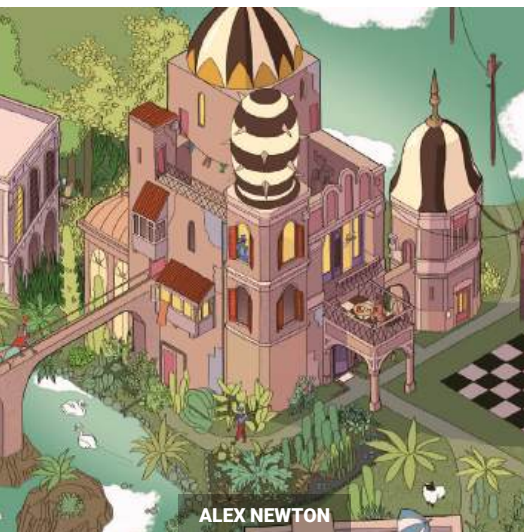
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COMICS MARKET

At the Westmorland Campus

B



ALEX NEWTON



FUMIO OBATO



FELT MISTRESS



ROGER LANGRIDGE



CLARK BINT



PIGEON

CREATORS AND PUBLISHERS

77 Publishing

Ahmed Raafat

Alex Newton

B7 Comics

Beastly Worlds

Ben Bernard-Smith

Benjamin Dickson

Blue Fox Comics

Brodie Kidd

Bruno Catarino comics

Bryan and Mary Talbot

C A Strike

Cartoonists' Club of Great Britain

Catfood Comics

Chris Geary/White Hart Comics

Chris Shepherd

Cinebook

Claire O'Brien

Clark Bint

Clockwork Watch

Colin Maxwell, Maximized Comics

Colossive Press

Comics Cultural Impact Collective

Comics Youth CIC

Corey Brotherson - writer

Daisy Crouch (Starspill) & Jess Winton (Wintern)

Darryl Cunningham

David Blandy and Daniel Locke

David Leach

David Lumsden & Faye Stacey

Devkity

Eliza - The Ghost in Every Machine

Escape Studios - School of Animation, Games and VFX

Foxhat

Fran Morton

From Palestine

Fumio Obato

Gutsy Zine

House Of Stars

ILYA

Inky Fruit Co.

Jenika ioffreda

Jenny Robins

John Chalmers & Sandra Marrs (Metaphrog)

Jon Davis

Jonathan Edwards & Felt Mistress

Karl Christian Krumpholz

Kate Evans

Kendal College

Kev F Sutherland

Krakathoom

Lewis Campbell

LICAF

Lyndon White

Manon Wright

Mark Abnett Comics

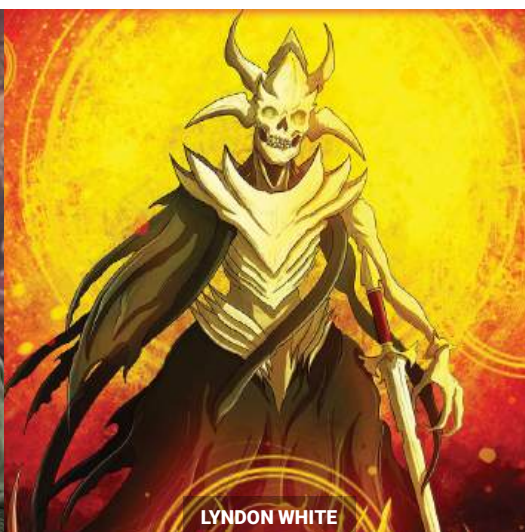


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CLOCKWORK WATCH



LYNDON WHITE



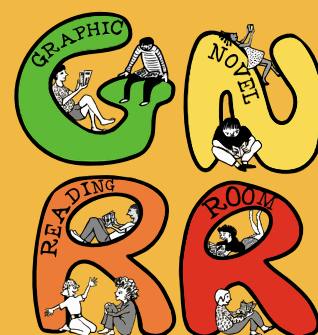
KEV F SUTHERLAND



BRYAN TALBOT



CATFOOD COMICS



GRAPHIC NOVEL READING ROOM

The GRAPHIC NOVEL READING ROOM is a place where people can read graphic novels in other people's company in a relaxed space

A wide selection of graphic novels are provided to choose from, mainly long-form fiction and non-fiction.

Find out more at:
graphicnovelreadingroom.com

Mark Stafford
Martin Simpson

Megan Grey
Northern Wilding -
Ben Edwards

Pearlman & Lacey
Peng and Spanners.
Steve Webb

Peter Morey
Pigeon

Quindrie Press

Re-Live

Rein Lee

REVEAL! Comics
ConversationsEA

riso des bois (C.A.Hiley
& c.simonis)

Robert Brown
Roger Langridge
Sam Hart

Sarah Graley/Our Super
Adventure

Savannah Storm

SelfMadeHero

shanefaced

Shri Gunasekara

Skhoshbell

Snake

Sonia Leong

Strawman Publishing

tanya roberts/
bluebottle inc

The Unreality Store

Third Bear Press

Tim Bird

Tim Fish

Time Bomb Comics

VER

Willem Hampson

Zara Slattery



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SERGE BLOCH NOT THAT INTO COMICS

At The Brewery Arts Centre Gardens

A5

21st September - 8th October 2026.

Find out why Serge Bloch and Mathieu Diez are not that into comics! Discover the thinking behind this thought-provoking and fun installation created by two giants of the French comic scene.



HAPPINESS IS
SIDE-DISH OF
FRENCH FRIES

CHARLES SCHWITZ

Exhibition Tour
Saturday 11am -12pm @ Brewery Arts Centre

In partnership with

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS
ROYAUME-UNI



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LANDSCAPES OF CONTEMPORARY BELGIAN COMICS

At The Abbot Hall

E

2nd October until 10th October 2026.

Landscapes of Contemporary Belgian Comics is a touring exhibition showcasing the richness and diversity of today's Belgian comics scene. Bringing together artists — living in Belgium or of Belgian origin — the exhibition reveals a field defined by creative freedom and experimentation. From adventure stories to autobiographical narratives, from works for young readers to projects engaging with social, political and ecological questions, these artists demonstrate the remarkable versatility of comics as a contemporary artistic language. Together, they offer a vibrant portrait of a generation shaping the future of Belgian comics.



Belgian Comics Now produced by LICAF (supported by Arts Council England) and Wallonie-Bruxelles International, in collaboration with the Comic art Museum-Brussels



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IN THE LAST PASSAGE

AN EXHIBITION BY KHALED JARADA, GAZA

at Cross Lane Projects Gallery, Cross Lane, Kendal LA9 5LB

D

1 October -14 November 2026

OPENING TIMES:

2-5 October 10.30am-4.30pm
Other dates noon-5pm

In the Last Passage is a solo exhibition of works by Khaled Jarada, developed between Gaza and Paris from 2019 to 2026, reflecting the rich variety of his practice across drawing, painting, animation, installation, and comics. The exhibition brings together a selection of works from various projects dealing with recurring themes and subjects in Jarada's practice: chronic waiting, memories, exile, and the experience of being in, but not of, a place. The exhibition takes its title from Mahmoud Darwish's poem *The Earth is Closing on Us*, where the last passage emerges as the very condition of being Palestinian. "The Earth is closing on us / pushing us through the last passage / and we tear off our limbs to pass through." It is from within this last passage that Jarada's lines start.



Exhibition Tour

Saturday 2.30pm -3.30pm @ Brewery Arts Centre



CROSS LANE
PROJECTS

Supported by

**AMOS
TRUST.**

Main Funder



Funded by
UK Government



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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DICKIE & DAGSSON TREE OF LIFE

AN EXHIBITION OF TWO EUROPEAN MASTERS OF BLACK HUMOUR

at The Brewery Arts Centre Warehouse Cafe

A6

2 -4 October 2026

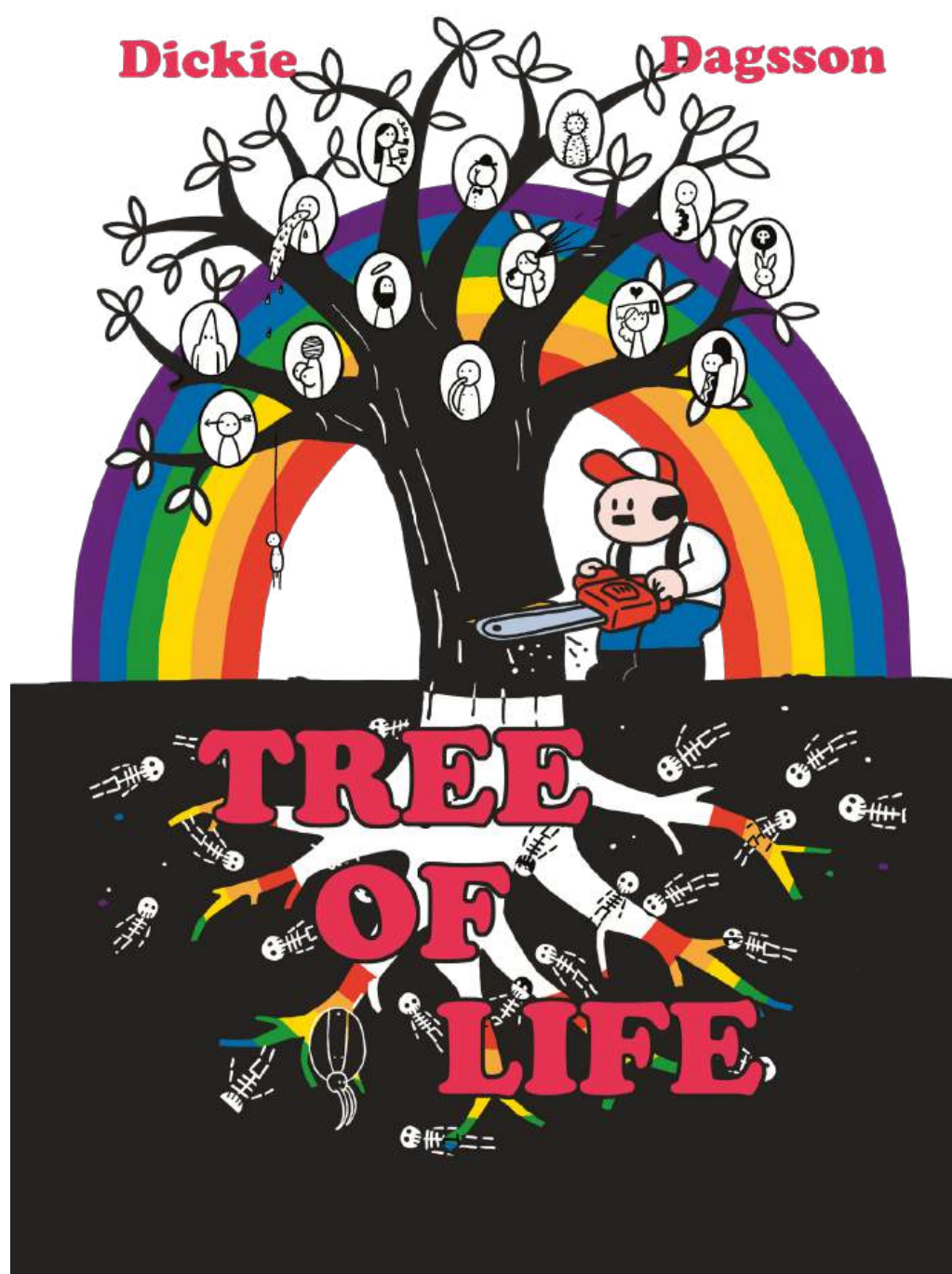
OPENING TIMES:

2 October 4pm-10pm

3 & 4 October 10am-6pm

Hugleikur Dagsson (Iceland) and Pieter De Poortere (Belgium) share a sharp sense of humor, packaged in seemingly innocent drawings. Both artists reduce their style to its essence: clean lines, simple shapes, and use this minimalism to amplify the impact of their jokes. However, behind the childlike surface lies a world of cruelty, absurdity, and taboos, which are turned upside down and mocked.

Whether it is Dagsson's sharp one-liners or De Poortere's unfortunate character Dickie, both expose the humor in failure, misfortune, and the darker sides of life. Their work proves that laughter can be both uncomfortable and universal, transcending boundaries with just a few pen strokes. Tree of Life by Dickie & Dagsson divides life neatly into seven chapters, from birth to the afterlife, each linked to a color of the rainbow. But not without adding a generous dose of black.



**FLANDERS
LITERATURE**



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LITTLE LICAF POWERED BY



At Kendal Town Hall

C

Little LICAF Workshops

The Phoenix workshops start at 10.30 and at 11.30am. Room 4 Comics sessions start at 1.30pm and 2.30pm but please arrive 10mins before the starting time. There are a limited number of places which will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. All workshops are free but we would appreciate a donation of £5+ per child

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MORNING

THE
PHOENIX
COMIC
CLUB

Giant Phoenix Comic Club

10.30am-12.30pm

Draw characters from your imagination guided by two Phoenix Comic superstars, **James Turner** and **Robert Deas**. Take part in our first ever giant Phoenix Comic Club, enjoy free comics and find out more about one of the UK's favourite weekly comics.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
AFTERNOON

ROOM
COMICS

Room 4 Comics

1.30-3.30pm

Marc Jackson returns to LICAF to lead a giant live draw session in which a roll-call of our fantastic international guests will draw their own well-known characters with you in an inspiring and energetic drawing jamboree.

PLUS

Throughout each day join artist Jenny Robins for a collage comic extravaganza
Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm

With scissors and glue, anything can be a sticker, anything can be a comic.



To book your weekend or day pass go to
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Comic Blueprints Toolkit for teaching



Supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, this has been a two year project following on from four years of previous LICAF research projects in primary and SEND schools. The LICAF education team has worked with educators, researchers and comic advocates to develop innovative approaches to teaching through the use of comic principles and outcomes.

These Comic Blueprints have been thoroughly tested in several classrooms and we are excited to announce that they will soon be available for download from the LICAF website, where you will also find support information and testimonials.

Though developed in coordination with primary and SEND teachers they are suitable for use in a variety of educational and instructional settings.



LICAF
LAKES INTERNATIONAL
COMIC ARTS FOUNDATION

phf Paul Hamlyn
Foundation



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WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

at the Westmorland Campus

B1

Get the full festival experience with one of our Workshops

Over the LICAF festival weekend there will be a selection of inspiring and educational workshops. Places are limited so make sure you book your place in advance to avoid disappointment.

Printed Cinema Comics with Mike Derderian

Saturday 3rd October, 10-11.30am

Workshop

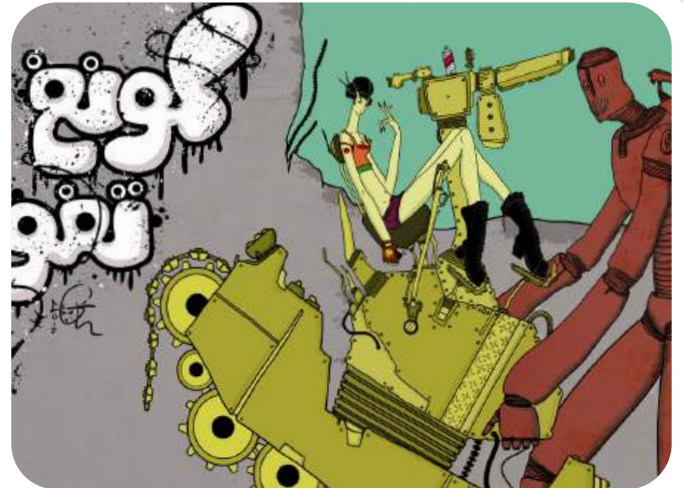
£10

Concessions £8

Join Mike V Derderian a.k.a. Sardine, a professional comic artist from Jordan, for a dynamic talk and hands on workshop demonstrating the links between comics panels and the big screen. You'll be guided through writing and drawing your own comic strip in this 90 minutes session. No experience necessary.

Age 12+

Supported by The British Council



Create your own Manga characters

Saturday 3rd October, Noon-1.30pm

Workshop

£10

Concessions £8

Learn from professional Manga artist Sonia Leong as she teaches you how to create characters with a stylish Manga/ Anime aesthetic! Understand how to build up faces from easy shapes and ratios, design sparkly eyes and spiky hair, try different angles and poses and get body proportions mapped out correctly.

Recommended for 9-12 year olds



Sketching your surroundings with Leonie Bischoff from Belgium

Saturday 3rd October, 2-3.30pm

Workshop

£10

Concessions £8

Join Leonie Bischoff from Belgium in this fun and inspiring workshop where you will learn how to document your surroundings through guided sketching exercises. If you're interested in taking your sketching skills onto another level then this is one for you. No previous experience necessary.

For ages 15+

In partnership with WBI & CBBD



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Poetry Comics Workshop

Saturday 3rd October, 4-5.30pm

Workshop £10

Consessions £8

What happens when you mix poetry with comics? Find out in this exciting 90 minute workshop! You will see some fun examples and start making your own poetry comics, with poet and comic book writer Chrissy Williams. All materials provided. Ideal for all ages from 7+.



Create a Creature with Felt Mistress

Sunday 4th October, 10-12.30pm

Workshop £15

Consessions £10

Louise aka Felt Mistress will guide you through the process of making your own sewn felt creation. No previous sewing skills needed and all materials will be supplied. Everyone will go home with new skills and a new felt friend. Suitable for adults and children 8 +

Felt Mistress AKA Louise Evans is a Welsh textile artist who creates bespoke creatures with her partner, illustrator and comic artist Jonathan Edwards.

Her work has been exhibited all over the world including shows in Tokyo, Osaka, Los Angeles, Mexico, Paris, Berlin and London.



Build Your Own Beast: Illustrating and Storytelling for Table Top Role Playing Games with Dan Locke and David Blandy

Sunday 3rd October, 1.30-3pm

Workshop £10

Consessions £8

This playful drop-in, all ages and abilities workshop will engage participants in character design illustration through a series of tasks. Using elements of game play, creative writing and drawing each participant will design a unique Dungeons and Dragons style character sheet. This activity will be supported by Daniel Locke, an award winning graphic novelist and role playing game artist and David Blandy an award winning role play designer.

Supported by ACE



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



In addition to these sessions, there are also additional Little LICAf workshops created with children in mind. Please see page 24 for more details about the Phoenix Comic Club and Room 4 Comics workshops



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2026 SOCIAL EVENTS

The Fnarr Bar @ Ruskins

F

Friday 2 October 2026



Karaoke

(8pm - 10pm & then 11pm until late)

Step up to the mic! Judgement left at the door!

By popular request, LICAF Karaoke is back

The Dopes

(10pm - 11pm)

Macclesfield's KINGS OF HIP HOP, THE DOPES return to LICAF! Bringing beats, rhymes and roast beef sandwiches to the comics community!

Guaranteed 111% FRESH, every time



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Saturday 3 October 2026

Black Peider

(8.30pm - 9pm)

Black Peider is a one man show with no boundaries & limits. "This nordic luchador run out of comic pages gives usually remarkable musical treats with guitar and his unique voice but not always. You never know where the wind blows. Faulty hero to rule 'em all!!!" in his own words.



Pop Noir

(9.30pm - 10.30pm)

Los Angeles-based indie electronic duo fronted by cartoonist **Luke McGarry** and twin brother **Joe**. Having headlined venues in Manchester, London, Paris and China, and shared the stage with the likes of The Wombats, Doves, Robyn and Franz Ferdinand, they're bringing their high-energy live show back to Ruskin's for a night of pulsing rhythms and soaring guitars. Get in early, as you won't want to miss this special LICAF set!



DJ set

(10.30pm onwards)

We're taking you to the DISCO with a mix of funk and soul from the golden age of club music, so please don't forget to bring your dancing shoes



Chill out space at the Elsewhere Bar

If you prefer a quieter more relaxed evening, try out the Elsewhere Bar



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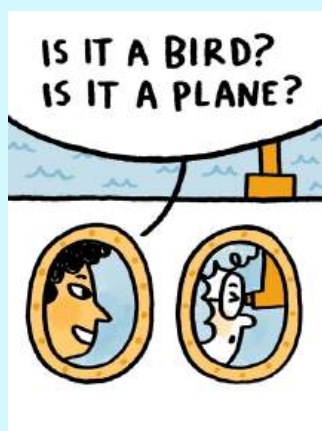
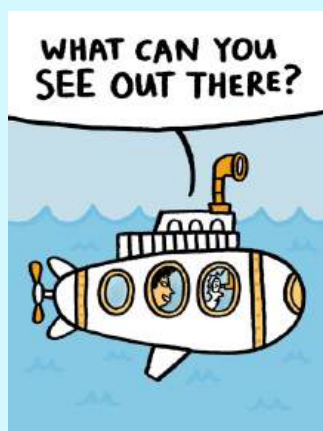
Discover comics
Read more comics
Make comics
Enjoy comics
Appreciate comics
Celebrate comics

Barrow: Leading Comics Education in the UK

Barrow-in-Furness has been officially declared the UK's first Comic Book Town, marking a significant milestone in a year-long initiative led by The Lakes International Comic Arts Foundation (LICAF). Announced just before the Barrow Does Comics festival on April 18th, the project underscores the potential of comic arts to enhance literacy, creativity, and community involvement. By making Barrow and Cumbria a centre for comics education, the initiative sets the stage for innovative new approaches to reading and learning across the country.

Timed with the 2026 National Year of Reading, the Comic Book Town initiative is especially focused on inspiring children and young people, including those with special educational needs (SEND).

To celebrate, Barrow will be 'flooded' with comics distributed across the town in public spaces. As part of the project, LICAF is also launching a competition for two Children's Comics Laureates, promoting the value of comics in building a love of reading.



.by Gemma Correll

To find out more about the UK's first comic book town, scan the qr code or visit the Foundation pages on the LICAF website



www.licaf.co.uk



Main Funders



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MERCHANDISE

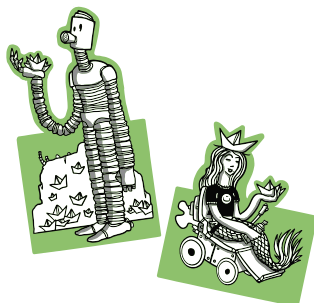
Note Pad

Recycled Notepad
and Pen Set



Magnetic Bookmarks

Magnetic Bookmarks,
Art by Mike Derderian



Pin Badges

Not That Into Comics
Enamel Pin Badges



A3 Giclee Prints

Art by Bill Sienkiewicz



In memory of Jacquie Metcalfe

Sadly Jacquie passed away in October last year after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 39 and an extremely talented beautician in Kendal who was loved by many. Jacquie's ex colleagues Rachel and Chelsea at Daniel Grays Hairdressing salon will be running the Manchester Half Marathon on the 4th October to raise money for St John's Hospice who took great care of Jacquie in her final days and also for her husband Jim and daughter Robyn. A percentage of the proceeds from merchandise sales this year will go to this great cause.

THANK YOU

MAIN FUNDER:

Main Funder



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

ALSO SUPPORTED BY:



**Westmorland
& Furness
Council**



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



ALSO IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



INDIVIDUAL DONORS



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM

An extra special thanks to our amazing team and extraordinary volunteers

Special thanks to Sean Philips and The Adlard Foundation for their generous donations

Additional support by Stephen Parkes

Thanks to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for support of our Comic Potential education programme

LICAF Patrons: Yomi Ayeni, Kate Charlesworth, Keli Lark, Michael Lark, Sean Phillips, Lucy Sullivan, Bryan Talbot & Mary Talbot



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or scan this QR code



BELGIAN COMICS NOW

2-4 October

Kendal

Exhibition
at Abbot Hall
Art Gallery

Meet artists
and publishers from
Belgium at LICAF
Full programme on www.licaf.co.uk

Nina Six 2026

Belgian Comics Now produced by LICAF (supported by Arts Council England) and Wallonie-Bruxelles International, in collaboration with the Comic art Museum-Brussels



General Representation
Wallonie-Bruxelles
in the United Kingdom



Funded by
UK Government



Arts Council
ENGLAND



ABBOT HALL