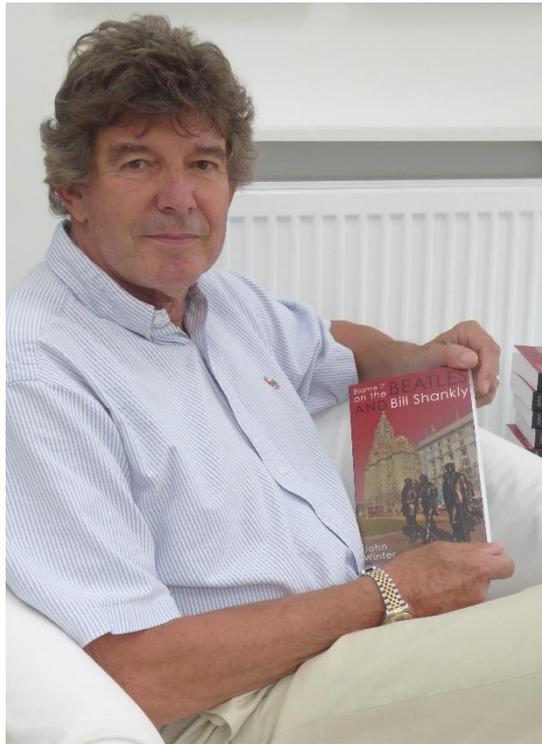


# Blame It On THE BEATLES AND Bill Shankly



## Reviews of the Book

### **'A wonderful read'**

This book is a wonderful read for anyone who was a teenager in America in the 1960's and can remember the first time they heard 'She Loves You'. The city of Liverpool features in the story, and as an American who has never been there I was able to immerse myself in the travels of Tony, the fictional main character, to The Cavern, The Kop, Lennon's Art School, Penny Lane, and the coffee and record shops in the city centre. The author, John Winter, writes with great empathy about Liverpool's bomb sites and post-war deprivations while revealing how the younger generation brought joy into their lives through the sexual energy of their music and the ascendancy of Liverpool Football Club. Tony endures personal tragedy against this life affirming background. His story parallels the events of the 1960's and, by the end of the book, he has grown up – as we all have to. His eventual happiness provides an uplifting ending. **D.A. (Seattle - USA)**

### **'I am completely enthralled with this book'**

Having loved The Beatles' music, played soccer for ten years, and visited Liverpool several times, I am completely enthralled with this book. Winter very effectively takes fictional characters and weaves them into a story that illuminates the history of Liverpool in the tumultuous 60's. I could feel the vibrations of The Beatles' music and the excitement of the crowd at the Cavern Club, and I was there with the fans on the Kop at Anfield as they went wild for every Liverpool goal. In addition, the life lessons learned by the main character, Tony, are as applicable today (maybe more so) as they were then. I highly recommend 'Blame It On The Beatles ... And Bill Shankly. **J.K. (Miami - USA)**

### **'I really enjoyed reading this'**

I really enjoyed reading this. I live relatively close to Liverpool so it was good to read about various areas from a bygone era. Enjoyed the fiction interlaced with it too. **K.S. (Southport - UK)**

### **'An excellent read ... a real page turner'**

This made an excellent read for me and proved to be a real page turner. I moved to the West Country 45 years ago having spent my formative years in Liverpool. I enjoyed the story John Winter has woven against the factual backdrop of the time. It transported me right back to the 60's. I was there and I can vouch for the authenticity. Indeed I can identify in parts both with Sarah and Fiona.

**R.J. (Bristol - UK)**

### **'A coming-of-age tale that describes the impact events had upon a whole generation'**

I have just been transported back in time and place by the book 'Blame It On The Beatles... And Bill Shankly'. In 1964 I was one of those screaming teens who couldn't get enough of the four moppets from Liverpool and only imagined what life was like in the city which spawned The Beatles and the musical groups who followed. As an adult I have been privileged to visit Liverpool where I was also exposed to the unabashed enthusiasm and loyalty of the fans of Liverpool Football (Soccer) Club. As an American my musings fell short of the descriptions and events portrayed in this book. From an adult perspective I now have a new appreciation of how music and sport drastically changed a city. This is a coming-of-age tale that describes the impact events had upon a whole generation.

**K.K.D. (Pennsylvania - USA)**

### **'A story rich in detail of time and place'**

As an American, this book allowed me to experience the very beginnings of The Beatles in their environment of Liverpool. I was able to walk around the city, visiting all of the places where they gained their inspiration, like Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields, and the clubs where they played. It's a story rich in detail of time and place; the fictional characters give the book its emotional tone, from the dullness of post-war living, to the energy of music, and from the success of the soccer team. I highly recommend it. **Steve (Washington State - USA)**

**‘A really pleasant nostalgia trip ... I enjoyed it’**

This is a really pleasant nostalgia trip, filled with real-life incidents of the rise of The Beatles and Liverpool Football Club. The fictional story ..... forms a framework on which to hang a factually accurate account of the exciting times that were the early 1960s, which the author actually experienced. My husband is from Liverpool and was a young teenager at that time also, so it felt very real to me. Thanks, I enjoyed it. **A.F. (Birmingham - UK)**

**‘I enjoyed this as a fan of The Beatles. Good read.’**

I enjoyed this read as a fan of The Beatles. I only knew a little about Liverpool before reading. Good read. **A.D. (Brighton - UK)**

**‘I loved the fictional story. A definite five star book.’**

I loved the fictional story and all the background information about what it was like in Liverpool back in the sixties. Great read. A definite five star book. **C.B. (Liverpool – UK)**

**‘Great read. Loved this book’**

Loved this book. It is really evocative of the time it is set and, with its twin pronged attack of The Beatles and Liverpool FC, shows how Liverpool rose from the ashes of WW2. The pleasant characters telling the story stop it from being a mere ‘documentary’ and I got really involved with the characters. I thoroughly recommend the book especially to those who remember the sixties, but also to younger people who want an idea of how The Beatles and Liverpool FC became the icons they are today.

**J.D. (Leeds – UK)**

**‘I really enjoyed this book. Great title too!’**

I really enjoyed this book. I probably read only a couple of books a year, but this one was easy to leave and pick up again which is essential for me. The intricate knowledge the author obviously has about Liverpool, the feeling portrayed of the 1960’s, and the interesting relationships between the characters were all blended together superbly. Great title too! **N.P. (Burton-upon-Trent - UK)**

**‘Can’t wait for the film version!’**

I thought this book was great. If the reader lived through those times first-hand it would transport them straight back to the streets and the clubs – and the dripping ceiling of The Cavern. And if you weren’t there, the book will make you feel as if you were! Can’t wait for the film version!

**A.G. (Worcester – UK)**

**'Brought back a lot of memories'**

I did enjoy reading this book very much. It brought back a lot of memories. **J.R. (London - UK)**

**'I thoroughly enjoyed it. A great book to read.'**

I've just finished reading *'Blame It On The Beatles ... And Bill Shankly'* and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Working out the various threads in the story was really interesting. I was/am a huge Beatles fan and I remember so well the massive impact of their first records, Love Me Do and Please Please Me, as well as the other sixties milestones which feature in the book - the 1966 World Cup victory, the release of Sergeant Pepper and the roof-top concert. The parts of the story which take place in Hampstead and Camden Town brought back memories too, as I was a student in the area around that time. A great book to read. **Doctor Robert (Cambridge - UK)**

**'Very good story, recommended highly.'**

Interesting times with a very good story as a background, recommended highly.

**F.W.J (London - UK)**

**'Now I know what I missed! The story churned me up.'**

I emigrated with my parents from Liverpool to Canada in 1963 when I was twelve and I've never been back to England. I downloaded this book on Kindle when a friend recommended it. Now I know what I missed! The story churned me up, and I'm going to have to pay a visit to the city with my family. **C.R. (Toronto - Canada)**

**Easy to read. Many people will identify with the characters and the time.**

Fun and informative – this book is very easy to read. It encapsulates a unique decade in an entertaining way. I'm sure many people will identify with the characters and the time.

**B.W. (Halifax – Nova Scotia)**

**'So many times I thought, "Yeah, I was there".'**

I enjoyed the read, and of course recalling all those memories of the sixties in Liverpool. So many times I thought, "Yeah, I was there", especially the football matches. It was interesting that 'the lads' in the book used to meet up at The Liver Pub in Waterloo. I remember it as a great meeting place in those days. Back in the sixties three blokes who were known as 'The Heart of The Kop' were regulars there. People used to say they came up with many of The Kop's famous songs and chants. **J.H. (Crosby, North Liverpool - UK)**

**'Great book. Really enjoyed it.'**

Great book. Really enjoyed it. Lots of Liverpool sayings and hard edged humour. Spot on!

**P.P. (Liverpool - UK)**

**'Couldn't put it down.'**

Great read. Couldn't put it down. **Andrea (on Instagram)**

**'Thanks for the insight.'**

Great read. Thanks for the insight into an era I never lived. **Kevin B. (on Instagram)**

**'Loved the book.'**

Loved the book. I was a teenager in the sixties. Look forward to the next one.

**Marjorie O. (Liverpool - UK)**

**'Simply a great book.'**

Simply a great book. Even though I'm living in Denmark, I feel I was there in Liverpool.

**Jorgen Flemming Rasmussen (Denmark)**

**'A brilliant read.'**

A brilliant read. **Lynn Wilkinson Owen (Caernarvon - Wales)**

**'Check out this great book!'**

Check out this great book! A must for all people who love the Mersey Beat era in the early sixties. A great read – 100%!!

**Ted "Kingsize" Taylor (Kingsize Taylor and The Dominoes) (Liverpool - UK)**

**'It's a must-buy for me!'**

If "Kingsize" Taylor, the Father of Mersey Beat, gives it a thumbs up, it's a must-buy for me!

**Glenn S. (Massachusetts - USA)**

**'It made me laugh, and it made me cry'**

I was a mini-skirted teenager in the sixties. This book made me laugh, and it made me cry. Brilliant! I loved it. **Diane O'Connell (Liverpool - UK)**

**'A very good read.'**

A very good read, 'Blame It On The Beatles ... And Bill Shankly'. I'm not surprised it is selling, and expect it to continue to do so. It recalls the whole Liverpool sixties phenomenon as well as presenting a moving story in its own right - seen through the eyes of a mature, authorial persona. **Tom White (London - UK)**