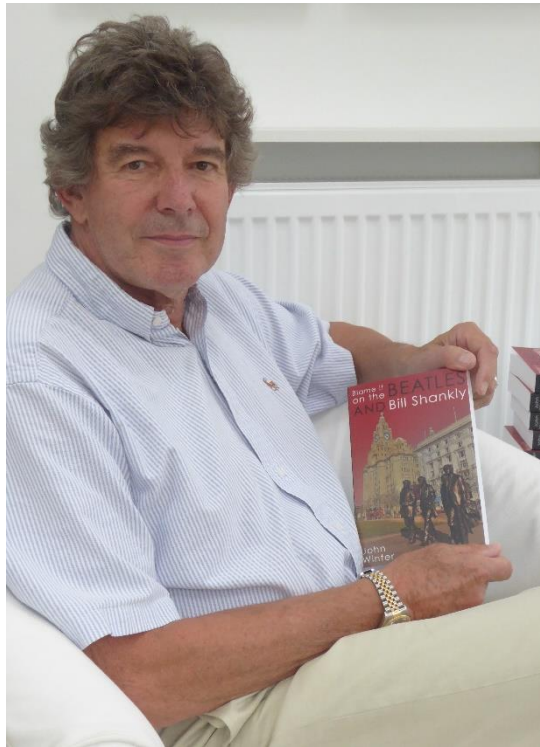


Blame It On THE BEATLES AND Bill Shankly



Reviews of the Book

'I haven't enjoyed a book so much in ages.'

Absolutely brilliant story. Sad, uplifting, sorrowful and joyous – all within its pages. At times almost like a biography. I haven't enjoyed a book so much in ages.

(Mr A.B. Henderson - Amazon UK)

'Would make a great film.'

I loved this book. Great fiction that seems so factual. It would make a great film.

(Steve Baxter - Facebook)

'It's a fab read'

I'm half-way through this book. It's a fab read. I'm really enjoying it.

(Susan Jones - Facebook)

'Just missed out on The Beatles'

To be fair I thought it was an autobiography when I bought it, but I found it a very enjoyable read. I was born in Liverpool in 1961 so just missed out on The Beatles, but I loved them and Bill Shankly. **(Ralph Rimmer - Facebook)**

'Got mine yesterday'

It's going away for Christmas – from my daughter. **(Keith Cairns - Facebook)**

'Not sure what to buy me for Christmas?'

Anyone in my family not sure what to buy me for Christmas? **(Phillip Blake - Facebook)**

'Took me back'

This book took me back to great times! **(John Burns - Facebook)**

'A great book!!'

Clive just read this and it's a great book!! **(Judith Powell - Facebook)**

'Great read'

Just started to read my copy. Great read. Got my copy from WH Smith.

(Dennis Ward - Facebook)

'A brilliant read'

If like me you were brought up in Liverpool in the fifties and sixties it is a brilliant read. Even better if you are a Beatles fan and a Liverpool fan. But besides that it is a really good book.

Derek Renowden - Facebook

'A really good read'

It is a really good read, particularly for anyone who spent time on Merseyside in the sixties.

(Bob Kelly - Facebook)

'I've just read it - absolutely fantastic book'

I've just read it – absolutely fantastic book! Recommend any Liverpool fan or Beatles fan to get it – 62 onwards – great read. **(Mike Jones - Facebook)**

'Amazing book!'

Just finished reading this amazing book. Felt like I was back in the sixties with Tony and the group. Five stars! Thank you! **D.M. (On Twitter - UK)**

'Loved every page of this book!'

Couldn't put it down. Loved every page of this book.

Ann Jones (U.K)

'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)

'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)

'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)**

'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)**

'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)**

‘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 W. (London - UK)**

‘Lots of interesting information’

I really enjoyed this book. Easy to read and lots of interesting information about The Beatles and Liverpool FC in the sixties. Highly recommended. **Pauline R. (Knowsley – UK)**

'I enjoyed the book (and the music)'

I enjoyed the book (and the music). I grew up in Liverpool in the 50's, 60's and 70's and am a musician and big Liverpool fan. It really resonated with me! **Ed Harris (@TheMediaRock on Twitter)**

'It brought back so many lovely memories'

Just finished the book and thoroughly enjoyed it. It brought back so many lovely memories. The account of the 1965 FA Cup Final was just as I remembered it. (I was there – got my ticket from Bill Shankly himself!) I have sent a copy to friends in Spain and I'm sure they'll get so much out of it too. I liked the way the story was narrated through Tony. He was a very real character who gave us the full range of emotions - humour, pathos, and then eventual happiness. **Denise B. (Lake District - UK)**

'Got it mainly for my husband's birthday because he's a big Beatles fan and Reds supporter'

I really enjoyed this book. I got it mainly for my husband because he's a big Beatles fan and Reds supporter, but read it before I gave it to him. The background story is heavier on Beatles history than Liverpool FC history, but I know he'll really enjoy it as well. Five stars! **(Melanie D. - UK)**

'What a read!'

This book is a fantastic read especially if you are from the era. Well written with lots of interesting tit-bits. I know very little about football, but it made me want to become a Liverpool fan. It should be made compulsory reading in schools to let the younger generation know what life is all about. **(P.H. Bristol - UK)**

'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)**

'Absolutely loved this book'

I am one of the millennium generation, so for me the sixties were a long time ago. But 'Blame It On The Beatles ... And Bill Shankly' gave me a thoroughly enjoyable insight into growing up in Liverpool during the 60's when The Beatles evolved from a local band to global icons, and Bill Shankly turned the Mighty Reds from Second Division regulars to First Division Champions. Really liked the songs from the book, which you can listen to on the website, as well.

(R. W. - London UK)

'So good I've read it twice'

This book is a superb read for fans of fiction and the 1960's Merseybeat sound. As far as Beatles fiction goes this is one of the better books - actually so good I've read it twice now! You could almost smell The Cavern, feel the sway of The Kop, and live the dream of being in Liverpool during those iconic early sixties years. Excellent! Five stars!

'Steve' (On Amazon - U.K.)

'Liverpool – The World In A City'

This book takes me right back to those heady days when it seemed anything was possible and everything happened. Five stars! **Campervanman (On Amazon - UK)**

'The author was reading my mail!'

His stories were so close to my own experience it was uncanny! Five stars!

John Winchester (On Amazon – USA)

'A milestone in Beatles-related books'

I am a very deep Beatles' fan from Rome. I did read 200 books about The Beatles so I know my way around them and their city. This book is in my top three, up there with Philip Norman and Hunter Davies. In my opinion it is a most wonderful and involving read for Beatles and Liverpool lovers. A sweet, nostalgic, magical mystery tour. A lovely fictional story, but feeling so real, true and addictive. Five stars!

Gian R. (On Amazon – Italy. And on Troubador website)

'I thoroughly enjoyed this book.'

I read and thoroughly enjoyed this book. Bought it from Waterstones in Liverpool One while I was there for Beatle Week.'

Tom Hosie (Glasgow – UK)

'Nostalgic memories'

Useful reminder of a personal experience in Liverpool from 1964 – 1972. Also London music and pub scenes from that period. Good factual research by author. A very easy-to-read story. **J Bone (On Amazon - UK)**