

A-Z of Capital of Culture

A is for Arachnophiles.

A great year if you like spiders with La Princesse and Ai Weiwei's Web of Light in Exchange Flags.

B is for Viennese Balls

– a great success at St George's Hall.

C is for Cityscape, Ben Johnson's portrait of Liverpool which introduced the idea of painting as a spectator sport.



D is for Dance

from the Big Dance in July to the Samba Parade to waltzing to the strains of Strauss, the year got our toes tapping. Even John Sergeant would have joined in...

E is for Edge, Cities on the.

Liverpool, Bremen, Gdansk, Istanbul, Marseilles and Naples came together "to explore roles as historic ports and their sense of themselves as city-states, as islands within their nation."

F is for Firefighters

more than 3,500 of whom descended on the city in August from all over the world to take part in events such as 'The Toughest Firefighter Alive'.

G is for Garden - Mr Roscoe's to be exact, the centrepiece of Fragrant Liverpool, Jyll Bradley's acclaimed art project about the city's unique botanic collection.



H is for Homotopia,

Heritage Open Days, Hope Street festival and a whole host of other Highlights.

I is for Imagining

a 30 foot inflatable pig, a samba parade and storytelling in the cells at St George's Hall - just some of the ingredients of the Imagine Festival, a 10-day event for young people in August.



J is for Jokers... Ken Dodd celebrated the city's laughter-makers on two special nights at St George's Hall, one of the highlights of a laughter-packed year.

K is for Klimt – the UK's first comprehensive exhibition of the work of Gustav Klimt drew massive crowds to Tate Liverpool.

L is for Linz in Austria and Vilnius in Lithuania – to whom Liverpool handed over the title of European Capital of Culture.

M is for Mersey. The river was the focus of attention for many of the major events including the Tall Ships and the return of the Clippers, reminding everybody what an asset it is to the region.



N is for Norwegian links, strengthened by Stavanger being the other Capital of Culture during 08.

O is for the Orrery, the mechanical, musical sculpture which "symbolised Liverpool's place as the centre of the creative universe".

P is for Parks which staged many spectacular events including the Ghost Sonata at Sefton Park Palm House and the Emperor and the Tiger at Newsham.

Q is for Quiet Little Englishman a Liverpool Commission which celebrated the life, work and legacy of Oscar-winning sound engineer George Groves, one of Merseyside's unsung heroes.

R is for the Red faces on those critics who predicted the year would be a flop. "Liverpool is not a capital of culture... everyone has left who was not screwed to the floor. Liverpudlians are legendarily cussed and given to drinking. That is not culture." Simon Jenkins, Evening Standard, June 2003.

S is for Superlambananas, of course, but also street cleaners who kept the city sparking during our year in the spotlight, clearing away tonnes of litter after major events.

T is for Trainspotting in the Art in the Age of Steam exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery and for Talentspotting in the Now That's What We Call Culture event, the region's biggest talent show.

U is for Unlikeliest quote

"I'm very grateful to Liverpool because when I was there they gave me a baseball cap with Capital of Culture on it - and I use it all the time."

Boris Johnson



V is for Very important People – the 08 Volunteers who helped events go smoothly.

W is for Weddings, Scouse – not the well-known saying, but the 19 lovebirds who tied the knot on 08/08/08 in honour of Capital of Culture year.

X is for a look at X-Ray technology, a highlight of the new Victoria Gallery and Museum at the University of Liverpool, opened during 2008.

Y is for Yoko Ono's skyladders at St Luke's church, part of the Biennial.

Z is for the Zutons,

one of the hits of the Liverpool Sound concert – along with that little-known Scouser, a certain Sir Paul McCartney



