

[Recording of the week: Norman Beaton recalls Liverpool in the 60s](#)

Our last Recording of the Week for 2018 comes from Stephen Cleary, Lead Curator of Literary & Creative Recordings. Actor, singer and writer Norman Beaton (1934-1994) recalls his early career steps in Liverpool, and how the production of his first play, the musical Jack of Spades, came about through a...

[6 Poems to ponder on National Poetry Day](#)

From William Wordsworth to Stevie Smith, generations of English poets have been inspired by place.[Read more](#)

[The MiniDisc revival starts here \(maybe\)](#)

Sony launched the first MiniDisc players and recorders in 1992. MiniDiscs were small (around 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " square) floppy-disk-style cartridges with an 80-minute recording capacity, intended to supplant the tape cassette format. Some major-artist commercial albums were issued as pre-recorded MiniDiscs, and the Library has a few examples of these in its...

[Behind the Scenes of the Man Booker: a National Life Stories film](#)

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Man Booker Prize, here at National Life Stories, we thought it would be a good moment to delve into our Oral History collections to see what we could find out about its history.

Recording of the week: Dennis Brutus

This week's selection comes from Stephen Cleary, Lead Curator of Literary & Creative Recordings. In this archive recording from the African Writers Club collection, South African poet and anti-apartheid activist Dennis Brutus reads the introductory poem from his debut volume *Sirens Knuckles Boots*. At the time of the book's publication...