

People behind the Salon

Simon Belt - Salon Coordinator



[Simon Belt](#) started his career in the technology industry in the rather restrictive environment of the civil service, moving into the more flexible and innovative international outsourcing world. Looking to implement technology the way it should be deployed, rather than what suits any given contract, Simon established his own IT Consultancy in 1999 - [Simply Better IT](#). His passion is to help improve the way small businesses use technology, by matching its use to the way they work best and delivering end-to-end IT solutions, to those best suited for engaging larger businesses and institutions as equals.

Born and brought up in Yorkshire, he moved to Lancashire on a civilising mission some 25 years ago. After some success there, he's moved on to sunny Derbyshire where he's now based. From the delightful surroundings of New Mills where he plays golf at probably the friendliest [golf club in Derbyshire](#), Simon plans and coordinates the Manchester Salon - preparing discussions, booking venues, promoting via the website, Email notifications and management of the [Salon's Facebook](#) Group. Always keen to take on new themes to discuss, formats to experiment with and collaborations to explore, please complete the [Contact the Salon](#) form with suggestions of your own.

Reviews: [The Thrill of Love](#), [Dream On](#), [We all criminals?](#), [Mysterious Skin](#), [Female Transport](#), [From Nags to Riches](#), [David Copperfield](#), [Asylum of Grace](#), [Mad for IT](#), [Clare Allan](#), [Engaging Audiences](#)

[The Bishopsgate](#)

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[Gargantua](#)

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[Weirdo. Mosher. Freak](#)

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[Shades of Diva](#)

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[Omid Djalili](#)

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[The Iron Lady](#)

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[The Straits](#)

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[Young People](#)

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[Project Nim](#)

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[Neoliberals and Democracy](#)

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[Radical Gardening](#)

,
[Entitled](#)

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[Design The Future](#)

,
[Wizard](#)

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[The End](#)

,
[Epic](#)

,
[Emotional Philosophy](#)

,
[George Monbiot](#)

,
[Communicative Capitalism](#)

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[CING Lecture](#)

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[The Social Network](#)

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[God is a Manc](#)

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[Mancunian Meander](#)

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[1984](#)

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[Total Politics](#)

Jane Turner - Reviews Coordinator



[Jane Turner](#) is currently taking what she calls ‘some well-deserved but probably temporary rest’ from paid work, having previously laboured in a variety of occupations as an adult education tutor, elearning consultant, secondary school teacher, prison lecturer and civil servant. She has a first class honours degree in Political, Economic, and Social History from the University of Liverpool, a city in which she has family connections and where she lived for several years. She enjoys discussing topical subjects and writes an occasional review or article for the Salon. She tries to keep a clear head by walking in and around Derbyshire where she spent her early childhood.

Reviews: [Birdsong](#) , [Education Education Education](#) , [John Bramwell](#) , [Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour](#)
[Down The Dock Road](#)

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[The Events](#)

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[Exam Factories](#)

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[Crime and Punishment](#)

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[Slow travel](#)

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[Thérèse Desqueyroux](#)

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[Prison](#)

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[To Kill a Mockingbird](#)

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[Arabian Nights](#)

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[A Government Inspector](#)

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[Long Distance Runner](#)

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[Rolf Harris](#)

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[Does Size Matter?](#)

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[Saturday Night Sunday Morning](#)

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[Streetcar Named Desire](#)

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[Good](#)

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[All the Way Home](#)

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[Echo & The Bunnymen](#)

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[Like you've never been away](#)

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[Jobs Not Therapy](#)

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[View From The Bridge](#)

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[Buena Vista](#)

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[Welfare State Reforms](#)

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[Mogadishu](#)

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[A Christmas Carol](#)

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[Spend Spend Spend](#)

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[Musings on Transport](#)

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[The Christians](#)

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[Les Misérables](#)

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[Picasso: Peace and Freedom](#)

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[Ragged Trousered Philanthropists](#)

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[Shaped by War](#)

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[Being Earnest](#)

Mark Iddon - Current Affairs Coordinator



[Mark Iddon](#) is a [Manchester based architect](#) at Urbanization, who has been working in Manchester since graduating from Oxford Brookes and Brighton Universities. He is interested in the pursuit of freedom and democracy, economic growth and progress and development of the built environment.

Mark is a council member for the Manchester Society of Architects. He is also a writer / reviewer and a regular participant of the Manchester Salon and is an associate member of the Institute Of Ideas. He lives in Salford with his wife and daughter, and is a Manchester United Season Ticket holder.

Reviews: [Engels' Beard](#) , [Housing Policy](#) , [Anti-Fracking Politics](#) , [Plans for Library Walk](#) , [Exemplar](#)

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[Norway Massacre](#)

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[The Durutti Column](#)

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[Painting from Life](#)

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[Do Stuff](#)

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[Ferraris For All](#)

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[Dr Faustus](#)

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[Alcohol Pricing](#)

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[Greenbuild Expo](#)

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[Freedom and Fun](#)