Wirral Festival of Firsts was established by John Gorman in 2011 to deliver an innovative, community arts festival.
We aim to encourage participation, showcase local talent and give opportunities for the community and wider audiences to enjoy some of the best art, music, poetry, theatre and writing in the country.
Our festival is run entirely by volunteers and supports fundraising for Claire House, Wirral's hospice for children.

**Patrons**

Gemma Bodinetz - Billy Butler - Mike McCartney
Kate McLoughlin - The Singh Twins

## Contact us

**0770-280-3953 or info@festivaloffirsts.com**

## Information points

Please check Festival guide maps for location of information points.

## First Aid

In case of emergency, Festival Volunteers will be clearly identifiable. They will be able to direct you to a First Aid Point or call for assistance.
For serious emergencies don't delay, call 999.

## Tickets

**www.ticketswirral.co.uk**
T: 0151 666 0000
**Box office: Floral Pavilion,**
Marine Promenade, New Brighton, CH45 2JS

**Acorn Picture Framing**
42 Birkenhead Road,
Hoylake CH47 3BW
**HELP shop,** 59 Market Street, Hoylake CH47 2BQ
**Hoylake Community Centre**
31 Hoyle Road,
Hoylake CH47 3AG

**Staacks,** 83 Banks Road, West Kirby CH48 0RA
**Urbane,** The Row, Market Street, Hoylake CH47 3BB
**Lattetude,** 8A Dee Lane, West Kirby, CH48 0QA

The Festival thanks all businesses, venues and shops whose support makes the festival possible. This year's festival is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and grants from Your Wirral and the West Wirral Community Fund.

Festival events may change.
For full details and up to date information please check
*www.festivaloffirsts.com*

# Saturday 30th May

**7.30pm**
## An Audience with Chris Tarrant
**Westbourne Hall, West Kirby**
**Tickets £15**
Hosted by **John Gorman**
in aid of Claire House

# Saturday 27th June

wirral arts centre

## Word Magic

**A celebration at West Kirby Library**
**Saturday 27th June 2015**
**11.00am**
**Free**
**Launch of West Kirby Children's Literary Trail & Kaleidoscope Magazine**
**Word Magic! *with Curtis Watts***
**Refreshments!**
***Suitable for children 5 -12 years***

Kaleidoscope Magazine
West Kirby Children's Literary Trail

**1.00 - 4.00pm**
## Sounds By the Sea
**Curio, Slinky's Paloma & The Wro**
**West Kirby • Free**
Live entertainment
Music & Song

**7.00pm**
## Wirral Community Orchestra Summer Serenade
**United Reformed Church, West Kirby**
**Tickets £5**

# Sunday 28th June

**2.00pm**
## Tea Dance
**Wirral Arts Centre, West Kirby**
**Tickets £12.50**
The Secret Garden Tea Party presents a wartime themed tea dance, including **Afternoon Tea**. £10 tickets available *online* until 1st May.
For full details see *www.festivaloffirsts.com*

# Monday 29th June

**7.00 - 9.00pm**
## Young Talent Open Mic Night
**Wirral Arts Centre, West Kirby • Tickets £4**
Open to all 10 - 18 year olds - singers, musicians, poets and stand up comics are all welcome!

# Tuesday 30th June

**7.00 -10.00pm**
## Storyfest - The Final Event
**Wirral Arts Centre, West Kirby • Tickets £4**
The final session of a series of workshops exploring story telling with Andy Johnson and other guest story tellers
For details see: *http://wirralartscentre.org*

# Wednesday 1st July

**7.30pm**
## Radio Play Script Competition Finals
**Wirral Arts Centre, West Kirby • Tickets £4**
Wirral Community Theatre perform the four finalist scripts to a panel of adjudicators including **Billy Butler & Johnny Kennedy!**
*Find details of the heats on reverse of programme.*

# Thursday 2nd July

**7.30pm**
## Tivoli Trio • Dowland to The Beatles
**Wirral Arts Centre, West Kirby • Tickets: £8**
An evening of light classics by an accomplished ensemble

# Saturday 4th July

## Festival Parade Day!

### Hoylake comes alive with Music

**11.00am—5.00pm**

Music in the Street at Chantilly & The Blue Anchor
Music in Pubs, Bars and Cafes

### Festival Parade & Festi-Velo

**From Coronation Gardens, West Kirby to St John's Church, Meols**

**12.00—2.00pm**

Featuring decorated bikes, open top bus, Giant Queen, rickshaws, the Three Queens, Sea Cadets, Wirral Pipe Band, Wirral Samba and the Big Easy Jazz Band

### Children's Festival Day

**St John's Church, Meols**

**11.00am -3.00pm**

Music, Circus entertainers, Punch & Judy, Stalls, Refreshments

### Friends of Queen's Park, Hoylake

**welcome the Parade**

**11.00am -3.00pm**

The Giant Queen, the Three Queens, Music, Wirral Pipe Band

### The Summer Strum

**Hosted by Wirral Ukulele Orchestra at the Hoylake Rugby Football Club**

**2.00pm on 4th July - 5.00pm on 5th July**

All the best Ukuleles in the North West assemble for a grand weekend culminating in a mass Buskulele!

**3.00 - 4.00pm**

### Alice's Adventures Off Book Theatre Company

**St John's Church Hall, Meols**
**Tickets £3 (Children)**

Original pop-up theatre adaptation of the children's classic published 150 years ago.
*Suitable for children of all ages*
*Accompanying adults get free tickets*
*Tickets available in local shops only*

# Saturday 4th July

**5.00 - 6.30pm**

### Young Musicians' Tea - Time Concert

**St Luke's Church, Hoylake**
**Free**

Classical and Jazz musicians between 10 to 18 years are invited to *submit an entry form* to perform in the Festival of Firsts annual concert celebrating the talents of our younger musicians. *See www.festivaloffirsts.com*

**7.30pm**

### Three Plays

**Phoenix School of Dance & Drama**
**Melrose Hall, Hoylake**
**Tickets £5**

- **Who's Dorothy** (under 16s) by Alyssa Stott & Jill Breckon
- **Please Wake Up** (under 21s) by Alyssa Stott & Jill Breckon
- **Wedding Favours** (adults) by Graham Breckon

**7.30pm**

### Summer Concert

**Wirral Symphonic Wind Band**
**Hoylake Chapel**
**Tickets £8**

**7.30pm**

### Big Sea-Side Sing-Song

**Wirral Arts Centre**
**West Kirby**
**Tickets £4**

# Sunday 5th July

**3.00pm**

### All at Sea

**Mariner's Park**
**Wallasey**
**Free**

Roger Cliffe Thompson hosts a medley of nautical music and poetry featuring
**Port Sunlight Sea Dogs**

**7.30pm**

### Polar Bear

**Floral Pavilion, New Brighton**

**SUN 5th JULY 7.30** All Tickets **£13.50**

The **twice nominated Mercury Music Prize** group, **led by Seb Rochford**, are one of the most exciting on the contemporary music scene; continually pushing boundaries and transcending genre. The band connects with **jazz, rock, hip-hop, electronic and mainstream** audiences alike to create music that is broad in scope, spacious and intense.

**Polar Bear** '...a potent force in the 21st century...a unique and beautiful music.' (Jamie Cullum, Mercury Music Prize 2014).

# Wirral Festival of Firsts

International Community Arts Festival
27th June to 12th July 2015

Hoylake - Meols - New Brighton - West Kirby

# PROGRAMME

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Claire House CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

## Festival Exhibition

27th June—12th July
Holiday Inn Express, Hoylake

## Anne Desmet RA

**Exhibition of original prints by a world renowned artist**

*Liverpool-born Anne Desmet uses collage and print to depict the built environment employing traditional printmaking techniques of wood engraving and lino-cutting*

## Festival Photographers

**Through Their Eyes**

*Seven Festival Photographers display images of the 2014 Festival*

*See reverse of programme for more exhibitions*

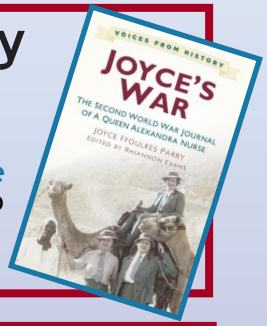
## Monday 6th July

2.30pm

### Joyce's War

West Kirby Library • Free

Join Rhiannon Evans & Siân Bailey to hear about their mother's 2nd World War diary (History Press, 2015)




## Tuesday 7th July

5.30pm

### Inisheer

Tea Time Concert
Hoylake Science Church,
Free • Includes tea

7.30pm

### Summer Showcase

Sands Theatre Arts School
Melrose Hall
Free • With bucket collection

## Wednesday 8th July

7.30pm

### Craig Ogden & Miloš Milivojević In concert

Hoylake Chapel
Tickets £12

Favourite classical Guitarist Craig Ogden returns to Hoylake bringing with him Serbian accordion maestro Miloš Milivojević

## Thursday 9th July

7.30pm

### First Hand Tales

Melrose Hall, Hoylake
Tickets £5

Joy France leads a new spoken word performance about life in Wirral developed by young people based on their own "firsts" and those of some Wirral oldies"!
*A special preview of this event takes place at the Birkenhead Visitor Centre on Sat 27th June at 2.00pm.*

## Friday 10th July

7.30pm

### Kaleidoscope

Melrose Hall, Hoylake
Tickets £5

A special evening of original poetry, dance, music and art, featuring C-City, Inisheer, Kevin McMahon & Clare Madeley, Jim Gordon & John Chatterton.

# Saturday 11th July

10.00am - 4.00pm

## Writing for Stage & Screen

**Melrose Hall, Hoylake**

**£10 for the day** (includes lunch)

Compère for the day: **Ian Salmon**

10.00am

**Matt White:** Introduction to script writing

11.30am

**Anna Cardus,** Mighty Limey Productions

& **Matt Jaems,** Middle Name Productions

**Getting to grips with the script to screen process**

2.00pm

**Hayley Greggs**

Everyman & Playhouse Literary Department

**The Playwrights' Toolkit**

Fundamentals of writing for the stage

Check website for details: *www.festivaloffirsts.com*

1.00pm - 5.00pm

## Grand Poetry Day Out

**Flat Foot Sam's & Studio Quattro, Hoylake**

**Free**

A friendly opportunity for poets to read or perform their poetry!

**Venue Hosts**

Paul Harris, Kemal Houghton & Graham Robinson

VENUES MAY CHANGE

Poets & Poetry Groups are invited to register in advance

Check the website: *www.festivaloffirsts.com*

Sign in at Flat Foot Sam's (opposite Hoylake Station)

Bring your poetry books to exhibit & sell!

2.00pm - 4.00pm

## Peninsula Jazz Men *present* Jazz in the Garden

**St Andrew's URC Church, Meols**

**Free**

# Saturday 11th July

2.00pm

## Wirral Ukulele Orchestra

**St Luke's Church Hoylake**

**Tickets £6**

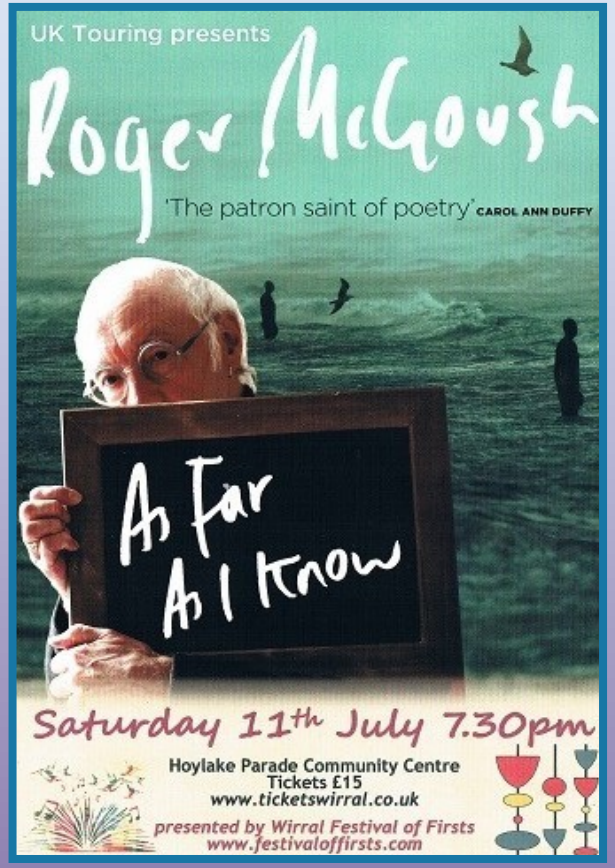
Hoylake's favourite annual music concert returns to St Luke's - book early!

7.30pm

## Lormac Productions *presents* Sing! Sing! Sing!

**Melrose Hall**

**Free with Bucket Collection**




# Sunday 12th July

10.00am - 4.00pm

## Art on the Promenade

Artists exhibit along the 2 mile stretch of Hoylake promenade.

To register as an exhibitor, please check the Festival website.

Artists of all ages and stages welcome! £5 to register.

## Sunday at the Parade

Arts, crafts, exhibits, demonstrations and workshops take over Hoylake Parade Community Centre for the day.

Please contact Hoylake Parade Community Centre to book space, via the Festival website. Small charges apply.

12.00pm - 3.00pm

## Homegrown Bananas on the Prom

Homegrown Bananas leads a joyful sea side show featuring different local musical groups

## Festival Exhibitions

**24th May -12th July**
**Floral Pavilion, New Brighton**
**Plaza Lounge**

### The Map Project • Where I Live

*International collaborative textile art project in which groups of artists in different countries work together to create textile art that expresses where they live*

**4th -12th July**
**Parade Community Centre, Hoylake**

### The Two Rivers Art Group

*The work of professional artists inspired by the Wirral Peninsula using a variety of approaches*

**26th June - 5th July**
**West Kirby Library**

### June Lorne • Alice in Wonderland

*Paintings & collages marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of this classic book*

**27th June -12th July**
**Hoylake Library**

### The 2015 Festival Photographic Competition

*The 10 short-listed photographs*

## Festival Trails

**27th June—12th July**

### Gallery Hoylake

*Artists collaborate with shop owners to create winning displays of their work*

### The Poetry Trail, Hoylake

*Original Poetry in Shop Windows provides some moments for thought throughout the Festival*

### West Kirby Children's Literary Trail

*Beginning at West Kirby Library, children are invited to follow the Literary trail around West Kirby to rediscover some well loved characters!*

*Check the website for details of how to take part in these activities!*
*www.festivaloffirsts.com*

**Full details of all events are available on the website www.festivaloffirsts.com**

# Festival Competitions

**Art • Music • Photography•Poetry**
**Online entry**

**Closing date: 1st June 2015**
The Festival aims to encourage the creation of new work through its competitions

## Art competition • Top prize £100
Festival Exhibitors Free, Otherwise £3

## Music Competition • Top prize £250
Entry £4 (3 entries for £10)

## Photo Competition • Top prize £100
Free Entry

## Poetry Competition • Top prize £250
Entry £4 (3 entries for £10)

**Prize-giving on 3rd July 2015 (Music-5th July)**

**Check the website for details of how to enter**
**www.festivaloffirsts.com**

# Poetry Fusion Workshops

Poetry Fusion is a Festival initiative to encourage poets to work across various artistic disciplines to produce new work.
Four different workshops will be held before the Festival.
The workshop outputs will be showcased at Kaleidescope (see main programme)

**All workshops take place at the Wirral Arts Centre from 2.00-5.00pm. £4**

Sat 28th March *Where I Live:* Poetry and textile art inspired by reflections on the meaning of the place we call home
Workshop leader Judith Railton

Sat 25th April *All About Me*: Exploring identity through poetry and dance/drama
Workshop leader Julie Broadbent

**Sun 10th May** *The Art of Poetry*: How art can inspire poetry and poetry can inspire art
Workshop leaders Jim Gordon & John Chatterton

Sat 16th May *A workshop to explore the history of Liverpool* through spoken word, poetry and music
Workshop leaders Kevin McMahon & Clare Madeley

# Radio Playscript Competition Elimination heats

Each heat features 3 or 4 scripts to be performed by the Wirral Community Theatre at Hoylake Christian Science Church
Each heat begins at 7.30pm. Free
The four shortlisted playscripts will go forward to the finals (see main programme).
Audience votes will decide the winner of each of the four heats!

Fri15th May Adolf and Neville (John C Bird); Mr Mojo (Peter King) Not for want of Trying (Margaret Holbrook); Charity Begins (Charlie Heathcote)

Sat 16th May We would have noticed the Moon (Diane Cook); Home is the Hunter(Don Webb); Paradise Found (Derek Sellen)

Fri 22nd May Variations on a Theme (Sylvia Downes); Writers' Group (Monica Price & John Gregory); Merch Ado about Nothing (Julie McKiernan); Christmas at Serve U Rite (Monica Price & John Gregory)

Sat 23rd May Running out of Time (Bev Clark); Place your Bets (Monica Price & John Gregory); Chandlers Walk (Jo Roberts); Visionary – The Bush (Julie Dennis)

***Check the website for details www.festivaloffirsts.com***

**Full details of all events are available on the website www.festivaloffirsts.com**