

# “This humble company has been quietly brilliant for over half a century!”<sup>1</sup>

Established in 1964, and now the longest-running open-air Shakespeare company in England’s North West, Hillbark Players have become established as a unique part of Wirral’s cultural heritage.

Every other year an enthusiastic team of directorial and performing talent, drawn from across Wirral and Merseyside, Cheshire, North Wales and even further afield, comes together to stage a top-quality open-air production of one of Shakespeare’s plays in Royden Park, Frankby. With the audience seated under cover in purpose-built stands in this magical ‘theatre-in-the-woods’ setting, it’s only the performers who might (occasionally) get wet!

Following 2017’s unforgettable, critically acclaimed production of *Hamlet*, the Players are turning their attention back to William Shakespeare’s comedies and, after 2015’s sell-out staging of *Much Ado About Nothing*, have decided to put on the Bard’s most popular family-friendly comedy, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*... but with a difference!

Hillbark Players are well known for presenting ‘traditional’ productions of Shakespeare’s plays. The last time the company staged Shakespeare’s most popular comedy was back in 2001, when Ann Warr’s brilliantly produced sell-out show set new standards in how to do open-air Shakespeare, and helped to re-establish the company after a three-year break. Ruth Stenhouse played one of Titania’s band of fairies that week, and eighteen years later – in conjunction with her co-director, Stuart Rathe – they have decided to break new ground by setting this year’s staging of ‘the Dream’ around a village fete taking place in rural post-war England in the late 1950s. Complete with a soundtrack of classic numbers from that era, and the greased hair, cuffed jeans and bobby sox of a younger generation breaking away from their elders, Hillbark Players’ 2019 production promises to have audiences rocking (and rolling) in the aisles!

In Shakespeare’s comedy classic, the course of true love is anything but smooth, and games of fantasy, love and dreams ensue in the woods on a moonlit midsummer night... Hermia loves Lysander, but her mother wants her to marry Demetrius, who is the heart-throb of Hermia’s best friend, Helena. Threatened with death or a convent if she doesn’t do what Mummy wants, Hermia and Lysander head for the woods. With Helena and Demetrius in hot pursuit, they run right into a magical free-for-all between Oberon, the Fairy King, and Titania, his Fairy Queen... not to mention a bumbling gang of workers who add to the comic confusion...

**Why do fools fall in love? C’mon Everybody** down to Royden Park in Frankby this summer and find the answer, as an *Earth Angel* uses some *Love Potion No.9* on *Dream Lovers* while one Great Pretender gets the *Summertime Blues*... **All YOU Have To Do Is Dream!**

Tickets, ranging from just £10 to £22, are available now from the Floral Pavilion Theatre’s Box Office, or online at [www.ticketswirral.com](http://www.ticketswirral.com) or [www.hillbarkplayers.co.uk](http://www.hillbarkplayers.co.uk). Book now!

# “An absolute joy from beginning to end!”<sup>2</sup>

1: Nick Buchanan on *Hamlet*, Summer 2017. 2: Chris High on *Hamlet*, Summer 2017.

**HILLBARK PLAYERS**  
An Open-Air Production in Royden Park, Frankby, Wirral of  
William Shakespeare's most popular comedy

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

Monday 24 – Saturday 29 June  
Evenings 7:30pm Matinée: Sat 29 2:00pm

The magical family-friendly comedy masterpiece with a fifties twist!

**ALL SEATS UNDER COVER**  
Tickets from just £10 (plus Booking Fee)  
Group booking discounts available

“Why do fools fall in love?”

Tickets on sale at:  
The Box Office,  
Floral Pavilion,  
Theatre,  
Machine Promenade,  
New Brighton,  
Wirral CH45 2JS

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[ticketswirral.com](http://ticketswirral.com)  
or at  
[hillbarkplayers.co.uk](http://hillbarkplayers.co.uk)

Part of the cultural heritage of  
**WIRRAL**