



28TH SEPTEMBER TO 12TH OCTOBER 2019

Wirral Arts Festival 2019 is nearly upon us, with two weeks of celebration.

Our free programme leaflets will be available in September, but here's a snapshot of some of the exciting events we have lined up for you.

When we began in 2011 many an eyebrow was raised at the inclusion of a day all about science. A couple of Festivals later and a day of engineering was added to the programme. No one would have predicted that these two days would become two of the most popular events in our Arts Festival. It's wonderful to see that our audiences still want to learn, debate and to question such sometimes esoteric subjects.

Engineering Day on 3 October 2019 is all about Biomedical Engineering. We begin with expert talks from 1pm leading up to a *Question Time*-style debate at 6.30pm: *How Engineering and Technology are transforming our Healthcare Sector*. Then on 10 October we have **Science Day** talking about *Gene Editing, Palliative Care, Einstein and live chemical reactions!*

The Festival opens on Saturday 28 September with jazz from the oldest band in the UK, the **Merseysippi Jazz Band**, and closes on 12 October with **Gaîté Parisienne** – a most fabulous concert from the superb **Orchestra dell'Arte** conducted by Edward Peak. Offenbach's wonderful music for the ballet will feature alongside Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Lehar's *The Merry Widow*. Rising stars, Heather Heighway and Joseph Buckmaster, will be singing with the Orchestra.

Music will also feature in Thornton Manor on 30 September with **The Instrument of the Devil**, all about clarinets and saxophones, played and presented in a lighthearted manner by Chris Swann (ex-Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra). In Hoylake, Flat Pack Opera will bring you Mozart's **Così fan tutte**. **Annie Long** will feature in the Williamson Art Gallery, you can **Sing for Joy** in New Brighton or join the **Concert Band Workshop** in Wallasey Town Hall. There's folk, jazz, blues, covers, swing, rock and roll and more.

In 2018 the Festival brought you a specially commissioned play, **Captain Duncan's Diaries**, written by Meg Parkes and dramatised by Ann Warr. For 2019 we are giving another local author and composer, Wendy Dickinson, an opportunity to present her musical play **Knowledge by Degrees** on Saturday 5 October. This is a great addition to our list of Wirral premières. The young people from Ladymount Primary School, St Anselm's College, Upton Hall School and The Little Actors Theatre are really excited about their concert of choral and music items on 10 October in aid of Child Bereavement UK.

And what about **The Temperance Seven!**

If this isn't enough, you can catch a film, enjoy organ concerts, think mindfulness, cookery and book signings. So much to do and all on your doorstep: you need a diary and our website www.wirralartsfestival.co.uk

Pick up leaflets in libraries and shops or call 0151 348 4430 or 07867 528034.

Kettle Design scoops top award for Wirral interior design project

Kettle Design has won an award for its outstanding interior design work on a residential property in Hoylake.

The Heswall-based company, which celebrates its 23rd anniversary this year, was presented with the best Residential Interior Design Project less than £150k at the Northern Design Awards.

The prestigious awards bring together designers, retailers and property developers in a celebration of Northern style, innovation and design. The judging panel included designers Wayne Hemingway, George Bond, Linda Parker, Nick Munro and BILD President Gilly Craft.

Kettle Design is run by Suzanne Mercer and her team of architects, designers, artists and engineers. It is the only technical interior design company in Wirral and Merseyside.

The award was in recognition of the company's work to transform the lounge and dining room of a house in Hoylake into two distinct spaces.

Suzanne said: "We were delighted that our work on this project caught the eye of the Northern Design Awards. Our clients wanted to transform two rooms in their house which weren't working for them anymore.

"The brief was to turn a rather cold sitting room into a comfortable and relaxing place and to redesign their dining room into a stylish place to eat and in which to entertain guests.

"The main requirement was to make each room distinctive, but to also make them feel linked. We love challenges like this.

"We made both spaces more intimate, added a fireplace to give focus to the sitting room, installed a flat screen television above it, wrapped a bespoke sofa around the faceted windows and added a bespoke rug.

"In the alcoves we lined the wall with statement wallpaper made from real banana leaves while the dining room walls were covered with dark linen paper.

"To give both rooms added wow factor we laid the most beautiful bleached oak herringbone floor that feels blissful underfoot and installed a stunning piece of bronze sculpture by Bruges artist Jacques Vanroose.

"The project was completed on time and within budget and the client was so delighted with the finished result that they have asked us to declutter and transform other areas of their home."

Kettle Design provides a full interior design service for domestic and commercial clients as well as a number of high-profile clients.

www.kettledesign.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/kettledesign>

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Photograph shows, from left: Eleanor Fairway, Interior Designer; Suzanne Mercer, Creative Director; Rebecca Clarke, Project Manager and Senior Interior Designer; Jessica Taylor-Jemmett, Architect; and Hannah Martin, Junior Designer.