

# “WIRRAL PLAYED HOST TO THE LARGEST EVER AUDIENCE FOR A LIVE BEATLES CONCERT ON UK MAINLAND”

Liverpool, quite correctly, plays a significant role in the Beatles early career. It was their birthplace, where they met and where they first embarked on their musical odyssey. It is, of course, the home of the world famous Cavern Club where they played on almost 300 occasions.

However, Wirral, which is separated from Liverpool by the River Mersey, also possesses an amazing and little known role in the bands early career. Research into Beatles Wirral history has thrown up a significant number of 'firsts'. For example, it was in Wirral that their first fan club was formed. Their first publicity photo shots were taken in Wirral and it was also the venue for Ringo Starr's official debut with the band. They also appeared in stage suits for the first time, the same suits that were designed in Birkenhead.



It was also Wirral that played host to the largest ever audience for a live Beatles concert on the UK mainland. In addition, several interesting and quirky events have Wirral origins. You will discover the venue where one of their gigs did not meet the agreed fee and a fundraising event a week later had to be arranged to raise the balance.



It was at the same venue that George Harrison left behind his suitcase, the significance of which was not realised for over 40 years and which is now on display in the Merseybeat Museum based at Fort Perch Rock in New Brighton.

The individual Beatles all had Wirral connections. John Lennon had relatives here and would spend many a school summer holiday staying at his aunts in Rock Ferry. Paul's relatives, the Robbins, lived in Bebington and Paul was a regular visitor to their home whilst a Beatle. A musical family, of whom Kate Robbins is arguably the best known, and who had a massive hit with 'More Than in Love' in 1981.



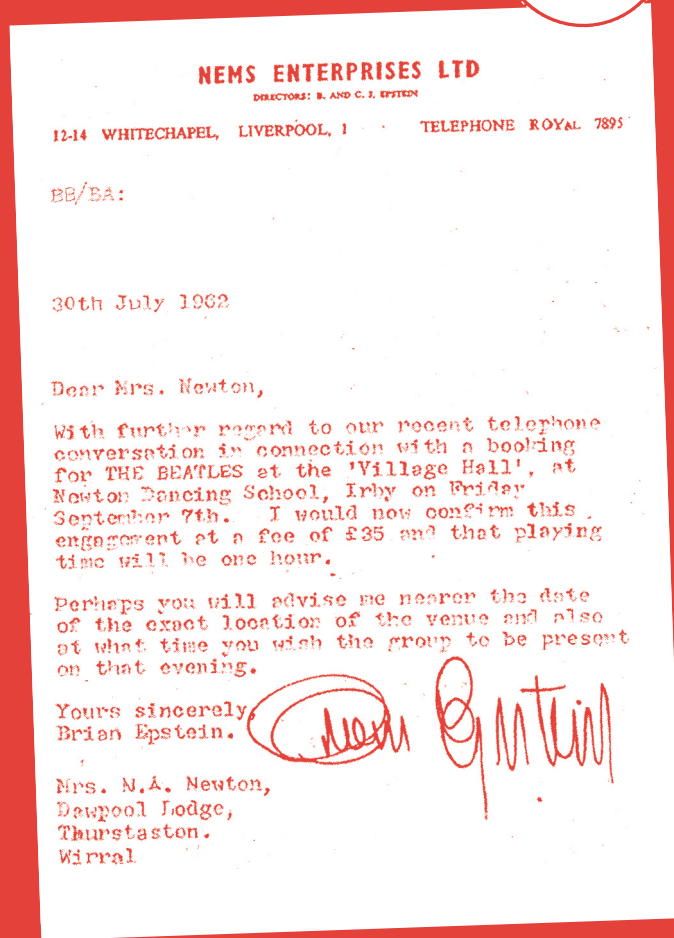
Birkenhead has several Beatles associations including Birkenhead Park which John Lennon enjoyed visiting as a youngster when staying with his relatives in nearby Rock Ferry. New York's Central Park was modelled on Birkenhead's and in later life John Lennon, when living in America, would comment on the similarity between the two of them.

Obviously, with the passing of time, some of the original sites no longer stand or have been replaced with

new buildings but a remarkable number still do. It is perhaps surprising that until very recently, only two venues displayed markers to denote the Beatles appearances. Thankfully, Wirral Council has now rectified this and plaques are proudly displayed outside all the key venues.

The venues listed can be easily visited in a day or the visitor may prefer to concentrate on one area and take in the coastal towns of West Kirby/Hoylake or the resurgent resort of New Brighton. Away from the coast, the picturesque village of Port Sunlight, which contains so many interesting features in itself, never disappoints.

Let's leave the last words to the Beatles themselves from their classic song in 'My Life'. **'There are places I'll remember all my life though some have changed'.**



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 BARNSTON ROAD • NEAR HESWALL  
**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> BY T**  
**30<sup>th</sup> JUNE** | DOORS OPEN  
 NO ADMISSION AFTER 9.45 p

## WIRRAL PENINSULA

Nestled between the rivers Mersey and the Dee, Wirral's coastal and rural landscape is fed by both Liverpool Bay and the Irish Sea. The peninsula is blessed with stunning natural splendour and a rich heritage. From Open Championship golf courses, to award-winning and unspoilt beaches, it is a uniquely charming area, with plenty for the visitor to discover.

Visit West Kirby in the west, and explore the multi-use leisure facility, the Wirral Way. Walk along the promenade, or at low tide over to Hilbre Islands, and enjoy the stunning views over to Wales. Equally rewarding sights can be found over on the east coast in New Brighton. A walk along the promenade here towards Seacombe Ferry, passing the historic Vale Park, provides views of the magnificent Liverpool waterfront, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. New Brighton itself has been transformed into a modern £multi-million seaside town, whilst still retaining the traditional elements, such as a fun-fair and candy floss, enjoyed by visitors for over a hundred years.

Inland, villages such as the picturesque Thornton Hough and the garden village of Port Sunlight are marvels of Victorian philanthropy. Port Sunlight itself has over 800 Grade II listed buildings, including one of the best art galleries in the United Kingdom, The Lady Lever, with a world famous collection of fine and decorative art.

Wirral is a uniquely charming area with plenty for the visitor to discover. Come and see for yourself!

For further information on Wirral and The Beatles  
[www.visitwirral.com](http://www.visitwirral.com) & [www.cavernclub.org](http://www.cavernclub.org)

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WIRRAL PENINSULA

# BEATLES ACROSS THE MERSEY

A TOUR OF MEMORABLE WIRRAL VENUES



29 PLACES OF INTEREST • WIRRAL FIRSTS