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Norwich's popular Hostry Festival is back for fourth year

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An autumn celebration of the arts is returning to Norwich for the fourth year with a packed programme of shows and events.

The Hostry Festival, with new principal sponsor Hansells Solicitors and Financial Advisers, will run from October 22 to November 2 and is offering an eclectic mix of all things cultural.

This year's main house play will be Restoration comedy The Country Wife, and the festival also features an array of other events spanning theatre, music, dance, visual arts and radio.

Artistic director Stash Kirkbride said: "There are 20 events, all newly commissioned from Norfolk, with entertainment across the board for all ages over the two weeks. The festival is growing in a great way and we are looking forward to sharing it with everybody."

With regards to The Country Wife, directed by Peter Beck, Mr Kirkbride

HOSTRY FESTIVAL

Media Partners: **Eastern Daily Press**

said: "It's a bawdy Restoration romp with lots of wigs, lots of make-up, and lots of fun. It's a must-see."

The Hansells Hostry Festival will start on October 22 with Paint Out Norwich, a Plein Air visual arts event which will see artists out and about painting Norwich landmarks over two days and culminating in an exhibition.

Other highlights include the return of the Norfolk Arts Awards, a new production by inclusive theatre company Total Ensemble called In Love and War, a celebration of the county's writers with Norfolk Authors in Profile, and Charles Clarke in conversation with BBC Radio Norfolk's Nick Conrad.

Debut will showcase the talents of Norfolk teenagers in music and the spoken word, while homage will be paid to those who fought in

the First World War with a Chamber Orchestra Anglia concert, the play Between the Lines and musical excerpts from David Banks' Elegy For The Great War. There will also be a double bill of Jean Cocteau's The Human Voice, performed as a play in English and sung as an opera in French. The issue of dementia will be explored with the performance Disappearing Friends.

Keith Skipper will be a special guest star in A Norfolk Home Companion, a Norfolk version of A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor on BBC Radio 4 Extra.

Events for the Hansells Hostry Festival, for which the EDP is a media partner, take place at Norwich Cathedral's Hostry and other city venues.

■ **For a full list of events, including dates and ticket prices, visit www.hostryfestival.org**

■ **Artists can apply for Paint Out Norwich until September 1 - www.paintoutnorwich.org**



■ Total Ensemble Theatre Company is creating a new show, called In Love And War, for the 2014 Hansells Hostry Festival.

Picture: MATTHEW DARTFORD

Green-fingered residents show off their plots to visitors

Proud Filby residents showed off their meticulously manicured lawns and brilliant blooms when they opened up their gardens to visitors.

Hundreds of people poured into the village to take a stroll around the glorious green spaces, which were in tip top condition ahead of the Anglia in Bloom judging next week.

A total of 13 gardens were open to the public and the village laid on extra activities for visitors, including a display in the club room marking Filby's involvement in both world wars, sailing sessions on Filby Broad and a tombola and plant sale in the church.

Adrian Thompson, chairman of Filby in Bloom, said a good crowd had turned out for the annual event.

Bee-friendly gardens had been a theme for this year's display, he said, but visitors had enjoyed a variety of lawn designs.

Money raised over the weekend will be divided between Filby in Bloom, the village's new hall fund and the church.

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