

News

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Not Quite Light Festival lights up New Bailey

New Bailey is the official partner for this year's Not Quite Light (NQL) Festival which returns to Salford for a third year, with the theme of "connections".

The critically acclaimed event, which runs from 26-29 March, will feature a range of performers, speakers and visual artists, lovingly curated by festival founder Simon Buckley, who hit the front pages earlier in 2019 with an iconic rain-soaked photograph of Manchester that many have compared to Lowry.

The up-and-coming regenerated area of New Bailey will serve as the event hub for the weekend, which aims to show a different side to the city, using all the senses. The weekend's events include 'Dining in the Dark' at Firefly, night walks, a dawn bike ride and guided blindfolded walking tours. 'We See What We Hear' will have the audience blindfolded throughout the concert performance, held in a secret location. Other events include Disco Tesco, which will use music and food to bring together all the different nationalities in store at the Tesco Salford Precinct branch by serving food from around the world, to the music of DJs from different countries. Outdoor arts experts 'Walk the Plank' will be curating the Saturday night event, which will be free and open to everyone.

All proceeds from this year's event will go to Henshaws, a local charity, which supports people living with sight loss and a range of disabilities help them to build skills, develop confidence, help each other and look forward to a more positive future.

Buckley has worked with local neighbourhoods and communities to curate the festival, using creativity and debate to explore themes of regeneration and heritage in Salford. His own artwork will be on display alongside that of painter Andy Cropper and illustrator Simone Ridyard.

Buckley says: "We decided to have the focus on New Bailey this year because it's such a great hub for Salford. We're really hoping that this will be a partnership that grows with the festival and with the creativity of the local community. I've been photographing the development of this area for the past two years and so have seen first-hand how much Salford is evolving. People forget that this part of city was mostly unused wasteland. I'm really grateful to New Bailey for their support and excited to be using the space for creative events."

Phil Mayall, regional director at The English Cities Fund, said: "What a fantastic opportunity for New Bailey to immerse itself in such a popular, eclectic festival, which reaches another new audience for us. We're very proud to play an integral role in the event, which is supporting a great charity and we look forward to welcoming lots of new people to New Bailey to share some great experiences.

"Salford has one of the most vibrant and progressive communities in the UK, which has welcomed the regeneration of New Bailey and really embraced it over the years. We're honoured to have been in such a great position to repurpose this part of the city to create a meaningful legacy for the future."

The full programme for the Not Quite Light Festival and ticket details are available [here](#)

New Bailey is being delivered by The English Cities Fund, a joint venture between Muse Developments, Legal & General and Homes England, in partnership with Salford City Council. The

joint venture partnership is currently delivering some of the most complex and most successful urban regeneration projects across the UK. Following its expansion in 2018, it continues to take on large, complex sites, to create inspiring new places.