

THE HARRIS

Autumn Guide

HARRIS YOUR PLACE

AUTUMN 2023



Immerse yourself in creativity and culture with this comprehensive what's on guide, offering an insight into the exhibitions, events, and community initiatives taking place at The Harris during the transformative Harris Your Place project.

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It's Our Birthday!



The Harris is 130 years old!

In Preston, the idea of creating a free public library and museum was first championed in the 1850s when members of the local community began holding fundraising events.

However, it was not until 1877 that a bequest by the Preston lawyer, Edmund Robert Harris made the idea of a free library, museum and art gallery a reality. Edmund Robert Harris left £300,000 to Preston Corporation in memory of his father, the Reverend Robert Harris, who had been vicar of St George's Church, Lune Street for 64 years.

This required an Act of Parliament and the Preston Improvement Act was passed in 1880, allowing the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of Preston to 'provide a site for a Public Library and Museum.' Work started on the new building in 1882 and The Harris was officially opened in October 1893 by Arthur Stanley, the 16th Earl of Derby. The Harris was a gift to the people of Preston from our founding father Edmund Robert Harris and what a great gift it's been! For 130 years, The Harris has been enjoyed by many Prestonians and visitors from afar who have marveled at the extraordinary collections and exhibitions that lay inside.

To mark our 130th birthday we have created a series of articles on our website that you may be interested in. Each article focuses on 13 'things' that we'd like to celebrate for our 130th birthday!

- ✿ 13 Items in Our Fashion Collections
- ✿ 13 of Our Popular Collections
- ✿ 13 Iconic Spaces at The Harris
- ✿ 13 Exhibitions You Might Have Missed at The Harris
- ✿ 13 Ways to Get Involved With The Harris



How To Get Involved With The Harris

Whilst we are closed for the Harris Your Place project, there are still plenty of ways to get involved with us and keep up to date with what's happening behind the scenes.

Follow the links below to find out how you can get involved!



VISIT THE LIBRARY, IT CENTRE & GIFT SHOP

Preston Guild Hall, Monday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm

[Click here](#)

PURCHASE FROM OUR ONLINE SHOP

[Click here](#)

SIGN UP TO THE HARRIS NEWSLETTER

[Click here](#)

VISIT THE HARRIS' WEBSITE

[Click here](#)

**READ ABOUT HARRIS YOUR PLACE
UPDATES**

[Click here](#)

LOOK OUT FOR HARRIS NEWS

[Click here](#)

**VISIT THE WHAT'S ON PAGE TO FIND
OUT ABOUT HARRIS EVENTS**

[Click here](#)

WORK WITH US

[Click here](#)

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

[Click here](#)

BECOME A HARRIS FRIEND

[Click here](#)

JOIN THE YOUTH PANEL

[Click here](#)

TAG THE HARRIS IN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

#HARRISYOURPLACE



FACEBOOK

@HarrisMuseumandArtGallery



INSTAGRAM

@harris_museum



TWITTER / X

@HarrisPreston



YOUTUBE

Harris Museum & Art Gallery



LINKEDIN

Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library

13 Reasons Why You Should Visit The Harris Library and IT Centre

To mark our 130th birthday we have put together 13 reasons why you should visit us. We're so much more than a place to borrow books! Whether you want to learn, relax or have fun there are so many reasons why you should come and see us at our temporary home in The Guild Hall, Preston. We are open Monday to Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm so there is plenty of time for you to come and see us.



We have a range of books for everyone - adults, young people and children. There is something to suit everyone's interests and needs. We have a variety of fiction books including Crime, Science-Fiction and Romance. Our wide Non-Fiction collection includes books on Art, Travel and History.



If you're a Lancashire resident, you can sign up for a free Library card to start your reading journey today.



To improve accessibility, we have books in large print and oversized formats. We also have a collection of spoken word and playaways which can be loaned for £1.



The Junior Library is great for children of all ages to have fun and explore with books. There are recommendations such as Children's Book of the Month with displays making it the perfect place for children to learn and discover.



Don't forget the children's reading schemes - an entertaining way to introduce children to reading. The Lancashire Reading Trail runs throughout the year and over the summer months, we run a special reading scheme.



In the Junior Library, there are regular Harris events such as storytelling sessions, Harris half-term activities and craft sessions, all advertised on The Harris website.



For the little ones, we hold Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions every Tuesday from 10.30am - 11.00am. Sharing songs and rhymes is a fun way for babies and toddlers to develop their language skills.



Little Steps and Little Explorers are both library initiatives aimed at under 5's and further details can be obtained from the library. The Junior Library reading schemes encourage children to read with the help of various fictional character stickers including the Lancashire Reading Dragon and the Dream Fairies.



Our IT Centre offers a great space for you to get some work done. After signing up for a library card you can log into our computers for free. These can be booked at the IT desk or by drop-in. You can log on for up to 2 hours from 9am onwards and these services are switched off at 4.40pm. You can also pay to use the printing service, just ask our staff for more information.



When you visit us you will be greeted by our welcoming staff who are available to help you. We can help you understand our services and support you in finding your next perfect read. Our staff are passionate about reading and can share their favourite book recommendations with you.



Around the library, you will find book display stands to inspire your next read. These displays share books about awareness days, author and book of the month, best sellers and new reads.



Our library has community information boards with posters and information about the local community, where you might find something you fancy getting involved in. Have a glance to find out what is going on in Preston and feel free to take a leaflet home to spread the word.



And if you can't visit us in person, don't worry! You can borrow books via the BorrowBox app, the eBook and audiobook library for Lancashire Libraries. All you need is your library card number and pin to sign up, it only takes a few minutes and then you can discover the wide assortment of books on offer.

[Click here](#)

We have chatted to The Harris Library Team and asked them their favourite book recommendations! Recommending everything from popular books to biographies, click the link and find some inspiration for your next read.



Did you know that this year from April to September 2023 we have welcomed **37,710** visitors to our Library and IT Centre, and we can't wait to welcome more! If you are not yet a member it is easy to sign up - click the link to get started.

[Click here](#)



Proud to be a part of
Lancashire Libraries Network



The Harris Shop

Did you know that The Harris Shop is still operating whilst we are closed for the Harris Your Place project?

So we thought we would share 13 Harris-related gifts to buy from our shop to mark our 130th birthday!



Pauline in the Yellow Dress Postcard / £1

Who doesn't want their very own postcard of the much loved painting Pauline in the Yellow Dress by Herbert James Gunn? Now the hard decision of whether to send it to a Pauline fan or keep for yourself? Why not do both!



'Why War?' Magnet / £2.50

For magnet collectors this magnet of the painting 'Why War?' by Charles Spencelayh is definitely one to add to your collection.



Harris Print / £5

Take a piece of The Harris home with you with this Harris print which will look amazing displayed in pride of place in your room.



'Molly in the Garden' Card / £2.55

A much-loved painting here at The Harris is 'Molly in the Garden' by Mark Lancelot Symons and it can now be purchased to take home with you.



Harris Card / £2.49

If you are thinking of sending a greetings card why not send a Harris card? It's perfect for those who love our iconic building.



Harris Mug / £8.50

This lovely mug is the perfect way to remember The Harris every time you have a cuppa!



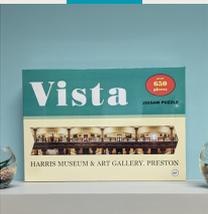
Scent Bottle Book / £4.99

Scent bottle fans who love our collection of over 2,700 scent bottles will find this the perfect read which traces the history of scent bottles from Egypt to today. Written by Alexandra Walker who previously worked at The Harris.



Edwin Robert Beattie Card / £2

We love this card of 'Market Place from Friargate', which will certainly be snapped up fast by Edwin Robert Beattie fans.



The Harris Jigsaw / £5

If you are a jigsaw enthusiast look no further for your next puzzle, a jigsaw of The Harris!



The Harris Notepad / £4

You will be the coolest person in the office with this Harris notepad, which is the perfect size for writing your to-do list.



'Serena Reading' Card / £2

For all the book lovers, the painting of 'Serena Reading' makes the perfect card.



Scent Bottle Coasters / £8.50

Have a lovely reminder of one of The Harris' most popular collections in your home with these stylish scented bottle coasters.



Preston & The Harris 2024 Calendar / £9.99

An ideal gift for lovers of Preston, this calendar features beautiful images of Preston's popular spaces, intertwined with behind-the-scenes pictures and facts about the Harris Your Place project.

The Harris shop is temporarily operating from The Guild Hall, Preston, Monday to Saturday 9:00am until 5:00pm. You can also purchase Harris favourites from our online shop here:

[Click here](#)

Harris Your Place

Harris Your Place is the ambitious £16 million project redefining the City of Preston, reinventing The Harris as a 21st-century community, cultural and learning space. Located in the city-centre, The Harris is more than a monumental building: it is a centre for Preston's cultural and civic life; a source of inspiration, pride, creativity and enjoyment for our communities.



Exciting News from the Harris Your Place Project!

We're thrilled to share some incredible statistics showcasing the positive impact of this £16 million initiative on local employment and our community.

- ✿ 286 local individuals, within 30 miles of Preston, have been contracted for an average of 2.4 days
- ✿ A whopping £4,431,094.86 has been injected into our local supply chain, benefitting both businesses and these 286 local employees
- ✿ Additionally, 80 apprentice weeks have been supported, generating an impressive £16,592 of social local economic value

- ✿ The original bronze closing mechanisms on 148 windows, which can now open, have been stripped back to reveal their beautiful brass finish
- ✿ Site managers have completed an average of 15,000 steps a day walking around the job
- ✿ There has been 242 metres of fencing around the perimeter of the job
- ✿ 19,000 scaffold clips have been used
- ✿ 3,000 scaffold boards have been used
- ✿ Staff have drunk an estimated 200 cups of tea per day
- ✿ 2,000 energy efficient bulbs have been used in festoon lighting
- ✿ The goods hoist goes up and down an estimated 110 times per day
- ✿ 18,000 staff hours were spent erecting the scaffold which now has to be dismantled
- ✿ 48kg of pigeon guano removed from the Tympanum. This is the front triangle section where the statues sit.



13 Changes to Look Out For When the Harris Reopens...

Click the link below to read more about the changes you can expect to see as part of the Harris Your Place Project.



[Click here](#)

What We've Been Up To

A Look Back at the Heritage Skills Experience Day



We recently were a part of The Heritage Skills Experience Day at Preston's Flag Market, held on 31st August 2023. This day provided a unique platform for the public to immerse themselves in the world of traditional craftsmanship.

Hosted by The Harris in partnership with Conlon Construction, this event showcased the beauty and value of heritage skills and included demonstrations.

The Heritage Skills Experience Day featured two prominent organisations dedicated to preserving and promoting heritage skills: Bullen Conservation and Preston Vocational Centre.

Bullen Conservation: Renowned for their mastery of stonework, Bullen Conservation presented an opportunity for attendees to witness actual stone repairs in progress. Visitors were not only able to observe skilled professionals at work but also tried their hand at working on "dummy" pieces under expert guidance.

Preston Vocational Centre (PVC): PVC took attendees on a journey into the meticulous process of window restoration. Visitors had the chance to dismantle and re-fix a sash window, gaining a hands-on understanding of the craftsmanship involved. The centre also offered valuable advice sessions for those interested in pursuing a career in heritage skills, particularly in construction.

The Heritage Skills Experience Day drew a diverse crowd of enthusiastic individuals, ranging from aspiring craftsmen to heritage lovers.

The event was a testament to the appeal of traditional craftsmanship and the importance of preserving these skills for future generations.



Digital Collections Day

In July we held our Digital Collections Day - 'Their Finest Hour' at The Harris Library. People brought World War II objects and stories to be recorded and preserved as part of an online archive for future generations.

Couldn't make it to our Collections Day event? No need to worry, as you can upload your World War II memories directly to the University of Oxford's digital archive. If you have photographs, documents, or even just a story to share, upload them by following the link below.



[Click here](#)

Summer Events Programme

We've had a fantastic summer holiday filled with lots of free, fun family events! From Morris Dancing, Leaf Printing Workshops, Penny and the Far Thing, The Rag Tag Roadshow, Timelines and Mystery Objects and much more, it has certainly been a summer to remember with us in Preston.



How Do You Take Your Tea?



We have held events in Preston such as the 'How do you take your tea' event at Community Roots @Deepdale (previously Lancashire Recovery Collage). We introduced the public to ceramics from our collection which link to the history of tea and the public talked to us about how they take their tea. Their answers will help to inform the display of the Second Floor Balcony when we reopen. Click the link below to see how the day went.

[Click here](#)

Preston City Mela

We have also attended local events, including Preston City Mela on 17th June 2023 with artist Hannah Sabapathy, who is working on the 20/20 project with us.

The 20/20 Project is an ambitious 3-year programme created to support 20 emerging ethnically diverse artists of colour to take up residencies within 20 public art collections across the country, leading to 20 new permanent acquisitions.

At Preston City Mela Hannah facilitated a print block painting workshop as well as working with local community members to inform the project research.



Windrush 75 Festival

On 18th June 2023 our library team attended the Windrush event where they raised the profile of The Harris Your Place Project. They handed out free Windrush ladybird books and assisted people with library sign-ups.



Preston Pride

We also celebrated Preston Pride, offering people the opportunity to be a part of the upcoming Harris pride cloth project. Our Harris pride cloth will be used to create an outfit that will not only celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community, but will also be accessioned and become a part of The Harris collection. Showcasing the pride and diversity of this community, this project is a powerful symbol of inclusivity and unity.



The MET (Mobile Event Tent)

We have also been supporting Preston City Council events such as the Mobile Event Tent (The MET). This adaptable entertainment venue has been developed by Preston City Council, in partnership with 'In Certain Places' - a research centre within UCLan's School of Arts and Media. The fresh and dynamic venue celebrates Preston's art and culture scene and can pop up around the city where needed. The MET visited Ribbleson in June with an exciting programme of entertainment including free events. In September and October, the MET came to UCLan Square with an exciting programme of entertainment for all the family including captivating theatre performances, singer-songwriters and even a Nerf party! Did you attend an event at The Met? If so, you can click the link below to provide feedback.



[Click here](#)



Encounter Festival

Recently Encounter Festival 2023 returned to Preston with a brilliant weekend of entertainment enjoyed by all. The three-day extravaganza, which took place from 15th - 17th September, attracted over 50,000 people and transformed the heart of Preston into a vibrant hub of creativity, unity, and celebration. With a diverse lineup of performances, workshops, and activities Encounter Festival 2023 upheld its reputation as a cultural milestone in the Preston calendar. From the Torchlight Procession lighting up the night to diverse performances and cultural celebrations, not forgetting the captivating art installations and community engagement as well as engaging workshops and family fun - what a brilliant weekend it was! We look forward to Encounter Festival returning in 2024, save the dates: 20th – 22nd September 2024!



Image credits: Michael Porter Photography

Heritage Open Days

In September, Preston's Heritage Open Days also took place, which were co-ordinated by Preston's History Network and supported by Preston City Council. The council offered free tours such as Preston cleansing tours, Preston Town Hall tours and Preston market tours and we can't wait for Heritage Open Days to return in 2024!

What's On This Autumn

October Half-Term Events

What's on this autumn from The Harris? Join us for a programme of spooky events in Preston. Click the link to book!

[Click here](#)

the HARRIS
HOME from HOME

OCTOBER HALF-TERM PROGRAMME

<p>23 OCTOBER SPOOKY PUPPET MAKING / £5 GUILD HALL FOYER 10 - 11.15AM & 11.45 - 1PM</p> <hr/>	<p>24 OCTOBER SPOOKY STORIES / FREE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY 11.15 - 11.45AM, 1.30 - 2PM & 2.15 - 2.45PM</p> <hr/>	<p>26 OCTOBER FAMILY FILM - THE ADDAMS FAMILY / £1 - £2 GUILD HALL FOYER 1.30 - 3.15PM</p> <hr/>
<p>23 OCTOBER UV PUPPET SHOW / £1 - £2 GUILD HALL FOYER 2.15PM, 3PM, 3.45PM & 4.30PM</p> <hr/>	<p>24 OCTOBER PRESTON'S HAUNTED TALES / £10 GUILD HALL FOYER 7.30 - 8.15PM</p> <hr/>	<p>27 OCTOBER SPOOKY MASK MAKING / FREE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY 10 - 11AM & 11 - 12PM</p> <hr/>
<p>23 OCTOBER AN EVENING OF VICTORIAN MAGIC / £10 GUILD HALL FOYER 7.30PM</p>	<p>25 OCTOBER FAMILY FILM - COCO / £1 - £2 GUILD HALL FOYER 1.30 - 3.15PM</p>	<p>31 OCTOBER BABY BOUNCE AND RHYME / FREE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY 10.30 - 11AM</p>

Exhibitions

The Harris is honoured to have a dress from our beloved Horrockses Fashions collection and accompanying design book on show in the Lancashire Archives Exhibition 'Shaping the Future: Lancashire Women's Lives, 1950-1980'. This dress plays an important role in illustrating how women's lives and fashions changed in the years following the Second World War.

The Harris' Decorative Art Curator, Scott, said 'whilst we are closed for the Harris Your Place Project, it is amazing to see pieces from our fashion collection on display here in Preston'. Visit the free exhibition now at Lancashire Archives, which will run until 2024.



The Harris and UCLan Toddler Sessions

The Harris volunteers and University of Central Lancashire student ambassadors are back running a unique set of toddler activity sessions at four venues around Preston! Ribbleton Library, Ingol Library, St Matthew's Mission and Community Gateway. This collaborative project is all about making fun activities for children aged 0-5 based on links between research at UCLan and The Harris' collections.



There will be a different themed activity session every week for 5 weeks before we take them to the next venue. Join us at Ribbleton Library first! No need to book – just show up.





University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

Toddler Sessions at Ribbleton Library

Thursdays 10 - 11am

26 October 2023 - *Golden dream*: sensory play with apples and painting with your toddler



2 November 2023 - *Trees for Toddlers*: Enjoy poems and paintings about nature



9 November 2023 - *Exploring shapes in art and life*: Bring shapes, patterns and structures to life



16 November 2023 - *Playtime in the Past*: Join us for a trip back in time with your toddler



23 November 2023 - *Potted Prehistory*: Let's explore and create our own playful pottery

the **HARRIS**

Learn more about the project and get a taste of what to expect by clicking the link.

[Click here](#)



Introducing Our New Acquisitions



Gavin Renshaw

We are excited to announce that local artist Gavin Renshaw is working on a new piece for The Harris. In 2019, Preston-based artist Gavin flew in a light aircraft above Preston. He created a bird's-eye view drawing looking down on the city during the Covid-19 pandemic. The detailed line drawing is titled 'Corona' and is 1.5 metres long.



The drawing depicts the university buildings, and student houses are in the foreground. The public buildings and high-rise towers sit in front of Higher Walton's Hill. This will be displayed on a light box on the ground floor in the 'Heart of Preston' display when we reopen.



Gavin is currently re-inking the drawing in preparation for the lightbox. We caught up with Gavin to see what we can expect from his work. Click the link to see what he said!



[Click here](#)

Christine Cherry

Introducing our latest acquisitions from Christine Cherry - *Strength* and *Ceramic Fairy Mug*. Christine is a local potter and appeared as a finalist in series 5 of the Great Pottery Thrown Down on Channel 4.

As seen on the programme, Christine created the self-sculpture, *Strength*, to represent her battle with breast cancer. She described the process of creating the sculpture as a truly cathartic experience.

The second item, *Ceramic Fairy Mug*, was inspired by a ceramic tea set that she created during her time on the Channel 4 programme. This beautiful fairy mug features a small fairy frolicking amongst delightful flowers and ladybugs.

The mug will be displayed alongside Christine's self-sculpture when we reopen.

We recently caught up with Christine to discuss the newly acquired items and the inspiration behind them. Click the link to see what she had to say!



[Click here](#)



The Harris' Critical Friend



Mel Close, Chief Executive Officer for Disability Equality North West (DENW), can usually be found “*working hard to ensure fairness and equality of access for all*” and that’s why she is perfect for the role of The Harris’ Critical Friend. We are privileged to have Mel on board with us, sharing DENW’s mission for “*building a society in which all people – regardless of impairment – are valued, live full family, social and economic lives, and can access and actively take part in their local communities*”. This includes The Harris of course.

Our official Critical Friendship is for 12 months and covers the crucial period leading up to The Harris reopening. To guide us through this 12-month period ahead, we have made a mutual commitment to be honest, open and straightforward. Our aim is to reveal challenges together that are specific to The Harris’ organisational culture, shining a spotlight on access and inclusion issues. DENW will constructively criticise The Harris to find out why we are doing the things we do, with the aim of improving our processes.

Friends of The Harris



Are you ready to embark on an extraordinary journey through art, culture, and community? Join the Friends of The Harris and become an essential part of our vibrant cultural hub. Discover enriching experiences and exclusive benefits that await you as a valued member.

Join today by completing the online form, or give us a call on our general number, **01772 258248**, to join by post. Find out more about becoming a member by visiting the Friends of The Harris webpage. Follow the link to visit the webpage.

[Click here](#)



Programme Advisory Group

Following a brilliant response from the community to our open call out for support, The Harris has formed a group of programme advisors. This group makes suggestions, bringing a positive outlook and fresh perspective, asks difficult questions and uses their local knowledge and experience to help shape new exhibitions and events that are relevant to the people of Preston.

The Programme Advisory Group is made up of local people who represent voices from different areas of Preston's communities, including families, local artists and young people. The group will advise on the programme and select new exhibitions for Gallery Two, and will additionally assist in advising on the wider exhibitions programme. The group will work together on ideas for public events which appeal to the Preston community and share positive, creative ideas and suggestions.



Meet the Members

Meet Denise, a member of The Harris Advisory Group, who has written an article about the start of her time on the Programme Advisory Group and how attending a recent Harris Volunteer trip has helped inform her important work.

'When the opportunity arose recently to join The Harris team on a day trip to Liverpool's World Museum, I was keen to learn more and get more involved. It was a fascinating day out and we learned so much. The team at Liverpool World Museum spent time with us, explaining their collection philosophies, with each curator providing guided tours behind the scenes to explore their collections in more detail. With limited time, we were only able to join a couple of tours each but they were in-depth and insightful. I chose the Botany and Zoology collections, so started with seeing how plant specimens and seeds are collected, selected, dried, prepared, mounted, labelled, conserved and preserved, ready for storage and future display. The Zoology department has a few extra challenges of course as some specimens are extremely large, like the magnificent gorilla, tiger, kangaroo etc, as well as some that are extremely small like insects, tiny reptiles and baby mammals but again, each has to be correctly identified, preserved and conserved and prepared for storage and future display.

As interesting as these tours were and a perfect grounding, it was the final session of the afternoon that was the most rewarding and which gave the greatest insight. After a presentation by the head curator it was opened up for questions from the floor and this was where, to me, the most interesting discussions took place. There were opportunities to discuss and propose lots of ideas and approaches for making spaces even more interesting and accessible to visitors and communities of all ages and abilities, in turn generating valuable ideas which we can hopefully incorporate into future events and activities planned for The Harris. This is hopefully just the start of what will become a fascinating new era for The Harris. Watch this space...'

The Harris Volunteers

Even though The Harris building is closed, there are still volunteering opportunities to get involved with!

- ✿ Fiona has been doing leaflet drops around her local area to spread the word about our 'Harris Your Place' project.
- ✿ Chris has been assisting on facilitating art and wellbeing sessions at Freckleton Library.
- ✿ Our Volunteer Marketing Strategy group has been sharing their thoughts and ideas with our Marketing Team to help The Harris improve our messaging and marketing.
- ✿ Our Collections Volunteers have been assisting with getting collection items ready and organised for when we move back into The Harris building.



We asked our Harris volunteers: What do you enjoy most about volunteering with The Harris at the moment?

"Feeling that I am contributing to the cultural life of my community"

"Meeting people and doing something useful"

"Seeing behind the scenes and working with the collections"

"Being involved with a great team"

Sound like something you'd like to be a part of? Join our volunteering team! We encourage all ages (over 16) and abilities to get involved with us. We are looking to diversify our volunteer cohort to better reflect the local population. Age, ethnicity, sexuality, socio-economic status and disability should not be a barrier to getting involved.

Click the link below and visit The Harris' Volunteer Makers page to sign up quickly and easily and become a part of The Harris team today! Want to chat about joining? Call Kyra on: 01772905412.



The Harris Volunteer Trip



Back in September, our volunteers went on a well-earned trip to the World Museum, Liverpool. We received a warm welcome from World Museum staff and got to go behind the scenes into the Geology, Botany, Zoology and Entomology collections. We also received a talk and Q&A session from the museum's Lead Curator of Global Cultures Collections. Trips out and socials like these for our hard-working volunteers are an important chance for the team to socialise with one another outside of meetings and other volunteering opportunities.

The Foxton Centre Exhibition Recap



Since January 2023, The Harris has been working closely with the Foxton Centre to facilitate weekly adult art sessions for anyone to attend. The group started with just 2 members but has now grown to a regular group of around 15-20 adults every Friday.

The Foxton Centre is a Preston-based charity with a longstanding commitment to working within the local community, supporting both adults and young

people. With the theme of art for well-being in mind, this project has been an opportunity for adults to connect with each other, learn new skills and embrace their colourful creativity.

These 8 months of creating and making resulted in a celebration of the group's talents by opening the Foxton Art Group Exhibition on the 31st August alongside the 'Celebrating The Foxton Community Day'. This was a wonderful opportunity for people to see all the great work that the group has been doing and to meet the artists themselves.

"The Foxton Art Group makes me happy and makes me have a laugh. It's good company every week. The exhibition was brilliant - it was a good day" – Michael



With over 30 works of art on display including paintings, drawings and sculptures, there was something for everyone to admire and around 80 people attended the community day. Inspirations behind the works include nature, animals, colour, faith, the importance of art for mental health and the aim to spread joy to others through art.



Also featured was the group's large-scale collaborative piece! Depicting a Preston cobbled street with the city's skyline on the horizon and the focal point being Preston's iconic symbol of the Lamb. Nearly everyone in the group contributed to this eye-popping painting, showing the power of coming together to make art.



Due to the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in the Foxton Centre, the building and the Foxton Art Group Exhibition is sadly now closed. However, we are now in a new temporary location whilst the Foxton builds their brand-new youth and community centre. If you're interested in coming along, the Foxton Art Group is still meeting every Friday 1pm - 3pm at the temporary location of **St James' Church** (Knowsley St, off Avenham Lane, Preston, PR1 3SA). Anyone of any artistic ability is welcome – just drop-in.

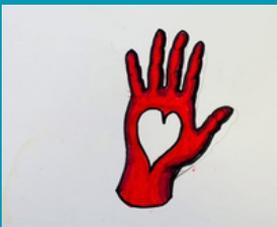


"I enjoy going to the Foxtan art group because they are very welcoming, and it is nice being surrounded by others with a common interest in art. Seeing other people's work also helps spark inspiration for my own pieces" – Tsuki

What Does The Foxtan Art Group Get Up To?

- ✿ The Foxtan Art Group is a chance for you to embrace your creative expression and be supported by The Harris and Foxtan Centre staff along the way.
- ✿ We love to have a good chat and a brew and biscuit! These sessions can be a chance to socialise and connect with new people as well as a place to get absorbed in your own art.
- ✿ Supported by the Heritage Fund, The Harris provides all art materials for the sessions. This includes paints, paintbrushes, paper, canvases, drawing materials, chalk, pastel, collaging paper and more!
- ✿ People in the art group are encouraged to share their skills with others in the group and we sometimes have professional artist-run workshops.
- ✿ We go on trips out to spark inspiration! In the past we've done outdoor art sessions, a trip to see paintings from The Harris' collection and a guided tour around The Harris building under construction.

Sound like your kind of thing? We are always open to new members joining the Foxtan Art Group. Our sessions are aimed at adults but all are welcome! Drop by and see us any Friday 1pm - 3pm at St James' Church.



The Harris' Youth Panel Update

The Harris' Youth Panel exists to advise The Harris on what young people really want. The panel's focus is young people aged 12+. For the past 18 months, they have directed the conception and design for The Harris' new young people's space 'No.9'. This includes their selection of nine thought provoking artworks from the Harris' Fine Art and Ceramic collection for the first exhibition that will be shown in their new space.



© of the artist Michael Vaughan

Next steps are to start thinking about and making plans for how the new space No.9 will work and all the logistics connected to having a space dedicated just to young people, in a public building open to everyone like The Harris.

So, the panel are going to venture out and about in Preston once a month to visit other groups of young people to make sure that they take lots of different views into consideration. The Harris wants the new young people's space to be really inclusive and feel like a comfortable place to be.

The panel will consult with a group of young disabled people working with Blaze Arts; meet young people who are being supported by Wot Wud U Do to get into work or education and also speak to Compass Bloom who are setting up a peer support group in a local school that the panel can consult with.

If you are part of a group of young people aged 12+ or know of one that would be interested in the Harris Youth Panel visiting them to hear what they have to say, please contact Kyra on: k.milnes@preston.gov.uk or 01772 905412.

Young People's Voices Project



A detail of Ian McCulloch, 'Near Quang Tri, Vietnam' (1973), © the artist

Our Young Peoples Voices project focuses on improving young people's involvement in decision making at The Harris. Why? Because young people are one of our key target audiences and we want our service, exhibitions, programme and attitudes to meet young people's expectations when we reopen.

Part of this project offers 4 young people aged 18 - 25 a short-term paid opportunity to work within a team here at The Harris.

As we are a Foundation Living wage employer, these 4 young people will get paid the Living Wage. We have been working closely on the recruitment for these roles with employment advisors at Preston Job Centre, to ensure that we are including young people that are from all socio economic backgrounds.

The first 2 roles: Events and Social Media Co-ordinator and Content and Marketing Assistant, will be starting soon! They will join our Communities and Volunteers team and our Marketing team. The roles will highlight the needs of young people in Preston. Keep a look out for developments on Instagram - Harris Youth Panel (@youngharrispreston) and the Harris' Website.

Working With Families at the Mill Bank Centre



We spoke to Dawn Worthington, The Harris' Programme and Learning Officer, about her experiences working with families at the Mill Bank Centre.

'In May we met up with staff at Mill Bank to talk about offering some workshop activities for the families who live at the centre. Lisa and the team were very welcoming, they showed us around and we talked about the best way to get started. We wanted to ask the families what they would like to do, but we didn't want to stand around with clipboards and surveys – who wants to speak to that person!'

We asked artist Sarah Hicks to run a clay workshop, and Millie (our Harris Communities Assistant) and I chatted to families and encouraged them to vote for their favourite things to do, or write their own suggestions on our posters. We had an enjoyable afternoon and the families were very proud of the items they made.

Sarah and I went back in the summer holidays for another couple of workshops, this time we made some decorations for the centre's garden, and created story sacks to inspire the children to invent their own stories.

Over the sessions we got to know some of the families, we talked about The Harris – one girl wants my job, although she said she would be an old lady by the time we reopen! The project is working really well and we'll be planning more sessions and activities for the future. Hopefully the families will come and visit us when we're back in The Harris building.'

"That was my favourite ever thing to do" - a 9 year old child, following the clay session.



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