

Thinking of leaving a gift in your will to the Friends of the Harris? These people have done it already!

### **#HarrisYourPlace**

Arnold Monk was a lifelong supporter of the Harris, leaving us a substantial financial bequest and a Lowry drawing, *St Paul's Church in Jarrow*, when he passed away aged 90 in 2018.

Arnold spent so much of his childhood at the Harris that his mother once had his lunch delivered here, knowing this is where he would be. He began his career as a painter and decorator. However, aged 21 he became a nurse, believed to be the first male nurse in the North West. He clearly had a reputation for being a hard task-master, as a humorous cartoon drawn for him by a colleague shows staff being terrified upon his return from holiday. Arnold regularly showed his work in the Harris Open and also served as Chairman of Preston Art Society. He owned several pencil and oil works by LS Lowry and probably met him – he had been sent a Christmas card in 1971 drawn and signed by the artist. Monk's own work was clearly influenced by Lowry's style. After providing for his family and making other gifts, Arnold left the remains of his estate to our charity, the Friends of the Harris. We look forward to using Arnold's legacy to support the [#HarrisYourPlace](#) refurbishment and activities for local people in Preston. We were delighted to display some of Arnold's work, as a tribute to him, in a recent Harris Open exhibition and to display his Lowry drawing in 2019.

### **A passion for Preston's history**

Mr Jones from Fulwood contacted the Harris in 2012. After a lifetime living and working in Preston, as well as travelling widely, he wanted to leave a gift that would have an impact locally, reflect his passion for Preston, and help other people learn about the city's history in the future. His choice is to leave a percentage of his estate to help people enjoy seeing and learning from historical artefacts in the future. It was wonderful to get to know him, hear his life story and talk about how local people might benefit from his very generous gift, probably in the much-loved *Discover Preston* history gallery. Mr Jones has since become a member of the Friends of the Harris too, and enjoys coming to history-based talks and events in particular.

### **A love of learning**

Peter, who lives a short distance from Preston, contacted us because he and his wife wanted to leave a legacy to the Harris. Peter was born and brought up in Preston and says that he and his wife always visit us when they are here. In 2012 he became a Friend of the Harris. For him, the Harris is the central attraction in Preston and he is keen to see it continue to inspire people. With an interest in Preston's history, technology and a developing

interest other aspects of the museum's collections, Peter is especially inspired by the *Portrait of Richard Arkwright* by Joseph Wright of Derby which was purchased with the help of the Friends of the Harris in 2008. After a number of chats to make sure that any gift in Peter's will would be used well, Peter decided to leave a percentage of his estate to support the purchase and associated display costs of a work, or works, of fine art, with any remaining amount available to fund the conservation of works of art the Harris might not otherwise be able to display. Peter said, 'Your comments have made me more aware about legacies. Thanks for your advice which has been very useful and informative.'

### **A life-long relationship with the Harris**

Mrs Williams from Broadgate contacted the Harris to say that she wanted to provide a gift for the Harris and our visitors in her will and to ask advice about how to go about it. She told us about how much the museum and library meant to her and how she had visited almost weekly for over sixty years. We were able to talk to her about how much a gift to the Friends of the Harris charity would mean and to thank her for thinking of us. Mrs Williams is still visiting us regularly!

### **The beauty of painting**

Dorothy Wade left a bequest to help us purchase a pre-20<sup>th</sup> century work of art, and we were able to use it to help us acquire *Puck* by Richard Dadd, which now hangs in the fine art galleries and is a source of inspiration for children's and schools' events in particular, as well as a popular painting with our general visitors.

Dorothy's niece says, "For me to know that the money Dorothy left has enabled the Harris Museum to secure the *Puck* painting is wonderful. I know Dorothy would be delighted to think that her bequest has had such a successful outcome."

### **A future for my children**

"When my first child was born, my husband and I knew it was time to make a will. Along with protecting them, I also wanted to give something back to the Harris; a place that I have so many happy memories of and that has played a huge part in my life. I have been particularly impressed by some of the work they do behind the scenes, with young people, people with mental and physical health problems and in their with community groups. Photos of a project in which teenagers responded to the *Puck* painting through a graffiti project were really exciting and you could see how proud they were of their work and how much they enjoyed meeting the Mayor when she came to see what they'd achieved.

The Friends of the Harris was one of five charities to whom I chose to leave a percentage of my estate as there are also other causes I feel strongly about.

By leaving a gift in my will to the Friends of the Harris, I know that I am helping to protect the wonderful building and the works of art forever as well as making them accessible to everybody. It has given me immense peace of mind to know that a part of me will always be there.”

Please note that some names have been changed