

HARRIS YOUR PLACE

the HARRIS Spring Guide

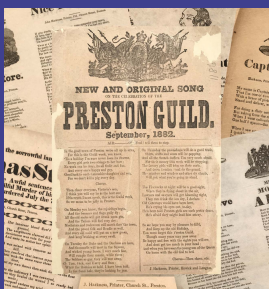
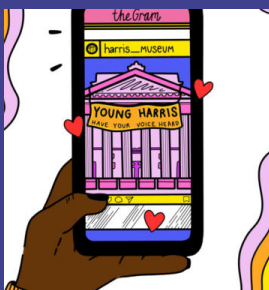


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Harris Your Place Update

Made possible thanks to our supporters, Harris Your Place is a £16 million project set to restore and reimagine the Harris for 21st-century audiences as a community, cultural and learning space.

You've told us what the Harris means to you...

Preston's hidden collections on show, new spaces to enjoy, family-friendly areas and more accessible facilities

Harris Your Place is more than simply preserving this much-loved building, the Harris wants to ensure that it remains a vibrant heart of the community. A place where people want to spend their time. Our aim is to create an audience-led museum, art gallery and library service which is accessible, interactive and engaging for all ages.



Harris Your Place Update

Throughout the Harris Your Place project, we've incorporated your ideas and listened to feedback from local communities. When the Harris re-opens we aim to attract an additional 100,000 visitors on top of the 350,000 visitors that we already attract, creating a quality cultural attraction for Preston and Lancashire

Harris Your Place Aims:

- A better welcome for more people – with a reopened and widened entrance on Lancaster Road, we will be a welcoming, safe and comfortable space that everyone can easily access and enjoy.
- A more exciting experience for you and your family – with displays and activities blending art, history and books, showing off the best of Preston – and your links with the rest of the world.
- Inspiration for Lancashire's communities and for artists – with a Creative Preston Gallery to create and display your work plus a Children's Space and Young People's Zone.
- Support for local jobs and businesses – Harris Your Place will draw more visitors to Preston, supporting your shops and services – and you'll enjoy an improved Harris café and shop plus additional meeting and events spaces.
- All in a beautifully refurbished Grade I listed building – for everyone – and fit for the next 100 years of Lancashire weather.



We are busy working behind the scenes at the Harris to prepare for reopening.



The Harris Library, IT Services and Shop are temporarily relocated to Preston Guild Hall, just around the corner from here. We are still active in the community and hosting pop-up events including exhibitions and workshops from other local spaces.



Behind the Scenes

The Harris may be closed for refurbishments until 2024 but we are delivering our services to the community.

Programme Steering Group

As we create new galleries we want to welcome our regular visitors and connect with new visitors too. We have recently created a group of people from our local community, to support us in planning our future exhibitions, activities and events. Our Programme Advisors will make suggestions, bring a positive outlook and fresh perspective, ask difficult questions, and use their local knowledge and experience to help shape new exhibitions and events that are relevant to the people of Preston.

Critical Friends

We would like to be accountable to you as we start out on our journey to be more community focused. We've recently recruited a group of "critical friends" which is a supportive group who can ask difficult questions using critical thinking to judge a situation that needs improvement.

Community Empowerment

Following our founder Edmund Harris' wishes, we are developing services committed to enriching people's lives through heritage and arts. We don't want to keep making decisions for others because we think we know best. We want to listen to our community and we want them to be able to talk openly with us to affect change. We're working together with local communities to make sure the Harris tells the story of Preston's diverse history and culture. It's important that Harris is a place local people can see themselves and have their voices heard.

Read our **Community Empowerment Guidelines** here!

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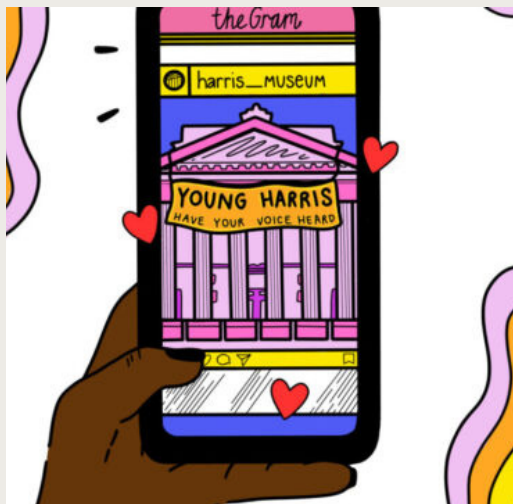


The Harris Youth Panel

The Harris aims to be more welcoming for young people and create projects, workshops, events and sometimes exhibitions based on what young people want.

The Harris Youth Panel is an advisory group made up of young people aged 12-18. They meet once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. Their role is to advise Harris staff on any decisions that relate to young people.

Over the last year, the panel have been co-developing the new youth space with Harris staff and external designers, including making decisions about how the room is designed: how it is fitted out, styles of furniture, colours of walls and also the types of art from the Harris' collections that they want on display. The new youth space will be a permanent feature on the ground floor of the Harris when it re-opens.



The Harris Volunteers

Harris Volunteers have been very busy behind the scenes. They have been volunteering within the community alongside Harris staff and our partner staff.



The volunteers have had specialist training to be able to clean and condition check the artworks and they are updating original condition reports to monitor any changes that may have been caused in the move, transportation and current storage environment.

Harris Volunteers have cleaned and checked around 20 paintings and have a few hundred to go!

Condition Checking

Harris Volunteers have also been getting hands on as Fine Art Collection Champions with the Harris' Fine Art Curator and Visitor Services Supervisor. They have been meeting weekly to care for part of the Harris' Fine Art Collection offsite, where the paintings are being stored temporarily until the Harris re-opens in 2024

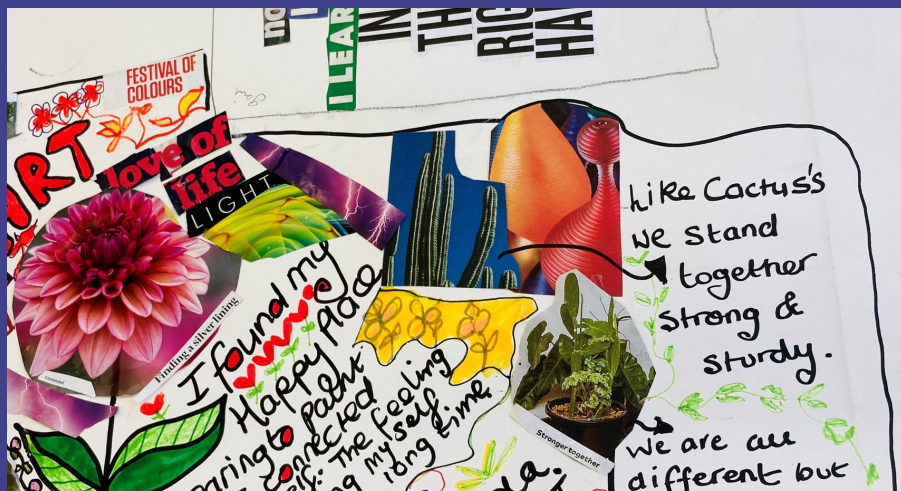


Foxton Art Project

Another volunteer has been supporting the weekly Foxton Art Project that we are running in partnership with The Foxton Centre.

Volunteering alongside Harris staff, Foxton staff and Foxton volunteers, as a practising artist our Harris Volunteer has been sharing their own artistic skills with the participants of the project, suggesting creative ideas and offering a helping hand with a caring approach.

There will be an exhibition of the art created during this project in July at the Foxton Centre.



Sign up to become a
Harris Volunteer here!

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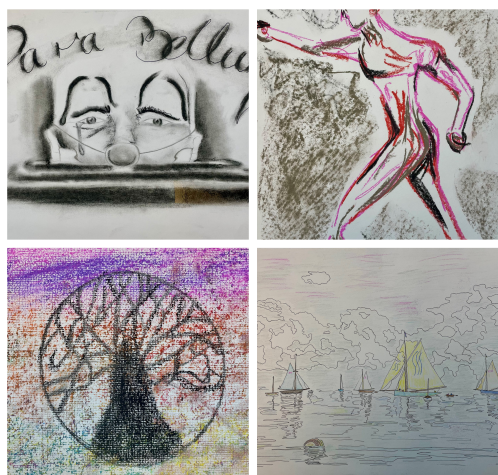
Working with HMP Preston

While The Harris is closed, we have been continuing to connect the community and work together to discover stories, reactions and interpretations relating to The Harris' collections.

We are encouraging communities to have a voice, to be involved in the decisions that affect them and most importantly, to know they are being listened to.

The Harris is partnering with six libraries within the Preston area; Ingol, Ribbleson, Freckleton, Kingsfold, Longridge and HMP Preston.

Focusing on the theme of 'Well-Being', this project is an opportunity to make an important contribution towards the museum's new vision as a cultural hub for Preston.



View the the HMP Preston Collection here!

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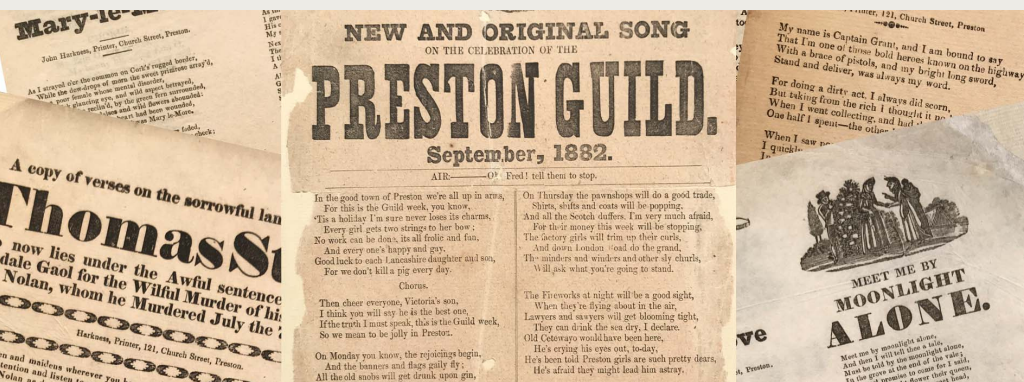
Preston Street Songs Exhibition

Open from 2 May 2023 | 8am until 5pm Monday to Saturday | Preston Market Hall

The Harris has joined forces with Preston Markets and students from The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) to curate a 'Harris in the City' exhibition which showcases a sample of ballads originally printed and published in the 1800s by Preston printer, John Harkness.

John Harkness was one of Britain's most popular and prolific printers of the 19th century. During this period, Preston was one of the country's main centres for writing, printing and publishing broadsides, songs, and ballads.

There will be a live performance of a selection of the songs and poems by singer Jennifer Reid within the Market Hall from 2:00pm on Saturday, 10 June.



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View the Harkness collection here!

The Harris Rebranding

As part of the Harris Your Place project, we want to be clear about who we are, what we are and why we exist. And we've needed your help to do it!

Extensive research including workshops, interviews, and surveys has been undertaken to understand what local people think. We've consulted with the local community, social media audiences, partners, volunteers and the Harris youth panel to provide your views on the Harris today and what you want in the future.



As part of this massive transformation Bird, a Preston-based design and branding agency, are working with us to create new branding. At the same time as the building is getting a makeover, the look and feel of the Harris brand is getting some attention too.

the HARRIS

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