

the HARRIS Summer Guide

HARRIS YOUR PLACE

SUMMER 2023

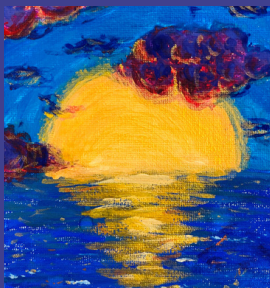


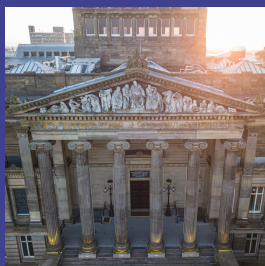
Table of Contents



Harris Your Place	02
How to Get Involved with The Harris	03
What's On This Summer <i>from The Harris 'Home From Home'</i>	05
Harris Your Place Update	21
Conlon Construction Interview	23
Celebrating the Appointment of DENW	24
Programme Advisory Group	25
Friends of The Harris	26
The Harris Volunteers	26
The Harris Youth Panel	29

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.



How To Get Involved With The Harris

Whilst we are closed for #HarrisYourPlace there are still plenty of ways to get involved with us and keep up to date with what's going on behind the scenes. Visit the Harris Library, IT Centre and Shop on Monday to Friday 9-5pm at The Guild Hall, Preston.

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



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](#)



What's On This Summer

The Harris Summer Events

What's on this summer from The Harris Home From Home? Join us for a free programme of summer events in Preston.

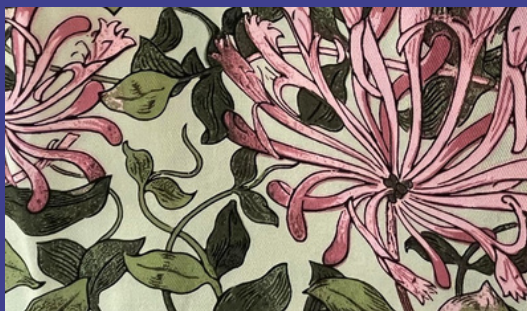
the HARRIS
HOME from HOME

FREE SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAMME

26 JULY RIVINGTON MORRIS COVERED MARKET 10AM - 12PM & 12.30PM - 2.30PM	7 AUGUST THE HISTORY HUNTER SESSIONS - TIMELINES AND MYSTERY OBJECTS GUILD HALL FOYER 11AM, 12PM, 1PM & 2PM	24 AUGUST THE RAG TAG ROADSHOW BUS STATION PLAZA 1PM & 4PM
31 JULY THE PENNY AND THE FAR THING COVERED MARKET 11AM, 12PM, 1PM & 2PM	10 AUGUST LET'S GROW PRESTON - SOWING SEEDS GUILD HALL FOYER 11AM & 1PM	29 AUGUST THE HISTORY HUNTER SESSIONS - TIMELINES AND MYSTERY OBJECTS GUILD HALL FOYER 11AM, 12PM, 1PM & 2PM
3 AUGUST LET'S GROW PRESTON - PRINTING LEAVES GUILD HALL FOYER 11AM & 1PM	14 AUGUST THE HISTORY HUNTER SESSIONS - TIMELINES AND MYSTERY OBJECTS GUILD HALL FOYER 11AM, 12PM, 1PM & 2PM	31 AUGUST LET'S GROW PRESTON - LIVING VEG BUCKETS GUILD HALL FOYER 11AM & 1PM

[Click here to book!](#)

The Harris Gift Shop



Discover beautiful gifts, many of which are unique to us at the Harris shop. Pop in today to purchase bespoke gifts and keepsakes including Harris and Preston memorabilia.

Our new summer William Morris Honeysuckle collection can now be purchased, including beautifully designed mugs, aprons, and teapots!

Largely associated with the revival of traditional British textiles, William Morris was a figurehead of the Arts and Crafts movement. He shunned Victorian-era industrialisation in favour of handmade production, which ultimately led to the creation of stunning designs that still prove popular today.

Visit The Harris Shop in Preston Guild Hall, Monday to Saturday 9:00am until 5:00pm. Follow the link below to order items online.



[Click here](#)

What Does a Brew Mean to You?

As part of [Harris Your Place](#), we are working to diversify the voices within our displays and stories told, collaborating with our communities and partners.



The Second Floor Balcony of The Harris is a space that showcases the rich history of the museum, displaying a wide range of objects, books, and artworks that explore Preston's global stories. From ancient Egypt to modern times, our collections offer a glimpse into the lives of people and societies around the world.

On the Second Floor, we will be looking at themes of trade and empire through more diverse perspectives. We acknowledge that we don't always have the answers, so we are working closely with local community groups

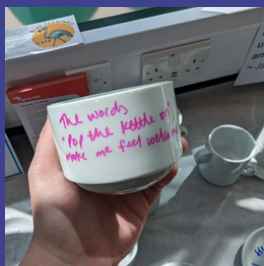
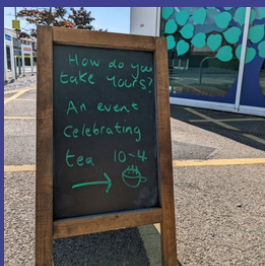
and partners to reinterpret the collections, to learn and share stories in honest and respectful ways. Through this approach, The Harris aims to provide a platform for diverse voices and perspectives to be heard and appreciated.

Project curator Raj Pal, who is a curator, historian and activist will be supporting the team in exploring these subjects and providing his expertise, guidance, and experience throughout the development of the designs.



Through this project, they will be working with members of The Harris team, UCLan academics such as Professor Sunny Xin Lui and Feixia Yu, Director of UCLan's Confucius Institute, and community members to explore the theme of tea through this lens.

We will be addressing the interpretation in our Discover Preston Gallery, alongside the story of cotton and Preston's mill heritage, to ensure we reflect these wider stories and impacts of this heritage within our storytelling.



Heritage Skills Day



Join Bullen Conservation, Preston Vocational Centre and Conlon Construction on:

Date: Thursday 31 August 2023

Time: 9.00am - 1.00pm

Location: Preston Flag Market

Drop by to experience free heritage skills demos, including sash window dismantling and refixing, as well as up close stone repairs.



Be amazed as you witness a master carver at work, creating intricate stonework for The Harris. Engage in conversations with our talented apprentices and discover the secrets behind their craft. See you there!



Harris Library Events

We're so much more than a place to borrow books! Baby Bounce and Rhyme for parents and children, support for applications online for the NHS Healthy Start scheme, plus much much more! If you are unable to access our library services at the Guild Hall, you can borrow books via the BorrowBox app. BorrowBox is the eBook and audiobook library for Lancashire libraries. You'll find a wide assortment of books available and you can sign up in minutes. All you need is your library card number and pin.

We are open Monday to Saturday from 9am till 5pm. Please note, we close at 5pm but our IT services are switched off at 4.40pm. Our IT centre is open all day for drop-ins, but if you would like to book ahead, you can book at the Guild Hall IT desk. You will be able to log on for up to 2 hours from 9am onwards.



Reading Heroes

Visit The Harris Library to join in with the summer reading scheme: Reading Heroes!

Reading Heroes is the brand-new summer reading programme offered in all libraries across Lancashire, which encourages children aged 4 to 12 (although not exclusively) to keep reading through the summer holidays, offering prizes for those who manage to read 5 books over the summer, and additional incentives for those who manage to also complete a number of challenges.

[Click here
to find out
more!](#)

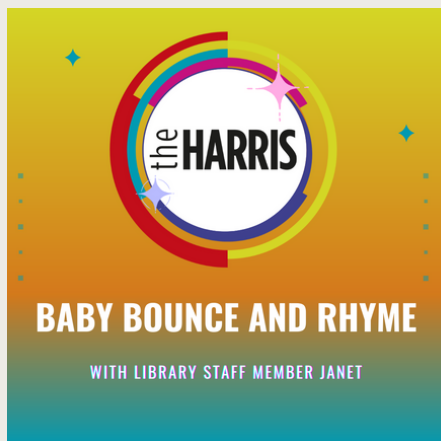


Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Baby Bounce & Rhyme and Sing-Along With Bounce & Rhyme At Home. Sharing songs and rhymes is a fun way for babies and toddlers to develop their language skills!

When: Every Tuesday from 10.30 - 11.00am

Where: The Harris Library in Preston Guild Hall



Did you know that this year from January to May 2023 we have welcomed 32,126 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 - follow the link to get started.

Proud to be a part of Lancashire Libraries Network.

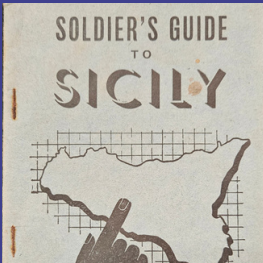
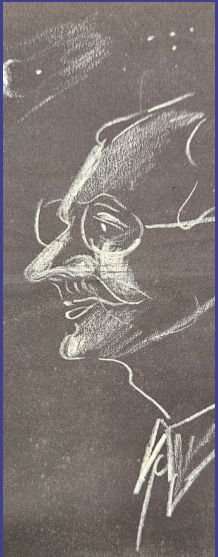
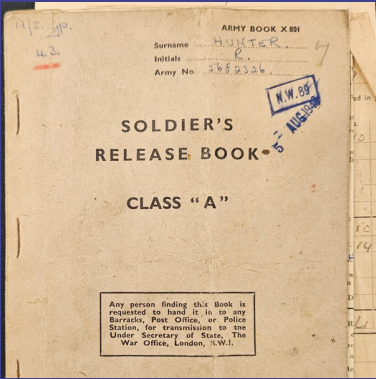


[Click here](#)

Their Finest Hour - Digital Collection Day

On Saturday 22nd July 2023 we held 'Their Finest Hour' Digital Collections Day at the Harris Library, where people brought items relating to the Second World War to be recorded and preserved as part of an online archive for future generations. Our History Curator enjoyed meeting you and hearing your stories.

Do you have any items related to the Second World War? Such as diaries, letters, photographs, memoirs, objects or stories about your family's experience in the war. Get in touch with us on social media or via email to find out how you can get involved and preserve your family's memories.



The Foxton Centre Arts Exhibition

Join us for an art exhibition from the 31st August hosted at The Foxton Centre in Preston as part of their "Celebrating The Foxton Community Day". This unique project explores the 5 steps to mental wellbeing using art, with a specific focus on connecting with other people and learning new skills.

At the exhibition, you'll be captivated by a remarkable group art project, where individual small canvases come together to form a large-scale artwork. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to admire individual artworks created by talented artists from the Foxton Centre Art Group.

Visitors are invited to:

Location: The Foxton Centre,
Knowsley St, PR1 3SA

Date: From 31 August until end
of September

Time: 1.00pm - 3.00pm on
Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays



The Harris is working in partnership with The Foxton Centre and has been delivering an art project for adults every Friday afternoon since January, making art together to improve wellbeing.

The Foxton Centre is a Preston-based charity with a longstanding commitment to working within the local community, supporting both adults and young people. Through this collaboration, we aim to inspire, uplift, and showcase the transformative power of art.



[Click here
to find out
more!](#)

20/20 Project



[Click here](#)

Check out our latest 20/20 Project blog post from our brilliant artist in residence - Hannah Sabapathy.

The 20/20 Project is a 3-year programme that supports 20 emerging ethnically diverse artists of colour to take up residencies with 20 public art collections across the country, leading to 20 new permanent acquisitions.

"In September last year I began the 20/20 residency with The Harris. The 20/20 residency enables twenty emerging artists of colour to work with twenty UK public art collections. Part of the global movement of goods and commodities is the global circulation of patterns and designs."

Discover the fascinating history behind The Textile Manufactures of India, compiled by John Forbes Watson.

The Atkinson Exhibition



Missing the Harris whilst we are closed? You can still see some of our paintings over at The Atkinson, Southport at their new exhibition, 'The Story So Far', which includes highlights from The Atkinson's collection and The Harris art collection.

All part of our loan programme whilst the Harris is closed for the Harris Your Place Project.

Date:

Saturday, 27 May 2023 until Saturday, 2 March 2024

Location:

The Atkinson, Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1DB

Free entry

[Click here
to find out
more!](#)

New Acquisition - Tony Heaton



We are happy to announce we have acquired a set of 5 prints by artist, Tony Heaton, including SUITE: FRUITS 2019 and Green Loop 2023. These will be displayed when we re-open in our Art Gallery.



Image copyright: Tony Heaton

New Acquisition - Azraa Motala



Image copyright: Azraa Motala. 'Unapologetic' is a co-commission with The Harris, Preston

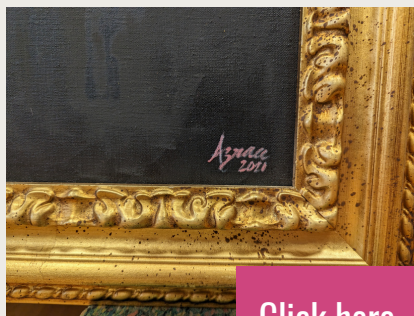
"Being a woman of colour is inherently political, especially when our identities have been stigmatised as a result of attitudes towards immigration and religion. Further fuelled by the media and cultural gatekeepers often promoting a narrative of "otherness". Unapologetic will challenge the rhetoric and provide a platform for an overlooked community of young British South Asian women based in Lancashire to self-represent in a society that lacks this authentic representation." – Azraa Motala

This portrait was part of the exhibition titled Unapologetic at Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery as part of the last British Textile Biennial in 2021. Unapologetic is a co-commission between the British Textile Biennial and The Harris.

Motala made a call out through South Asian women's network and groups, her own contacts and social media to invite women to participate as collaborators and subjects in the series of portraits. Once selected the women spent time with her in facilitated conversations about their experiences of identity, culture, misrepresentation and self-representation.

The group will visit The Harris when it reopens in 2025 to investigate the collections in order to interrogate the representation of women and the lack of representation of women like them.

Azraa's painting will be displayed in the Fine Art Gallery alongside a portrait of her choice from the Fine Art Collection. She will be writing the accompanying text for the label from her personal experience.



[Click here to find out more!](#)

The End of an Era

Some of you may remember the 'Sir Richard Arkwright' painting by Joseph Wright of Derby, which has been displayed in our Discover Preston Gallery since 2012.

We purchased this painting jointly with the National Portrait Gallery and it now has a new home for the next 10 years on display at their galleries. Be sure to check it out next time you are in London or look out for it when it returns in another 10 years!



Image copyright: National Portrait Gallery, London

The Links of the Chain are of Equal Strength - The Harris Mural

Wanting to see some art on your next visit to Preston?

Why not check out “The Links of the Chain are of Equal Strength” mural on the front of the Harris Hoardings. Unveiled last September, this mural revisits Preston’s rich textile history.



Created by local Artist Gavin Renshaw, with the help of students from two local schools and in partnership with The Courtauld Gallery.

[Click here to find out more!](#)

The Courtauld

The Harris in the Community

Since February, The Harris team has been working closely with UCLan's Public Engagement team to deliver 15 activity sessions for toddlers and parents/carers to enjoy together. The Harris volunteers and UCLan's student ambassadors have collaborated to run these fun sessions at Ingol Library, Ribbleson Library and St Matthew's Mission.



These sessions were created by UCLan members of staff and themed around the subjects: art, maths, history, archaeology and poetry, with an aim to make the subjects fun and interesting to the venues' service users and to introduce people to some of The Harris' collections.

Activities took a free-play style and helped to stimulate the toddlers' senses. For example, playing with clay in the archaeology sessions, eating and smelling fruit in the art sessions, and dressing up in the history sessions.

"The project was an ideal first volunteering role for me on a number of levels. As a former teaching assistant, I was able to use my

experience of working with children and one of the libraries I went to was in my local area. The project ran for a number of months enabling me to get to know other Harris volunteers and UCLAN student ambassadors. Finally it was great fun and a good introduction to some of The Harris' paintings /artefacts." - Harris Volunteer Nikki Tate.



This project has now come to an end, but since the activities were so popular, The Harris and UCLan will be kickstarting the activities again come Autumn!

Check out our future newsletters and social media for updates.

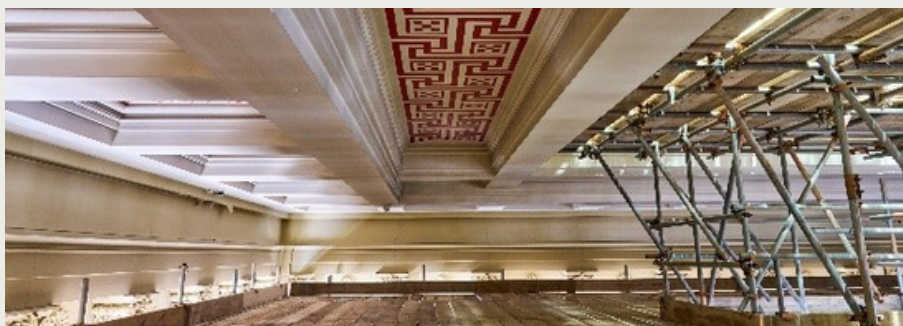


Harris Your Place Update

We are currently in the construction phase of the Harris Your Place project with our main contractor, Conlon Construction, on site. Today inside the Harris you would see a very different space, with our collection decanted and the internal space stripped back, removing the mezzanine floors, basement toilet block and staffroom.

As part of our commitment to safety, we successfully removed asbestos that was identified during building work. The transformation is taking shape as the first-floor rooms are being treated to their first fresh, vibrant coat of paint.

Down in the basement, we've completed the initial drainage, screeding, and waterproofing phase. This crucial step ensures a solid foundation for the rest of the project.



Have you been wondering how sustainable The Harris Your Place Project is?

As a Victorian Grade 1 listed building in the centre of Preston, The Harris presents a challenge for delivering the Council's net zero ambitions.

However, the new design is utilising a number of energy-saving and decarbonising measures in its renovation, including the replacement of lighting with LEDs, and works done to the building's fabric, including a full replacement of the heating system that will aid heating efficiency. Several air-source heat pumps will also be installed, providing the heat source for the six new Air Handling Units.



Wondering what to expect when we reopen?

The most innovative aspect of Harris Your Place is the integration of our collections and removing the traditional separation between the library, art gallery and museum by combining these areas together to share our rich narratives.

Have you been wondering if our exhibition programme will change in the redevelopment?

The exhibition programme will be more ambitious; through the Arts Council Capital Investment Programme, we have been able to upgrade the environmental conditions in our special exhibition galleries to meet government indemnity standards.

This will allow us to present loans from other museums nationally and bring in bigger exhibitions!



Eager to find out more about the Harris Your Place Project?

Follow the link below to see the progress so far, and what The Harris will look like when we reopen!



[Click here](#)

An Interview with Conlon Construction

Our contractor, Conlon Construction, is a local Preston construction company. David Reagan, Site Manager, took time out of his busy schedule to catch up with Invest Preston about the #HarrisYourPlace Project.



Tell us about your job role for Conlon Construction

I'm the construction site manager at The Harris project in the heart of Preston, and I'm responsible for health and safety, along with keeping the build on track.

Tell us a little bit more about the project you're currently working on

The Harris is a Grade I-listed building, undergoing a once-in-a-generation remodelling and refurbishment project, from the roof to the basement and everywhere in between.

It's been emptied, scaffolded, and we're giving it the care and modernisation it needs, while preserving the building's incredible historic features.

At 130 years old, the building has always acted as a museum. I visited a few years ago with family and couldn't concentrate on the LEGO exhibition we'd come to see because the building itself took me aback. Working on a project of such a historic magnitude is a career highlight and a privilege.

What kind of work might you do on a day-to-day basis?

I'm on-site daily, walking throughout the project to ensure works remain safe and correct. One moment I'll be checking that we're working to the most up-to-date plans, the next I'm overseeing progress on the roof. Every day – and every hour, in fact – is different.



Celebrating the Appointment of DENW

We're delighted to announce the appointment of Disability Equality North West as our new Critical Friends.



Disability Equality NW was established in 1996 as the 'Preston Information Project'. Initially based in a small office basement with only one member of staff and two volunteers, the organisation has developed into a large user-led service with over 20 members of staff and over 20 volunteers. At its core, the organisation prides itself on rights, equal opportunities, diversity and social inclusion for all.

Our need for a Critical Friend group arose from our desire to respond to the needs of our local community.

We chose to work in partnership with Disability Equality NW as their core values very much align with our own, in particular, the drive to make The Harris more accessible for people with disabilities. The drive for accessibility is reflected in our plans for redevelopment, which include an audio description area of the Egyptian Balcony for those who are visually impaired. However, we can always do more to ensure that everyone gets to enjoy this cultural space, and that's why Disability Equality NW have been appointed. Their collaboration, advice and suggestions will be crucial in developing The Harris into an inclusive space.

If you would like to share your suggestions for improving access to the Harris, please get in touch with Kyra: k.milnes@preston.gov.uk / 01772 905412

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 of local people who represent voices from different areas of Preston's communities, including, families, local artists and young people.

The group will help select new exhibitions and have a say in what exhibitions, activities and events they would like to see at The Harris. The group will work together on ideas for public events which appeal to the Preston community and share positive, creative ideas and suggestions.

Councillor Peter Kelly, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure Services at Preston City Council said: *"Local communities are of utmost importance to us, their participation and opinions are valued and considered throughout all the work we do. This approach represents a new way of working for museums adopting a collaborative and co-curated approach to our programme decisions to ensure The Harris genuinely meets the needs of visitors and communities. Working in this way will ensure The Harris programme and offer reflects the diversity of our visitors and communities and ensures The Harris remains relevant and cherished."*



Friends of The Harris

The Friends of The Harris is a membership scheme for our supporters. The membership fee directly contributes to the upkeep of The Harris building and supports our conservation efforts.

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:

[Click here](#)



The Harris Volunteers

Our volunteers are always busy behind the scenes, including assisting with events such as The Harris workshop at Preston City Mela and helping with The Harris May half-term events.

The Fine Art Collection Champions are still busy behind the scenes assisting the Harris staff with Collections Care. 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. They meet often to examine, gently clean and condition check paintings from The Harris's permanent collection.



A volunteer spoke about their experience: *"This involves using soft brushes and small portable vacuum cleaners to remove dust and grime from the works and their frames' fronts, backs, and sides. After the cleaning, the condition checking takes place. Each volunteer carefully examines the piece and frame they have cleaned, and notes down any imperfection or damage that has occurred. We identify works and familiarise ourselves with them; and importantly - provide future cleaners and restorers with a guide to establish whether any new, further damage has taken place."* - Harris Volunteer, Iain.

The Harkness Project is digitalising and sharing more widely the Harkness Collection of Broadside Ballads given to the Harris in the 1950's by book collector John Henry Spencer. These have been used over the years by researchers and are a mixture of Victorian Street songs, poems, ballads and Folk Theatre accounts of Grisly Trials of Preston and events like Preston Guild. This project is in collaboration with Lancashire archives and UCLan students and Harris volunteers worked hard behind the scenes with the aim to make the collections more accessible.



"My role was to get it in a digital form that we can use later on to produce searchable catalogue and resources... I found it really interesting.. Almost exciting to be able to read the stuff.. and be with the stuff, I enjoyed that." - Harris Volunteer, Iain.

The Preston Street Songs exhibition at Preston Market concluded with a live performance of the Victorian Harkness Ballads Performance by Jennifer Reid on Saturday 10th June 2023.

You can find out more about the project and watch the performance on our YouTube channel:



[Click here](#)

Sign up to be a Harris Volunteer!

Are you over 16? Looking to gain skills and experiences in the arts sector? Wanting to get involved in the community? Sounds like you'd be a great Harris volunteer! We encourage all ages 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.

We will try to match your skills and interests with a role in the Harris that is just right for you. Benefits of signing up to be a volunteer include: regular volunteer newsletter, meetings and project updates, exciting opportunities to work with collections and help out with events.

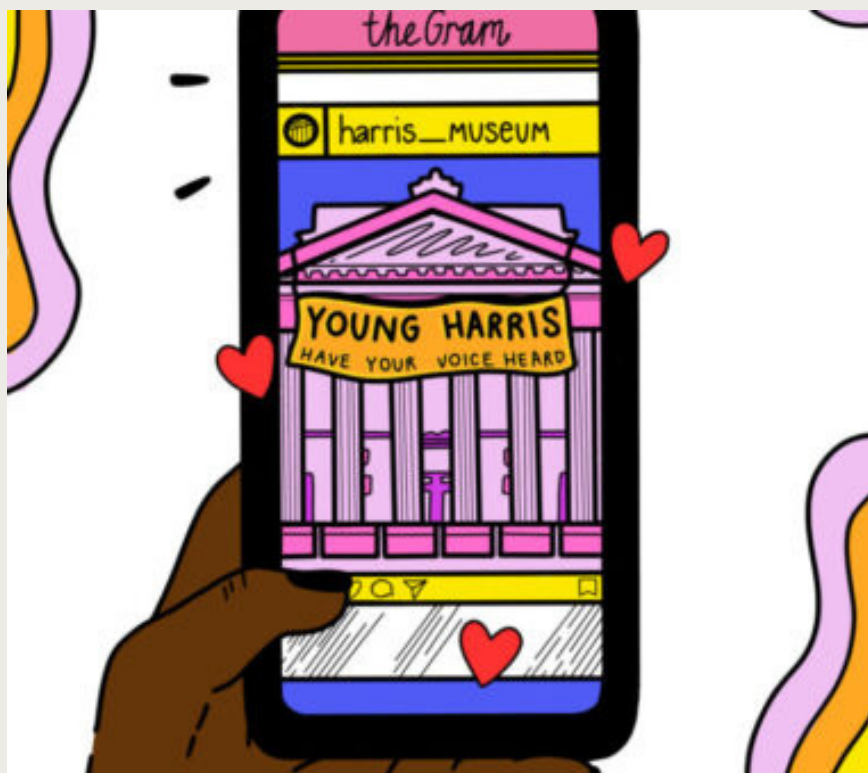
To find out about current opportunities and sign up as a volunteer, visit our volunteer portal.



[Click here](#)



The Harris Youth Panel



The Harris aims to be more welcoming for young people and create projects, workshops, and events 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.

Sign up by emailing our Communities and Volunteers Officer Kyra Milnes: k.milnes@preston.gov.uk.



Preston
City Council

**Preston's festival of free arts,
music and performances!**



Friday 15 - Sunday 17
September
Preston City Centre



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



HM Government



@LancsEncounter

lancsencounter.co.uk



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

*Connect with us by tagging the
Harris in your social media posts*

#HARRISYOURPLACE



LinkedIn

@Harris Museum,
Art Gallery &
Library



Facebook

@HarrisMuseum
andArtGallery



Instagram

@harris_museum



Twitter

@HarrisPreston

Contact us

theharris@preston.gov.uk
www.theharris.org.uk
01772 258248

the **HARRIS**



Preston
City Council

