

the HARRIS Winter Guide

HARRIS YOUR PLACE

WINTER 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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Celebrating 130 Years of The Harris



On Thursday, October 26 2023, we celebrated 130 years of The Harris!

This milestone represents not just a historical achievement but also a dedication to shaping the future of culture, community, and learning in Preston. Since its beginning in 1893, The Harris has been a beacon of culture and learning in the heart of Preston. Over the past century and a quarter, it has evolved into a vibrant hub for the community, a treasure trove of knowledge, and a space where creativity thrives.

To mark this momentous occasion, The Harris is embracing the future with the Harris Your Place project. This visionary project is restoring and reimagining The Harris as a space that bridges the past and the future, a community, cultural, and learning centre that engages and inspires all.

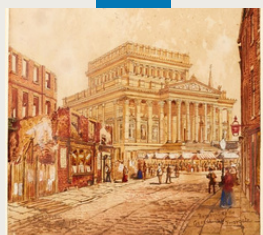
Councillor Peter Kelly, Cabinet member for Arts and Culture at Preston City Council, said: *“As we celebrate The Harris’ 130th anniversary, we are not just looking back on history, but forward to a future where culture, community, and innovation unite. The Harris Your Place project is a testament to our commitment to enriching lives and preserving our heritage. Together, we embark on a journey where the past inspires the future.”*

As The Harris prepares to reopen in 2025, the Harris Your Place capital project is set to ensure the highest standards of safety, quality, and preservation for the treasured Grade I listed building and collections. The commitment to preserving the Grade I listed building has evolved with the times, incorporating accessibility enhancements and a renewed focus on our communities needs, ensuring the reopening in 2025 is nothing short of extraordinary.

130 Exhibition



To mark 130 years, our curators have selected a few favourite collection items to display in The Harris Library at The Guild Hall, Preston. This includes some of our new acquisitions, such as Christine Cherry's ceramic mug and the black lycra binder created by Ollie Coles.



Click here to read more about the items we have recently acquired...



[Click here](#)



Visit our YouTube channel to find out more about our 130th birthday celebrations...



[Click here](#)

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

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BECOME A VOLUNTEER

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BECOME A HARRIS FRIEND

[Click here](#)

JOIN THE YOUTH PANEL

[Click here](#)

TAG THE HARRIS IN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

#HARRISYOURPLACE



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@HarrisMuseumandArtGallery



INSTAGRAM

@harris_museum



X

@HarrisPreston



YOUTUBE

Harris Museum & Art Gallery



LINKEDIN

Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library

Harris Your Place

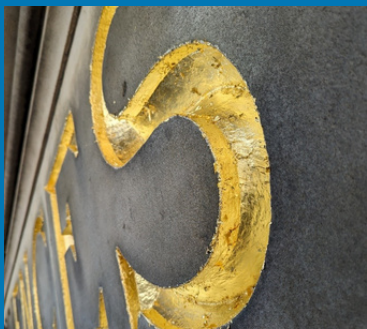
Harris Your Place is a £16 million project set to restore and reimagine The Harris for 21st century audiences as a cultural learning space. This project aims to protect the building, our collections and the stunning architecture for future generations whilst enhancing accessibility and positioning The Harris as a community hub for Preston and Lancashire.

The capital project 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.



Harris Your Place Updates

You may have noticed that The Harris' exterior covering has been taken down as the scaffolding underneath is coming down in phases from each of The Harris' facades. The careful stonework cleaning, regilding of the pediment inscriptions, and window repairs have now been completed externally. Works are still ongoing internally by Conlon Constructions and other local trades in preparation for a 2025 reopening.



At 130 years old, the exterior of The Harris building is undergoing a major transformation to restore it to its former glory. The latest restoration efforts involved the delicate application of around 2,300 80mm x 80mm leaves of 24ct gold to the pediment inscription. As the scaffolding begins to come down around the building you may notice the shiny new gold lettering!



Orbis Conservation

A number of our collection items, including this earthenware lion, were recently taken out of storage in preparation for Orbis Mount Makers' visit. The items were then measured by Orbis, specialists in framing and mounting, in preparation for the individual mounts that they will be creating to display the pieces.



Click Netherfield

As our Harris Your Place transformations continue, we look to improve the showcasing of our collection pieces. We recently took a trip to Click Netherfield in Livingston to have a look at our brand-new display cases. We can't wait for you all to see our collection pieces displayed in our new state-of-the-art units when we reopen in 2025.

Click here to watch our #HarrisYourPlace Q&A with Mike, the owner and managing director of Click Netherfield!



[Click here](#)

The Harris Shop

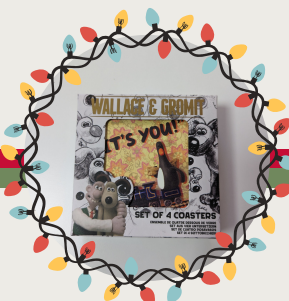


The season for gift giving has arrived and look no further than The Harris Shop to purchase your gifts.

From Christmas-themed gifts to Harris collections, Preston memorabilia and much more... The Harris Shop has you covered. We've thought of everything, from children's stocking fillers to gifts for those people a little harder to buy for. Treat your loved ones to special jewelry or bespoke artist-made gifts this festive season.

Why not buy The Preston and The Harris 2024 calendar? 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. Available to buy now for £9.99!

Visit The Harris Shop in our temporary home at The Guild Hall, Preston, Monday to Saturday 9:00am until 5:00pm. [Click here to purchase Harris favourites from our online shop...](#)



The Harris Library

We are open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm. **Please note:** 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.

[Click here](#)

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. Click the link to get started!

Library Explorers

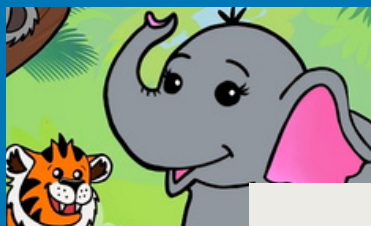


Click for more info

[Click here](#)

Bring your little ones to The Harris Library to join in with the Library Explorers scheme which encourages children up to the age of four to read with the help of various fictional character stickers, including the Lancashire Reading Dragon and the Dream Fairies.

Little Steps



Click for more info

[Click here](#)

Children aged two to five years can join in with the Little Steps reading scheme, where you meet friendly jungle animals who will help you learn about new topics with recommended reading and exciting activities.



Festive Season Opening Times

Closed - Monday 25 & Tuesday 26 December

Open - Wednesday 27 December – Saturday

30 December 9am – 5pm

Closed - Monday 1 January 2024

Open - Tuesday 2 January onwards

9am – 5pm

Did you know that we welcomed 44,908 visitors between April and October 2023? And we can't wait to welcome you too!

Proud to be a part of
Lancashire Libraries Network

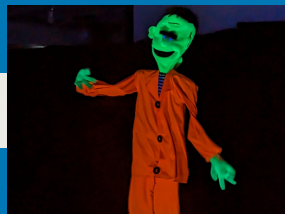
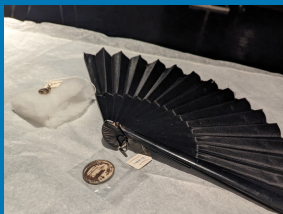


What We've Been Up To...

October Half Term

What a great October we had! From fun October half term children's activities to some spooktacular adult events, the month was full of excitement. We were joined by Magic Light Productions for some spooky puppet making and Spooky Goings On (UV Puppet Show). Meanwhile, the adults enjoyed an Evening of Victorian Magic where visitors were also treated to a peep into some of our spooky collection items by James, our Collections and Programmes Manager.

Sheila Walsh visited us for some spooky stories for children and Preston's haunted tales for adults. We also enjoyed watching some spooky family films - Coco and The Addams Family. In The Harris Library, children got creative making some spooky masks with our library team while toddlers participated in a special spooky edition of Baby Bounce and Rhyme.



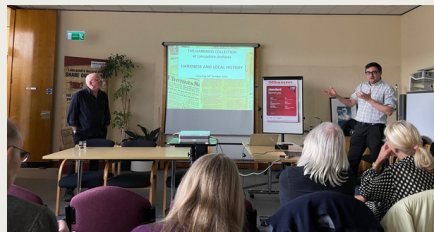
Freshers Fair

Harris staff members Amelia and Janet attended Preston College's Freshers Fair to tell people about The Harris' plans for our new young people's space, 'No.9', and how they can get involved with decision-making at The Harris by joining our Youth Panel. We were asking the question "What would the perfect event for young people look like?" to help inform The Harris' programming.



Harkness Study Day

Speakers and musicians gathered at Lancashire Archives on October 21 for an enjoyable study day looking at the life and work of broadside ballad printer John Harkness. His extensive collection of street songs published in Preston between the 1840s and 1890s have recently been digitised and contain an intriguing window into Victorian street culture. This collaboration between The Harris, UCLan and Lancashire Archives brought together speakers who talked about how the ballads fit into the wider history of performance and the intriguing ‘between the lines’ perspective they can offer on a range of subjects. The day also featured a rare performance from musicians Gregg Butler and Tom Walsh of Strawhead.



The Harris on tour...



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

Toddler Sessions at Ingol Library

Fridays 10 - 11am

16 February 2024 - *Golden dream*: sensory play with apples and painting with your toddler

23 February 2024 - *Trees for Toddlers*: Enjoy poems and paintings about nature

1 March 2024 - *Exploring shapes in art and life*: Bring shapes, patterns and structures to life

8 March 2024 - *Playtime in the Past*: Join us for a trip back in time with your toddler

15 March 2024 - *Potted Prehistory*: Let's explore and create our own playful pottery

the **HARRIS**

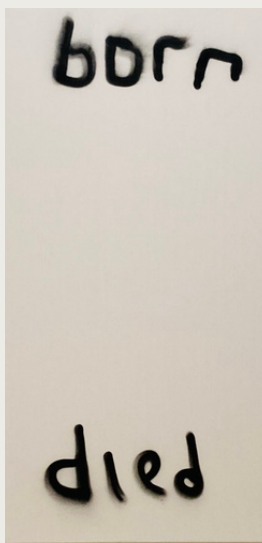
Learn more about the project and get a taste of what to expect by following the link.

[Click here](#)

The Foxtton Centre Art Group Trip to Liverpool

As part of The Harris' ongoing partnership with The Foxtton Centre, we went out on a day trip with eight members of the Foxtton Centre Art Group to the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool on Friday, 3 November. It was a brilliant day out for all! The staff at the Walker gave the group complimentary tickets to see both of their spotlight exhibitions: The John Moores Painting Prize 2023 and Photie Man.

© of the artist Richie Culver



The complimentary tickets really helped to remove financial barriers for the group making it fully accessible. We enjoyed being together and being outside of the centre where we normally meet as we were able to get to know each other a bit more. The John Moores Painting Prize got us all talking about what 'good' art is, especially the painting 'Born Died' by Richie Culver. This exhibition challenged our perception of what art could be. The trip has definitely inspired the group, so watch this space for what they create next!

- ✿ *"I come to the art group for the social aspect – meeting new people - and I've started to make some good friends. I used to spend a lot of time in my flat and it's shown me there's a world out there. I get to spread my wings and meet people. I also go to the social Tuesday meetings."*
- ✿ *"I appreciated the complexity of some of the art. Some of them were rubbish and some of them were alright. I enjoyed the atmosphere of the gallery, the calmness, like being in church. I felt relaxed in there. I may not have liked all the art on the walls but there was a peaceful atmosphere."*
- ✿ *"It was my first time going to a gallery. I was surprised at how much I enjoyed the atmosphere. I enjoyed some of the paintings because they reminded me of some of the people in my life in a joking manner."*



The Harris on tour...



the HARRIS

tfc
we are here

THE FOXTON CENTRE ART GROUP

This colourful project explores the 5 steps to mental wellbeing using art, with a special focus on connecting with other people and learning new skills. The Harris is working in partnership with The Foxton Centre and has been delivering this project for adults every Friday afternoon since January. The Foxton Centre is a Preston-based charity with a longstanding commitment to working within the local community. Through this collaboration, we aim to support, inspire, uplift, and celebrate the transformative power of art.

Joining us is easy, just pop down! The art group runs every Friday from 1pm until 4pm at The Foxton Centre, C/O Unit 10-12 Oakham Court, (up the stairs/ramp to the first floor), Preston, PR1 3XP.

For more information and a chat about the group, please contact:

- Kyra (The Harris): 01772 905412
- Amelia (The Harris): 01772 906505
- Samuel (The Foxton): 07483088075

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

[Click here](#)

Introducing The Harris' New Content and Marketing Assistant and Events and Social Media Co-ordinator

In an effort to forge a deeper connection with an audience of young people, The Harris has welcomed two new members of staff to their team. As young people themselves, Nanci and Almaas will be working to engage other young people with The Harris.

Nanci



Almaas



Nanci: Content and Marketing Assistant

Nanci is working alongside the marketing team to create content for The Harris' social media platforms, website and other Harris publications. One of her main aims in this role is to find new and exciting ways to promote The Harris and its events, with a particular focus on accessing an audience of young people.

Nanci said: "I'm thrilled to be a part of The Harris' marketing team. I have many fond memories of visiting The Harris when I was growing up, so to be behind the scenes now is such a fantastic experience."

I absolutely adore anything creative, so this role is incredibly fulfilling to me."

"After completing my film studies, journalism, and investigative journalism degrees, I was worried that I wouldn't find many opportunities to show my creative side, but The Harris allows me so much creative freedom and I love being surrounded by other creative people at work, it is wonderfully inspiring.

History, the arts, and all things culture are hugely important to me and I'm really excited to share my love for those things with others, especially young people. I really want to encourage other people my age to engage with the museum, art gallery and library now and when it fully reopens in 2025.

I really hope that, in this role, I can show young people how important they are to The Harris - we are the future, after all!"

Almaas: Events and Social Media Co-ordinator

Almaas is working with the Communities team to encourage a focus on young people. She is working on developing an event, specifically targeted at young people, and is using her role within The Harris to be a voice for the wider community of young people in and around Preston. While working at The Harris, Almaas wants to ensure that young people are included and involved in everything The Harris does.

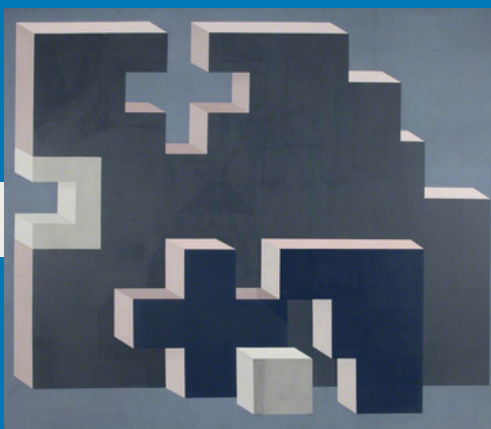
Almaas said: "Receiving this opportunity to be able to work alongside the Harris Team has been wonderful to experience. I am lucky to work alongside a team of friendly and capable people who are always willing to help out.

Prior to this role, I studied English Literature at the University of Central Lancashire and am now able to provide a voice for the fellow young people of Preston. As well as working with capable co-workers, I get to meet the general public specifically young people of Preston and can receive direct feedback in relation to my current project.

I feel as if this is one of the most important parts of my role here, at The Harris, to be a voice among the young people in the city. We aim to reach out to them to provide a better Preston for them to enjoy and a safe and inclusive community."

The Harris Youth Panel Update

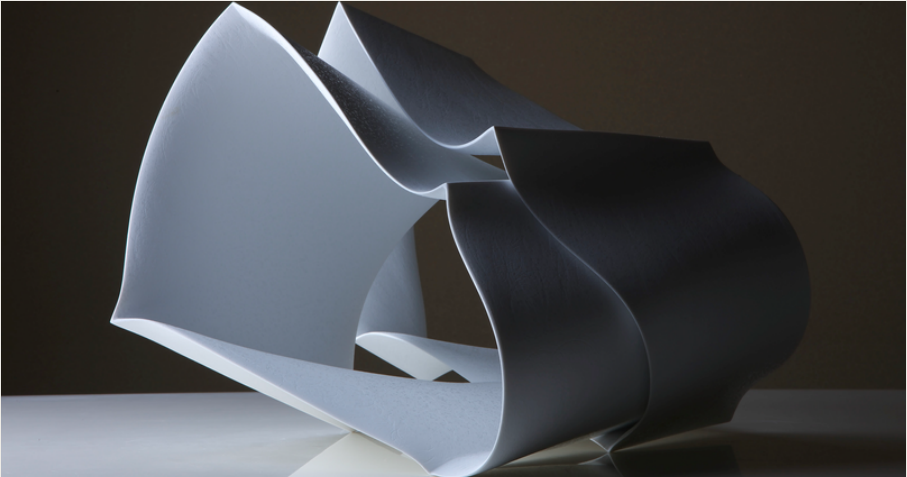
Eight young people aged 12 to 17 currently make up The Harris' Youth Panel. Two of the young people have been part of the panel since at least 2020 - that's dedication for you! The panel meets once a month, and for the past three meetings, they have been getting their heads around how the new young people's space 'No.9' at The Harris might run. They have been transporting their imaginations through time to 2025 to imagine what kind of atmosphere 'No.9' will have and what kind of attitudes they hope Harris staff will have towards all the different types of young people that will use 'No.9'.



© of the artist Michael Vaughan

The panel have recently met up with the Access All Areas Project which is led by young disabled people and professional poet Helena Ascough. They gave the panel lots of advice! In particular, they discussed how to make activities, projects and events for young people more accessible and inclusive through things like awareness of dietary requirements and allergies if they provide refreshments; locations for activities and making sure that they are easy to get to and safe; dates and times that suit young people; Autism awareness and thinking about young people that might need quiet spaces to go to if they get sensory overloads.

The panel also talked for the first time about young people who are parents and how to consider their needs so they can still get involved and not feel excluded from The Harris' events for young people.



© of the artist Shigekazu Nagae

Staff

A management team of young people getting paid

A team of young people volunteers

No uniforms

Mental Health First Aiders

Great communicators

Traits

Honest and open

Kind

Supportive

Young attitudes

Friendly

Trusting

Straightforward

Courageous

Discreet

Reliable

If you are part of a group of young people aged 12+ or know one who would be interested in meeting up with The Harris Youth Panel to share ideas, give advice, or team up, please get in touch!
Contact Kyra: k.milnes@preston.gov.uk or 01772 905412.

The Hub

© Ian McKeever, DACS 2023



'Old Trees - Blue'

© Bridgeman Images



'The mellow year is hastening to its close'

© Harris Art Gallery



'A Wind-Swept Shore'

© by permission of the copyright holder



'Reflections'

Some of our customers that used to come into The Harris to use the computers regularly have still been using the computers in the temporary IT centre in the Guild Hall. They were involved in the decision making process to select a display of paintings for The Hub. We felt that they would know better than us about what might suit the regular visitors that will be using that room once we reopen.

We invited all the current users of the IT centre to consultation sessions with us and we have now had three sessions with a group of enthusiasts. We have been humbled at their vested interest in The Harris and their consideration of the needs of others.

We started the first session off with a selection of our own choices to narrow it down and get us started. But boy oh boy, did we get it wrong! We were soon put right by the group and they have now guided us in the right direction. The group wanted paintings that were for 'local people', things that the people of Preston could relate to. They wanted to see things that they thought were easy to read and easy to understand; calming and possibly traditional. Kind on the eye in other words! They felt that the art on display needed to act as a temporary distraction for anyone using the room as they might need a break from the computer screens. This group is going to curate their chosen paintings, four of which can be seen here, in the room themselves - positioning each one so that it complements the others and in places in the room that will please other visitors.

Introducing Our New Acquisitions

We are excited to announce we have more new costume and fashion acquisitions joining The Harris collections.



This Saree Suit, designed by Felix Roche, BA Fashion Design student at UCLan (University of Central Lancashire), was shown as part of his graduate collection 'Saree Not Sorry' in June 2023. Felix is from London and is of Sri Lankan Tamil heritage. This design symbolises a mixture of Eastern and Western cultures as well as traditional tailoring with traditional South Asian dress.

Felix achieved this by using knots on the sleeves to symbolise the marriage of both his cultures, but also to symbolise the Hindu wedding tradition of tying the newlyweds' garments together – typically the bride's veil and the groom's sash. Alongside combining the fluidity of draping and pleating from traditional sarees to a Western suit, Felix hopes to emasculate the common perception attached to it and instead allow the garments to exist as gender-neutral pieces.

The Saree Suit will occupy an exhibition space dedicated to identity when we reopen in 2025.



Wedding Dress



We have acquired this wedding dress from a Preston dressmaker, Hatfield and Butler, in purple grosgrain silk with a ruffled cream silk collar and cuffs and pearl border trim.

The wedding dress was made by a Preston dressmaker and has their label on the inside waist tape, which reads Butler & Hatfield, Costumier & Milliners, Preston.

In the 19th century, there was a fashion for British dressmakers to style themselves as 'costumiers' to sound more attractive to the fashionable elite. This dress was worn by the great grandmother of the donor's husband, and the wedding took place on 20 May 1899.

Black Lycra Binder



We have acquired this black lycra binder, hand painted with flowers and the words 'When in Bloom'.

The binder was created by Ollie Coles, a tattoo artist based here in Preston. Ollie painted the binder as a reaction to the transphobia he experienced - creating something beautiful out of pain.

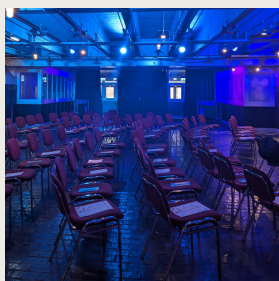
'When in Bloom' refers to coming into yourself, progress, growth, and becoming the person you truly are. The Harris acquired Ollie's binder so we can share and preserve his story with our communities and for future generations. Keep an eye on our social media for even more new acquisitions coming soon!

What's been on this Winter with The Harris

We can't wait to mark Christmas 2023 in Preston! We've had some festive fun including craft events, creative workshops and a programme of festive family film favourites.



Look out for a continuation of our film programme coming in January and February 2024 over on The Harris website.



Christmas

IN PRESTON

Christmas is coming...

Get ready for an exciting winter
season packed full of festive
events in Preston!

www.visitpreston.com



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Preston
City Council



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