

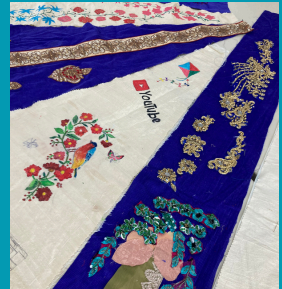
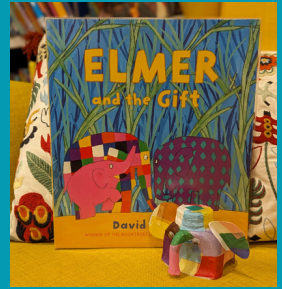
# THE HARRIS

## Summer Guide

HARRIS YOUR PLACE

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SUMMER 2024



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*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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# Table of Contents

<b>How To Get Involved with The Harris</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Harris Your Place</b>	<b>05</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Crane Operation</i></li><li>• <i>Interior Updates</i></li><li>• <i>Q&amp;A with Dave Ragan from Conlon Construction</i></li></ul>	
<b>Our Half-Term Recap</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Our Summer Events Programme</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>The Harris Shop</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>The Harris Library</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Art and Wellbeing Project Update</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Sahara Project Update</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Programme Advisory Group Interview with Tony Rigg</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Friends of The Harris</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>The Harris Volunteers</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>The Harris Youth Panel Update</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>New Acquisitions</b>	<b>19</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Jacqueline Bishop: 'Fauna'</i></li><li>• <i>The John Weld Commission</i></li><li>• <i>IWM Artist Announcement: Khaled Hafez</i></li></ul>	

# How To Get Involved With The Harris

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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**

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OUT ABOUT HARRIS EVENTS**

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[Click here](#)

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[Click here](#)

## TAG THE HARRIS IN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

#HARRISYOURPLACE



**FACEBOOK**

@HarrisMuseumandArtGallery



**INSTAGRAM**

@harris\_museum



**X**

@HarrisPreston



**YOUTUBE**

Harris Museum & Art Gallery



**LINKEDIN**

Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library

# Harris Your Place

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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.

[Click here](#)

Read our latest Harris Your Place updates on our website.



## Crane Operation

The Harris has reached a significant phase in its ongoing restoration project. A crane operation has been completed to install Air Handling Units and roof gantries onto The Harris roof from Lancaster Road.


As part of the wider Harris Your Place project, these works are supported by Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme specifically to improve the environmental conditions and standards of the special exhibition galleries located on the second floor, which will be named Gallery One.

New Air Handling Units will improve the way The Harris achieves and maintains conditions in the gallery and will enable The Harris to display a wider range of art works in these spaces than previously possible, working with a wide range of partners to deliver large-scale exhibitions and continuing to support high-quality cultural experiences in Preston.


The installation of Air Handling Units and roof gantries marks a major milestone in The Harris restoration project. This operation signifies our commitment to preserving heritage while embracing environmental responsibility. We are looking forward to welcoming visitors back to The Harris in Spring 2025.

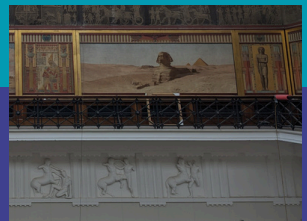
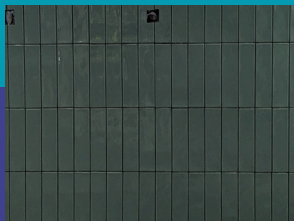
## Interior Updates

Inside The Harris, the interior scaffolding has been removed, revealing the stunning ceilings and balconies as restoration work continues.

 New LED lighting has been added, the original windows have been restored and now open to support natural ventilation throughout the building.

 The Changing Places toilet has now been installed.

 The friezes around the rotunda and near the Egyptian Balcony have been thoroughly cleaned, restoring them to their former glory.





We spoke to Dave Ragan from Conlon Construction, Site Manager at The Harris Your Place project about his role throughout the capital project...

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

*I'm the Site Manager of The Harris, I've been here from the very start. I was the first one on site and I'll be the last to leave. I run the site from day to day. I'm the link between the designers and the tradesmen making sure the drawings are followed and everyone works safely and to a high standard. I deal with any problems that arise throughout the day which can be just about anything; no two days are ever the same.*

**Tell us a little more about what you like best about this project.**

*It's interesting because it's an iconic building, I'd only ever been to the building once before and when I came I was more interested in the building rather than the actual collection. I was walking up and down the stairs looking at the building and how amazing it was while my wife and children looked at the exhibits. It's a pleasure to work here – an absolute honour. I've been here over 18 months and it still gives me a buzz coming to work each day.*

**Do you have any apprentices on site – it must be so exciting working on an important project at the start of your career?**

*Yes it's been really rewarding for apprentices to start their career on a project of this scale – we have had a couple of joinery apprentices, a Trainee Site Manager and a Trainee Quantity Surveyor on a couple of days a week. We've had quite a few apprentice electricians on site as well.*



# Half-Term Recap

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## Easter Holidays

We had an absolutely fantastic Easter half-term! The week kicked off with engaging Mad Science shows and Lego programming sessions. Additionally, we enjoyed Viking sessions and a variety of craft workshops, including creating spring flowers, hungry caterpillars, bouncing bunnies, and even inflatable chicken puppets.

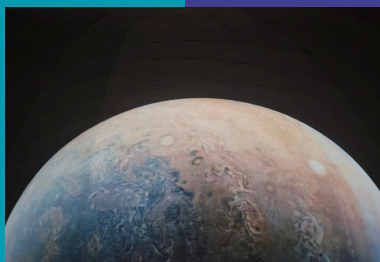
We welcomed 319 people for Easter half-term and commissioned two local artists!



## May Half-Term

May half-term was a blast! The start of the week saw the return of our popular Elmer craft sessions. Children also had a great time trying silk painting in a workshop led by Jane Blackburn MA. Towards the end of the week, families had the chance to witness the wonders of the universe with our mobile planetarium shows!

We welcomed 292 people for May half-term, and commissioned one local artist.



# Summer Events Programme

Join us for a summer of fun at the Guild Hall, Preston! Click the link below to book.

[Click here](#)

the **HARRIS**  
HOME from HOME

## SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAMME AT THE GUILD HALL FOYER

**THURS 25 JULY**

**LET'S GROW PRESTON  
WORKSHOP / £2**

11 - 11:45AM, 1:30 - 2:15PM

**WED 31 JULY**

**LITTLE ZOO TO YOU  
SESSIONS / £3**

11AM - 12PM, 1 - 2PM

**FRI 2 AUGUST**

**FINGER PUPPETS &  
MINI THEATRE / £2**

10AM- 12:30PM, 1:30 - 4PM

**TUES 6 AUGUST**

**MAGICAL STORY JARS:  
PET ROCK PALS / £2**

10:30-11:15AM, 11:30-12:15PM

**WED 7 AUGUST**

**SAME DIFFERENCE ARTS:  
WONKY OLYMPICS / £3**

10:30 - 11:15AM, 11:30 -  
12:15PM & 1:30 - 2:15PM

**TUES 13 AUGUST**

**CIRCUS SKILLS  
WORKSHOP / £3**

10 - 11AM, 11:15 - 12:15PM,  
1:15 - 2:15PM & 2:30 -  
3:30PM

**THURS 15 AUGUST**

**ALIEN WORLDS & OUTER  
SPACE CRAFT / £2**

10:30AM - 12:30PM,  
1:30 - 3:30PM

**WED 21 AUGUST**

**MAGICAL STORY JARS:  
BUILD A ROCKET / £2**

10:30-11:15AM, 11:30-12:15PM

**THURS 22 AUGUST**

**MATILDA THE MUSICAL  
(2022 | PG) / £2 - £3**

1:30PM

**TUES 27 AUGUST**

**LEGO & PROGRAMMING  
/ £8 PER GROUP**

10:30 - 12PM, 1 - 2:30PM

**THURS 29 AUGUST**

**WONKA (2023 | PG) /  
£2 - £3**

1:30PM

# The Harris Shop

Summer is here and it's the perfect time to treat yourself to something new from The Harris Shop. Why not remember your trip to Preston with The Harris and Preston merchandise including coasters and cards of all your favourite tourist destinations, designed by David Robinson.



Or, why not treat the little ones this summer with a gift from The Wallace and Gromit range. From books to mugs there's something for all ages to enjoy!



Visit The Harris shop in our temporary home from home at The Guild Hall, Preston. Open Monday to Saturday 9am until 5pm, or click the link to shop online.

And don't forget that by purchasing from The Harris Shop, you are continuing to support our work and the operation of The Harris.

[Click here](#)

# The Harris Library

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We're so much more than a place to borrow books! We are open Monday to Saturday from 9am - 5pm. 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 in Portal Peril. Reading Heroes is the 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 such as snap bracelets and mini-brick spaceship sets for those who manage to read 5 books over the summer, challenged to read 5 books plus pick a favourite to be a Reading Hero, and additionally complete 3 tasks to be a Reading Superhero.

## Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Join us every Tuesday from 10:30am - 11:00am at The Harris Library in Preston Guild Hall. Sharing songs and rhymes is a fun way for babies and toddlers to develop their language skills! Can't make it to the library? Don't worry, as you can now listen along and take part from home. Follow the link to find out more!



## BorrowBox



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.

## Little Steps and Library Explorers

Little Steps and Library 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.

[Click here](#)



# Art & Wellbeing Project Update

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Since March 2023, The Harris has collaborated with six different Preston groups to determine which pieces from our Fine Art Collection should be displayed in gallery spaces related to wellbeing ahead of reopening in 2025.

Groups have participated in a few sessions, connecting paintings from The Harris by discussing what wellbeing means, and exploring how viewing art in new and interesting ways can help to boost wellbeing.

A special thanks to everyone who took part from Preston Prison Library, Freckleton Library, Community Roots at Deepdale, The Blue Flamingo Café, Ingol Community Primary School and Preston College.



# The Harris and Sahara Celebrating South Asian Heritage Month



This summer, head down to Fishergate Shopping Centre to see the inspiring 'Free to be Me' dress that has been embroidered, embellished and painted by 25 women from Sahara in Preston's Coffee Afternoon Group.

***Admire the dress throughout South Asian Heritage Month from the 18th July - 17th August.***



Sahara is a voluntary organisation that works predominantly for the benefit of black and minority ethnic (BME) women in Preston. They provide free help, support, and opportunities for women to learn and progress in life. Harris staff and volunteers have been delivering creative sessions at Sahara since Winter 2023, getting together to chat, make art and improve wellbeing.



Made from 25 pieces of silk and corduroy and worked on by 25 women, this dress will be a beautiful example of community and how individuals can be stronger together. Colourful decorations explore themes of culture, identity, faith, family, hobbies and nature.



**Date:** Thursday 18 July - Saturday 17 August

**Location:** Level 2 outside TK Maxx, Fishergate Shopping Centre, Fishergate, Preston, PR1 8HJ

**Exhibition opening times:** Monday - Sunday, 8am - 6pm



the **HARRIS**



# Programme Advisory Group

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Meet Tony, a member of the Harris advisory group, who has written a short article about his relationship with the Harris, and some thoughts about the new community gallery.



*I have spent a large amount of my career working in and around music, in an industry built on the foundations of people's creativity and talent.*

*Music is a very accessible and popular form of culture, which many of us come into contact with almost every day of our lives, without giving it much thought. Beethoven, Elvis, the Beatles, Queen, Sex Pistols, Bob Marley, Joy Division, 808 State, the Spice Girls, One Direction, Amy Winehouse, Adele, Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift, Drake, Bad Bunny, and so on.*

*The foundations for today's culture were laid in the past, and the foundations for the future are being laid today.*

*Besides music, there are many other artforms, and means of cultural expression, some of which we might experience in Museums and Art Galleries.*

*I had long been aware of the Harris Museum, an incredible landmark building in the middle of Preston, but embarrassingly, it wasn't until I was in my 40s, circa 2017, that I actually visited. At the time we were just starting Preston Jazz Festival, which had a representative from Preston City Council on the steering group, and I was collaborating with a friend, Johnny Jay, on other projects, who was also interested in working with museums.*

*Not having done anything with museums before, we weren't sure if it would be possible, but we came up with some ideas, and approached the Harris, who were incredibly helpful.*

*The result was a number of activities, designed to celebrate and share culture. Examples of these included Gypsy Jazz performances as part of the Jazz festival, performances by local musicians including the accomplished Paul Birchall with his exploration of the Minimoog, and the (at the time) sixteen year old Prestonian Harvey Brittain, whose career is currently taking off in the US.*



*We also celebrated the sounds of traditional South Asian instruments with Aziz Ibrahim, and Shirley May's poetry with Johnny Jay at an event called 'Not all of us came on the Windrush'. Then the pandemic happened, but we didn't let that stop us, as we put on a safe concert called 'Balconi' where members of improvisational band Cold Bath Street performed live on different floors, with multiple cameras for the online audience to choose from.*



*It turns out that Museums and Galleries are great places to do things, and these things can often lead to other things. Interestingly Johnny and Aziz both went on to be community curators for the award winning South Asian Gallery at Manchester Museum, and the cycle continues.*

*Soon the Harris will reopen, and the new Gallery 2, a gallery space where anyone can apply to put on an exhibition, is a clear invitation and platform for the people of Preston and the surrounding areas to celebrate and share culture and creativity across a range of artforms. The opportunity and process are clear for all to see. No guess work required, and if you have any questions, just reach out to the Harris, who I know will be helpful.*



*Culture and creativity bring us together. They belong to anyone and everyone. What will tomorrow's culture be? This is something that we can potentially contribute to at the Harris.*





# 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. Click the link to find out more about becoming a member.

[Click here](#)

## Friends Annual General Meeting

We recently welcomed the Friends of The Harris to the Town Hall for our Annual General Meeting. The Friends were joined by the President, The Right Worshipful Mayor of Preston, Councillor Phil Crowe; the Patron, Eric Knowles and a special guest, artist Jonny Hannah.

During the meeting, the Friends were treated to a 30 minute talk, *It's Never Grim Up North*, by internationally recognised, award-winning illustrator and public artist, Jonny Hannah.



# Harris Volunteers



Our volunteers have been working with The Harris Curators on a plan of action related to how to best get Harris Volunteers involved in helping out with moving collections carefully back into The Harris.

Our Fine Art Curator and three volunteer Fine Art Champions: Mehak, Iain, and Charlotte, organised a 'Fine Art Collections Care' workshop for the Harris Volunteers. They looked at four framed paintings from The Harris' Fine Art Collection and the Fine Art Champs explained how each painting is condition checked, from unwrapping to looking for damage with a torch and recording everything onto a care sheet.



We want our volunteers to be well prepared, organised and confident! So, we've devised a monthly schedule of training that volunteers will be expected to complete before getting involved in the moving process.

Does volunteering 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.

Visit The Harris' Volunteer Makers page by clicking the link below. The page allows you to sign up quickly and easily and become a part of The Harris team! Want to chat about joining? Call Kyra, our Communities and Volunteers officer on: 01772 905412.



[Click here](#)

# The Harris Youth Panel Update

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The Harris Youth Panel have been meeting as usual on a monthly basis and trying out new venues to meet. Last month they gathered at the Birley Artists Studios and really enjoyed it! They had their meeting in the main gallery space on the ground floor and fed back that the space felt creative and arty - the group seemed very relaxed being there.

For more information about the Birley and the exhibitions and events they are planning, visit: [www.thebirley.com](http://www.thebirley.com).



The Youth Panel have been preparing themselves for the selection process and interview for an artist – street, graffiti, muralist, designer, illustrator – who will create a new commission for The Harris' new young people's space, **No.9**.

The Youth Panel have created the call out for the artist, the selection criteria and the interview questions and will be shortlisting applications and interviewing the four shortlisted artists. Let's hope the artists are prepared for a grilling!

It will be crucial that the artist selected is willing to get to know exactly what young people are all about so that they can create an artwork that young people will respect. The Youth Panel have their work cut out for them, so far they have received 86 expressions of interest and 29 actual applications.

We will introduce the chosen artist in the Autumn Guide, so keep an eye out.

# New Acquisitions

## Fauna by Jacqueline Bishop



The Harris is thrilled to announce a new acquisition to our collection, presented by the Contemporary Art Society. Jacqueline Bishop's *Fauna* includes a fine bone china teacup, saucer and sugar bowl glazed with digital transfers.

*Fauna* sheds light on overlooked narratives of enslaved women in Caribbean society.

Commissioned by The Harris, this evocative ceramic work intertwines botanical elements with maternal themes, unveiling poignant stories of resilience. Displaying alongside historical pieces, *Fauna* sparks dialogues on the global history of tea and colonialism. Don't miss its unveiling in Spring 2025!

*Presented by the Contemporary Art Society through the Omega Fund, 2023/24. Copyright: Jacqueline Bishop. Courtesy the artist. Photography by Simon Critchley.*

## John Weld Commission



Artist and Filmmaker Ian Nesbitt and Artist Ruth Levene are researching into the John Weld Collection as the basis for a new commission. The Harris and In Certain Places are working in partnership on this commission.

*"One question we keep coming back to if we add what we know of the contemporary picture to Weld's notes from 150 years ago, what can this tell us about how things might look 150 years in the future?"*

Ian and Ruth have written a blog discussing their research for the new commission looking into the John Weld archive, the results of which will be displayed when The Harris reopens in 2025. Click the link to read more.

[Click here](#)

## Khaled Hafez



We are thrilled to announce the selected artist for the highly anticipated commission supported by the IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund. Renowned Egyptian artist Khaled Hafez will be the creative force behind the new artwork set to feature in The Harris upon its reopening in 2025.

Khaled Hafez, a multifaceted artist whose work encompasses painting, video/film, photography, installation, and interdisciplinary approaches, brings a unique perspective to the project. Hafez's core research delves into the nature of identity, particularly focusing on a composite identity woven from African, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, Arab, Islamic, ancient Egyptian, and Judeo-Christian influences.



*In my current video, photography, and mixed media works, I am interested in movement, an element deeply embedded in ancient Egyptian art. I use symbols and codes from various ancient cultures to explore universal heritage.*

**Khaled Hafez**



The upcoming commission will utilise The Harris' collections to reveal stories relevant to contemporary audiences and will look to engage local communities, fostering connections between Preston and Egypt.

The Harris is part of the IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund, a national partnership programme of over 20 ambitious artist commissions inspired by the heritage of conflict. The IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund will enable The Harris to delve into these shared histories of conflict and connection.

Through this partnership, we aim to engage audiences with stories of conflict in innovative and compelling ways. The IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund commissions will be on public display across the UK between 2023 and 2025, providing a platform for artistic engagement and dialogue.

# ENCOUNTER FESTIVAL

Returns

21 SEPTEMBER  
22 SEPTEMBER  
PRESTON  
CITY CENTRE

Performances



Art



Music

 Encounter Festival

 @LancsEncounter

 @lancsencounter

 lancsencounter.co.uk

# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE FAMILY AT THE MET



**8 JULY - 4 AUGUST**

The MET (Mobile Event Tent) is one of Preston's newest and most exciting entertainment venues. The adaptable venue delivers events day and night. From dance workshops to cookery classes, the MET promises a diverse lineup of entertainment for all. Go to [visitpreston.com](http://visitpreston.com) for more information.



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## #HARRISYOURPLACE



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Library



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andArtGallery



Instagram

@harris\_museum



X

@HarrisPreston

## Contact us

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the **HARRIS**



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