

THE HARRIS

Autumn Guide

HARRIS YOUR PLACE

AUTUMN 2024



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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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

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VISIT THE HARRIS' WEBSITE

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UPDATES**

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OUT ABOUT HARRIS EVENTS**

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[Click here](#)

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#HARRISYOURPLACE



FACEBOOK

@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 will 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 the latest Harris Your Place updates on our website.



Harris Your Place Updates



Changing Places Facility

These images highlight the progress on our new Changing Places toilet on the ground floor, a significant step towards enhancing accessibility for disabled visitors.

Changing Places facilities are designed to be more spacious and equipped with essential amenities, including a hoist and specialised toilets, catering to those who require assistance. By adding this Changing Places space, we ensure that The Harris remains welcoming and accessible to everyone. This initiative is funded by the UK Government.



 Funded by
UK Government



New Ventilation System

We're excited to introduce our new ventilation system, designed to enhance environmental control in Gallery One while ensuring compliance with Government Indemnity Scheme (GIS) guidelines.

The system, which is mounted on the rooftop gantry, was carefully lifted into place by a crane. The accompanying ductwork extends into the gallery, enabling us to maintain optimal conditions for loaned items from other museums and galleries. This upgrade ensures that we can continue hosting high-quality exhibitions in the space.

External Scaffolding

Additionally, we're pleased to share that the external scaffolding has been removed, including that at the back of The Harris, allowing us to once again admire the magnificent exterior.



Radiators

Conlon Construction is currently working on the interior floors of The Harris, and we're excited to announce the installation of new additional radiators alongside our existing heritage radiators, improving the heating of the building for the care of our collections and the enjoyment of our visitors.



Harris Your Place Q+A Series

Several individuals and companies are contributing to the renovations underway as part of the Harris Your Place project. In our Q&A series, we engage with these key players to discuss their roles in the renovation process.

[Click here](#)

Don't miss our interview with Neal from Buttress, a Conservation Architect with B Corp-certified heritage and conservation specialists, who is actively involved in The Harris' restoration and renovation. Follow the link to read the interview.



[Click here](#)

We also spoke to Ray from Red Rose Drylining about his work on the project. Click the link to see what he had to say.



Core Programming at The Harris



We are all excited by the thought of new displays and spaces in the Harris, but that is only half of the picture. What is going to happen in those lovely new spaces to bring people back over and over again? That is something that we have been thinking about from the start of the Harris Your Place project, and we've been developing the plans over the last few months.

We started with the results of consultation and our experience of running sessions to pull together a draft 'core programme' of regular activities. There were popular sessions that we wanted to bring back, there were ideas that have come up as we have worked on projects during the closure, and sparks of inspiration – *'it would be great if we could...'* ideas.

Once we had a sample programme we ran sessions with our Programme Advisory Panel and some of our volunteers to get their feedback. Had we missed anything? Would they come to the activities? Were the suggested timings okay? And if we were to charge for some events, what would they expect to pay? We have also used information from Preston Youth Forum and the Harris Youth Panel. This has been a really useful process which has helped us to refine the ideas. We are now speaking to people who know more about some of the specific audiences, or run activities that we haven't offered before to work out the details.

We want The Harris to open with a great core programme of activities, we will evaluate how things are going when we open, and make changes when it feels right. We look forward to sharing the details with you soon.

The Harris Art and Wellbeing Project

What do you think of this painting from our collection? How would you feel standing in front of it? Calm? Energised? Nostalgic?



Well, a group of service users and staff from Community Roots @ Deepdale have chosen this painting to feature in the Harris' new wellbeing-themed art gallery when we reopen in 2025. They took part in the Harris' Art and Wellbeing Project which saw The Harris collaborating with six different Preston-based groups to determine which pieces from our fine art collection should be displayed in our new Wellbeing Gallery. Groups connected to paintings from The Harris by discussing what wellbeing means, why it is important, and how the art we look at can help!

The dramatic seascape is called, **'After a Gale'** and is by American artist William Trost Richards (1833-1905) and the group felt the painting "*stirs up a lot of emotions*". Both the title and the subject symbolise "*triumph over adversity*" and how there can be calm and hope even after stormy times.

Who are Community Roots @ Deepdale?

"Our team is part of Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust. Working across Lancashire and South Cumbria alongside colleagues and users of health and social care services, we connect experts by experience with experts by profession to bring you a wide range of health and wellbeing opportunities in friendly and sociable spaces."

The Harris Youth Panel

ACTIVITY/EVENT/PROJECT NAME:

Film night

WHAT IS IT?

night where everyone watches a film w/ food (popcorn & sweets)

WHEN IS IT? (MONTH? TIME?)

first Wednesday of every month @ 6pm

WHO WILL RUN THE EVENT?

(ARTIST? NAME?) Harris staff

HOW MUCH WILL THEY GET PAID?

everyone pays £1 to get in

The Harris Youth Panel has been busy! They have been helping to create a plan for the public programme that The Harris is going to trial to visitors when we reopen. The panel are specifically thinking of visitors that are young people ages 12+. They are involved in the bigger picture of what young people in Preston want and need through attending consultation sessions with the **Preston Youth Forum*.

The forum ran a youth consultation exercise across Preston with 1400 young people aged between 8-25

to gather the views of their life in the city. The consultation revealed that young people want improvements in four main areas: **Safety, Health, Financial and Future**. The Harris' Youth Panel have decided to focus on two of the main areas that the city-wide consultation revealed: **Health and Future**. This will hopefully include regular monthly sessions on **skills for living**, along with weekly drop-in advice sessions for **health and wellbeing**, delivered where possible in partnership with colleagues from the Preston Youth Forum, with a nice balance of fun of course! The programme will include social things like film nights and creative arty projects.

The Harris Youth Panel meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Birley Artists Studios, 5 - 7pm

**The Preston Youth Forum* brings together youth service providers from the voluntary, community, faith, social enterprise and public sector from across the city. These services have worked hard to understand the issues facing young people, aged 8 to 25 in Preston and the Youth Forum are looking to work together and provide better support to help young people live to their full potential.

No.9 Artist Announced!

We're delighted to announce the mural artist chosen for No.9, our new young people's space within The Harris!

After a huge amount of interest and a large number of applications, our Harris Youth Panel have chosen Becki Miller, aka MOZE, a mural maker, sign painter and illustrator based in Manchester who knows Preston and The Harris well.

Over the coming months, the Youth Panel will be working closely with Becki to decide on what the mural will look like.



[Click here](#)

Click here to check out Becki's work!



Get Involved

If you are part of a group of young people aged 12-18 or know a group that might be interested in meeting up with the Harris Youth Panel to share ideas, experience, give advice or simply team up, please get in touch! Contact Kyra on: k.milnes@preston.gov.uk or ring her on 01772 905412.

Keep up-to-date with what our Harris Youth Panel are up to over on Instagram! Click the link below.



[Click here](#)

The Harris Volunteers

Ann, who has been volunteering for the Harris for 15 years now, would like to tell you a bit about an exciting project she has been involved in recently behind the scenes, as part of her life as a Harris Volunteer.



I have been privileged to undertake a wide variety of activities, including family workshops, a welcomer and as a Costumes Collections Champion.

This year, knowing my skill in transcription and calligraphy, the Harris' Fine Art Curator, Lindsey McCormick, invited me to assist in the transcription of a portfolio written by John Weld in the mid

19th century. This information will contribute to an exhibition in 2025. It also demanded my knowledge of Latin, of ornithology and of the geography of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. I have also learned how to input the information to the digitised records of The Harris Collections.

My obvious enjoyment of this task has led to my being invited to continue to record other portfolios by John Weld. One never knows when those long ago school lessons may be recalled, encouraged by the skilled and appreciative Harris staff!

John Weld (1813 – 1888) was a Victorian landowner, antiquarian, naturalist and amateur painter who lived at Leagram Hall near Chipping. During his lifetime, he made detailed records of many aspects of his local area and beyond. The portfolio Ann has been working on is a thick ledger titled “Flora and Fauna of Leagram and Neighbourhood”. To find out more about this project, click the link below.



[Click here](#)



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](#)

Engaging the Local Community in Shaping Exhibitions and Events

We are delighted to announce a groundbreaking initiative we have been working on to foster community engagement and collaboration. Since 2023, a dedicated group of Programme Advisors have been meeting to revolutionise The Harris' approach to programming. This group, representing the people of Preston, will soon begin to actively shape new exhibitions and events that truly resonate with our diverse audiences.

The Programme Advisors, a group of passionate individuals with diverse backgrounds and local knowledge, will play a pivotal role in selecting new exhibitions, activities, and events for The Harris' new Gallery Two. Their invaluable perspectives, positive outlook, and fresh ideas will act as a sounding board to make sure that the Preston community are authentically reflected in programming.

At The Harris, local communities are of paramount importance. The community empowered approach will help to embed new ways of working that genuinely reflect community voice in The Harris, driving engagement and fostering a sense of ownership and pride amongst our visitors.

Community members can directly contribute to the cultural landscape of the city, making a lasting impact on future exhibitions and events. Shaping The Harris' programme, ensuring it represents the collective voice of Preston and celebrates its vibrant community.

Gallery Two

Gallery Two is an exciting new space at The Harris where anyone can apply to put on an exhibition or display. We welcome ideas from individuals and groups which could include all forms of art, historical items, collections and more to appeal to our diverse visitors. Keep an eye on our website for the next round of applications!

An Interview with Iain

We interviewed Iain.H.Williams, a Programme Advisor, about getting involved in the Programme Advisory Group and his interest in art. Here's what he had to say...



The significance of the Harris Museum and Art Gallery is an important one for myself, it was a venue during my youth that gave me access and introduction to the arts and the ability to be up close to original work by local and international artists as I began my education in art. Years later I'm proud to now be part of the process to help secure a new future for community based projects for the gallery.

As an artist, community links are key and important to create access for all members of the local area and community to the city's cultural strategy. Amongst places such as The Birley, SHOP, The Artistry House, and the pop-up gallery space 'The Turning Point', Preston has a rich and diverse group of artists that we are still discovering and need to elevate and without those we are at risk of a cultural community void, so support and opportunities for new artistic expressions are crucial.

Having lived away for a period of time, I moved back to the Preston area to re-establish my art practice as an abstract painter. Since 2020 my work has been shown across multiple galleries around the region such as the Harris Museum, Grundy Blackpool, Warrington Museum of Art Gallery, as well as numerous venues within Manchester. In 2022 I was invited to create a solo exhibition at the Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington in conjunction with Creative Lancashire & took part in their 'Conversations In Creativity' series with a filmed interview in front of a select audience.

As well as an alumni and guest judge of Blackpool & Fylde College of Art, I recently spent a year mentoring and developing new work at the college as part of the AA2A Artist's Project. Later this year there will be also be a new solo exhibition in Blackburn and an appearance at The Manchester Contemporary 2024.

Events

Our October Half-Term Programme



the HARRIS
HOME from HOME

OCTOBER HALF-TERM PROGRAMME

AT PRESTON GUILD HALL

MONDAY 21 SPOOKY STORIES 1.30 - 3.30PM	WEDNESDAY 23 DIWALI DECORATIONS 1.30 - 3.30PM
TUESDAY 22 LANTERN MAKING 1.30 - 3.30PM	FRIDAY 25 FOOTBALL CRAFT 1.30 - 3.30PM

 All events are free to attend, and drop-ins are welcome, no booking required! 

A Look-Back at our Summer Events



We had a brilliant summer holiday programme at The Harris filled with a range of activities from family films, to sporting activities such as wonky olympics and circus sensible workshops.

We also had fun craft activities such as making finger puppets, making aliens and outer space tins and magical story jars workshops! The children also enjoyed lego and programming workshops and a visit from some animals from Little Zoo to You.

Reflecting on: 'Free to be Me' Exhibition



Did you manage to catch The Harris and Sahara's 'Free to be Me' exhibition last month? The exhibition was held from 18th July - 17th August in Fishergate Shopping Centre to celebrate South Asian Heritage Month (SAHM) 2024.

On display was a creatively decorated Anarkali-style dress made out of 25 pieces of corduroy and silk by over 20 women from Sahara's Coffee Afternoon Group. With SAHM's theme 'Free to be Me' in mind, the women embellished, painted and embroidered the dress with personal responses of identity, faith, family and hobbies.



Sahara is a voluntary organisation that works predominantly for the benefit of black and minority ethnic women in Preston. They provide free help, support, and opportunities for women to learn and progress in life.

The exhibition was a beautiful example of community and how individuals can be stronger together. Not only was this project a strong collaboration with the women from Sahara, but also had strong involvement from our Harris Volunteers.

Jennifer Futter (Harris Volunteer and designer of the dress) said it was an...

Energising experience, working in a team with diverse ideas and objectives. The final project outcome surpassed my expectations and served as a reminder of what we can achieve when we work together. I look forward to being a Harris volunteer again utilising and passing on my creative skills.

This exhibition was on display during a time where many from the South Asian community may not have felt free to be themselves. The Harris is proud to have celebrated South Asian Heritage Month with a diverse community group from Preston, despite the far-right protests and riots. Everyone deserves to truly feel “Free to be Me”. Here’s what our visitors had to say about the dress...

After the horrible events of last week, and especially the attacks on asylum seekers this dress is a beautiful reminder that there is more which unites us than divides us all. I love it!

Loved all the personal details and hand drawings, paintings and embroidery. So beautiful. Would love to wear it!

I think the dress is really unique and represents freedom.

To prolong the dress’ positive impact, the piece will be going back out on display in Sahara’s centre in Fishwick. Look out on our socials for when it’s up! If you didn’t catch the exhibition, you can find all the details including photos and the exhibition guide by following the link below.



[Click here](#)

The Foxton Art Group – New Exhibition Coming Soon!



As The Harris continues to facilitate The Foxton Centre's Friday Art Group, we are now working towards our second exhibition! This time, the group's art will be inspired by the collections of The Harris. That includes our history, sculpture, ceramics and textiles collection as well as our fine art. Expect lots of colour and bold pieces of art that are guaranteed to uplift you!

The exhibition will be hosted by Fishergate Shopping Centre between the 15th of November and the 16th of December. Selected pieces of art will be up for sale and available to buy just in time for your Christmas shopping. Plus, a percentage of the money made will go to supporting the Foxton Centre with future projects just like this one - so you can feel extra good when you buy!

The Foxton Centre is a Preston-based charity who work with the local community to support young people and adults. The Foxton Art Group has been meeting every Friday since January 2023, making art to help us feel good.



Dates: Friday 15th November – Monday 16th December 2024

Location: Fishergate Shopping Centre, Preston, PR1 8HJ.
On Level 3, at the side of Euronews

Exhibition opening times: Monday – Sunday, 8am – 6pm



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.

[Click here](#)

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.

Membership Survey

We recently invited members to take part in a survey to understand what our current members value most and what Friends of the Harris should offer as we look ahead to the Harris re-opening in 2025. We've had valuable feedback from this so far and would love to hear from more members.

The survey can be completed online by following the link below, or hard copies are available from The Harris Library in the Guild Hall.

[Click here](#)

Board Development

Behind the scenes, we are also progressing our Board Development. Current trustees recently undertook a skills audit to help inform what further skills and roles are most needed to help drive Friends of the Harris forward. Over the next 2-3 months we will be finalising Trustee Recruitment packs to outline the roles most needed and skills sought.

Please keep an eye on The Harris website for more details of this, or if you'd like to register your interest and be sent the trustee recruitment packs directly, please email harrisfriends@outlook.com.

The Harris Shop

As autumn approaches, why not embrace the new season by exploring beautiful gifts at The Harris Shop? It's the perfect opportunity to cosy up with a new mug or treat the kids to a stylish notepad as they head back to school.

The Harris Shop is your one-stop destination for Preston merchandise, Harris-branded items, and unique gifts from local artists, including distinctive jewellery pieces.

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 below to shop online.

Remember, by purchasing from The Harris Shop, you're supporting our work and the continued operation of The Harris.

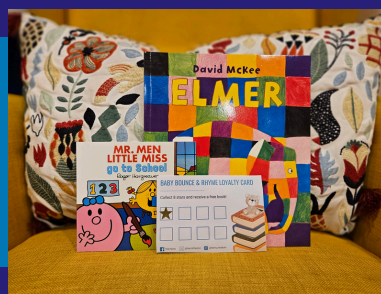


[Click here](#)

The Harris Library

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.

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! We now have a loyalty scheme - collect 8 stars on your loyalty card and receive a free book!

Lancashire Reading Trail



Join in with the Lancashire Reading Trail at The Harris Library.

The Lancashire reading trail turns reading into a challenge! Follow a map through an enchanted Lancashire and collect special cards and characters along the way. It has been created to encourage children (up to the age of 12) to read 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.



New Acquisitions

Emma Prempeh

We are pleased to announce two new acquisitions by Emma Prempeh: *1936* and *It's the People That Make a Home*.

Emma Prempeh's practice delves into the concepts of distant memories. The starting point to her work is the matter of blackness – the tonal properties of the colour establishes the ground to her paintings and provides a cinematic basis to invoke memories of events, people, and places.

Family and generational continuity is often the subject of Prempeh's paintings, relational ties are explored through the depiction of her mother and grandma and their experiences. Prempeh sees her grandma's home as a place of refuge and comfort with her home being an expression of her cultural identity.

The Harris has relatively few works by women artists, particularly figurative paintings which explore experiences of identity, representations of diversity and intergenerational family life. *It's the People That Make a Home* and *1936* are important additions to the collection, they will form part of a major redisplay when the Harris reopens in 2025. With particular focus on narratives that explore identity, heritage and a sense of belonging, The Harris has an ongoing commitment to working with local communities including Preston's Windrush generation and descendants.



Presented by the Contemporary Art Society, 2023/2024. Courtesy of the Artist and Tiwani Contemporary. Photography by Deniz Guzel.

Baa's Gold



Hetain Patel aims to challenge assumptions about how we look and where we come from. This painting comes from a body of work that grew out of a robbery that his grandmother (called Baa, which means 'mother' in Gujarati) suffered in 2015, during which her gold jewellery was forced from her wrists. Patel's deeply personal paintings 'seek to retrieve Baa's gold', which for the artist is a metaphor for everything that has been taken from his family via the systematic racism experienced in the UK since his birth and before.

This painting forms part of a new collection of works that explore the many facets of family life, chosen because of your feedback through the Harris Your Place project.

Presented by the Contemporary Art Society through the Collections Fund at Frieze, 2021/22.

The Strawberry Dress



Introducing our latest acquisition, the Horrockses Fashions Strawberry Dress!

This beautiful strawberry-print cotton dress with matching belt has a scoop neckline with a bow at the centre, short sleeves and a below-the-knee length, full skirt. The original strawberry-print was created in 1952 by Brigitte Dehnert. The strawberry-print dress and matching jacket were designed as part of Horrockses Fashions Spring/Summer 1954 collection.

WHAT'S ON THIS NOVEMBER



THE
MAKINGS OF A
MURDERER 2

FRI 1 | 7.30PM



MILLION
DOLLAR MEN

SAT 2 | 7.30PM



THE
TAKE THAT
EXPERIENCE

THUR 7 | 7.30PM



DIRECT FROM LONDON'S WEST END

entertainment presents

AN EVENING OF
BURLESQUE

SAT 9 | 7.30PM



DREAMCOAT
STARS
A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS

FRI 15 | 7.30PM



Twist
AND
Shout

SAT 16 | 7.30PM



THE MUSIC OF
ED SHEERAN

THUR 21 | 7PM



A TRIBUTE TO THE
CARPENTERS

FRI 22 | 7.30PM



BARRY STEELE'S
ROY ORBISON
STORY

FRI 29 | 7.30PM



The Guild Hall Preston



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THE GUILD
LOUNGE
Preston Guild Hall

SCAN FOR TICKETS!



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the **HARRIS**



This guide was created by The Harris
Marketing Team.

