

What's On

2025 - 2026



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theharris.org.uk

Welcome!

FREE
Entry

We're proud guardians of our founders' intention, inscribed on the outside of The Harris 'The mental riches you may here acquire abide with you always.'

Edmund Harris' vision was that the Harris Free Library, Museum, and Art Gallery would be the focal point of culture, the arts, and learning in our city. And today that still stands true.

We're here to serve as a cultural hub, bringing together communities and promoting creativity and learning through exhibitions, events, resources and spaces. We celebrate the diversity of Preston and beyond, and make culture accessible to all free of charge.

We're an inclusive and welcoming environment where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together and experience the richness of arts, culture and knowledge, explore new ideas and connect with a community.

Come and explore. Be curious. Take part. Share stories. Be inspired. This is your Harris.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Join the Friends



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.

Visit theharris.org.uk/friends or call **01772 258248** to join.

Volunteer with us



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! Our voluntary roles are quite varied, some are fairly permanent whilst others can be a one-off. We usually have a range of things to do during the year. Some periods are busier than others, for example summer can be a very busy period for our volunteers.

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.

Visit harris.volunteermakers.org to find out more.

Wallace & Gromit
in
A CASE AT THE
MUSEUM

★
AARDMAN



Preston
City Council



28 September
to 4 January



Gallery One



Ticketed



Free

Wallace and Gromit in:

A Case At The Museum

Nick Park creates characters that are as familiar, warm and friendly as Wallace's green knitted tank-top. Over the past 35 years Wallace and Gromit have become much loved national treasures. Together, they have appeared in The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London Olympics and had their own night at the Proms. They have gained fame and popularity all around the world, from Germany to Japan and from China to the Czech Republic.

Wallace and Gromit are quintessentially English, but more specifically 'Northern'. In this exhibition you will explore Nick's early life growing up in Lancashire, and the influence of Lancashire life when creating his characters and films. You'll blast off into his break through film and award-winning career, before entering into the wider world of Wallace and Gromit and their many adventures. Visit theharris.org.uk to get your tickets.

Special Events

Gromit Model Making

Thursday, 30 October

The Studio

Book via Eventbrite

Animation Workshop

Friday, 31 October

The Studio

Book via Eventbrite

Screening: A Close Shave

Sat, 22 November & Tue, 30 December

The Studio

Book via Eventbrite

Screening: A Matter of Loaf & Death

Sat, 13 December & Wed, 31 December

The Studio

Book via Eventbrite

Screening: A Grand Day Out

Saturday, 27 December

The Studio

Book via Eventbrite

Screening: The Wrong Trousers

Monday, 29 December

The Studio

Book via Eventbrite





28 September
to 11 January



Gallery Two



Free

Ocean Mother

Exploring the untold stories and rich experiences of South Asian mothers

Saroj Patel is a Preston-born artist who creates intricately detailed, tactile sculptures that invite playful audience interaction.

Saroj has fond memories of visiting The Harris as a child – exploring the library, wandering through the art galleries, and being captivated by the paintings on the stairwells. Now, she is deeply honoured to return to her hometown to present *Ocean Mother*, a profoundly personal and important exhibition.

Ocean Mother explores the untold stories and rich experiences of South Asian mothers, delving into how these women navigate identity through the lens of motherhood. Many of the mothers interviewed were either born in or currently live in Preston, making this exhibition a heartfelt tribute to the community.

Through sculpture, texture, and form, Saroj weaves together narratives of strength, love, and heritage.

Through intimate conversations with British South Asian mothers, Saroj Patel asked how histories, traditions, and culture shaped their identities and discovered the active role they play in embracing and teaching their cultural heritage to their children. These mothers break boundaries and craft new narratives for South Asian women.

This exhibition also delves into Saroj's personal connection with her mother, Sushila, who was born and raised in Gujarat, India. Aged 19, Sushila embarked on a transformative journey, migrating to the UK and becoming a mother to three children by the time she turned 22. Saroj's mother faced struggle, loneliness, and conflict. Yet, her stories are woven together with threads of resilience and courage.

Ocean Mother celebrates the enduring power of maternal stories. These stories resonate across generations, weaving into the fabric of our shared human experience.



British Textile Biennial

The Rayon Legacy of Courtaulds

As part of the 2025 British Textile Biennial, The Harris will host an exciting new contemporary art commission by artist Hannah Robson that explores themes of invention and innovation. Responding to the Courtauld Factory story and the production of Rayon in Lancashire.

British Textile Biennial (BTB) is a free festival of contemporary art, commissioning artists and designers from all over the world to make work inspired by the context and legacy of the textile industry in East Lancashire and its global impact, often in the places that were created by it.

Every other October, East Lancashire becomes an exciting cultural destination that welcomes visitors from all over the country and the world, set against the beautiful backdrop of our moors and hills and hosted by our local partners and volunteers who give everyone a warm Lancashire welcome.

Each Biennial casts a new perspective on the role that textiles play in the past, present and future of our world.



2 October to
2 November



Various sites
in the building



Free



Nostalgic Views of Preston

Following a rewarding career as an Engineer, HR Manager, and Quality Manager, Edwin Williams has turned a lifelong interest in photography, watercolour painting, and history into a new chapter of creative exploration. Edwin breathes new life into aged and often damaged photographs, transforming them into vivid representations that resonate with modern audiences while honouring their original context.



24 January to 12 April



Gallery Two



Free



The Harris Open

The Harris Open is an energetic and quirky exhibition created by the local community of Preston with hundreds of fantastic entries received every year. The exhibition showcases the amazingly diverse talents of Preston-based artists and makers with work including painting, photography, digital, sculpture, ceramics, textiles and more! Stay tuned for more details on the submission opening dates.



21 February to 3 May



Gallery One



Free



The Harris Library

Step into a world of stories, knowledge, and discovery. Whether you're looking for your next great read, a quiet corner to relax, or a place to explore rare texts, our library spaces are perfect for you.

The Harris has dedicated library and reading spaces, but you'll find books woven throughout the museum and our galleries. As you wander around our exhibitions, you'll notice carefully chosen books connected to the objects and artworks on display.

We have a massive selection of books for everyone, from the latest novels to loved classics, useful non-fiction, and even historical, specialist works. Our family section is a magical space full of colourful picture books, entertaining stories, and fun activities to spark imaginations.

If you're a heritage fan then you'll love our rare and historic book collection, a very special glimpse into the past.



For Children & Families

From regular Baby Bounce & Rhyme sessions and Toddler Workshops for the little ones, to Film Screenings and Creative Workshops for older children, we have plenty of activities to keep everyone busy. Turn up anytime and enjoy a range of permanent activities available for families! For more information about activities, facilities for families and bookings, visit theharris.org.uk.



For Young People

From Future Skills Sessions, self-led creative sessions and wellbeing drop-ins, to Artist and Photography workshops, there's plenty on offer in our dedicated young person's space. No.9 isn't just a room. It's a response to what local young people told us they need most: space to be heard, to feel safe, and to express themselves. Whether you want to read, create, connect, or just take a break, No.9 is yours. Visit theharris.org.uk/whats-on to find out more.



For Adults

From Life Drawing sessions, Curator Talks and Art Group drop-ins, to Artist Talks and performances, there's plenty to get stuck into across the building when we reopen. You might need to pay or prebook tickets for some of our events, make sure you do this well in advance as we often sell out. Visit theharris.org.uk/whats-on to find out more.

The Harris Museum & Library

Monday | 9am - 5pm
Tuesday | 9am - 5pm
Wednesday | 9am - 5pm
Thursday | 9am - 9pm
Friday | 9am - 5pm
Saturday | 9am - 5pm
Sunday | 11am - 4pm

You'll be able to come into The Harris
until 30 minutes before we close

The Harris Cafe

Monday to Saturday | 9.30am - 4pm
Sunday | 11am - 4pm

Market Square
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 2PP



theharris.org.uk



The Harris



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Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library



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