

Preston Arts News

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PRESTON ORPHEUS CHOIR



Preston Orpheus Choir is delighted to be returning to St Aidan's Church, Bamber Bridge for this year's Festive Christmas Concert at 7.00pm on Saturday 10th December. The choir, under the baton of Musical Director Nathan Smith, will be joined by Freckleton Brass Band and children from St Pius X Catholic Preparatory School. Come along to join in with carols old and new, and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year in style. Ticket prices on the door are £12 adults, £5 under-18s and £30 for a family ticket (two adults and two children). Discounts are available if you book in advance via the website www.prestonorpheuschoir.org so secure your places early and save money too!

Preston Orpheus Choir is a friendly group of singers of all ages, and we always welcome new members. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm at St Andrew's CE School, Tulketh Road, Ashton. If you're interested in joining us but would like to "try before you buy", why not give our "3 for free" offer a go? Come along to three rehearsals free of charge before you make up your mind one way or the other. We'll make sure you're looked after by someone who sings the same voice part as you and if you're not sure what that voice part is, don't worry, we'll sort that out for you! Contact us via our website www.prestonorpheuschoir.org to ask any questions or let us know you'll be coming. We look forward to welcoming you.

FRIENDS OF WINCKLEY SQUARE CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Winckley Square Christmas Concert is back in the Gardens on 11th December 3-5.30 pm. Traditional Christmas Carols round the tree with St Stephens Choir, a Christmas sing along with local ukulele band The Inbetweeners, and headline act SPARK! will be back to wow the whole family. Free entry

Also, on Thursday 8th December in Central Methodist Church, PR1 2NL we will have a Victorian Christmas slide show and talk by Susan Douglass. Discover how three different families celebrated Christmas in 1860, 1865 and 1880. Their stories will make you laugh, cry and possibly shock you. Book your place through eventbrite.

OBITUARY: SUSAN PHILLIPS 12/4/40 - 9/9/22

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Susan Phillips who lost her battle with cancer in September.

Susan had a lifelong passion for music and after leaving the Northern School of Music qualified as a teacher and began teaching at Fulwood High School in 1972. In that role she produced many musicals and enabled pupils to professionally record a disc. At the same time she served as an organist, pianist and choir master at churches in Euxton, Ribbleson and St Martins and St Peter's churches in Fulwood. Susan also taught privately and the numbers of pupils both young and older who benefitted from her skills, enthusiasm and patience are too many to list. Her love of singing meant that she was involved with many choirs both as a singer or musical director. Choirs that benefited from her skills included St Nicholas singers, Preston Orpheus, St Leonard's G&S society, Occasions, Barton WI choir, Lifelong Singers, Harmony Singers and latterly Singing 4 You in Bamber Bridge, where she continued to participate until July this year. She produced two memorable "Last Night of the Proms" in Fulwood and conducted both the choir and a joint piece with the brass band. Susan remained abreast of modern musical trends and could tailor performances to both current fashion and her target audience. Any performances that Susan was involved with raised very significant sums for local charities including Rosemere, St Catherine's Hospice and McMillan cancer support.

The fruits of her works will be seen for many years to come and it is with great fondness that we now sing her "theme tune" - "As long as I have music". **Singing 4 You**



PRESTON ARTS NEWS

Produced by Preston Arts Association.

Copies are available free of charge from local libraries, local arts societies, and other arts venues in the area.

Information and any news items should be sent to Vincent Smith 13 Woodford

Copse Chorley PR7 2ER Email: vsmith@pagehall.idps.co.uk

The next issue will cover the period March - August 2023

Deadline for submissions January 31st 2023

MEMBERS

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Dancing the First Step Ron McDonald coolmac@talktalk.net

Find Your Voice Joyce Tindsley info@joycetindsley.com

Fired 4U Jane Fox jane@fired4u.co.uk

Friends of Winckley Square Elaine Whitty elaine@winckley.org.uk

Grimsargh Players Dea Parkin secretary@grimsarghplayers.org.uk

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KT B Music Katy Bradley ktbmusic@live.co.uk

Longton Players Chris Hill longtonplayers@gmail.com

New Longton Artists Brian Thomas nartists@outlook.com

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Preston Cecilian Choral Society Heather Swift cecilians@cecilians.org.uk

Preston Circle Dancing Group Rosemary Forrest rosemary_forrest@talktalk.net

Preston Drama Club Dennis Yardley d.yardley@blueyonder.co.uk

Preston Flute Group Rob Rainford prestonflutegroup@btinternet.com

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Preston Friends of the Phil Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines milena@phil-friends.demon.co.uk

Preston Gilbert&Sullivan Society Alistair Milner info@prestongass.co.uk

Preston Lacemakers Christine Keber prestonlacemakers@yahoo.com

Preston Historical Society David Hindle davidhindle1@gmail.com

Preston Opera Sue Rice suerice01@yahoo.com

Preston Orpheus Choir Ann McDowell annmcdowell2001@aol.com

Preston Photographic Society Iain Jack contactppssecretary@gmail.com

Preston Poets' Society Dorothy Nelson dnelson48@blueyonder.co.uk

Preston Recorded Music Society Vincent Smith vsmith3011@outlook.com

Rawstorne Singers Jane Powell rawstornesingers@gmail.com

Royal Preston Morris Dancers Rob Alty robertalty@hotmail.co.uk

SATA Theatre Tony Balmer info@satatheatre.org

Singing 4 You (formerly Harmony Singers) Winifred O'Neil wmo@sky.com

South Ribble Strings Jeremy Harries jeremyharries@gmail.com

UCLan Confucius Institute Feixia Yu confuciusinstitute@uclan.ac.uk

PRESTON U3A

A warm welcome to Preston U3A which has now joined Preston Arts Association.

Interest Groups meet at various venues in Fulwood & Ashton. Others meet at members' homes, and some are out and about. For further information see their website at U3a.org.uk Groups usually meet monthly, but some more often. Each group page will give more detailed information. If you are not a regular attendee, you should check with the group leader before attending.

Groups that are "out and about" often do not meet on the same day or time each month, so checking with the group leader is essential to avoid disappointment. Outdoor meetings might have admission charges and/or shared petrol costs depending on location.

If you cannot see anything that interests you, it could be that you have a new interest to share and the potential to start and lead a new group. Join Preston and District U3A and share your knowledge and skill. That's what U3A is all about.

PANTOMIMES IN PRESTON

SATA theatre presents "Jack and the Beanstalk" at St Andrew's Church Hall, Ashton on the 8th, 9th and 10th of December at 7.30 pm, with a matinee on Sat 10th at 2.00 pm. Pantomime written and directed by Stephen Hargreaves. Tickets, adult £9 child £6 and family of 4 (2 adults 2 children) £25. Preston Musical Comedy Society presents "Mother Goose", an eggcellent family pantomime at Preston Playhouse from December 9th to 20th. Contact Box Office 0333 666 3366 as show times vary. Tickets from £10.



Things to learn and do

PAA member groups you may find of interest in contacting with a view to join. For more information about going to meetings please make contact through the Members list on page 2. If this doesn't work contact Mike Cracknell on 01772 748547 or mikecracknell@blueyonder.co.uk. The following list gives you an idea of the type of group and location of meetings.

Visual Arts - ArtFull Community and Participatory Arts Group is currently supporting a number of community and voluntary groups to access funding to carry out arts projects. Preston Art Society holds regular meetings at St Margaret's parish centre, Ingol and New Longton Artists meet at New Longton Village Hall. Preston Photographic Society meets at Blackpool Road, Preston just to the east of the A6 and across the road from Moor Park.

Theatre Groups - Preston Drama Club, Broughton Players and the Hall Players are resident at Preston Playhouse. Grimsargh Players are now at Grimsargh Village Hall. Longton Players are based at Longton Village Hall, SATA Theatre are at St Andrew's Church Hall, Ashton, Club Players at Broughton are based at Broughton and District Club PR3 5DA. Preston Opera Group rehearses at the Carey Baptist Centre, Pole St Preston. Preston Musical Comedy Society is based at Unit 1a Pittman Way, Fulwood PR2 9ZG and Preston Gilbert & Sullivan Society are based at Preston Playhouse.

Choirs - Company of Voyces rehearse at St Saviour's Church, Bamber Bridge, Singing 4 You also in Bamber Bridge, One Voice Community Choir rehearse in Preston, Preston Cecilian Choir rehearse at St Augustine's School, Avenham, Preston Orpheus Choir rehearse at St Andrew's Primary School, Ashton, Rawsthorpe Singers rehearse in Leyland

Writers - Preston Poets' Society meet at St Wilfrid's Church Hall in Chapel St, Damson Poets meet in The Larder in Lancaster Road and also in the Continental.

Dancing - Dancing the Next Step teaches ballroom dancing, Preston Folk Dance Club holds class/club nights at Galloway Hall, Brackenburg Rd, Fulwood PR2 3BS and has Saturday evening dances at St Cuthbert's Church Centre, Lytham Rd, Fulwood PR2 3BS. Preston Circle Dancing have dances with all hands joined in a circle with inspiring music from different countries at Galloway Hall, Fulwood. Royal Preston Morris Dancers keep up the great tradition around Lancashire.

Musicians - Preston Flute Group is made up of a number of local flute players who meet once a fortnight on Friday evenings in Woodplumpton to play ensemble music. South Ribble Strings are a string orchestra, set up to cater for string players in Preston and the surrounding areas. New members with Grade 5 and above, very welcome. Rehearsals at Walton-le Dale High School.

Music Tuition - KTB Music at Moss Lane, Little Hoole teaches a range of musical instruments and singers holds regular Saturday Singalongs in several venues in Penwortham, Leyland and Longton. Professional singer Joyce Tindsley, vocal coach of the Huddersfield Choral Society, holds popular weekly Find Your Voice classes at Much Hoole Village Hall. She also offers individual singing lessons, get your voice choir-ready with 30-minute vocal exercise classes and group lessons live and on Zoom.

Music Appreciation - Preston Recorded Music Society meets at Penwortham over 60's club on Priory Lane to listen to talks illustrated with Cd's. City of London Phonograph and Gramophone Society meet at Samlesbury War Memorial Hall to listen to vintage recordings. Harris Music present a wide range of afternoon classical music concerts in St George's Church off Lune Street.

Makers - Preston Lacemakers meet at New Longton to share their enthusiasm and enjoyment in the art and craft of lace, in all its variations. Fired 4U in Walton-le-Dale gives all ages the chance to make and decorate pottery.

History - Preston Historical Society meet in the Central Methodist church for talks about the history of Preston. The Friends of Winckley Square organise historical walks around the centre of Preston and talks about the city's history.

Preston U3A - Last but far from least. A vast number of activities with hundreds of members, far too many to list here. We can be delighted that the group has become part of Preston Arts Association and we hope to concentrate on them in the next Preston Arts News in March.

DECEMBER

- 1st** Singing 4 You (a new choir based on the Harmony Singers which has closed down) will be singing carols at 5 venues leading up to Christmas. They will perform from 12 noon till 2pm at Clayton Green Library 1st Dec, Kingsfold Library, Penwortham 5th Dec, Asda Fulwood 16th Dec, Tesco Leyland 17th Dec and Sainsbury Deepdale 22nd Dec.
- 2nd** at 7:30pm The Rawstorne Singers 'Lights of Love' Christmas Carol Service, Blackburn Cathedral.
- 2nd** Quotation UK, one of the leading Status Quo tribute bands will perform at the Continental supported by Queen tribute band Queenology. 7.00-11.00 pm. Tickets £10. All tickets still valid from previously announced date of 28th April.
- 3rd** The Freckleton Band together with singers from Preston Musical Society presents "Christmas Cavalcade", an evening of Christmas music at Preston Playhouse. Tickets from £13 - Box Office 01772 252288.
- 3rd** Burn - Deep Purple Tribute band, present over two hours of searing rock and roll at the Continental. Doors at 8pm. Tickets are £12 in advance or £14 on the door.
- 4th** Preston Opera is at St Leonards Church, Marshall's Brow, Penwortham PR1 9JA. The first half of the show is a performance of Act 2 of Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss and the rest is devoted to Christmas music. The show starts at 2 pm. Ticket prices £12.00, with tickets for Under 18s at £5.00.
- 5th** Preston Historical Society has a talk by Steve Halliwell titled "Selected Tales from Preston's Taverns" in Preston Central Methodist Church at 7.15pm. Non-members £5 admission.
- 7th** at 7.30pm 'Come and Sing Christmas' rehearsal with The Rawstorne Singers at St Ambrose Church, Moss Lane, Leyland PR25 4XA. £5 music hire charge, light refreshments included. Full booking details from 07791 726388.
- 8th - 9th** at 7.30 pm SATA theatre presents Jack and the Beanstalk at St Andrew's Church Hall, Ashton with a matinee on Sat 10th at 2.00 pm. Pantomime written and directed by Stephen Hargreaves. Tickets adult £9 child £6 and family of 4 (2 adults 2 children) £25
- 9th - 20th** Preston Musical Comedy Society presents "Mother Goose", an Eggs-cellent family pantomime at Preston Playhouse. Contact Box Office 0333 666 3366 as show times vary. Tickets from £10.
- 9th** At Broughton Club the Company of Voyces choir conducted by Robin Stopford presents a Christmas concert commencing at 7.30. Entry fee of £8 includes a glass of wine and a mince pie.
- 10th** 2.00 - 4.00pm at Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston, PR1 2NL. A Victorian Christmas slide show and talk by Susan Douglass of the Friends of Winckley Square. Discover how three different families celebrated Christmas in 1860, 1865 and 1880. Their stories will make you laugh, cry and possibly shock you. Book your place through eventbrite.
- 10th** 2.30- 4 pm KTB Music Saturday Singalong is open to anyone of any age and everyone who loves to have a jolly good sing song. We sing all sorts of songs across all genres, songs from the charts and songs that we grew up singing with our grandparents. At Penwortham Arts Centre, Liverpool Rd Penwortham PR1 9XE. Entry is £5, which includes a brew and a biscuit. (Free for under 16s who are accompanied by an adult).
- 10th** at St Aidan's Church, Station Road, Bamber Bridge PR5 6QL. Preston Orpheus Choir, Freckleton Brass Band and St Pius X Catholic Preparatory School Choir present "A Festive Christmas".
- 10th** Ska Face, the 10 piece Ska band from Blackpool, play the best of Madness, The Specials etc from 8-11pm at the Continental.
- 11th** 3.00 pm Winckley Square Christmas Concert, Winckley Square, Preston PR1, Traditional Christmas Carols around the Tree with St Stephens choir, a Christmas singalong with local ukulele band the Inbetweeners, and headline act SPARK! is back to wow the whole family. Free entry.
- 14th** at 7:30pm The Rawstorne Singers Christmas Concert at St Ambrose Church, Moss Lane, Leyland PR25 4XA. Audience members free of charge, donation requested.

JANUARY 2023

- 4th** Preston Art Society meeting at St Margaret's Parish Centre, Ingol. Christine Stanford will show her work and talk about how she uses mixed media.
- 11th - 14th** Preston Drama Club presents "We're Strangers Here" by Eric Chappell. The play follows two couples who meet at a Spanish hotel on holiday. A delightful comedy set in the 1960s. Tickets from £10 Ring 01772 252288 to book.
- 18th** Preston Art Society meeting at St Margaret's Parish Centre, Ingol. Pam Potter will talk about developing ideas in mixed media.

FEBRUARY

- 1st** Preston Art Society meeting at St Margaret's Parish Centre, Ingol. Steve Rostron will demonstrate landscape painting in oils.
- 6th** Preston Historical Society has a talk by Dr Alan Crosby titled "Music in a Lancashire country house: Rufford Hall in the 1730s". Venue Preston Central Methodist Church. Talk begins at 7.15 Non-members £5 admission.
- 8th - 11th** Broughton Players present "Hard Times", written by Charles Dickens and adapted by Stephen Jeffreys. Set in the riches and hardship of the industrial revolution. Tickets from £10. Ring 01772 252288 to book.
- 15th** Preston Art Society meeting at St Margaret's Parish Centre, Ingol. A practical session giving you the opportunity to explore landscape in your work.
- 19th** at 4pm, The Rawstorne Singers Evensong at St George's Church, Preston.
- 25th - 28th** The Hall Players present "Dead Ringer" at The Playhouse. This thriller plunges from early amusing fantasy into murder and dark plots including the death of the Prime Minister! Tickets from £10 Ring 01772 252288 to book.

To publicise events in Preston Arts News send or email details to Mike Cracknell@blueyonder.co.uk

THE RAWSTORNE SINGERS

After last year's November concert at Blackburn Cathedral, we are particularly pleased to be singing there once again on Friday December 2nd. This will be for the annual Derian House Children's Hospice 'Lights of Love' Christmas service, in company with 'The Local Vocals' choir. One of the Rawstorne Singers' special contributions will be the recently published magical carol by Sally Beamish, 'In the Stillness of the Night' as well as several favourite carols by John Rutter.

On Wednesday December 7th we are offering a 'Come and Sing Christmas with the Rawstorne Singers' event at St Ambrose Church in Leyland. We thought we'd love to share our Christmas concert this year with other local singers, especially as we've included some lesser known and beautiful carols as a welcome change from the 'old faithful' standard carols. There's a small charge of £5 for hiring the music and light refreshments will be provided. The Concert itself will take place on Wednesday 14th December at St Ambrose Church at 7:30pm and non-singing guests are welcome to attend free of charge although we hope for a donation. If you'd like to join us, please book via our website rawstornesingers.co.uk, email us on rawstornesingers@gmail.com by Monday 5th December or ring 07791 726388 for further details.

Next year we are looking forward to singing evensong at St George's Church in Preston on Sunday 19th February. **Alison King**

PRESTON SCHOOLGIRL HAS FILM PREMIERED IN TIMES SQUARE

Millie Hine, a 17-year old student at Cardinal Newman College has had her latest film selected in the All American High School Film Festival. On Saturday October 22nd, she saw her film premier in Times Square, New York. The following is an edited version of an interview I had with her on October 27th.

VS: I don't want this to be a carbon copy of Blog Preston's interview, so can I start with the bits they couldn't do because they hadn't happened yet? You're just back from New York where the film was premiered, and I bet you still haven't come down to earth.

MH: Absolutely. I had one of the actresses with me and we had to keep reminding ourselves that this was really happening, and step back and take a deep breath.

VS: Did they fly you out, where did you stay, and did you get a chance to see anything on Broadway?

MH: We paid to fly out and we stayed in the Midtown Hilton not far from Times Square. Most of our time was spent at the festival, but we also managed to see Harry Potter and the Cursed Child on Broadway?

VS: One of the photos you sent me was taken inside the cinema and it showed a near full house. Were you able to assess the audience reaction?

MH: That photo was at the awards ceremony. Our audience wasn't quite as big but we got a good crowd and a round of applause as the *The End* appeared on screen and another after the credits had rolled. Some said it stood out from the bunch of films it was with, particularly for its story. The next day we had the red-carpet event. It was lovely to talk to likeminded people and independent film makers. Those with more experience said how great it was to get recognition at my age and they gave us lots of encouragement.

VS: I noticed in your earlier interview you talked about adapting your storyline according to what felt right on the day. Did you make many changes that way or were you able to stick largely to the original script?

MH: We had upwards of 20 drafts but sometimes the one we were using didn't sound right on the day. I'd say to the actresses "What do you think?". Other times we sat round the kitchen table and worked it out together over a few hot chocolates. It's as much their film as mine.

VS: I was intrigued when you said your A-level subjects had nothing to do with film and this helped. We're often taught that to do something well we have to study how the masters did it. But this clearly hasn't been the case with you. You're an instinctive film maker.

MH: Thank you for saying that. I think it was Tarantino who said that there'll always be someone who knows how to use a camera, but there won't always be someone who knows how to tell your story. The successful ones are often those who manage to do something a bit different. I think studying other subjects gives you a unique approach that allows you to tell those different stories.

VS: The storyline seems to be about the "problems" young people have as they pass through adolescence. They can be difficult. Parents and family don't understand, and they sometimes respond badly. Holly is convinced she has inherited her mother's "evil" nature. Grace, in trying to persuade Holly she's not evil admits (if I heard this correctly) that she too can be "a pain in the arse sometimes".

MH: Yes, she does say that.

VS: And you're moving back and forth between the present, where Holly and Grace are friends, and a fairy tale past where the same two characters act out Holly's medieval allegory of the same situation. Have I got that about right?

MH: Absolutely spot on.

VS: There seem to be lots of instances where the allegorical nature of the story can be interpreted in different ways. For instance, the title, *The Snake and the Apple*, has biblical connotations - good people being tempted into wrongdoing. It seems at one point that perhaps Grace is being "taken over" by the snake which uses her to voice its evil. This happens when she tempts Holly to take the apple. But in a departure from the biblical version, it's Grace who snatches the apple and laughs uproariously. That could have more than one interpretation? Is it deliberately vague?

MH: Yes, with it being a short film (16 minutes), we couldn't always say everything, but we also wanted to leave a bit of a hanging feeling, to leave some questions unanswered - a bit like a poem that tells you just enough. Regarding biblical aspects, we all have faults and it's those which make us what we are. We see ourselves at times as bad people and we have to learn to accept that we're not perfect. We're human and set a bar that's impossible to meet. Grace is there to remind us of that.

VS: Besides the story and the acting, I was very impressed with just about every other aspect of the film - the direction, editing, photography, music. The music brilliantly compliments what's happening on the screen.

MH: Thank you very much. It was many weeks of experimenting and editing, and I will always be grateful for such talented, dedicated actresses.

VS: I also noticed how closely you were involved with all aspects of film making, being credited as Writer, Director, Editor, and jointly for cinematography and costume design. You enjoy the whole process or are you a control freak? And how did you find the time with A Levels coming up?

MH: To be honest I ended up doing nearly everything, but it was practicality rather than being a control freak. With a few hiccups along the way, I needed to co-ordinate and keep everything moving smoothly. I found the time through very long days. I got in college very early and was often there all day, up at half 6 and working till 8, then working on the film till 12 and up again at half 6. But it was definitely worth it.

VS: Finally, congratulations again, thank you for talking to me and good luck with whatever comes next.

MH: Thank you. I look forward to seeing the film in the Preston Arts Festival and having the Q&A session!

