

Preston Arts News

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PRESTON ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL 2025

With the Arts Festival due to run from 20th September to 5th October, we are devoting much of this newsletter to advance information on some of the events we are hoping to present during the festival.

LAUNCH CONCERT



This will take place at St George's Church on Sunday 21st September from 2.00-4.30pm (doors open 1.30pm). After an introduction, the festival will be opened by Mayor of Preston, Councillor Susan Marie Whittam. We then have a concert featuring Peter and Carol Kwater (piano) who will be playing *Spanish Dances Op. 12* by Moritz Moszkowski, and *Petite Suite* by Claude Debussy. This will be followed by the Preston Gilbert and Sullivan Society performing songs from their past and future programmes.

Other events scheduled for the festival are shown below.

THE RAWSTORNE SINGERS

The Rawstorne Singers are performing Vivaldi's 'Gloria', Bruckner's 'Locus Iste' and other choral favourites at 3pm on Sunday 21st September in a special Preston Heritage Festival Concert at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Ashton on Ribble, Preston, PR2 1AJ. The church is open on Sunday for Morning Service at 10:00am, then from 12 noon until 2pm. Later access is for the Concert only from 3-4pm. Tickets are available on the door, from the choir website www.rawstornesingers.co.uk and from trybooking.co.uk

Unfortunately, this clashes with the Festival Launch concert which takes place at St George's church between 2.00pm and 4.30pm. However, both are included here as they give a choice, or an alternative for those who cannot make one or the other.

PRESTON FOLK DANCE

Preston Folk Dance Club meet every week on a Monday evening from autumn to spring. We will be meeting during the festival at Galloway Hall, Brackenbury Road, Preston, PR2 3BS on Monday 22nd September.

No experience is necessary so don't worry about not knowing the different steps, there are plenty of people to help you. The caller will walk everybody through each dance first to make sure everybody knows what to do and then the music will start!

We always welcome new dancers, so feel free to come along for a taster evening. You don't need a partner either, there are plenty of other members who come on their own.

For more information call our chairman – Lynn Hoyle on 07484 740982 or our secretary – Kath Risely on 01995 672114 or just come along to see us. www.prestonfolkdanceclub.org.uk Find us on Facebook.



PRESTON ARTS NEWS

Produced by Preston Arts Association.

Copies are available free of charge from local libraries, local arts societies, at the Guildhall, Travel Information Office in the Bus Station, Waterstones Bookshop and other arts venues in the area.

Information and any news items should be sent to Vincent Smith
13 Woodford Copse Chorley PR7 2ER
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The next issue will cover the period December 2025 – February 2026
Deadline for submissions 31st October 2025

MEMBERS

Artfull
<https://artfullcomarts.org>
Broughton Club Players
<https://www.facebook.com/p/The-Club-Players-at-Broughton-Broughton-Players>
<https://www.broughtonplayers.co.uk>
Company of Voyces
<https://www.facebook.com/Companyofvoyces>
Damson Poets
<https://damsonpoets.wordpress.com>
Dean Taylor
<https://deantaylortheatre.co.uk>
Fired 4 U
<https://fired4u.co.uk>
Friends of Winckley Square
<https://www.winckleysquarepreston.org/about/friends>
Gujurat Muslim Welfare Society
Hall Players
<https://www.hallplayers.org.uk>
Joyce Tindsley
<https://joycetindsley.com>
KTB Music
<https://www.ktbmusic.com>
Longton Players
<https://www.facebook.com/TheLongtonPlayers>
New Longton Artists
<https://newlongtonartists.com>
One Voice Community Choir
<https://www.onevoice.org.uk>
Preston & District USA
<https://u3asites.org.uk/preston/welcome>
Preston Art Society
<https://prestonartsociety.weebly.com>
Preston Card Makers Club
Preston Cecilian Choral Society
<https://www.cecilians.org.uk>
Preston Circle Dance Group
<https://www.facebook.com/prestoncircledancing>
Preston Drama Club
<https://www.prestonplayhouse.co.uk/preston-drama-club>
Preston Flute Group
<https://prestonflutegroup.co.uk>
Preston Folk Dance Club
<https://www.prestonfolkdanceclub.org.uk>
Preston Gilbert & Sullivan Society
<https://prestongass.co.uk>
Preston Historical Society
<http://www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk>
Preston Lacemaking Group
Preston Movie Makers
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Preston-Moviemakers>
Preston Opera Company
<http://www.prestonopera.org.uk>
Preston Orpheus Choir
<https://www.prestonorpheuschoir.org>
Preston Photographic Society
<https://www.prestonphotographicsociety.org>
Preston Poets
<https://prestonpoetsociety.wordpress.com>
Preston Recorded Music Society
Preston Symphony Orchestra
<https://prestonsymphonyorchestra.co.uk>
Rawstorne Singers
<https://www.rawstornesingers.co.uk>
Royal Preston Morris Dancers
<https://royalpreston.weebly.com>
South Ribble Strings
<https://southribblestrings.weebly.com>
St Andrew's & Tanterton Allsorts
St Leonard's G&S Society
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Utopial>
UCLAN Confucius Institute
<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/centres/confucius-institute>

DAMSON POETS



Damson Poets meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the Continental pub. We have a mixture of new and experienced readers so it's an evening that belongs to everyone and if you want to listen that's great. We take names for the 5-minute reading slots from 7-15 pm on the night itself. The start time is 7-30 pm. Free Entry. Occasionally we include a guest reader as well as the open mic slots. The September meeting will be part of the Preston Arts Festival and will include special guest Sophie Tongyu Wu. Contact Terry at damsonpoets@gmail.com for further information.

JACK YERKES BIG BAND



The band are appearing at BAC/ER Sports and social Club at 8.00pm on Thursday 25th September.

FIRE4U

FIRE4U has a scheduled event during the festival, on 1st October at 7pm - clay workshop - Christmas Tree or Christmas Wreath. £45 inclusive of 2 visits; to make and to paint.

There are other scheduled events taking place on various dates during the autumn. See [Fired4u.co.uk](https://fired4u.co.uk) for details, including prices and booking information.



ARCHIVE EVENT

This has been an annual festival event for more than ten years. This year the theme is VE Day. A group of local writers will have been inspired by archive material on the chosen theme but we will also be looking back over the past projects, from *Not the Wipers Times* (2014), on the theme of WW1, to the present, and will be presenting the results in an afternoon of readings. Hopefully, there will be a pamphlet of the poems and stories, which will be on sale after the readings. As usual, the event will take place at the Archive Library on Bow Lane on Friday 26th September at 2.00pm

FILMS AT CARDINAL NEWMAN COLLEGE

We will be screening three films made by recent Newman students on their BTEch course. These will be shown in Newman's theatre at 2.30pm on Saturday 27th September. Here is a short preview:

“Prepotent” written, and directed by Isla Walmsley (run time: 12:29)

A powerful and emotional short film about living with OCD. A young girl visits her therapist and takes us on a sensory tour of how she sees the world. A visually immersive and powerful experience. Prepotent was also the winner of Best Film at the Alice Guy-Blache Awards held in the Mitchell and Kenyon Theatre, UCLan in May 2025.

“Leave” written and directed by Harrison Doherty (run time: 7:47)

A conflicted young man is struggling under the weight of a dilemma: should he listen to his “mates” and continue with his life of crime or heed the warnings he hears from his dead mother?

“And For My Final Act”. A surrealist drama Written and Directed by Seth Messenger (run time 13:46)

A charming, functional member of society is burdened by the crudeness and nihilism of their inner voice, which reveals a grudge against humanity. They decide to remove their own senses, one by one. By the end of their performance, will there be anything left?

We hope to have a Q&A session to follow, and/or an interview with the film makers.

MAGIC VOICES

St Leonard's Church. Saturday 27th September at 7.00pm.

POETRY OF THE RAILWAYS

St Wilfrid's Community Centre, Chapel Street, October 3rd, 2.45-3.45pm. A talk by Terry Quinn of Preston Poets' Society. The talk will encompass instances of poetry in the context of the railways.

PRESTON ORPHEUS AND GATHERED VOICES



On Sunday 28th September, we have a choir event at St George's featuring Preston Orpheus and Gathered Voices choirs. The concert will begin at 2.00pm

FREDERIC CHOPIN



PAA President Vince Smith will present a talk on the life and music of Frederic Chopin (1810-49). Chopin was unique amongst the great composers of the 18th and 19th centuries in focusing almost exclusively on the piano. It is a testament to the quality of his compositions that with such a restricted range, he managed to stand alongside the other musical giants of the time.

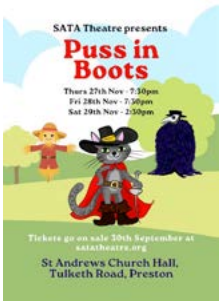
The talk will be illustrated by images shown on the TV monitor, complemented by a selection of relevant pieces played either on CD or on the piano. This event will take place at St George's Church on Wednesday 1st October from 2.00-3.45pm. There will be an interval with light refreshments.

PORTRAIT CHALLENGE

This is now an established part of the Arts festival, having taken place each year for about five years. This year the event will be in the studio of the newly opened Harris Building at 11.30am on Saturday 4th October.

OTHER EVENTS UP TO NOVEMBER

SATA THEATRE PANTOMIME



Imagine a cat who can walk and talk - this is Puss in Boots

It's his job to ensure that Peter the Miller marries Princess Caroline. However, Peter has been cheated out of his inheritance by his brothers and is left penniless. In order for Peter to take his rightful place as the Marquis of Carabass, Puss must defeat the evil Crowman. Come along and see if he is successful. Our pantomime has all the usual fun and frolics for which we are renowned - a Pantomime for all the family. Join us for a wonderful start to your Christmas celebrations.

Venue: St Andrew's Church Hall, Tulketh Road, Ashton, PR2 1EP • Thursday and Friday 27th-28th November at 7.30pm • Saturday 29th November at 2.30pm

Tickets on sale from 30th September on our website www.satatheatre.org/events

PRESTON OPERA

OPERA CLASSICS FROM THE SMALL AND SILVER SCREEN. St Leonard's Church, Penwortham, 7th December, 2.00pm. This event is just outside the dates of the present newsletter, but we are including it in case there is a delay getting the next one out.



PRESTON CECILIAN CHORAL SOCIETY



Under the leadership of their accomplished Musical Director Marc Murray, Preston Cecilian Choral Society is delighted to be performing Rossini's much loved 'Petite Messe Solonelle' for their autumn concert this year on Saturday 29 November at St Mary's, Brownedge, at 4pm. There is an excellent line up of soloists with Juliet Montgomery (Soprano), Imogen Garner (Mezzo Soprano), Joseph Buckmaster (Tenor) and Aidan Edwards (Bass). This line up is supported by Robin Stopford a highly regarded local musician as Accompanist.

The 'Petite Messe Solonelle' is an imaginative work full of delightful melodies with hints of Rossini's operatic prowess. It is much loved by performers and audiences alike. You are invited to join us at this first concert of our 2025-2026 season.

The Cecilians will be celebrating their Centenary in November 2027 and have an exciting programme of concerts planned leading up to that date from Nov 26 – 27. If you would like to consider joining us as we make our way towards our Centenary please look at our website www.cecilians.org.uk for details. We have a few vacancies across all parts and will be more than pleased to welcome you.

HALL PLAYERS 65th SEASON



The Hall Players are kicking off a spectacular 65th season, with the premier of 'Short. Sharp. Shocks'. Four dark comic tales, written by the brilliant mind of local author Andy Bennison and directed by the talented Steve Dobson. Prepare for a night of mystery, murder and the supernatural.

Do you lie in bed, too afraid to sleep?

You need Nightmares Anonymous, the self-help group of your dreams.

A night that you won't want to miss! Performance dates: 22nd to 25th October 2025
Preston Playhouse: 7.30pm Tickets from £12 www.prestonplayhouse.co.uk