

# Preston Arts News

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[www.prestonarts.com](http://www.prestonarts.com)

## The Rawstorne Singers

On Saturday May 17th we are offering singers the chance to join our special 'Come and Sing' Choral workshop and perform Vivaldi's 'Gloria' with us, a wonderful piece of music which has been loved since the 18th century. If you're already a choir member or someone who just enjoys singing at home, this relaxed and friendly choral workshop is the perfect way to exercise your vocal chords. You'll benefit from the expert tuition of our Musical Director and organist Marc Murray and will perform the 'Gloria' afterwards with the Rawstorne Singers. Our Workshop at St Leonard's Church in Penwortham starts with arrival at 10:00 and a short concert follows at 16:00. Tickets are £20 per singer which includes choral tuition, music hire, lunch and refreshments. Audience tickets for the general public are free (donations welcome) so please also invite your family and friends. Booking in advance online to sing with us is recommended to ensure we have enough copies of Vivaldi's 'Gloria' for you. Please use our QR code or visit [www.rawstornesingers.co.uk](http://www.rawstornesingers.co.uk) Do come and join us, we'd love to meet you!



Email: [rawstornesingers@gmail.com](mailto:rawstornesingers@gmail.com)

Find us on facebook, twitter or Instagram

2025 will be another brilliant year for the Rawstorne singers. On April 6th we're at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, at Blackburn Cathedral on July 20th and in Tewkesbury from 13th-17th August when our full choir departs to the Abbey for our annual short singing break whilst their resident choir is on holiday. These short singing breaks have given us the unique opportunity to visit every Anglican Cathedral in England plus two in Dublin and several in Wales, something not every choir is lucky enough to enjoy. If you'd like to try singing with us locally and perhaps also join us on our Cathedral breaks, please come to rehearsals at St. Leonard's Church in Penwortham on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm. New members are most welcome, both those relatively new to singing and even better, those who have choral singing experience.



## 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 September – November 2025  
Deadline for submissions 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

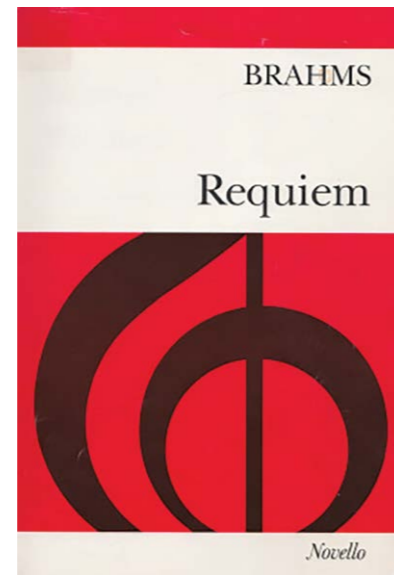
## MEMBERS

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>  
Damsen Poets  
<https://damsenpoets.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 U3A  
<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 Friends of the Phil  
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  
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>

## PRESTON ORPHEUS CHOIR

**Brahms' Requiem** (Sung in English)

Saturday 5th April 2025 - 7pm St Michael and All Angels,  
Egerton Road, Ashton



The following is taken, with thanks, from an online article by John Bawden.

For many years Brahms had been preoccupied with the idea of composing a Requiem, but only in 1866, when he was 33, did he begin serious work on it. It was completed the following year with the exception of the fifth movement, which he added later in order to achieve a more balanced structure. In its incomplete form Ein Deutsches Requiem

was first heard in Bremen Cathedral on Good Friday 1868. The final version was performed the following year at Leipzig's famous concert-hall, the Gewandhaus.

Brahms may have written the Requiem in memory of his mother, who died in 1865; it is equally possible that he had in mind his great friend and mentor, Robert Schumann, whose madness and tragic death had profoundly affected the young Brahms. The composer himself gave no indication of whose memorial the Requiem might be, if indeed it was any one person's. As with all great music, the universal message of its vision transcends the circumstances of its conception.

**"Come and Sing"** Choruses from Handel's Messiah Saturday 31st May 2025 A workshop (times tba) followed by a performance at 7pm

## PRESTON OPERA AT 60

Preston Opera will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2025 with a production of Verdi's La Traviata. There will be four performances from Friday 30 May to Sunday 1 June 2025 at

Fulwood Academy PR2 9YR. As usual, these will be fully staged performances accompanied by Preston Opera Orchestra under our Music Director Helen Harrison. We will notify the exact performance times on our website [www.prestonopera.org.uk](http://www.prestonopera.org.uk). The opera is based on The

Lady of the Camellias, a drama by the younger Dumas. We hope to attract a large audience for this popular and moving opera.



## POETS' CORNER

We have two main poetry groups in Preston, each offering a different approach to the enjoyment of poetry.

Preston Poets' Society was formed in 1947 and is one of the oldest poetry groups in the country. Meetings are held monthly at St Wilfrid's Community Centre and are open to anyone with an interest in poetry. You don't have to write poetry to attend. It is a very friendly group that welcomes and supports new members. We produce a newsletter 3-4 times per year containing members' poems and features of interest in the poetic world. We have 4 competitions per year and two projects in which members are invited to do a little research into chosen topics. Sometimes we arrange for a talk on a subject of poetic interest, the speaker being either an invited guest from outside the society, or one of our own members. Other activities include an annual joint meeting with the Preston Recorded Music Society, and a summer outing to a place of literary or artistic interest. See our website <https://prestonpoetsociety.wordpress.com>.

The other group is Damsen Poets which is basically an open mic group. Meetings are again once monthly, at the Continental and evenings take the form of 5-minute slots allocated to anyone wishing to read their own work (or that of other poets). Sometimes participants are designated "Headliners" in which they are allocated 10 minute slots.

## PRESTON RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Programme for 2025, March – August

14 March	Music from Ukraine and its Environs	Vince Smith
11 April	Encounters with Composers	Raymond Watton
9 May	Stravinsky: Influenced and Influencer	Chris Harman
13 June	Members' Evening (bring 2 pieces of your choice).	Jacob's Join buffet evening. Please bring food/drink, otherwise £2 entry.
11 July	A Selection of Musical Bs	Chris Rodwell
8 August	Down to the Sea in Ships	Sue Parker

We meet at the Penwortham Over 60s Club on Priory Lane, 7.30-9.45pm.

## FIRE4U

FIRE4U runs a range of pottery activities, for adults and children. These include: Pottery painting, in which you paint your own designs on pre-made pottery. These will be fired for permanence on one of the two kilns in the studio (the kilns are affectionately known as Katy and Kelvin).

You can learn how to create pottery using various methods. It is also possible to create jewellery using enamelling techniques.



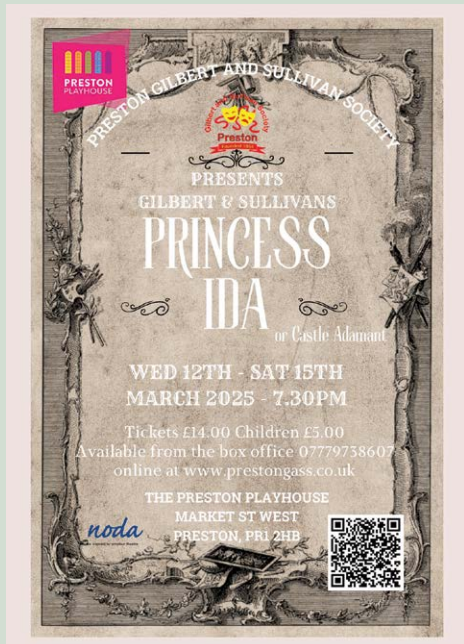
Some years ago, two pottery wheels were installed which enable lessons in pottery throwing to be given.

For the last few years special evenings have been held which combine gin appreciation with pottery making and painting. The appreciation consists of talks on three types of gin and their qualities, but at least as importantly, the chance to sample a chosen gin whilst working on your latest masterpiece.

The photo shows several people busy with a variety of items. All the above take place in a very friendly but professional environment. Further details of activities, including dates and times can be found on our website [www.fired4u.co.uk](http://www.fired4u.co.uk). Booking is essential and can be done on the website or call us direct on 01772 20 30 60.

# PLAYHOUSE

## Princess Ida



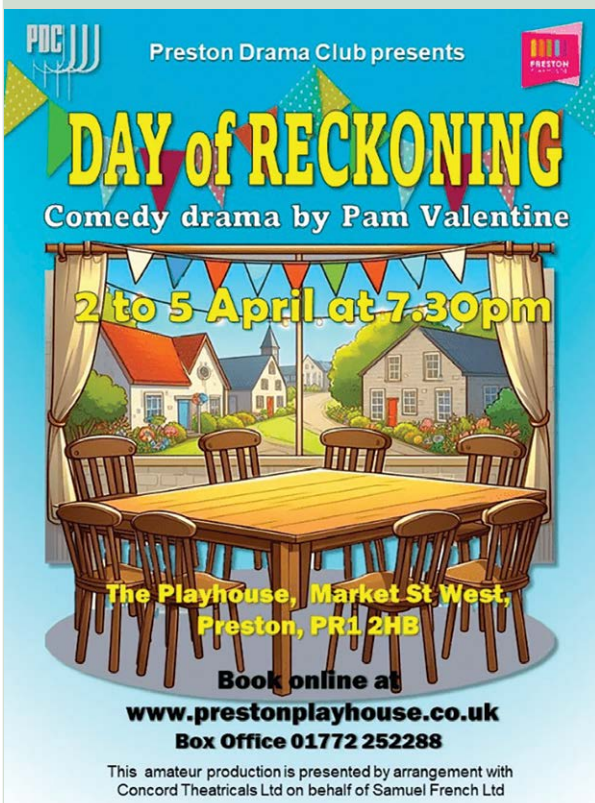
Eighth in the sequence of Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas, and sandwiched between *Iolanthe* and *The Mikado*, *Princess Ida* was based on a long poem by Tennyson (*The Princess*). In turn, it is possible the poet was influenced by Shakespeare's *Loves Labours Lost* in which a King and three of his courtiers decide to give up women for three years and devote themselves to study. In Tennyson's poem it is the women who abjure the company of men, setting up their own university from which men are barred. Gilbert seems to have been well attracted by the poem as he used it twice. The first attempt came to nothing, so he tried again with the help of Sullivan.

The opera is the longest of the Savoy Operas, running to three acts, and is unique in following Tennyson's mode of speaking in iambic pentameter.

The opera, like the poem, is a satire in which women try to break into a world dominated by men. The ending does not resolve where Tennyson's proclivities lie and the same might be said of Gilbert's. But there's lots of comedy and great music in the Sullivan tradition.

## Day of Reckoning by Pam Valentine

A production from Preston Drama Club, directed by Janet Dawson.



It's still winter but the Summer Fete committee are meeting to plan the annual village event.

Various personalities emerge; the village busy body, the vicar's long suffering wife, a shy young teacher, the brisk Army wife, along with several others.

Six months on and the day of the fete unfolds with cathartic events that are related with humour and pathos.

### Other spring dramas coming up:

**Going Green.** A comedy by David Tristram. 16-19th April

**Trading in Wigs 2,** by Ian Grant. 26th April

**The Suspicions of Mr Whicher.** A whodunnit based on the book by Kate Summerscale. 7-10th May

**Death by Fatal Murder.** A comedy by Peter Gordon. 21-24th May