

Preston Arts News

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The Rawstorne Singers

After a strong start to 2022 which included singing at Liverpool Cathedral, we organized and very much enjoyed a 'Come and Sing' Messiah event at the end of April. We had a great time meeting singers from a number of different choirs and were delighted when several of them decided to join the Rawstorne Singers permanently under the baton of our superb new choral director Marc Murray. One of our new sopranos is still at Primary School which is very encouraging for recruitment of young voices and she particularly enjoyed singing some of the very famous choruses from Handel's 'Messiah'. July saw us travelling up the M6 to sing Evensong at St Peter's in Scorton, followed by a short concert which included Parry's marvellous 'I was Glad' and the recently composed Platinum Anthem by Thomas Hewitt Jones, both of which were specially chosen to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Another highlight this summer has been our annual singing week which is always spent in one of the UK's Cathedral cities. This year we deputized for the choir at Exeter's lovely Cathedral (see photo) while their resident choir took a well-earned break and this was also a holiday for us as we were able to fit in plenty of sight-seeing trips and outings in between our rehearsals and the Cathedral services.

We are always keen to welcome new singers to the choir, especially if you feel comfortable singing in harmony and coping with a relatively large repertoire. We don't give formal auditions but there will be an informal chat with the Musical Director after you have attended a few rehearsals. We rehearse at St Ambrose Church in Leyland at 7:30 on Wednesday evenings and for further information, please visit our website: www.rawstornesingers.co.uk or contact us via email on: rawstornesingers@gmail.com

Alison King



Preston Historical Society and Bluebird K7

Keith Hick will be presenting **The Bluebird K7 Story: a personal perspective** at Preston Central Methodist Church Lune St. Preston PR1 2EL on November 7th, starting at 7.15pm. It will be of interest to all age groups but perhaps in particular to those who were around in January 1967 and heard the dramatic announcement about what had happened on Coniston Water. Come along and get the full story.

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 December 2022-February 2023

Deadline for submissions October 31st 2022

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Arts Festival 2022

This year, for the first time, we held a summer festival. June wasn't the best month for me as I had a lot of commitments elsewhere, but I managed to get to six events, including the launch. I'll just comment here on the events I was able to attend. At the launch, I had the pleasure of introducing the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Yakub Patel and we sat together during the concert that followed the introductions.

He took several photos. His timing was exactly right with one of the Chinese dancers (Xueting Luo, pictured), catching the fanning out of the scarf just as it reached its full splendour. The concert was extremely enjoyable, with the Chinese dancers, St John's Church Girls' Choir, Paul Greenhalgh on piano and Rob Mosley on organ. Rob featured an out of the ordinary assortment of modern songs not normally heard on organ.



Three of the other events I managed to get to were also concerts. One was Harris Music with an interesting combination of piano and oboe. Hannah Condliffe was the oboist and Dominic Doughty the accompanist although he also got a solo slot as pianist. The pieces performed included Poulenc's Oboe Sonata and Grovlez' Sarabande and Allegro. The second concert was "Thank you for the Music" in which the theme was juke box musicals. The numbers were performed by Katy Bradley, who was also Musical Director, Michael Bilsbrough, Paul Regan, Tom Madill and Pippa Lane. David Cookson (piano) and Michael Mayor (bass and guitar) provided the accompaniment. Stephen Hall was compère for the evening. The final concert was the festival's closing event and was titled "Jubilee Concert". Also compèred by Stephen Hall, this one featured the Dunelm Duo (Lynne Williams on saxophone, Rob Rainford on piano), Preston Opera, Preston Flute Band, and Harry Spencer on organ. The second half featured a "Last night of the proms" event, with all the usual songs and music such as

Nimrod and Land of Hope and Glory. Harry demonstrated an excellent command of the organ with his rendition of these and the Fantasia on sea shanties, with a hornpipe finale in which the speed increased dramatically with each repetition, in the traditional manner. He included amusing mistakes which were inserted into the endings. It needs a crack musician to make mistakes we can laugh "with" rather than "at".



I also attended a book launch featuring Dorothy Nelson's latest novel "The Attendant's Room". It was held in the same venue and at the same time as the Portrait Challenge, so that was my sixth event. The models were the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Yakub Patel, and Mayoress, Pauline Brown. The two winners both chose to paint the Mayoress, but there were some excellent portraits of the Deputy Mayor as well. I've said before how impressed I am that artists can achieve such results in a one day session. If I entered I would be tinkering with it for weeks afterwards. Many thanks to Preston City Council for sponsoring the event and providing the venue. Also to judge, Richard Cross, and to New Longton Artists for providing the space to display the results and present the prizes. This is the prize winning entry from Norman Long. Second prize went to Steven Smith.

One other event I had planned to attend was the Regency Promenade – one of the four walks organized by Friends of Winckley Square, but it was already booked out by the time I tried to enrol. I am reliably informed that all the walks were well attended and appreciated, so in future, early booking is needed.

There were many other events so apologies for not having the space to mention them all.

On the whole it was another successful festival. Here's to 2023! Although you can't see it, that was an excuse to get out the Courvoisier and raise a substantial glass to the organizers, financiers, performers and audiences. Well done to everybody. **VS**

Arts Festival 2023

The merry-go-round has now started up again and one event, the Portrait Challenge, has already been scheduled. We're going for a spring festival next time to catch the staff and students of UCLan before they disappear for the summer. The Portrait Challenge will be on Saturday 16th April. Anyone interested in entering should contact Pam Potter on pampotter2003@aol.com. Entrants will be limited, so the sooner you book the better the chance of getting a place.

If any of our members would like to present a show, please get in touch as soon as you can. As with the Portrait Challenge, we have a limited number of slots, so an early booking should secure your place. Performance events can be short, to fit the Launch, or full length afternoon or evening shows. We also like to feature a range of exhibitions, guided walks, talks and workshops.

What's On

For **local societies** whose programmes are not detailed below but which generally meet monthly (or sometimes irregularly), see end of this what's-on guide.

Venues, when not specified in the guide, are as follows:

Preston Historical Society meets at 7.15 at Preston Central Methodist Church Lune St. Preston PR1 2EL

Preston Art Society meets on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7.30-9.30 pm at St Margaret's Parish Centre Ingol. PR2 3ZU

Preston Drama Club, Broughton Players, The Hall Players perform at the Playhouse.

New Longton Artists meet at New Longton Village Hall.

Preston Lacemakers meet at New Longton Village Hall

Local Societies and activities

Preston Folk Dance Club holds class/club nights on Monday evenings 7.30-9.45 at Galloway Hall, Brackenbury Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3BS and has Saturday evening dances at St Cuthbert's Church Centre, Lytham Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3BS. If you are interested in having a go please contact Kath Risely on 01995 672114 or email prestonfolkdanceclub@hotmail.com

Preston Circle Dancing. We dance on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 12.45 to 14.45 at Galloway Hall, Brackenbury Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3BS

We all join hands and dance together in a circle to beautiful and inspiring music from many countries and cultures. All the dances are taught with patience and precision in a friendly atmosphere. Newcomers are welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes (no high heels please) or dance barefoot if you prefer. For further details, phone Rosemary on 01772 793658 or 07903 669598

Preston Lacemakers meet to share their enthusiasm and enjoyment in the art and craft of lace, in all its variations. Throughout the year we have talks about and workshops in both lace and other craft techniques. For more information contact Christine Keber on 01772 339913 or by email: prestonlacemakers@yahoo.com.

Pottery. For anyone interested in making or decorating pottery try contacting Jane Fox at Fired 4U at 15-17 Hennel Ln, Walton-le-Dale, Preston PR5 4LA. Something suitable for anyone from toddlers to pensioners. Ring 01772203060 or email jane@fired4u.co.uk

Preston Poets Society meets on the third Monday of each month at 7.30 (excluding August) in St Wilfrid's Church Hall in Chapel St. If you are interested in joining and want information contact the secretary Dorothy Nelson at dchandlernelson@gmail.com

Damson Poets has afternoon meetings in the Larder (opposite Preston Council offices) at 1.00 and evening meetings on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30, at the Continental. Information from Terry Quinn at tsqdor@hotmail.com

Preston Recorded Music Society holds meetings on the second Friday of each month at 7.30, in the Penwortham Over 60's Club in Priory Lane. Members or guest speakers give talks on music illustrated by cd's. Further information available from Secretary Vince Smith at vsmith@pagehall.idps.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

- 5th** Preston Historical Society. Prints of Old Preston – Speaker: Stephen Sartin
- 7th** at 2.00pm in St George's Church, Lune St. Harris Music presents South Korean born Victor Lim who moved to England in 2006 and took part in the 2012 Young Musician of the Year. The concert includes works by Adès, Scriabin and Faure together with 3 pieces by Chopin.
- 10th** Sept 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM Preston Opera presents a Demonstration/Workshop Singing masterclass with international opera singer and respected voice teacher Amanda Roocroft from 9.30am to 4.30 pm at Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EJ £25 fee includes light lunch and refreshments. Book online or pay on the door.
- 14th** New Longton Artists. "Elements of Landscape; Abstraction and Mark making" - Workshop with "Tony Coneys" (continued)
- 21st** Preston Art Society. Norman Long will demonstrate his approach to figures in the Urban Landscape.
- 21st** – at 7.30 Preston Drama Club present "Neville's Island", a comedy by Tim Firth. Four businessmen - no food, no tent, no escape. Ticket Price: From £10 - Box Office : 01772 252288 or on the door.
- 24th** businessmen - no food, no tent, no escape. Ticket Price: From £10 - Box Office : 01772 252288 or on the door.

OCTOBER

- 3rd** Preston Historical Society. A Social History of Preston's Railways – Speaker: Dr Paul Salvesson
- 5th** New Longton Artists. Members Workshop "Collaborative Painting!!"
- 5th** Preston Art Society. Figure drawing in an environment. (Details to be announced.)
- 5th** - at 7.30 pm Broughton Players present "Curtain Up!" a comedy by Peter Quilter. Five women inherit equal shares in a dilapidated theatre and plan to bring it back to life. Ticket Price: From £10 - Box Office : 01772 252288 or on the door.
- 8th** women inherit equal shares in a dilapidated theatre and plan to bring it back to life. Ticket Price: From £10 - Box Office : 01772 252288 or on the door.
- 12th** - the Longton Artists will be performing "The Ghost Train" by Arnold Ridley in St Andrew's Church Hall, Liverpool Road, Longton. Tickets are £8. Box Office 01772 875418
- 15th** Church Hall, Liverpool Road, Longton. Tickets are £8. Box Office 01772 875418
- 19th** Preston Art Society. Jamie Barnes will demonstrate how he makes his prints and talks about his inspirations.
- 19th** at 2.00pm in St George's Church, Lune St. Harris Music presents the SONO Ensemble playing a piano quintet by Elgar and The Lark Ascending by Elgar (commissioned arrangement for piano quintet)
- 19th** New Longton Artists. Demonstration/Workshop
- 19th** - at 7.30 The Hall Players present "Don't You Want Me?" a comedy by Andy Bennison. It's a night for dancing, drinking, reminiscing and the re-opening of old wounds. Ticket Price: From £10 - Box Office : 01772 252288 or on the door.
- 22nd** at 7.30 pm the famous folk group The Houghton Weavers guarantee a wonderful evening of entertainment. As their motto says, they always 'Keep Folk Smiling!' Ticket price £14

NOVEMBER

- 1st** at 7.30 The Northern Comedy Theatre return to The Playhouse for one night only with "Doing Whodunnit" by David Spicer. Tickets from £12.50
- 2nd** Preston Art Society. Jac Balmer- A practical print based workshop. (Details to be announced.)
- 2nd** Nov. New Longton Artists. Appraisal Evening, Bring paintings for discussion
- 7th** Preston Historical Society. The Bluebird K7 Story: a personal perspective – Speaker Keith Hick
- 12th** at 7.30 pm in St Leonards Church, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham. PR1 9AJ Preston Orpheus Choir will present an evening of French music by Bizet, Franck, Widor, Gounod and Faure – including his sublime Requiem. Pay on the door by cash, card or contactless. Adm.to be confirmed
- 16th** Photographer Jill Reidy will show her work, talk about her latest project and set the theme for our next group pop up exhibition.
- 16** - at 7.30 Preston Drama Club presents "Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb", a comedy thriller by
- 19th** Norman Robbins
- 23rd** at 2.00pm in St George's Church, Lune St. Harris Music presents Meera Maharaj (flute) and Lucy Nolan (harp) playing "Myths and Legends"
- 26th** Preston Cecilian Choral Society perform John Rutter's Requiem and pieces by Vaughan Williams. Venue to be confirmed

DECEMBER

- 3rd** The Freckleton Band together Preston Musical Comedy Society present "Christmas Cavalcade", an evening of Christmas music. Tickets from £13 - Box Office : 01772 252288
- 4th** Preston Opera presents Act 2 of Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II at St Leonards Church, Marshall's Brow, Penwortham PR1 9JA
- 5th** Preston Historical Society. Selected Tales from Preston's Taverns – Speaker Steve Halliwell
- 9th** - Preston Musical Comedy Society presents "Mother Goose", an Egg-cellent family pantomime
- 20th** at St Aidan's Church, Station Road, Bamber Bridge PR5 6QL Preston Orpheus Choir and Freckleton Brass Band present "A Festive Christmas"

Drama

Here's a couple of highlights from the current drama season.

Preston Drama Club

Tim Firth is famous for *Calendar Girls*, the musical version of which was staged at the Playhouse earlier this year. Early in his career (1992) he wrote a one-act play *A Man Of Letters*, which led to the commissioning of a full-length play from Alan Ayckbourn, *Neville's Island*. This later transferred to Chichester and then the West End, and has been seen in translation all round the world. It has been in almost continuous production since its premiere.

It is a comedy in which four businessmen go on a bonding trip to the Lake District and soon find they have no food, no tent, no escape. Sounds like a comedy version of *Deliverance*. Should be great fun. Preston Playhouse. Ticket Price: From £10 - Box Office : 01772 252288 or on the door.



Longton Players

12th-15th October the Longton Players will be performing **The Ghost Train**



by Arnold Ridley. Ridley wasn't just bumbling old private Godfrey in *Dad's Army*, he was a successful actor and a playwright with a long career. He was also a bit of a war hero, having fought in both world wars, been wounded on the Somme, and risen to the rank of captain in the second war. He joined the Home Guard later, so he was in dad's army for real. He wrote over 30 plays with **The Ghost Train** being the most successful. It was filmed twice. Another of his plays was adapted for film under the title **Meet Mr. Lucifer**. He was awarded the OBE in 1982 for services to the theatre. I bet you wouldn't have recognized him from this youthful photo.

St Andrew's Church Hall, Liverpool Road, Longton. Tickets are 8. Box Office 01772 875418

Jamie Barnes at Preston Art Society

Jamie is a Cumbrian printmaker who specializes in images of buildings, architecture and other man made structures. He likes to show them in the context of their rural or coastal landscapes and celebrate the contribution they make to the surrounding natural environment as well as to whatever purpose they were built to achieve. He will give a demonstration of how he works at Preston Art Society on 19th October.



Singing 4 You

A new choir was established in January 2022 thanks to support from **The Harmony Singers** which closed in December 2021. The photo shows some of the choir - we never seem to get everybody in. It was at a private concert at The Christmas Decorator in Liverpool. Since the party was in June we were a bit confused!

Singing 4 You is for anyone who enjoys singing, or would like to experience singing in a choir for the first time. There are neither auditions nor a need to be able to read music to join the choir. We have members who are new to singing, members who have come back to singing and members who have been singing 4 part harmony for many years. The choir is supported by an accomplished and talented pianist. We are a group of likeminded individuals who enjoy singing, entertaining the public and raising money for local charities. In the short time we have been together we have helped raise funds for the local NHS paediatric charity and performed at 3 concerts.

Our range of music covers all tastes from sacred to modern pop, musicals to war time medleys. There's something for everyone at Singing 4 You.

We always welcome new members and practice on Sunday afternoon (so no problem if you work during the week) from 1.30 to 3.30 at St Aidan's Institute on Station Road in Bamber Bridge PR5 6QL.

Just turn up if you would like to join us or ring Win 07724 834031 or Karen 07952 821536 for more details. **Win**

