

# Preston Arts News

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www.prestonarts.com

## PRESTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2025



The festival this year took place between 21st September and 5th October and was a great success. We got off to an excellent start with the launch concert. The Mayor, Cllr Susan Whittam gave an encouraging talk before formally launching the festival and we followed that up with a fine concert. In the first half we had something we haven't had before, piano duets from husband and wife team, Peter and Carol Kwater. They played Moszkowski's Spanish dances Op 12 and followed it with Debussy's Petite Suite. In the second half, Preston Gilbert and Sullivan Society performed songs from several of their past performances, and threw in a taster for next year's production of The Mikado.

We covered the contents of the festival in some detail in the last newsletter, so we won't repeat it all here. Every event was very well performed and well received by the audiences. Here's one photo, which many people won't have seen as it is the winning entry for the Portrait Challenge, and was only available for viewing at the presentation ceremony and exhibition on 7th October. Congratulations to the winning artist, Liam Dickinson.

## PRESTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

Calling PAA Members. Planning arts festivals is like painting the Forth Bridge. You just get to the end when you have to go back to the beginning and start doing it all again. We've already had our first meeting and have got much of next year's festival in place. But there's still plenty of time for any of our individual or society members to join in. If you'd like to feature in next year's festival, please get in touch with our secretary, Rob Feeley (secretary@prestonarts.com), and we'll do everything we can to get you a slot.

## PRESTON ART SOCIETY

Preston Art Society is an enthusiastic group of artists, ranging from beginners to professionals, who work across a wide variety of media. We would love to welcome you to our meetings either as a new member or as a visitor.

We meet on the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month from September until May. We also arrange a summer sketching programme during the day on the first and third Wednesdays during June, July and August.

Our annual exhibition is open to all members. Subscriptions £40, Visitors £5a

## PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Future events

Monday 8 December 2025

*Strawberries and Villas: the development of a freehold land society estate in mid-Victorian Ashton-on-Ribble* Speaker: Sue Latimer

Monday 9 February 2026

*Plague and Hunger: Mortality in the Preston area 1590-1650* Speaker: Dr Alan Crosby

## 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  
Email: vsmith3011@outlook.com

The next issue will cover the period March – August 2026  
Deadline for submissions 31st July 2026\*

## 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/Companyofvoyses>  
Damson Poets  
<https://damsonpoets.wordpress.com>  
Dean Taylor  
<https://deantaylortheatre.co.uk>  
Fired 4 U  
<https://fred4u.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 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>  
SATA.  
<https://www.satatheatre.org>  
St Leonard's G&S Society  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Utopia1>  
UCLAN Confucius Institute  
<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/centres/confucius-institute>

## RAWSTORNE SINGERS



Also, on December 5  
@7:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
Derian House Lights  
of Love - Blackburn  
Cathedral – 2025



## PRESTON GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

Next year we have a revival from the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, of one of the most popular of the Savoy Operas. Great songs from Arthur Sullivan and much clever comedy from W.S.Gilbert, who could be a very cutting satirist. I imagine the duller bits are taken out now, or



have new life infused into them, like Pooh-Bah's repetition of the "Come over here where the Chancellor can't hear us" joke. And presumably ladies are no longer allowed to have their faces blacked like a n\*\*\*\*\*, nor lady novelists put on Ko-Ko's execution list. But hearing the inventive

re-writing of the lyrics during this particular song is one of the many delights of the opera. I'd be surprised if Trump and Starmer aren't included amongst the candidates in current productions. A wonderful evening of laughter and music is in store, so be sure to get your tickets. How better to sum up the operetta than in the Mikado's own words, "Nothing could possibly be more satisfactory!"?

## ONE VOICE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Whilst our roots are firmly in Lancashire and the Northwest, the Choir has sung throughout England and in Europe including Germany and Norway.

Established in 1999 initially as a 6-month project, the Choir has gone from strength to strength and now has over 70 members from a range of different backgrounds and ages. Our music is a blend of gospel and inspirational classics, with contemporary and original compositions learned and performed in the



gospel oral tradition. In concert, we aim to inspire and encourage as well as entertain.

Members are involved in a variety of professions and projects around Lancashire, and we are all proud of the accomplishments and community involvement of the Choir, particularly in helping other charitable organisations and individuals in boosting their funds or profiles.

As well as doing professional recordings and concerts, over the years we have helped raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for many local charities and organisations across the region. We are proud to have provided an exciting, uplifting musical backdrop for several wedding ceremonies and are always thrilled to be involved in such special occasions.

Led by our musical directors Tyndale Thomas MBE and Kadria Thomas, our choir has re-grouped strongly following the difficulties of the pandemic. Supported by a host of professional musicians we are again delighted to share our love and passion for inspired music with the people of Lancashire.

## PRESTON OPERA

Preston Opera Presents  
**Opera Classics**  
From the Small and Silver Screen  
Reminiscing the most iconic opera moments in TV and Film  
6<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
at 2pm  
St Michaels & All Angels, Egerton Road, Ashton, Preston, PR2 1AJ

Tickets:  
£14 online or £16 pay on the door  
Under 19s Free  
Book via the link or Scan the QR Code  
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/PKZA>

Charity Number: 512872

## CECILIAN CHORAL SOCIETY



Mon 1st December 2025 19.30 Come and sing Christmas, open rehearsal

Mon 8th December 2025 19.30 Come and sing Christmas, concert

## BROUGHTON PLAYERS

Noel Coward has sometimes been compared to W.S.Gilbert for his biting satire (see the comments

on The Mikado). But here, he is the Sullivan as well. Private Lives is defined as a play with incidental music, rather than a musical, but one of his best loved songs - *Someday I'll find you*, is usually performed during the play. Something to look forward to, and a great choice for Broughton Players' 80th anniversary.



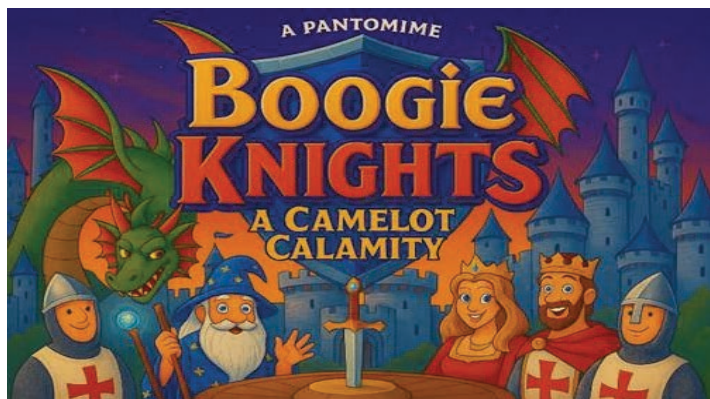
## HALL PLAYERS



It's A Wonderful Life is a stage adaptation of Frank Capra's masterpiece film. This is the saga of George Bailey, the Everyman from the small town of Bedford Falls, whose dreams of escape and adventure have been squashed by family obligations and civic duty, and whose guardian angel has to descend on Christmas Eve to save him from despair, and to remind him – by showing him what the world would have been like had he never been born – that he has had, after all, a wonderful life.

Directed by: Dominic Swarbrick  
28, 29, 30 & 31 January 2026  
Curtain up: 7:30pm  
Tickets from £12

## LONGTON PLAYERS



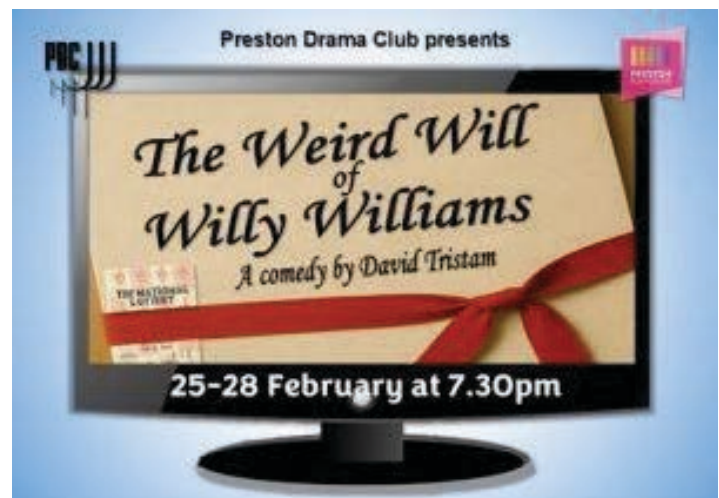
January – February 2026

An original pantomime from Longton Players. There's no detailed information at the time of going to press, but notice the "K" in the title, and the poster pictures of some of the characters which suggest it will have little to do with the better known BOOGIE NIGHTS. Something more festive no doubt, but you'll have to make your own speculations (O yes you will!). Mine aren't especially inventive: a sword in the stone, Arthur and Guinevere, Lancelot and Galahad, Merlin and his pet dragon? And surely we'll have Mordred and Morgan le Fay to provide a little extra mayhem?

## PRESTON DRAMA CLUB



Within minutes of the opening of this play, we are plunged into the middle of an explosive situation. Janet Preston, a well-known authoress who lives alone in a remote cottage on the Yorkshire Moors, has killed her husband, a complete rogue and criminal on the run. Before she can get rid of the body, she is confronted by his accomplice George, who blackmails her into agreeing to pass him off as the dead man until such time as he can make a getaway. The events that follow are full of twists and excitement and the unexpected denouement skilfully reconciles the audience's sympathies and sense of involvement with a demand for justice.



The late William Harold Williams – former plumber and keen amateur thespian – had occasionally been known to be a tad eccentric. So when his only surviving relatives, Tim and Jacky, attended the reading of his will, they may well have expected the odd surprise here and there. But what they didn't expect was to find themselves suddenly entangled in a twisting drama worthy of its own Netflix series. With feuding rivals and murderous games afoot, things were about to get very weird. But beware. When huge fortunes are at stake, it's not always sensible to believe the evidence of your own eyes...