

Preston Arts News

Editor: Vincent Smith, vsmith3011@outlook.com
13 Woodford Copse, Chorley PR7 2ER
Tel: 01257 272929

www.prestonarts.com

Just a brief introduction to this edition of the newsletter. The previous issue covered March – August, but this one is just in time to catch the Annual Arts Festival. So, we're giving front page pride of place to that. On the back page, last time we talked about two of our longest standing member groups – the **Preston Poets** and **Recorded Music Societies**. But **The Folk Dance Club** can beat both of those for longevity. It is celebrating its centenary this year, so we've given them the whole of the back page. Lots of other material on the inside, so hope you find it enjoyable and useful.

PRESTON ARTS FESTIVAL

This year the festival will run from 15th-29th September with **pre-launch** activity on Saturday 14th. The latter will have a morning painting demo, weather permitting, on the Flag Market. Also, in the Fishergate Centre, from 10.00-4.00, there will be Arts and Crafts stalls plus information leaflets and fliers announcing the activities and venues of various PAA member groups. Representatives from some of the societies will be there to offer further discussion and comment on their activities.

The launch will take place on Sunday 15th at 2.00 and will be followed by a concert featuring **Preston Opera** and **South Ribble Strings**. We featured both of these societies in the last edition of the newsletter.

On Wednesday 18th, we have a talk from Preston crime writer, **Christie Newport**. Christie won the Joffe Books Prize in 2021. Her award was for her debut novel, 'The Raven's Mark', in which she introduced Preston DCI Beth Fellows. This has led to a series featuring Beth, so it looks like Preston will have its own famous detective, who in time might rival Oxford and Morse, or Edinburgh and Rebus (just to mention a couple). Lots more gripping local crime stories to look forward to.



There's quite a lot of art in the festival this year, including a portrait painting demonstration from Liam Dickinson and an illustrators talk and demo. On 28th, there will be another illustrators' talk from **Hand Drawn and Quartered**. Also, the **Portrait Challenge** this year is within the festival rather than as a pre-launch event. Those wanting tips on how it's done can watch the progress of the entrants over the 4-hour time slot on Saturday 21st. There will be an exhibition of the results at Artistry House between 23rd and 27th September.

Concerts also feature prominently. Besides the launch event, there are concerts from our own **KTB 4 Choirs with Lostock Hall Brass Band**, the latter having a Last Night of the Proms flavour. **KTB** features again at Chorley Little Theatre on 26th, where there will be a musical cabaret event.

On Sunday 22nd, **Preston Symphony Orchestra** will present a programme including extracts from their inaugural concert, plus music from Preston's own film composer, Bill Connor. It's already sold out but keep an eye out for returns. See the feature on p3 of this newsletter.

The **Company of Voyces** choir under the musical directorship of Robin Stopford invites anyone interested in attending an afternoon Jazz workshop, leading to a performance (singing with the choir that evening) to get in touch via email or telephone (see the accompanying poster for details). Workshop places are limited, so you will need to book early. The choir will be accompanied by a professional Jazz trio. The evening concert is open to the public and should prove to be an enjoyable jazz event. A donation will be given to the RNLI charity from the

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, Alston Hall 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 December 2024 - February 2025
Deadline for submissions October 31st 2024

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://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>



Club on Saturday 28th.

The **Grand Finale Concert** will take place on Sunday 29th at Lostock Hall Conservative Club. This event, held from 1-4 p.m., will feature a range of performances from dancers and singers. Food vans will be on hand to serve fish and chips, finger food, Asian, Chinese etc. There will also be a Chinese tea Ceremony.

Calling all poets on 25th at the Continental Boat Yard, where we will be having an evening of stand-up poetry readings hosted by **Damson Poets**. Anyone wanting to participate should sign up between 7.00 and 7.30 on the night and will be allocated 5-minute slots. The theme for the evening is "Threads", which gives plenty of scope for variety.

The **Archive Event** has become an annual event in which a group of artists and writers assemble and seek inspiration from archives (on a theme chosen by the Lancs Records Library). This year, the theme is "Sport". It is hoped to produce a pamphlet of the results. There will be readings and an exhibition of the artwork at Lancashire Archives on 27th.

Preston Drama Club will present Priestley's comedy, "When we are Married" at the Playhouse between 25th and 28th September. The story concerns three couples who were married on the same day 25 years before. Or were they? Come along and find out!

There's so much more so get your copy of the **Festival Programme** or read it on our website. Copies should be available from late -August.



ticket proceeds. "All That Jazz" is part of a series of events promoted by the Preston Arts Association as part of the Preston Arts Festival. The workshop will be from 2pm and a separate ticket is required to attend. The venue is Broughton and District

Preston Symphony Orchestra (PSO)

Many towns and cities have their own orchestras. When they do, the mere existence of the orchestra unquestionably enhances the status of the city, as well as signalling a wider commitment to the arts. Preston used to have one, but that was 65 years ago. Now, thanks to the vision of Matthew Price and his like-minded colleagues, Preston again has its own orchestra. It takes foresight and energy to get such an enterprise off the ground, and the confidence to keep a lot of plates spinning simultaneously: recruitment of players and support staff, finding a suitable venue as a base, attracting funding, developing ideas for marketing, dealing with legal obligations, and much more. All this has been accomplished by Matthew and his team with the result that their inaugural concert took place on 9th June with a programme consisting of Music from Stage and Screen. It was a sell-out!

Preston Arts Association (PAA) is delighted that the orchestra has joined us as a member, and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship. We have made a good start by inviting PSO to perform in our forthcoming Arts Festival. We are delighted that they have accepted and will play a concert on 22nd September. The programme will contain some of the highlights from their inaugural concert, plus pieces by renowned Preston composer Bill Connor.

Preston owes a great debt of gratitude to Matthew and we at PAA would like to add our own thanks and congratulations.

Preston Orpheus Choir

Would you like to join a friendly, inclusive group of singers of all ages? We always welcome new members and to join us you don't need to audition, you don't know what voice part you are, just come along for up to three rehearsals free of charge and see if you enjoy it. We will make sure you get a warm welcome and any support you need to take part. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at St Pius X School on Garstang Road in Fulwood, Preston. For more information and to get in touch, visit the Join Us page on our website <https://www.prestonorpheuschoir.org/join-us/>. We look forward to seeing you!

There will be another issue of PAA News before our next season, but in case of delays with the issue, we would like to mention that our first event will be a traditional Christmas concert on Saturday December 7th, led by Musical Director Dan Adams. This will be followed by carol singing at Rufford Old Hall on Saturday December 14th.

For all information and news on other forthcoming events, please see our website <https://www.prestonorpheuschoir.org/> or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PrestonOrpheusChoir>



Preston Folk Dance Club 100th Anniversary

1924 to 2024



Folk dancing had been practised in Preston for a couple of years when, in 1924, the Preston branch of the English Folk Dance Society was formed, run by Miss Irene Fisher, who would continue in this role until her retirement in 1957. (This is an extract from the newspaper article about that first meeting.)

The club then continued to flourish over the years, entering competitions, winning awards and taking part in Preston Guild events.



And so, in March 2024, we were excited to celebrate our 100th Anniversary with a special dance held in Fulwood.

We continue to meet weekly on a Monday evening from September to May to enjoy our dancing and to keep the tradition alive. We always welcome new dancers and usually hold 'taster' sessions in September/October. You don't need a partner and many members come on their own.

No experience is necessary, there are plenty of people to help. The caller will walk everybody through each dance first to make sure everybody knows what to do and then the

music will start! The dances we do at our Club nights can be very varied. Some may be quite fast and lively, whilst others are slower and more elegant. Some dances were written in the 1600's whilst others are more modern and may even have been written by a club caller.



Why not come & join us?

www.prestonfolkdanceclub.org. or ring Lynn (01772 785362) or find us on Facebook