

# Preston Arts News

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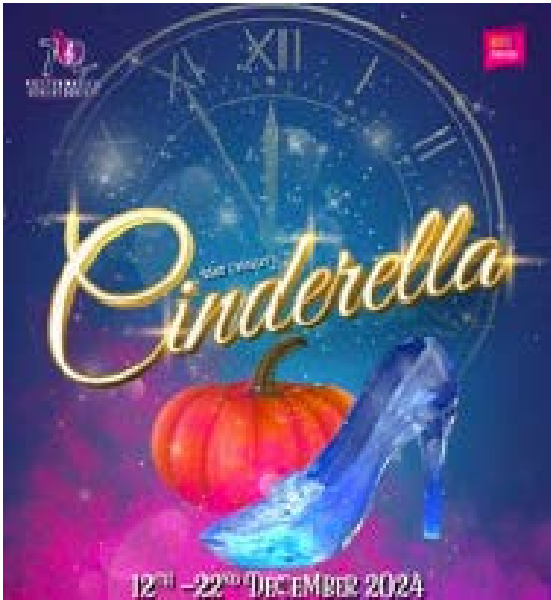
[www.prestonarts.com](http://www.prestonarts.com)

## PRESTON PLAYHOUSE

Cinderella is possibly the most magical and enjoyable pantomime of them all, despite the underlying sadness of the orphan girl who is mistreated by her guardians. It is also extremely popular, having been regularly voted the nation's favourite. It has a principal girl, Cinderella, two thigh-slapping principal boys (Prince Charming and Dandini), two dames (the Ugly Sisters), Buttons, and a Fairy Godmother. There's no wicked Ebenezer but the Ugly Sisters make up for his absence. The popularity comes from the fact that the unpleasantness is turned into high comedy, and of course, everything comes right in the end – the true "fairy tale ending". When I was very young, my sister and I used

to sit one on each side of our grandmother while she read to us from children's books. This had a lot to do with our good progress when we were learning to read. Cinderella, in a lavishly illustrated version is the first book I remember having read to us in this way. I also recall seeing the Disney animated version in the early 1950s, when I would have been about 7 years old. And there must have been many occasions when we saw the pantomime in one of the Sheffield theatres.

This version is from Preston Musical Comedy Society, a highly acclaimed group who have performed consistently since their debut in 1954. I'll be at the Playhouse enjoying it (O yes I will). Come and join me.



This is the thriller, written by Bradford actor and playwright, Leslie Sands (1921-2001). Sands made his acting debut at the Sheffield Lyceum, where, as a native of Sheffield, I had my own first theatrical experiences (but only as a spectator). Later, he would appear on stage as a member of the RSC and NT, and he wrote or contributed to many films and TV shows, including *The Two Ronnies* and *Z-cars*. He also penned a number of plays. This one is set in the country getaway home of successful novelist Howard Holt, who is visited each weekend by his wife and publisher Karen.

Karen arrives unexpectedly, late one evening. She is distraught having apparently killed a young woman by driving over her in the darkness, in the lane outside. Howard agrees to help her dispose of the body. Thereafter, begins a sequence of events in which one unexpected turn follows another, as a seemingly gullible police inspector appears to accept the story cooked up by Howard and his wife. **VS**



## 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

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The next issue will cover the period March – August 2025  
Deadline for submissions 31<sup>st</sup> January 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 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/plPreston-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 OPERA

At the time of writing, Preston Opera's Gala Concert is imminent. Unfortunately, it will be over by the time this newsletter appears. However, after an excellent production of Tales of Hoffmann this year, our next opera will be La Traviata which will be in May next year. Auditions for it will be held on Monday 16 Dec and Tuesday 17 Dec from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm. They will be at St Leonards Church, Marshals Brow Penwortham PR1 9HY. Please let us know if you'd like to audition on [prestonoperamail@gmail.com](mailto:prestonoperamail@gmail.com). For further information, see <http://www.prestonopera.org.uk/traviata-auditions.html>.

The production will take place in the last week of May 2025, with the exact dates yet to be confirmed. Principal rehearsals will start from March/April, dependent on availability and be held at weekends in Preston. Principals will also be called to Thursday evening chorus rehearsals in Preston after Easter.

## PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Crossing the Ribble: the Preston to Walton Summit  
"Old Tram Road" A talk by Nigel Hardacre

9th December 2024 19.15 – 20.30

Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston



Tram Bridge and Avenham Tower: Preston Digital Archive



# Arts Festival 2024

The festival this year was as varied as ever in terms of art forms, presentation types, and perhaps more so than usual, of venues. Music played a significant role, as it invariably does and in this we were fortunate to have a superb opening concert at the Launch, from South Ribble Strings and Preston Opera. Later we had another excellent concert from the new Preston Symphony Orchestra which presented an evening of varied music. This included selections from two iconic musicals of recent times, Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* and Schönberg's *Les Misérables*. There was also music from key films of our own times, which included two firm favourites, Cavatina from the *Deerhunter* and *Gabriel's Oboe* from *The Mission*. The second half featured music by local composer Bill Connor. Bill was present to introduce the various items, and he treated us to a rousing encore of his own music, which he conducted himself. Katy Bradley was well represented, as usual, and again displayed her great versatility as organiser, singer, pianist, musical raconteur and much more in three major concerts.



The finale concerts, *Come and Sing – All That Jazz*, and *the Grand Finale* were respectively at Broughton and District Club and Lostock Hall Conservative Club. The photo shows Preston Opera's Gwyn Bennett trying on traditional Chinese costume during the Finale.



We had treats in the form of a live demonstration of portrait painting from Liam Dickinson (10% of him is visible on the photo) – “a masterclass”, as someone in the audience said. Also, we had the Portrait Challenge, with judging and awards presentation, plus exhibition to follow.

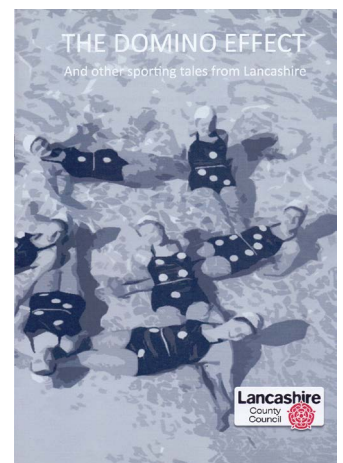
Drama was represented at the Playhouse, by Priestley's comedy, *When we are Married*. Poetry and creative writing appeared in a Damson Poets Evening, and the annual Archive project, which this year had the theme of Sport.

There was also a presentation from local novelist Christie Newport on her experiences with writing, illustrated with her two acclaimed crime novels set in Preston in which she introduced fictional detective DCI Beth Fellows. Other talks included one by ex Newcastle and Liverpool footballer Alan Kennedy, and two illustrators' talks by Rachele Panagarry. Workshops covered pottery at Fired4U, a singing event led by Joyce Tindsley, and a SMILE open meeting.



The photos show the winning entry for the Portrait Challenge, with model Ben Casey and artist Daniel Sharples, and the front cover of the Archive pamphlet on Sport, entitled *The Domino Effect*. Copies are available from the Archive Library, Bow Lane.

In summary, we were very pleased with the festival programme we put together and with responses from participants and audiences. Thanks also to our sponsors and to everybody who worked so hard to make it happen. VS



# 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. Meetings feature speakers, demonstrations, workshops and practical sessions where members can explore ideas from previous talks and demos. Alternatively, members can bring their own work on which to keep working.

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. Further details are available on our website: <https://prestonartsociety.weebly.com/programme-24-25.html>



**4th December 2024**

Christmas Party  
Jacobs join, Christmas games and a chance to chat.



**January 15th 2025**

Sue Mills - Abstract in Art



**5th February 2025**

Anthony Barrow demonstrates how he makes a portrait using charcoal and acrylic wash.



**19th February 2025**

Jill Reidy, well known photographer talks about her latest work and launches our new pop up project.

## 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 need to 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. We look forward to seeing you!



Coming up next season, our Musical Director Dan Adams will lead us in our traditional Christmas concert on Saturday December 7th, and we will be singing carols 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>