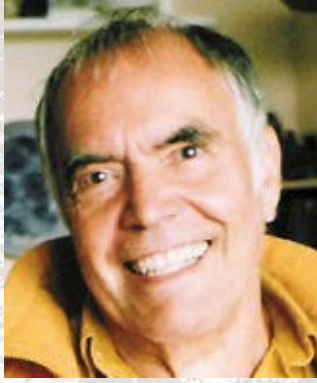


Preston Arts News

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Preston Arts Festival



This year we are having a spring festival and returning to our two-week format. It will run from April 15th through April 29th. The Portrait Challenge will, as usual be a pre-Launch event on the first Saturday (15th). The Launch will follow on the Sunday in St George's Church, with Mayor of Preston Councillor Neil Darby doing the honours. As usual, there will be entertainment during the afternoon, from the Harold Salisbury Band, Katy Bradley, and South Ribble Strings. The latter will perform a piece by local composer Christopher Gibbs (pictured), *The Forest of Bowland Suite*. This is a great piece, featuring movements with titles like *Early Summer on Pendle Hill*, *Clitheroe Market*, and *Teatime in Chipping* (for a glimpse of Pendle Hill as seen from Clitheroe Castle, see the photo in the feature on U3A). The composer will attend the concert.

Other concerts include Preston Leyland Band, Salvation Army Band, and Preston Orpheus Choir. We also have an art exhibition from New Longton Artists, and another featuring the results of the Portrait Challenge.

Drama is represented by "Gaslight" at the Playhouse and Film by a 16-minute award winning piece by schoolgirl Millie Hine at UCLan's Greenbank Centre. The latter will be followed by a Q & A session conducted by Radio Lancashire's John Gillmore (Gilly). There will be three talks/demonstrations, the first by Lynn Pyatt on watercolour painting, the second by Richard Catmore on Ghiberti's *Gates of Paradise* (see article in this newsletter), and the third by Preston ceramic artist Christine Cherry (also featured in the newsletter).

Other events include an evening of poetry readings, and a Treasure Hunt. Planning is still underway as we write, so keep an eye out for modifications and further developments.

The Pre-launch for the 2023 Preston Arts Festival is being arranged by UCLAN students on the event management course. It is being held at Roper Hall, Friargate, PR1 2EE on Thursday 23 March from 5pm to 7pm and will be a talent show for students and staff. Free entry. Festival guides will be available.

Christine Cherry

Born in 1964, Christine is a Lancashire based ceramic artist, who began working with clay in the early 1980's whilst studying for a Design degree at Stoke University. She then completed a PGCE and became a primary school teacher and after a twenty year career, her interest in ceramics returned. So after making the decision to leave teaching behind she pursued a life as a ceramicist.

Identifying first and foremost as a slip-caster, her work seeks to explore excitingly rich colour combinations and layered pattern within her Parianware.

More recently she became a contestant on 'The Great Pottery Throwdown,' where she reached the final. Participating in this series has influenced Christine's craft to the point where she now loves to create sculptural, hand-built pieces inspired by her life experiences.



Richard Catmore



The Arts Festival in 2022 welcomed back Richard Catmore. He delivered a talk on seven artists who, over the past 100 years, have used the North as inspiration for their work. This was a huge hit and Richard has agreed to return this year to talk about another interest of his: Lorenzo Ghiberti's "Gates of Paradise", the doors of the Baptistery in Florence, which are generally regarded as a Renaissance Masterpiece. A fine cast of them may be found in the Harris Museum, on the left as you enter the rotunda. How so? That's part of Richard's talk.

Richard is a retired teacher of English and Theatre who taught in Manchester, Lytham and Burnley. He is now the director of Theatreinabox Ltd, who make and distribute 'Stage-in-a-Box' the world's only stage-set design kit for students of theatre.

His interests include art, theatre, gardening, walking and 'drinking with mates'. Richard and his wife Cate live in Preston. They have two sons, a particle physicist and a police officer. They also have two grandchildren and love spending time with all their family.

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 September - November 2023

Deadline for submissions July 31st 2023

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SATA Theatre Tony Balmer info@satatheatre.org
Singing 4 You (formerly Harmony Singers) Winifred O'Neil wmo@sky.com
South Ribble Strings Jeremy Harries jeremyharries@gmail.com
UCLan Confucius Institute Feixia Yu confuciusinstitute@uclan.ac.uk

Preston Orpheus Choir



Musical Director Nathan Smith is excited to lead Preston Orpheus Choir in our spring concert this year. The programme features Gounod's melodic and uplifting Messe Solennelle de Sainte Cécile and Schubert's charming Mass in G Major. Join us at 7.30pm on Saturday 29th April at St Mary's Church in Penwortham. Tickets can be purchased in advance from our website www.prestonorpheuschoir.org (adults £12, under 18s £5), or on the door (adults £14, under 18s £5).

We also warmly invite you to our first "Come and Sing" event since 2019. On Saturday 3rd June we will run an afternoon workshop and early evening performance of Mozart's stunning Requiem at St Leonard's Church in Penwortham. We look forward to welcoming old friends and new. Our "Come and Sing" events are always popular and are a fun way to make music together. Scores will be provided for all singers, and tickets are £10 for singers, and £10 for audience members. For further information and to book places please see the website www.prestonorpheuschoir.org.

South Ribble Strings

South Ribble Strings is a string orchestra: violins, violas, cellos, and double bass. This creates a wonderful mixture of sounds which blend together beautifully because we are all playing the same family of instrument.

We are a friendly bunch, with a combination of amateurs and professional musicians from the local area. We meet 2 or 3 times a month to build our skills (did you know that there are at least 25 different ways you can use a bow?) and play some of the fantastic music written for string orchestra.

The orchestra was founded in 2015, survived covid, and is now starting an exciting new chapter with Amanda Denley as conductor. Our founder and Secretary, Jane, continues to be a driving force of energy and enthusiasm and sets a culture of high standards mixed with friendship and fun.

We are always looking for new players to join us, especially people who've taken a break from playing and need a friendly environment as they start to play again. Take a look at our website for details: southribblestrings.weebly.com.

Gill Hoyle

Joint "Annual Exhibition"

New Longton Artists & Preston Art Society 22nd & 23rd April 2023

Two of the oldest painting groups in the Preston area "New Longton Artists" and "Preston Art Society" are having their "Annual Exhibitions" over the weekend of

22nd and 23rd April 2023 at the New Longton Village Hall, 10.00am to 4.00pm both days.

This is the first time that the two groups are going to be using the same exhibition venue. The New Longton Village Hall has been the venue for the New Longton Artists for many years and both groups will be taking advantage of the excellent exhibition facilities.

Both New Longton Artists and Preston Art Society will be showing recent works and local artist Norman Long will be carrying out the adjudication and presentation of the trophy/prizes to each group.

Eugene Onegin Preston Opera - June 2023

Preston Opera will be performing Tchaikovsky's Opera Eugene Onegin at Fulwood Academy on the evenings of Thursday 1 June and Friday 2 June, with a matinee performance on Sunday 4 June. The performances will be fully staged and accompanied by a Preston Opera orchestra under our Music Director Helen Harrison. The production will be directed by Paul Clarke, who has had an illustrious career as a tenor with the world's most prestigious opera houses and is now keen to deploy his creative skills to shape Tchaikovsky's masterpiece. You will find updates on www.prestonopera.org.uk including links nearer the time that you will be able to use to get tickets.

The opera is based on a novel, in verse, by Alexander Pushkin, who was Russia's greatest poet. His narrative poem was to prove strangely prophetic. It features two sisters, Tatiana and Olga. Onegin and his poet friend Lenski visit the house where the sisters live. Lenski is Olga's fiancé. Tatiana loves Onegin and confesses her love but is rebuffed by Onegin, who flirts instead with Olga, to Lenski's consternation. A quarrel starts and soon gets out of hand. Lenski challenges his former friend to a duel in which he (Lenski) is killed. In real life, Pushkin realized that Georges d'Anthès, who had married his wife's sister, was paying too much attention to his own wife. He issued a challenge and was himself killed, at the age only thirty-seven.

MARCH

- 1st Preston Art Society Pop Up Exhibition. A chance to share the wide range of work that we have produced in response to the theme set by Jill Reidy (For more information on how to join click on the image) 7.30 at St Margaret's Parish Centre, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3ZU
- 6th Preston Historical Society Talk Three Winckley Square Women who shaped Preston. Speaker: Patricia Harrison at Central Methodist Church, Lune Street. (See many other Winckley Square events across)
- 8th Preston Gilbert & Sullivan Society presents Iolanthe (or The Peer and the Peri) at Preston Playhouse. Ticket price £13 Box office 07779738607 tickets@prestongass.co.uk Children free if accompanied by an adult. 7.30 pm
- 15th Preston Art Society Stuart Mason will give an entertaining talk with a unique perspective on art past and present. 7.30 at St Margaret's Parish Centre, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3ZU
- 16th Club Players Broughton present Ladies in Lavender, a play by Shaun McKenna. 7.30 start. Tickets £8 Mobile, Text or Phone 07395 825407 or email theclubplayers@gmail.com
- 17th at Preston Playhouse Cilla & The Swinging 60's. Sandy Smith celebrates the life and music of Cilla Black and her contemporaries. Tickets £14 box office 01772 252288 www.prestonplayhouse.co.uk
- 18th The Cecilian Choral Society presents Ethel Smyth's Mass in D conducted by Helen Harrison with Rachel Abbot soprano, Emily Howard mezzo, Philip Clieve tenor and Thomas D Hopkinson bass at Kirkham Grammar School. Tickets £16 7.30 pm start.
- 19th City of London Phonographic and Gramophone Society has a presentation by Paul Cleary entitled "A Company of Angels" followed by members talks about Electric machines of all eras. 1.30 pm at Salmesbury War Memorial Hall. Visitors welcome. Contact pix-sounds@gavinmist.com.
- 22nd Magic's Best Kept Secret, Paul Sylvester Still Doing It. Popular magician returns to the Playhouse Doors. Open 7pm Tickets £11 box office 01772 252288 www.prestonplayhouse.co.uk

APRIL

- 3rd Preston Historical Society Talk Maps of Lancashire and their makers. Speaker: Dr Ian Saunders Central Methodist Church, Lune Street.
- 5th-8th Preston Drama Club presents The Hollow by one of the great crime writers Agatha Christie. Hercule Poirot investigates the murder when guests are staying for a weekend at The Hollow.
- 13th Up the Clondy: The Boris Affair. This hilarious play is performed at Preston Playhouse by The Genesians, an amateur group from St Walburge's and set in the wackiest solicitors' office in the world. Doors Open: 6.45 Tickets: From £10 Box office 01772 252288 www.prestonplayhouse.co.uk
- For events in the 21st Annual Preston Arts Festival from April 14th – 30th see the 2023 Preston Arts Festival Events Guide.**

MAY

- 3rd Preston Art Society Michael Howley Using Pastel - a demonstration and technique workshop. 7.30 at St Margaret's Parish Centre, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3Z
- 8th Preston Historical Society AGM followed by The Stoneyhurst Collection Speaker: Dr Jan Graffius Central Methodist Church, Lune Street.
- 10th-12th Broughton Players present Just Between Our Selves, a play by Alan Ayckbourn and demonstrates how we destroy those we supposedly love. Tickets from £10 at box office 01772 252288 www.prestonplayhouse.co.uk
- 17th Preston Art Society Pop-up exhibition. The best of our members' artwork this year. 7.30 at St Margaret's Parish Centre, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3ZU
- 18th-20th SATA Theatre present The Phantom Express written and directed by Tony Balmer. Just a silly local superstition or is there something more to the legend of the Phantom Express? (Some of the scary bits may not be suitable for very young children. Ring 01772 733699 or 07896946904 tickets or other queries.
- 20th The Rawstorne Singers invite you to Come and Sing – Faure's Requiem at St Aidan's Church, Station Rd, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6QR. Arrive at 11.00, 11.00-13.00 morning rehearsal, 13.30 lunch, 14.30-16.00 afternoon rehearsal 16.00 afternoon tea. 17.00 Concert. Book tickets now using the following link <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing?eid=37362&id=37362>
- 21st City of London Phonographic and Gramophone Society Gavin Mist: More Light Music Gems; and Dave Lomax: 1920s Edison Bell 1:30pm | Salmesbury War Memorial Hall

JUNE

- 1st, 2nd & 4th Preston Opera's 2023 production will be Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin, at Fulwood Academy. The 1 June and 2 June performances will start at 7:00pm and on 4 June there will be a matinee performance at 2:00pm. Preston Opera will post further information later.
- 18th City of London Phonographic and Gramophone Society – Members' Meeting: 'Hill & Dale' machines and records 1:30pm | Salmesbury War Memorial Hall

JULY

- 16th Northern Group – Members' Meeting: Portable Gramophones - Music from film and theatre 1:30pm | Salmesbury War Memorial Hall. Visitors welcome. Contact pix-sounds@gavinmist.com

Friends of Winckley Square Spring & Summer Events

GUIDED WALKS START IN THE CENTRE OF THE GARDEN UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE. TALKS AND PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE IN THE CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH, LUNE STREET £4 PLUS EVENTBRITE CHARGE IN ADVANCE OR £5 ON THE DAY

6 th March 7.15-8.30 pm Speaker Pat Harrison	Three Winckley Square Women who shaped Preston. Preston Historical Society meeting focussing on the lives of Ellen Cross, Cornelia Connelly and Beatrice Todd
8 th March 2.30-3.30pm Guided walk Susan Douglass and Pat Harrison	Women who made a difference: Slavery, Suffrage, Poverty. On International Woman's Day we will celebrate the lives of women in the past who campaigned for equality. All are women associated with the Winckley Square.
19 th March 2.00-3.15 pm Guided walk Steve Harrison	Former residents of Winckley Square- famous and infamous starting with the vision for the Square and the first house in 1799 we will encounter real people that made history.
22 nd March	An afternoon with Edith Rigby- Come and meet Edith Rigby, a formidable woman, fiercely committed to her principles who dedicated her life to fighting for women's rights. Venue the Central Methodist Church
16 th and 19 th April	Two events in Preston Arts Festival. Details in the Festival Programme
21 st May Guided walk- Pat Harrison	Extraordinary women of Winckley Square. Learn about the lives of some of the women associated with Winckley Square who broke boundaries.
22 nd May Talk Steve Harrison	More scandalous stories from Winckley Square.
3 rd June 2-4 pm Jazz	Preston Jazz and improvisational festival. Have a picnic, listen to music and get a drink from the pop-up bar.
6 th June 7pm-8.30 pm Talk Susan Douglass	A house through time: 5 Winckley Square. Susan tells the story of the house from when it was built by Thomas Miller to the present day Pt.1
10 th June 12 to 7 pm Jazz	More jazz in the Preston Jazz and improvisational festival on Winckley Square
11 th June 12.30-2.15 & 3pm -4.45 Walks with Elaine Taylor	A Regency Promenade & afternoon tea in the garden of Overleigh House after an interesting stroll.
20 th June	A house through time: 5 Winckley Square. Pt 2
18 th July	A house through time: 5 Winckley Square. Pt 3

DAMSON POETS

For the first time, Damson Poets are joining the arts festival. They meet on the last Wednesday of each month, so the date will be 26th April. The venue is the Boatyard of The Continental. Drinks can be purchased at the bar. The format is open mic poetry readings, and anyone is welcome to join in if they arrive in time to book a slot. The slots are usually for 5 minutes only, to allow as many readers as possible to join in. The theme for the evening will be "April", so bring one or more poems matching the theme (your own or by other poets).

PRESTON AND DISTRICT U3A

In our last newsletter we extended a welcome to Preston U3A and briefly described its activities. Unfortunately, we failed to provide a working web address, so here's a second introduction. U3A stands for the University of the Third Age – the third being a reference to that time of life when you give up full time employment and choose to do things that you may have always fancied trying but hitherto had no time or opportunity to indulge. It is a fun and enjoyable way of bringing people together for learning, leisure, fitness and fun whilst enjoying the camaraderie and friendship of other retired and semi-retired members. Members share their knowledge and experience and learn together. There is no curriculum – members decide for themselves which Interest Groups, Events etc. they would like to attend. The Preston and District U3A started in 2007 with the aim of providing educational, social and leisure opportunities for retired people or those near retirement age. It has grown in popularity and membership numbers since then. At the start of 2019 there were over 700 members. The photograph shows Preston and District U3A chairman, Tony Cheetham. He is standing on the battlements of Clitheroe Castle with Pendle Hill in the background.



To find out in more detail about the organization and range of activities, and to decide what kind of groups you might be interested in joining, see <https://u3asites.org.uk/preston>.

SATA Boards the Phantom Express

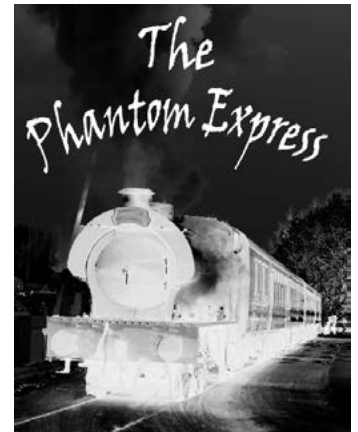
The Phantom Express is a comedy thriller written and directed by Tony Balmer.

Strange goings on when an unlikely bunch of travellers arrive one evening at Drumnaig station to investigate stories of a haunting on a remote heritage railway in the wild western highlands of Scotland. Is this just a silly local superstition or is there something more sinister going on? Join us to find out! (Some scary bits - may not be suitable for very young children).

The performances are on Thu 18th, Fri 19th and Sat 20th May 2023 at St Andrews Hall in Ashton.

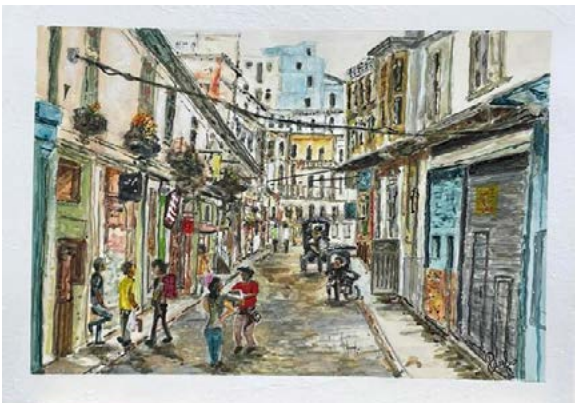
More details on our website at www.satatheatre.org

If you need any more please contact Tony at info@satatheatre.org



Paul Baxendale

Paul is a painter and a member of Preston Art Society. This is one of his recent paintings, an entry for the art Society's Preston Pop Up Project. It features Havana.



The Rawstorne Singers

We are now rehearsing our full Spring programme. We've already had our Evensong Service at St George's Church in Preston on 19th February and now look forward to a lovely weekend visit to Chester Cathedral on 15th-16th April. Our next 'Come and Sing' event will be on May 20th at St Aidan's Church in Bamber Bridge, an opportunity to sing the ever popular 'Requiem' by Gabriel Faure, followed by celebratory music from the reigns of King Charles I and King Charles II in honour of the Coronation of our new monarch King Charles III. We invite all who enjoy singing to come and join in this special day, either as members of the choir or in the audience. Full details from our website www.rawstornesingers.co.uk or email us on rawstornesingers@gmail.com