



THE UNEXPECTED  
EXTRAORDINARY

ENCOUNTER



FESTIVAL  
PRESTON

PRESTON 21 SEPTEMBER  
CITY CENTRE 22 SEPTEMBER



Preston  
City Council

[lancsencounter.co.uk](http://lancsencounter.co.uk)

# EXPECT THE EXTRAORDINARY ENCOUNTER FESTIVAL

SAT 21 & SUN 22 SEP


Encounter Festival is back for 2024 with a fresh new look and our Torchlight Procession and firework spectacle once again taking centre stage.

On Saturday you can play on the giant marble run, get involved in our chilled silent disco and enjoy epic shows across the Bus Station and the Flag Market. We've got choirs and Qawwali on our Community and Traditions Stage to showcase all the fabulous groups that perform in Preston all year round.

On Sunday we're in Winckley Square with wonderful family shows, a range of food stalls, games and craft activities to fill the day. You might even chance upon our Invisible Man walking down Fishergate!

Welcome to Encounter Festival 2024 – we hope you discover new experiences, find inspiration and more than anything, have fun!

Sign up to **Preston's What's On Guide** [visitpreston.com](https://www.visitpreston.com) to keep up to date with all the latest events in the city.

Keep in touch **LancsEncounter**   



For more information please see our website: [lancsencounter.co.uk](https://www.lancsencounter.co.uk)



Funded by  
UK Government



Encounter Festival is part of Without Walls, a network of organisations bringing innovative outdoor arts to towns and cities across England. Find out more on [withoutwalls.uk.com](https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com)





On Saturday hang out with us and watch fabulous, joyful shows, take part in a Bollywood Dance workshop, learn to play a new instrument in our Petting Zoo, have a drink and relax with the programme while you check out what else is on across the festival!



## FAMILY CATWALK EXTRAVAGANZA

Bring your Glamour, Glitz and Grace and come together in a fabulous celebration of self-expression. Four dancers go head to head in a dance, fashion and lip sync competition in an interactive event where the audience decides the winner.

Stamp your feet, clap your hands and shake your noise makers to show your appreciation for the performers.

**SAT 21**  
**12.45-1.20PM | 2.20-2.55PM**



## BETTY BROWN BAGS

Inspired by a traditional folk play from Lancaster, Betty Brown Bags and her musical sidekick Billy celebrate the strength and resilience of Northern working class culture. An all singing, dancing, spoon playing interactive show for all ages!

**SAT 21**  
**1.25-1.55PM | 3.10-3.40PM**



## WILD RUMPUS GIANT MARBLE RUN

From broomsticks to lampshades, piping to bamboo, our giant upcycled marble run is a ridiculously playful invention. Grab a cedar ball, and see if you can get it to roll all the way to the bottom!

**SAT 21**  
**12-4PM (DROP-IN)**

This iconic space will host incredible sights, great sounds and family festival favourites, Magical Story Jars, where you can create your own with their creative craft activities. Let's Grow Preston also join us this year with a harvest of wonder!

## WILD

What is it to be wild?

WILD, the daring dance-circus production from Motionhouse, explores our disconnect with the natural environment. In our modern lives, is the wild still shaping our behaviour?

**SAT 21**  
**12-12.45PM | 3-3.45PM**



## PLOT 17

A hip-hop garden festival for families.

Join underground hip-hop hero Kenny Baraka AKA The Green Man and DJ Conrad Kira as they work to save the environment one sick track at a time.

Plot 17 is a mobile block party travelling the world raising awareness, inspiring action and spreading the message of "making things green", with a soundtrack guaranteed to make you want to plant a tree and help the seeds grow.

**SAT 21**  
**1.25-2.05PM | 3.50-4.30PM**



## LET'S GROW PRESTON

Let's Grow Preston is delivering an allotment show with a difference! There will be lots of information on how to grow your own food celebrating the generosity of the allotmenters of Preston.

**SAT 21**  
**12-4.30PM (DROP-IN)**





3

Join us on **Saturday night** for our fabulous Torchlight Procession and Firework Finale. We'll have stilt walkers, drummers, Morris Dancers and fine galore as we process into the city centre from Deepdale Road down Church Street and finishing at the Flag Market.

PROCESSION



Leading our procession this year is newly commissioned brass band **BRAZEN** which celebrates brilliant women brass players with extensive experience in National Orchestras, Championship Brass Bands, touring Jazz Bands, Street Bands and more.

We have been working with a talented female arranger and a highly experienced female composer to create new music for the group and we can't wait to share them with you for the first time this year.

While you wait for the procession to arrive you might want to check out imitating the dog's Ribble of Dreams installations as detailed on page 9. Follow these wonderful stories around the shop fronts surrounding the Flag Market.

**BEST VIEWING LOCATIONS**

Flag Market, in front of the Minster and The Guild Hall

**PROCESSION & FIREWORKS TIMINGS**

**SAT 21  
7-9 PM**

Torchlight Procession starts at 7pm

Fireworks start at 9pm

**MAP KEY**



**PARTICIPANTS**

**BRAZEN** - new Encounter Festival commissioned band celebrating the finest women brass players.

**The Lumens** - stilt duo covered in colour changing fibre optic lights and the mirrored suits they wear reflect and enhance the lights and their surroundings.

**Preston City Mela** - bring their usual celebration of South Asian arts and the Caribbean Carnival will bring the noise and their wonderful brightly coloured costumes.

**Hellfyre Magpie** - fire border morris team and **Rivington North West Morris Dancers** join us again this year and new for 2024 we will have some of the best Carnival Morris troupes bringing the sparkle.

We also have local dance schools and bands; Jenisha Patel's Bollywood Dance School, Worldwide Samba, Jazz Swing Dance, Bay Beat, Cacophony Arkestra and many more!

PROCESSION ROUTE



From 6.30pm you can also have a drink and a dance on the **Flag Market** to our wonderful **DJs Soulhouse Avenue** and **Buddha**, playing soul, reggae and lots of music you'll recognise.

Or you can make time to check into some of Preston's great City Centre pubs and restaurants: **Chews Yard, Lost, Plau, 1842, Forum, Bar Pintxos, Bistrot Pierre, Roper Hall, The Cafe Bar** and **Thai Orchid**.

# FESTIVAL MAP



## KEY

- 1 FLAG MARKET
  - 2 BUS STATION
  - 3 MOOR PARK
  - 4 COMMUNITY & TRADITIONS STAGE
  - 5 PRESTON MARKET
  - 6 WINCKLEY SQUARE
  - 7 FISHERGATE/WINCKLEY ST
  - 8 AVENHAM PARK
- PARADE ROUTE  
♿ Toilets      P Car Parks

# FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

## SAT 21 SEPTEMBER

<b>11.45AM–12.45PM</b>	<b>Petting Zoo - Preston Music Centre</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">1</span> FLAG MARKET
<b>12–12.45PM</b>	<b>WILD</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">2</span> BUS STATION
<b>12–3PM</b>	<b>Magical Story Jars</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">2</span> BUS STATION
<b>12–4.30PM</b>	<b>Let's Grow Preston Allotment Show</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">2</span> BUS STATION
<b>12–4PM</b>	<b>Wild Rumpus Giant Marble Run</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">1</span> FLAG MARKET
<b>12.45–1.20PM</b>	<b>Family Catwalk Extravaganza</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">1</span> FLAG MARKET
<b>1–5.30PM</b>	<b>Community &amp; Traditions Stage</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">4</span> OUTSIDE GUILDHALL, LANCASTER RD
<b>1.25–2.05PM</b>	<b>Plot 17</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">2</span> BUS STATION
<b>1.25–1.55PM</b>	<b>Betty Brown Bags</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">1</span> FLAG MARKET
<b>1.55–2.20PM</b>	<b>Bollywood Dance workshop with Jenish Patel</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">1</span> FLAG MARKET
<b>2.05–3.50PM</b>	<b>Same but Different</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">2</span> BUS STATION
<b>2.20–2.55PM</b>	<b>Family Catwalk Extravaganza</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">1</span> FLAG MARKET
<b>3–3.45PM</b>	<b>WILD</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">2</span> BUS STATION
<b>3.10–3.40PM</b>	<b>Betty Brown Bags</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">1</span> FLAG MARKET
<b>3.40–4.40PM</b>	<b>Petting Zoo - Preston Music Centre</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">1</span> FLAG MARKET
<b>3.50–4.30PM</b>	<b>Plot 17</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">2</span> BUS STATION
<b>6.30–8.30PM</b>	<b>Music with Soulhouse Avenue and Buddha</b>	<span style="color: #00A6C9;">1</span> FLAG MARKET
<b>7.15PM Start</b>	<b>Torchlight Procession</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">3</span> MOOR PARK TO GUILD HALL

## SUN 22 SEPTEMBER

<b>11–11.30AM</b>	<b>The Invisible Man</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">7</span> FISHERGATE, CORNER OF WINCKLEY ST
<b>11.35–11.55AM</b>	<b>Ski Band</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">6</span> WINCKLEY SQUARE
<b>12–12.35PM</b>	<b>Everywhere's a Beach</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">6</span> WINCKLEY SQUARE
<b>12–3.30PM</b>	<b>Magical Story Jars</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">6</span> WINCKLEY SQUARE
<b>12–3.30PM</b>	<b>Horse + Bamboo Family Games Emporium</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">6</span> WINCKLEY SQUARE
<b>12.30–1.00PM</b>	<b>The Invisible Man</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">7</span> FISHERGATE
<b>12.45–1.10PM</b>	<b>Mughal Miniatures: Animal Paradise</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">6</span> WINCKLEY SQUARE
<b>1.25–1.50PM</b>	<b>Ski Band</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">6</span> WINCKLEY SQUARE
<b>2–2.30PM</b>	<b>The Invisible Man</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">7</span> FISHERGATE
<b>2–2.35PM</b>	<b>Everywhere's a Beach</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">6</span> WINCKLEY SQUARE
<b>2.45–3.10PM</b>	<b>Mughal Miniatures: Animal Paradise</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">6</span> WINCKLEY SQUARE
<b>3.15–3.35PM</b>	<b>Ski Band</b>	<span style="color: #92D050;">6</span> WINCKLEY SQUARE



Please note: Timings are subject to change. Check the website for up to date details.



Outside The Guild Hall on Saturday, we will feature Preston People's Choir, Hussain Hanif and The Nasheed Choir, the return of Urooj Qawwal and the Song of Life project led by Stef Portersmith and involving many other Lancashire singing groups.



## ENCOUNTER VOICES – LIGHTS THAT LEAD US THERE

Since 2018 we have run the singing programme Encounter Voices and in 2024, we are collaborating with Lancashire's year long celebration of grassroots singing, County of Song. "Lights That Lead Us There" welcomes in the autumn with songs of love, longing and light including familiar favourites and new works by composer and choir leader Loz Kaye.

There's still a chance to take part by joining one of our workshops at **The Guild Hall Lancaster Suite at 11am on the 31 AUGUST, 14 SEPTEMBER** and even at the festival itself on the **21 SEPTEMBER**.

**SAT 21**  
**1–5.30PM** (CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILED TIMINGS)

LANCASHIRE  
COUNTY OF  
SONG



## BEST OF LANCASHIRE

Formerly 'Best of Preston' this event has been part of Encounter since 2022 and showcases live, original music from around the county.

Artists clamour to play under the Victorian Preston Market canopy which provides perfect cover for an outdoor music event.

This year, four original bands and four singer-songwriters will entertain local music fans at this free event.

**SUN 22**  
**1–6PM** | THE ORCHARD, PRESTON MARKET



“ I COULDN'T THINK OF A MORE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY AND CREATE GREAT MEMORIES! ”



Every year Encounter commissions new work for Preston audiences and this year we're once again proud to present these exciting projects. This year we've been working with Lancashire companies imitating the dog and Blaze Arts.

## RIBBLE OF DREAMS IMITATING THE DOG

Peer into our magical story boxes for an extraordinary journey through the city, across landscapes both real and fantastical, strange and familiar. Ribble of Dreams is a story of escape, of exploration and of discovery made by imitating the dog and the people of Preston.

If you want to get involved in creating these real and imagined tales of our city, you can join **imitating the dog** for a workshop in The Guild Hall Foyer on **SUNDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER** at 11am or 2pm.

These installations will be visible across a trail of shop windows in the city centre. To find out where the magic will happen check our website and social media.

**SAT 21 & SUN 22**  
ACCESSIBLE ALL DAY



## SAME BUT DIFFERENT

Same But Different is an accessible silent disco DJ'd by The Fat Britney and Matthew Beautyman, produced by Blaze Arts Access All Areas producers, a group of young disabled artists led by local theatre maker Helena Ascough.

**ACCESS INFORMATION** – Some details are still to be confirmed but if you are a hearing aid or cochlear implant user and want to get involved with the silent disco, please bring your radio aid or mini mic, or similar device, that can connect to your hearing devices via Bluetooth and that has a mini jack input.

**SAT 21** | PRESTON BUS STATION 2  
2.05–3.50PM





Our Sunday setting is the beautiful Winckley Square where we will host fabulous family shows, good music, lots of family games, face painting, henna artists and plenty of lovely food stalls.



## EVERYWHERE'S A BEACH

Join us for a day at the beach unlike any other in this high energy, circus theatre show!

Perfect for the whole family, Everywhere's a Beach is a charmingly ridiculous performance taking place on a giant revolving beach parasol!

This dynamic, dizzying and downright daft show will leave you dancing with delight!

**SUN 22**  
12-12.35PM | 2-2.35PM



## SKIBAND

Calypso, ska/reggae, funk & pop performed with a serious sense of humour... the Skiband bring their own irresistible party! Irreverent and engaging, Skiband are based in West Yorkshire and Livenpool and bring a repertoire of songs guaranteed to make you smile.

**SUN 22**  
11.35-11.55AM | 1.25-1.50PM |  
3.15-3.35PM



## MUGHAL MINIATURES: ANIMAL PARADISE

A fun and upbeat outdoor performance event for all the family, which celebrates and takes inspiration from the exquisite traditional art of Indian and Persian miniature painting. Performers in sumptuous costumes create vibrant and colourful mini worlds of dance, music and puppetry.

**SUN 22**  
12.45-1.10PM | 2.45-3.10PM

Magical Story Jars will be with us again on Sunday making your very own Preston Lamb and taking it on an adventure in your own story or comic.

## THE INVISIBLE MAN

Introducing The Invisible Man. Come face to face with the man who isn't there. A living, breathing science experiment gone wrong. Contained and stewarded by his mysterious doctor, witness the scientific marvel and learn more about how he came to (not) be. Interact with him as he explores his new powers, but be warned you may see more (or less) than you bargained for!

**SUN 22** | FISHERGATE / WINCKLEY STREET 7  
11-11.30AM | 12.30-1PM |  
2-2.30PM

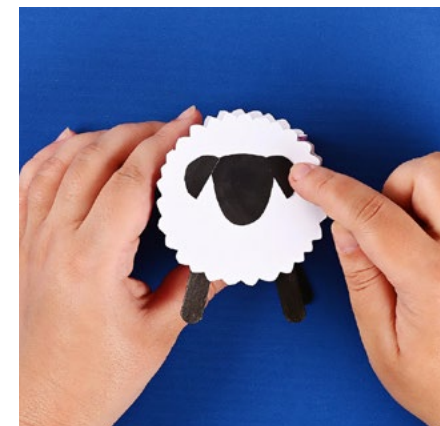


## MAGICAL STORY JARS

Take part in a fun story and craft activity inspired by the Lamb of St. Wilfrid found on the Preston coat of arms. The Chief Story Makers will be on hand to provide dollops of enthusiasm, help and support!

Suitable for ages 3+

**SUN 22**  
12-3.30PM (DROP-IN)



## HORSE + BAMBOO GAMES EMPORIUM

Come play some retro games with Sarah and Andy. Battle with the giant Connect Four and try to Hook a tiny duck. Fun for all the family to play between the shows and music.

**SUN 22**  
12-3.30PM (DROP-IN)







# ENCOUNTER FESTIVAL PRESTON



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**WITHOUT  
WALLS**