

## PRESS RELEASE: Preston Pride of Place Project

1st - 31st March 2016

Launch event: Thursday 3rd March, 5pm - 8pm

Pop-up exhibition at 3 Friargate, Preston, PR1 2AU

What does Preston mean to you? Is Grimsargh great? Is Ingol interesting? Is Savick sassy? Is Lea lovely? Is Broughton bright? Does the Ribble ripple? What would make a great souvenir of Preston? What hidden or unusual attractions would you show visitors?

To complement their major touring exhibition, **extra{ordinary} - Photographs of Britain by The Caravan Gallery**, at the **Museum of Lancashire**, artists **Jan Williams** and **Chris Teasdale** of **The Caravan Gallery** will be transforming for an empty shop unit in central Preston into a dynamic art exhibition-cum-alternative visitor information centre exploring Preston in all its multifaceted glory. They need your help to create a warts and all celebration of the city of Preston.

### **Pride of Place Projects - participatory exhibitions celebrating local distinctiveness**

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The Preston Pride of Place Project will give visitors an opportunity to define where they live - and how they live - in the twenty-first century, through research conducted in the spirit of 'Mass Observation'. The exhibition will open with photos of Preston by The Caravan Gallery as a catalyst to get people talking. Winning images from an **open submission photography competition** focusing on Preston will also form part of the opening display with prizes donated by The Caravan Gallery and local businesses.

**Local residents and visitors** will be invited to contribute by sharing their views and using their creative talents - writing, photography, drawing, video, sculpture, singing, knitting, whatever - to help produce a wonderfully anarchic and refreshingly honest exhibition-cum-alternative-tourist-information-centre celebrating the city and its character. The exhibition will grow day by day as visitors add their own observations, little known facts and creations to **The People's Map** and **The People's Wall**. An unusually entertaining survey will give residents and visitors from elsewhere a chance to say what they think about Preston past present and future. Art materials and inspiration will be available for anyone who wants to get creative.

Jan and Chris say '**This is a great opportunity for the people of Preston to show off their local knowledge and creativity.** Everyone is welcome to participate - schools, colleges, arts, crafts and community groups, photography and local history societies, sports associations, gardening clubs, writers and musicians, local food producers, shoppers, road sweepers, civil servants etc. We want to know about your Preston!'

**Prestonians are invited to bring along their Preston-related creations and items for possible inclusion in the exhibition which will be curated by The Caravan Gallery and will grow day by day over a month.** Contributions might include 2D and 3D artworks, photos, films, scrapbooks, old postcards, books and brochures, souvenirs and memorabilia. Items may be scanned and returned or kept until the end of the exhibition. Alternatively they can be donated to The Caravan Gallery archive. Some of the material collected will appear in a **commemorative publication** produced at a later date. The Preston Pride of Place Project will open with a **launch event** on **Thursday 3rd March** and end with a **closing celebration** on **Thursday 31st March** where participants and visitors can come together to admire the finished display.

The Caravan Gallery's citywide project in Preston consists of three interconnected strands:



## extra{ordinary}

**Photographs of Britain by The Caravan Gallery**

**Museum of Lancashire: 30th January - 31st March 2016**

**Preview: Saturday 30th January, 2pm - 4pm**

**Walk and talk exhibition tour: Saturday 12th March 2016, 2pm - 3pm (free)**

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 10.30am to 5.00pm, Sunday - 12 noon to 5.00pm. Closed: Monday.

A national touring exhibition of over one hundred colour photographs made over the last fifteen years. Astutely observed, thought provoking and sometimes hilarious, these images focus on the extraordinary details of everyday life, and constitute an extraordinary record of social change since the millennium. A full colour hardback publication accompanies the exhibition.



## Preston Pride of Place Project

**1st - 31st March 2016: 3 Friargate, Preston, PR1 2AU**

**Launch event: Thursday 3rd March, 5pm - 8pm**

**Closing celebration: Thursday 31st March, 5pm - 8pm**

The **Preston Pride of Place Project** is a alternative visitor information centre where people can share stories images, words and opinions about the city and contribute to an ever growing exhibition about Preston. Artists Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale of The Caravan Gallery set up Pride of Place Projects so that people from all walks of life can learn from each other in a friendly creative environment. Familiar places taking on a new allure as overlooked details come to light and people connect with each other and their surroundings.



## Preston Caravan Gallery Tour

Between later January and March 2016 The Caravan Gallery will visit six sites across the city to publicise **extra{ordinary} - Photographs of Britain by The Caravan Gallery**, and to encourage people to participate in the **Preston Pride of Place Project**. The exhibition inside this unique mobile gallery will include photographs from all over Britain as well as Preston.

Confirmed dates: **Holocaust Memorial Day**, Flag Market: Saturday 23rd January, 11am - 3pm

**Preston Guild Hall:** Thursday 28th January, 11am - 4pm / **Ribbleton Library:** Tuesday 8th March, 12 - 5pm

**Savick Library:** Wednesday 9th March, 10am - 5pm / **Ingol Library:** Tuesday 15th March, 10am - 5pm

Please check website and social media for additional dates and further details.

## LISTINGS INFORMATION:

### **Preston Pride of Place Project**

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3 Friargate, Preston, PR1 2AU

1st - 31st March 2016

Tuesday - Saturday 10.30am - 5.30pm. Closed on Sundays & Mondays.

Launch event: Thursday 3rd March, 5pm - 8pm

Closing celebration: Thursday 31st March, 5pm - 8pm

### **extra{ordinary} - Photographs of Britain by The Caravan Gallery**

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Exhibition: 30th January - 31st March 2016

Preview: Saturday 30th January 2016, 2pm - 4pm

Walk and talk exhibition tour: Saturday 12th March 2016, 2pm - 3pm (free)

Museum of Lancashire, Stanley Street, Preston, Lancashire PR1 4YP

Tel: +44 (0)1772 534075

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums/museum-of-lancashire.aspx](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums/museum-of-lancashire.aspx)

### **Preston Caravan Gallery Tour**

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The Caravan Gallery, a unique gallery in a caravan, will visit six sites across the city with an exhibition of photos from all over Britain as well as Preston. Please check local press, The Caravan Gallery website, Facebook and Twitter for details of the tour and for Pride of Place Project updates.

**[www.thecaravangallery.photography](http://www.thecaravangallery.photography)**

**Facebook: The Caravan Gallery**

**Twitter: @caravangallery**

**Instagram: the\_caravan\_gallery**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS:

**The Caravan Gallery** is a collaboration between artists and photographers Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale, who use photography to document what they call the 'reality and surreality' of everyday life. Founded in 2000, The Caravan Gallery is a mobile exhibition space and itinerant social club on wheels housed in a recently reincarnated 1969 mustard coloured caravan. The venue has travelled thousands of miles taking contemporary art to unexpected locations and tens of thousands of people in Britain and abroad.

Previous exhibitions include: *Merseystyle*, Museum of Liverpool; *Watch This Space*, National Theatre, London; *Festival 2014*, Glasgow with Street Level Photoworks; *LOOK/13* and *FORMAT* photography festivals; the Bluecoat during *Liverpool Biennial*; *Pride of Place Projects* in Merseyside, Lytham St Annes, Oxford, Guernsey, Belgium and Portsmouth; *The Condition of England*, NGCA; *Is Britain Great?*, Aspex, Portsmouth and Paul Smith Space, Tokyo. For more information please visit:

**[www.thecaravangallery.photography](http://www.thecaravangallery.photography)**

## QUOTES

“With The Caravan Gallery there is this thing that is very familiar to me. It’s about seeing humour, seeing quirkiness, seeing strangeness in everyday life. It’s not at all contrived, it’s just ‘click’, got it! I like that.”

*Sir Paul Smith, Fashion designer*

“Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale spend their time sifting rubbish in the cultural dustbin of modern Britain. This is noticing on an epic scale, poignant and melancholic. Out of it they make art and laughter, a rare combination. Long live The Caravan Gallery!”

*Daniel Meadows of the Free Photographic Omnibus*

“Thank you for introducing us to ourselves.”

*Visitor to Bradford Pride of Place Project*

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## THE CARAVAN GALLERY PRIDE OF PLACE PROJECT TOUR

The Preston Pride of Place Project is the fourth instalment of a national tour across the length and breadth of the UK throughout 2015 and 2016, in partnership with many of the country’s galleries and photographic venues: Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland; Impressions Gallery, Bradford; Ffotogallery’s Diffusion Festival, Cardiff; Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art; Museum of Lancashire, Preston; and Solent Showcase, Southampton.



**Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale**

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Twitter: [@caravangallery](https://twitter.com/caravangallery) • Facebook: The Caravan Gallery

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## PRESS IMAGES

To request high resolution press images please contact us at:  
[admin@thecaravangallery.photography](mailto:admin@thecaravangallery.photography)



Preston Bus Station



Bus Station Clock



Sunderland Pride of Place Project pop-up exhibition in full swing showing many of the artworks, artefacts, photographs and creations donated by the public.



The Caravan Gallery at the Bluecoat, Liverpool



The Prestonian



Preston Market Posters



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