

Issue #10  
Jan 2016

FREE  
MAGAZINE



TAKE ME HOME

# GOOD ON PAPER

AN INDEPENDENT, FREE  
MONTHLY GUIDE TO MUSIC,  
ART, THEATRE, COMEDY  
& LITERATURE IN STROUD



Image: James Kriszyk

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## EDITORS' NOTE

WELCOME TO THE TENTH ISSUE OF GOOD ON PAPER - YOUR FREE MONTHLY GUIDE TO MUSIC CONCERTS, ART EXHIBITIONS, THEATRE PRODUCTIONS, COMEDY SHOWS AND LITERATURE EVENTS IN STROUD...

When we published the first edition of Good On Paper back in March 2015 we didn't really have a plan past this issue - but the months rolled on and we both ploughed on...

Now ten issues down the line with a brand new website under our publishing belts we decided that it's time to celebrate! On Saturday 9th January we are having a 'post-launch(?)we are still here!' party at the Prince Albert in Rodborough featuring a line up of musicians, poets, comedians, actors and artists which we have featured in the magazine since our first issue (which now seems like many moons ago). The event starts at 5pm with food provided by Laurence and Rosa from Two Peas Street Food and performances begin at 6pm. Turn to p6-7 for further info!

Don't forget to visit our website for film listings, reviews, poetry, short stories, downloadable archived issues and more...

Happy New Year!

Alex and Adam  
www.goodonpaper.info



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# STROUD BREWERY



### ORCHARD VISIT WASSAIL Saturday 16th January

Pass the Wassail Bowl (filled with mulled cider), sing the Wassail Song and head up the hill to the orchard to scare away those daemons who might ruin the apple harvest (bring pots, pans, drums - anything to make a racket! - as well as warm clothes and torches). Return for music from Dead Dog Cider.



### BURNS NIGHT Thursday 21st January

The evening starts with a whisky tasting (led by Stroud Whisky Club), is followed by a two-course meal with haggis (courtesy of Bison Kitchen), and is completed with words and music from folk, blues and jazz combo Dark Island. Tickets £20 - book early!

## JANUARY MUSIC



- Sat. 2nd \* Hamish & Andy \* lifting the post-Christmas blues
- Sat. 9th \* Danadra \* semi-acoustics with dynamic percussion
- Sat. 16th \* Dead Dog Cider \* lively tunes with audience singalong
- Sat. 23rd \* Jan and Ian Harvey \* traditional folk ft. mandolin
- Sat. 30th \* Darren Hodge \* virtuoso acoustic guitar





# STROUD WASSAIL

BY NIKKI OWEN

GIVEN THAT WASSAILING - THE TRADITION OF BASICALLY DRINKING TO EACH OTHER'S HEALTH - HAS BEEN AROUND FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS (SINCE THE 9TH CENTURY IN FACT), I HAD, FOR SOME REASON, A VAGUE NOTION THAT IT WAS CONNECTED TO MORRIS DANCING (IT DOESN'T, BUT MUMMING DOES. MORE OF THAT IN A MOMENT...) I ASSUMED ALSO THAT WASSAILING WAS FOR PEOPLE, SAY, IN THEIR SEVENTIES NOT FOR YOUNGSTERS. AND DEFINITELY NOT FOR ME. OH, HOW WRONG WAS I. BECAUSE NOT ONLY DOES THE ANCIENT TRADITION OF WASSAILING TURN OUT TO BE ABOUT DRINKING AND BEING HAPPY IN THE WINTER AND SINGING AMAZING TRADITIONAL SONGS USED BY POP BANDS AND EPIC CLASSICAL COMPOSERS (VAUGHN WILLIAMS, NO LESS), IT'S ALSO ENORMOUS FUN. AND VERY, VERY COOL.

In what's billed as "a celebration of winter folk traditions," January 8th to 9th 2016 will see Stroud host not only the third Wassail Festival, but also the International Mumming Festival (Mumming is basically Morris Dancing but in winter with more elaborate costumes and, in fact, described as Britain's earliest form of pantomime.) Wassail, the idea of it, originated as an Anglo-Saxon drinking toast and was very popular across the country, especially in Stroud. Folk would visit their neighbours (kind of like carol singing), taking with them their (wooden) Wassail bowl and then sing them a Wassail song in return for a bit of money, some (alcoholic) drink (passed around in the bowl) and some cake.

Needless to say I was well up for finding out more. And so, in a busy bar, I met with two of the organisers of the 2016 festival. Trouble was all I knew was that they were called Alex and Steve. Assuming they would a) be a tad older than me (and I'm 40-odd) and b) both be blokes, in I went and got the shock of my life. Because Alex was not only a woman, but young (she's 36, but looks 26) and Steve, all cheeky smiles blended with years of wisdom, was a huge ball of happy energy.

And it's easy to understand why this happy energy exists. You see, Wassailing, first and

foremost, is about passing on good wishes to family and friends. As Steve explains once we get settled, "Waes Hael means Be healthy. That's what you say, you see, that's the traditional, age-old saying when you pass the bowl, the wassail bowl to the next person." Alex nods, beaming a smile. "And in response, you then say Drinc Hael! Which means Drink to your health!" The two laugh, and seeing it, this easy exchange highlights just why Wassailing is becoming so popular: it's just, basically, friendly and fun. Oh - and edgy.

See, Wassailing, the going to houses drinking ale, wishing good health, also consists of this singing bit I mentioned. And by singing I mean great, catchy rhyming melodies that have been etched into our cultural heritage here in Gloucestershire for centuries right up until the very modern day. "Blur used a Gloucestershire Wassail song once," Alex tells me. "Really?" I answer. Alex nods and I am impressed. Not only because Blur likes (and uses) a Wassail song, but also because Alex, the youthful, smiley woman she is, is a Wassailer (if that's a word) and she is cool with a capital C. This is a lady who is big into Morris dancing (the summer time Mumming equivalent), used to work for Damien Hurst, and is currently a freelance artist and illustrator. Now, after Morris Dancing at Glastonbury no less back in the day, as well as

over the years Morris Dancing for an eclectic, edgy mix of diverse bands, Alex is a member of an all-female Morris team based in Stroud. And it's this group, mixed with this 'fresh' approach to Wassailing and Mumming that is part of a new, modern phase of our old, fast held traditions. And it's a cracking combination.

"The girls who've joined the group have totally taken to it and it's been a real revival, and it's meant Mumming has grown as a result, too," Alex explains. Steve nods, head bobbing, clearly delighted at the resurgence of traditions he so passionately cares about, having set up the new Morris Stroud group with Alex. 'Oh, and I make the broad,' Alex suddenly says. What? I almost spurt out my coffee. But it's okay. The Broad, see, is the traditional life size cow that is the medieval symbol of the Wassail, and Alex not only constructs the thing, but has designed the cool black and white Wassail logo that's reminiscent of the Jamiroquai album design silhouette circa 1994.

'The Broad is an important part the procession,' Alex continues. 'It will be paraded through the streets of Stroud as part of the traditional celebration.' The life-sized Broad, traditionally used to 'scare the ladies from the house' so all would participate in wassailing, will warm us all up. As will the festival entire. Not least because

of the beer: Stroud Brewery have confirmed they will be producing a special Wassail festival beer called, Wass-Ale. Genius.

It all happily means there'll be a lot going on this year at the festival. Centered around the Subscription Rooms, the Museum in the Park, and on the streets and pubs of Stroud, 8th-9th January will see everything from workshops on learning about rag coats and wassail songs, to an evening lantern procession and a major symposium - a conference featuring talks and academic discussion on wassailing. And on top of that are the wealth of Mumming workshops and sessions also laid on for us Stroud folk to come along to. Yep, there's something for everyone and we are all invited. Tickets for the workshops can be purchased from the Subscription Room Box Office, and the rest of the events? Well, you just rock up and join

right in. This is all in addition to family friendly events that will take place in Strafford Park from 3pm on the Saturday, and of course, later along the main street in Stroud, with a procession, followed by traditional wassailing, drinking to our good health in the evening's 12th night revels.

It's hard to imagine that Wassailing, with this new enthusiasm, could be under threat, but until recently that's been a dark possibility. See, despite an international Unesco pledge to protect traditions such as Wassailing, the UK has not signed up to the Unesco convention proposing to do this. "There is no protection against non-tangible traditions," Steve says. "We preserve our major landmarks, yet we do nothing to safeguard our age-old traditions."

But, that's where we enter. We can join in. We can get ourselves and our families involved in Wassailing, in a tradition that, without us, would die. Yep, that Festival, that mumming and wassailing is cool because, just like that, we can all, in Stroud, be a part of it and continue to make where we live great. And with beer! No bad, hey? Waes Hael.

For a full event programme go to [stroudwassail.com](http://stroudwassail.com). You can also find them on Facebook and on Twitter @StroudWassail.

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*Nikki Owen is an author and writer. Her debut thriller, Subject 375 (Harper Collins), is out now. Catch her at [blog.nikkiowen.wordpress.com](http://blog.nikkiowen.wordpress.com) or website [nikkiowenauthor.com](http://nikkiowenauthor.com)*

## G.O.P BLOG



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[GOODONPAPER.INFO/ART](http://GOODONPAPER.INFO/ART) FOR  
MORE PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
JAMES KRISZYK OF THE STROUD  
WASSAIL AND THE ST. ROUDY  
MORRIS DANCERS



# GOOD ON PAPER AT THE PRINCE ALBERT

SATURDAY  
9TH JANUARY

ON SATURDAY THE 9TH JANUARY WE WILL BE HOLDING A 'POST-LAUNCH(?) / WE ARE STILL HERE!' PARTY AT OUR LOCAL, WITH A LINE-UP CONSISTING OF MUSICIANS, POETS, COMEDIANS, ACTORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS THAT HAVE FEATURED IN THE MAGAZINE SINCE OUR FIRST ISSUE! THE LINE-UP IS NOW FULLY CONFIRMED AND INCLUDES:



22:00

## RHAIN

Bristol based singer and pianist who spellbindingly evokes the voices of Kate Bush, Björk and Joanna Newsom whilst weaving them into her own idiosyncratic style. Recently performed her Stroud debut at the Good On Paper stage at this year's Stroud Fringe Festival and is currently working on her debut ep with John Parish (PJ Harvey) at Toybox Studios [rhainmusic.com](http://rhainmusic.com)



21:00

## LITTLE METROPOLIS

A great new project by poet Adam Horovitz & musician Josef Reeve originally commissioned by the Stroud Fringe Festival. Evocative poetry set to original music, exploring the peculiarities of growing up in a small town... [facebook.com/littlemetropolisalbum](https://www.facebook.com/littlemetropolisalbum)



20:00

## DAVE AYRE'S NANOSCOPIC ENSEMBLE

A unique, one-off performance by a small ensemble of exceptional classical musicians brought together by local double-bass player Dave Ayre. Expect the unexpected



19:20

## MISERABLE MALCOLM

Poet, writer and comedian Bill Jones brings forth his alter ego; the harbinger of gloom Miserable Malcolm... [hawkerspot.com](http://hawkerspot.com)



19:00

## JONNY FLUFFYPUNK

A seasoned performance poet who offers a unique blend of poems, songlets, surreal banter, off-kilter observation and bitter autobiography... [jonnyfluffypunk.co.uk](http://jonnyfluffypunk.co.uk)



18:40

## DENNIS GOULD

Legendary poet, activist, letterpress printer and one of Stroud's most cherished characters who is also a regular at Glastonbury Festival working on the Glastonbury Free Press



18:20

## JOHN BASSETT

Actor, writer and director of the Stroud Theatre Festival and Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company, and our regular theatre columnist [stroudtheatrefestival.co.uk/](http://stroudtheatrefestival.co.uk/) [spanielintheworks.co.uk](http://spanielintheworks.co.uk)



18:00

## UTA BALDAUF

Performance art poet, writer, lead singer in Square Bomb and avid collector of typewriters... [utasart.tumblr.com](http://utasart.tumblr.com)



23:00 - 00:30

## PAVINYL

Purveyor of fine vinyl with a hearse full of 45's from jump blues to northern soul with lots of oddball rock n roll... [facebook.com/Pavinyl](https://www.facebook.com/Pavinyl)



TBC

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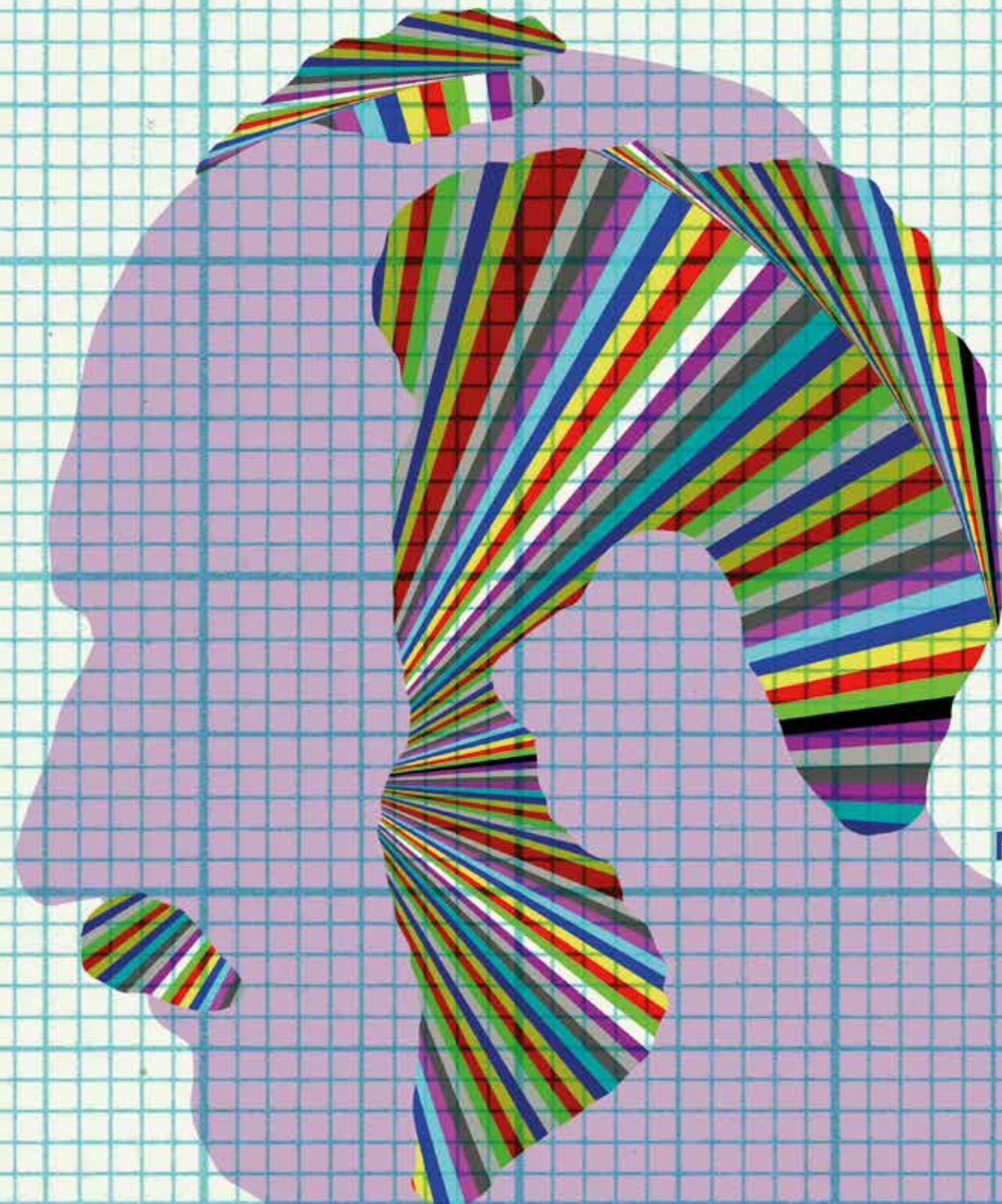
FROM 17:00

## TWO PEAS STREET FOOD

Towing their vintage Carlight caravan up the hill to the Prince Albert for the evening to offer some quality, tasty street food... [twopeasstreetfood.co.uk](http://twopeasstreetfood.co.uk)

# Good On Paper

At The Prince Albert, Stroud, Sat 9th Jan 2016 5pm-12.30am  
Music Art Poetry Theatre Spoken Word Comedy Food  
Rhain | Little Metropolis | Dave Ayre's Nanoscopic Ensemble  
Miserable Malcolm | Jonny Fluffypunk | Dennis Gould  
John Basset | Uta Baldauf | Pavinyl | James Kriszyk Photobooth  
Two Peas Street Food  
£3 (min.) donation to Gloucestershire Action for Refugees  
and Asylum Seekers | [www.goodonpaper.info](http://www.goodonpaper.info)



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The event also acts as an official fundraiser asking for a minimum £3 donation entry fee on the night in aid of Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (visit [garas.org.uk](http://garas.org.uk) for further info). A limited edition poster (on the right!) designed by illustrator and award winning film-maker Joe Magee (Bill Bailey, Time Magazine, The Guardian) who recently featured in issue #8 of Good On Paper, will be available to purchase at the event and via our soon to be launched online shop.

VISIT [GOODONPAPER.INFO/EVENTS](http://GOODONPAPER.INFO/EVENTS)  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND  
LINK TO THE FACEBOOK EVENT  
PAGE. SEE YOU THERE!



# EYEBROW

BY SEAN ROE

**EYEBROW IS A BRISTOL BASED TRUMPET AND DRUM DUO FORMED IN 2009, FEATURING PETE JUDGE (TRUMPET, ELECTRONICS) AND PAUL WIGENS (DRUMS, PERCUSSION, ELECTRONICS). THE BAND'S MUSIC "EVOLVES OUT OF IMPROVISATIONS WHICH ARE REASSEMBLED INTO STRUCTURED PIECES WITH AN UNEXPECTEDLY CINEMATIC SWEEP, LIKE JOURNEYS THROUGH SLOWLY-CHANGING LANDSCAPES."**

**PRIOR TO THEIR UPCOMING SHOW AT THE PRINCE ALBERT LATER THIS MONTH, I SPOKE TO THEM ABOUT THEIR WORK, THEIR INFLUENCES AND THE BENEFITS OF BEING IN A TRUMPET AND DRUMS DUO...**

**COULD YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUNDS BEFORE FORMING EYEBROW- PAUL YOU PERFORMED WITH BLURT FOR MANY YEARS- TED MILTON IS QUITE A CULT FIGURE HERE IN STROUD, AND STUDYING WITH CLIFFORD JARVIS MUST HAVE BEEN AMAZING?**

**Paul** Studying with Clifford was great. I met him at a time when I wanted to progress as a player. He had no time for pop or rock music, it was all about "the art of drumming". That didn't rub too well with some younger students. But I was there every time, sometimes the only one! It was too good an opportunity to miss. He played with Sun Ra, man!!

I played in Blurt for 18 years on and off (mostly on). Ted is an amazing performer and artist. We had had a great time touring on the train around Europe and North America. He's still at it. I was a fan before I was in the band and now I'm a fan once more. The thing I learned with Ted that relates to Eyebrow is the power of repetition in music. It draws people in and you take them over! I've played with loads of other people and bands The Wood Children, Grand Drive, The Blue Aeroplanes, Cousteau, Gary Lucas, Natasha Atlas and also for contemporary dance - Earthfall, theatre and film.

**Pete** I've played trumpet in Get The Blessing since its foundation, and have also been a proud member of bands & projects such as Mopti & Organelles & Artic. I worked with Kneehigh Theatre as musician/performer for

three years, and have composed music for the Travelling Light Theatre, Tobacco Factory Theatre, Aberystwyth Silver Band, and Gloucester Royal Hospital. I'm also one third of multi-instrumental trio Three Cane Whale.

**HOW DID THE TWO OF YOU GET TO START PERFORMING TOGETHER AND HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON THE NAME EYEBROW?**

**Pete** I'd seen Paul play years before I met him, as I was a huge Blurt fan in the 80's and 90's, and went to many of their Bristol gigs. Hugely ahead of their time, I'd even venture that Blurt's repetitive rhythms and angular saxophony have been an unsung influence on a lot of so-called 'nu-jazz' or 'post-jazz' bands of the last few years, including Get The Blessing. Years later, we finally met through local ska band Moonshot ...and we decided to book a studio and record an evening's blank-slate playing, and see what emerged. What emerged was our first album Desire Lines.

**Paul** I thought we met having dinner at Jim Barr's? Anyway, we hit it off and talked about doing music together. It seemed a bit tricky with just drums and trumpet, but Ed Blackwell and Don Cherry gave us confidence! I saw Pete doing a solo spot with his electronics and trumpet (supporting Faust!) and I thought - 'that's great! He can just do that and I'll play drums like I did in Blurt, just less psychotic'. Then we went and recorded it. I can't remember how we decided on the name, I think it was

just the least stupid one we came up with, and it seemed to fit with our expressive hair above our eyes!

**THERE WERE (AND ARE!) SOME QUITE AMAZING TRUMPET/DRUMS DUOS INCLUDING THE LIKES OF DON CHERRY & ED BLACKWELL, THE CHICAGO UNDERGROUND DUO, AND SPACEHEADS WITH ANDY DIAGRAM. WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS FORMAT? WHAT IS THE ATTRACTION OF PERFORMING AS A DUO RATHER THAN IN AN EXPANDED BAND?**

**Pete** Don and Ed are the masters. If you've not heard their album "El Corazon", we highly recommend you seek it out. Trumpet and drums? It's just such an inspiring sound - the parp and the thump. So much so that we set up a little collective of trumpet and drum duos a few years ago called Struck & Blown with Spaceheads themselves and Tank & Trumpet. There's considerable space in this line-up, and little chance of treading on each other's size 11s.

**Paul** Size 12s I'll have you know!! It is a limited sonic palate in some ways, but we decided early on to use that as a strength and try and play as little as possible. I like it because I have to come up with distinct patterns for each piece, rather than just playing 'normal drummer stuff'. I enjoy the challenge. Also, in a duo it is logistically very easy and the money works out better!

**WHICH OTHER MUSICIANS ARE AN INFLUENCE TO YOU BOTH? I CAN ALMOST FEEL PETE CHANNELLING DON CHERRY AT POINTS IN THE RECORDINGS I'VE HEARD.**

**Pete** I can only confess to being inspired by Don Cherry, not just in his playing but in his whole open-eared approach to music-making. I love the way he makes up for any technical deficiencies with sheer force of spirit. Every phrase and splutter is an object lesson in melody and placement. Other trumpeters I listen to a lot include Miles Davis, of course, and more recently Arve Henriksen. But I'm just as likely to be influenced by other instrumentalists...Thelonious Monk (again, space, spirit, personality), The Necks (with their long-form collective improvisations)...anything and everything.

**Paul** I think that more experimental end of 'jazz' is an influence for both of us. Miles Davis - 'In a Silent Way' is another good example of the kind of gradually evolving, but seemingly static, music that is an inspiration for us. The various activities of Brian Eno, David Byrne and Talking Heads are things that we both like - the rhythms, use of electronic textures, the slight eccentricity of it all! We also agree on the great minimalist power of AC/DC when we are travelling in the Eyebrow-mobile! For inspiration for Eyebrow, I have found myself going back to drummers I have liked for a long time. I have just found new things in their playing. Budgie from The Banshees and The Creatures, Steve Jansen from Japan and Bill Bruford in 80's King Crimson are players that use the drum kit in a different and distinctive way - obsessive repetitive beats and a unusual tones and sounds from the kit. And not forgetting Keith Moon of The Who, my first favourite, whose playing I never tire of. Now I can hear his musicality and expressive use of dynamics that I didn't hear before but I know informs my playing to this day. Really!

**ON YOUR MOST RECENT RECORDING GARDEN CITY ON NINETY & NINE RECORDS, THE DRUMS ARE LARGELY UNPROCESSED AND CLEAN SOUNDING WHEREAS THE TRUMPET IS BOTH PROCESSED AND HAS MANY LAYERS AND LOOPS. COULD YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROCESSES INVOLVED IN WRITING AND RECORDING YOUR MUSIC?**

**Pete** We write by improvising, recording the results, and then poring over them to pick out ideas and structures. These are then reassembled in future sessions. A number of the pieces on Garden City grew out of improvisations we developed to accompany film and dance projects we've been working on over the last few years. The trumpet processing is an organic part of the sound; the loops float over Paul's beats and patterns in unexpected ways, whilst the sound itself suggests certain melodies and harmonies. We deliberately tried to use minimal ingredients on this album: 'Thaw', for instance, the longest piece on the album...it's all about the tension...

**Paul** The album was recorded live with only a few choice overdubs like Jim Barr's (Portishead, Get The Blessing) bass and Pete's tuba. It's our sound, but enhanced in the studio. I don't think we wanted it to sound like a 'worthy' jazz recording but something more expansive and accessible, like 'The Lexicon of Love' by ABC. Maybe. We recorded for 2 days in Invada Studios in Bristol. We did a few overdubs and our producer Tim Allen mixed it in his studio. The music definitely continues to evolve throughout the recording process. What we record then influences how we play the pieces live subsequently. Tim is so easy to work with. We didn't have to tell him what to do, we just let him get on with it, twiddling his knobs and so forth. His studio is extremely tidy. He hoovers it a lot. That was enough for us to trust him. The thing about our band is that it has mixture of acoustic and electronic sounds. I use electronic percussion live sometimes but usually I can't be bothered because it involves wires and plugging things in. At the end of 'Scrim' we fed the drums through some ancient electronic boxes to get a Kraftwerk sort of sound as a total contrast to the natural drum kit sound. But generally I prefer the drums to sound like drums as opposed to an 'effect' or a drum machine. I can play like a drum machine. I don't want to sound like one!

**WHEN PLAYING LIVE DO YOU PERFORM SONGS YOU HAVE RECORDED OR IS YOUR PERFORMANCE EVER TOTALLY IMPROVISED? HOW IS YOUR LIVE PERFORMANCE DIFFERENT FROM RECORDING IN THE STUDIO?**

**Pete** We generally work from pre-prepared structures when we perform live, but these are so spare and open-ended that there's room for a lot of improvisation.

**Paul** Although our pieces have composed themes and rhythms, the improvisational element means at gigs we play in response to the environment, audience, weather, whatever! So it's different every time we play. In the studio it is more concentrated and sometimes more intimate. But maybe that's appropriate for people listening to our music at home or in headphones.

**YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS WITH FILM AND VIDEO MAKERS AND DANCERS - WHICH OF YOUR PAST PROJECTS HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST OR BEEN MOST CHALLENGED BY?**

**Pete** I've enjoyed all our collaborations, and hope to do more in the future. Kathy Hinde's amazing live visual projections, TaikaBox's extraordinary dance film projected onto Newport Civic Centre, the 'Beyond The Body' dance performances in Wales, b-side multimedia festival's 'walking soundtrack' commission for the Rodwell Trail in Dorset, and its live finale gig in Sandsfoot Castle. Not forgetting a one-off performance with Blurt's Chris Vine in The Golden Lion in Bristol...all fantastic.

**Paul** I agree with Pete, all those projects were challenging and thoroughly enjoyable! It seems our music can work in a lot of different contexts including the Prince Albert on a Saturday night! We are really looking forward to coming back!

**WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON? IS EYEBROW PLANNING A NEW RELEASE OR ANY COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS IN THE FUTURE?**

**Pete** We're gearing up to go back into the studio and write some new material. Also hoping to get cracking on a long-talked-about collaboration with actor/performer Gerald Tyler.

**Paul** Yes, new tunes. We've been getting together and evolving some new ideas and drinking coffee. Mostly drinking coffee. But our ideas come quickly after that!

The project with Gerald Tyler is really interesting. Bizarre surreal stories of bestiality and vampires plus our music. I hope we can bring it to Stroud when it's ready...

**DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE PERFORMANCES COMING UP IN THE NEAR FUTURE EITHER AS EYEBROW OR IN ANY OF THE OTHER REGULAR GROUPS YOU PERFORM IN?**

**Pete** We're at The Tobacco Factory in Bristol on the day after our Stroud gig. Otherwise, we're keeping our own counsel until new material is ready for an airing and hoping to return to mainland Europe in 2016 too. In the meantime, I'll be back on the road with Get The Blessing, and also touring the UK with my 'other' band Three Cane Whale (we're releasing our third album in January 2016).

**Paul** Yes we are in discussion with the label about going back to Serbia and Bulgaria in the New Year and maybe Italy and Belgium too. I'm back at The Prince Albert on Saturday 23rd January with Garage-Punk band 'Black Crack' featuring ex-Membrane and Creeper Mark Tilton on vocals and my brother Jon and former Stroudie Fred Meek on guitars. It will certainly rock!

Eyebrow will be playing at the Prince Albert on Saturday 16th January at 8pm. Visit their website [eyebrowmusic.com](http://eyebrowmusic.com) for further info, music and videos

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*Sean Roe is a Stroud based artist and musician. He runs Junkroom Records an extremely small outlet for unusual music [facebook.com/junkroomrecords](http://facebook.com/junkroomrecords)*



# MUSIC LISTINGS

## Ale House

### THURS 7TH

#### Steve Ferbrache

Acoustic guitarist and singer performing a broad mix of blues, soul, roots and Americana 8:30pm Free

### FRI 8TH

#### The Bad Dads

Cider drinking, stomping country-blues four piece with elements of folk, bluegrass, jazz and rock 8:30pm Free

### SAT 9TH

#### Stroud Wassail Music Sessions

Folk music sessions taking place across the afternoon – visit [stroudwassail.com](http://stroudwassail.com) for program and p4-5 for further info! 12pm Free

### THURS 14TH/28TH

#### The Human Jukebox

You request it, Aron will play it! An eclectic (and sometimes unexpected) range of classic covers 8:30pm Free

### FRI 15TH

#### Steve & The Achievers

Soul, R&B, jump blues and Jive 8:30pm Free

### THURS 21ST

#### Dave Ayre Jazz Trio

Local jazz double bass legend Dave Ayre leads his superb trio once again 8:30pm Free

### FRI 22ND

#### Thee Ones

Swamp Boogaloo & Latin tinged vibes 8:30pm Free

### FRI 29TH

#### Biff Bang Pow

Power skiffle and new wave quartet playing guitars, ukuleles, percussion and harmonicas. Dynamic & unusual covers with some of the tightest harmonies around! 8:30pm Free

## Black Book Café

### SUN 3RD/10TH/17TH/24TH/31ST

#### Vinyl Sundays

The Black Book Café have recently purchased a record player so you can come in and play your favourite tunes whilst having a bite to eat and something to drink. Feel free to swap your vinyls and discuss your awesome music tastes! 10am-2pm

### SAT 30TH

#### Open Mic Night

Come down and perform and join in the fun! 7:30pm Free, however a small corkage fee applies!

[blackbookcafe.com](http://blackbookcafe.com)

## The Crown And Sceptre

### THURS 8TH

#### Howling Matt

Raw and rootsy, hard rocking boogie blues guitar 8:30pm Free

### FRI 9TH

#### Chinese Burn + Nat and Gav

Chinese Burn: local punksters 'Long Live The Underdog'

Nat and Gav: It's acoustic but rockin! 8:30pm Free

### FRI 15TH

#### Ash Mandrake

Incorporates music, loop machines, stories and comedy together with his own designed double necked guitar, hats and costumes. This is folk rock, but many styles are used, described as an 'incredibly skilled musician and songwriter; unique, brave, and completely naturalistic' 8:30pm Free

### SAT 16TH

#### Dart Fest

Three bands in one night in aid of local children's charity Allsorts Chinese Burn: Stroud punksters 'Long Live The Underdog'/Loan Sharks: Bath's Pop Punk Kings/Edsel Furies: Four fuzz filled finksters!

### THURS 21ST

#### Spiral Staircase

Modern jazz .....Nice 8:30pm Free

### FRI 22ND

#### The Dukes of Mumbai

Garage surf from the West coast of India (sort of). For fans of Dick Dale and Link Wray 8:30pm Free

### SAT 23RD

#### The Ragged Edge Soul Band

Good time, party, soul music 8:30pm Free

### MON 25TH

#### Burns Night Supper

Poetry, song, kilts, a piper, whisky, haggis, neeps and tatties - not in any particular order! £10adv from the bar

### THURS 28TH

#### Rodda's Hairy Craic

Irish Acoustic sessions with Tim Potts 8pm Free

### FRI 29TH

#### The Blueshounds

The Blueshounds have marinated & evolved in Gloucestershire for well over 20 years. Playing to ever increasing audiences, festivals and exclusive private parties, most corners of the UK have been gigged at one time or another. Starting out as the Blind Lemon Blues Band, melding into Hocus Pocus Blues, then finally into Blueshounds, the band has evolved into the consummate good times blues band 8:30pm Free

[crownandsceptrestroud.com](http://crownandsceptrestroud.com)

## G.O.P YOUTUBE PLAYLIST



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [GOODONPAPER.COM](http://GOODONPAPER.COM).

INFO FOR THE LATEST COMPILATION OF THIS

MONTH'S BEST MUSIC... IN OUR OPINION.

## The Golden Fleece

### THURS 14TH

#### Steve Hill

Very accomplished ragtime, finger-style acoustic guitarist 8:30pm Free

### SAT 16TH

#### Earl

Country & Americana duo fronted by singer/songwriter and International Songwriting Competition nominee Stuart Earl 8:30pm Free

### THURS 21ST

#### Steve Ferbrache

Singer and guitarist well known for booking himself in at venues where he manages the music. Once supported Seasick Steve but only because the booked act had the runs. Strongly opposed to self-written hyperbole 8:30pm Free

### SAT 30TH

#### Dusk Brothers

Bristol based two-man band playing original blues-inspired slide guitar music using self-built instruments 8:30pm Free

[facebook.com/goldenfleecebar](http://facebook.com/goldenfleecebar)

## Meme

### FRI 22ND

#### Scandi Night

Back by popular demand !...and for those who missed - it Meme are re visiting their Scandi tunes, Smörgåsbords, Scandinavian Folk adult colouring and Finlandia & Aquavit shots all to the backdrop of Röysopp, Kings of Convenience, Abba, Bjork, First Aid Kit and others 6pm Free

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

## The Prince Albert

### SAT 2ND

#### Thrill Collins

Kicking off 2016, Thrill Collins plays the Prince Albert with their infectious brand of skiffle-pop. Playing guitar, upright bass and cajon, this acoustic trio delight audiences with their exhilarating 80s and 90s covers, from French Prince through Take That to Whitney and Michael Jackson. Performed with energy and wit, these three will have you shirking off the New Year blues in no time 8-11pm Free

### TUES 5TH

#### Jaz DeLorean and Tim Fulker

Tankus the Henge boys Jaz DeLorean and Tim Fulker delight with their wiry carnival-esque tracks. Cockney dervish front man DeLorean is electrifying with his distinctive sultry vocals and exceptional rag-time piano skills, harmonised by Fulker, who accompanies with effortless vocals and compelling, thunderous guitar. Think rocky horror and Gogol bordello, and prepare to be amazed 8-11pm Free

### THURS 7TH/21ST

#### Open Mic Night

Encouraging any and all, the Prince Albert hosts their first Open Mic nights of 2016 - a great way to support local talent or try out the stage for yourself. Lights, PA and mixing desk are all provided; with drinks on hand should you need to steady your nerves! An inclusive and welcoming night 8-11pm Free

### FRI 8TH

#### Stroud Wassail Warm Up

There's no more apt a place to warm up for wassailing than a cosy and welcoming pub. Stroud wassailing club will be preparing for their celebration of mid-winter folk traditions, ready to bring the town to life with wassail songs, colourful costumes, music, Morris dancing and hobby horses. The perfect winter warmer 7:30-11:30pm Free

### SAT 9TH

#### Good On Paper at The Prince Albert

See p6-7! 5pm-12:30am £3 (min.) donation to Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

### SUN 10TH

#### Dave Ayre's Jazzgasm

Stroud's own double bass playing wizard Dave Ayre and a group of world class musicians expertly performing a selection of jazz numbers Times TBA Free

### MON 11TH

#### Baroque Night

By popular request, Dave Ayre returns with his fabulous troupe from across the UK for another gorgeous Baroque Night. Performing 400-year-old masterpieces from the likes of Vivaldi, Handel, Dowland and Purcell, this is a beautiful evening in the company of exceptional musicians. A magical event 8pm £10adv from Stroud TIC/£12otd/£3 for ages 12-18

### THURS 14TH

#### Tobias Ben Jacob and Lukas Drinkwater

Having spent years crossing paths at festivals, Tobias Ben Jacob & Lukas Drinkwater finally came together, combining the accomplished guitar and emotive vocals of Tobias with Lukas' energetic, almost percussive, bass playing to produce rich and finely layered folk. With lifting vocal harmonies and thoughtful lyrics, this is a considered, softly enthralling duo 8-11pm Free

### SAT 16TH

#### Eyebrow

See p8-9! 8-11pm Free

### SUN 17TH

#### Snufkin

Silky vocals jangle towards rousing harmonies between beautiful violin solos and finely mastered acoustic guitar from twisted neo-folk band Snufkin. Expect exhilarating, toe-tapping rhythm and lifting, intricate melodies, with some tracks paying a cursory nod toward their very own brand of filthy swing 8-10:30pm Free

### SUN 23RD

#### Black Crack

Founder of The Membranes, Mark Tilton, fronts this vital collision of rock, punk and blues which also features drummer Paul Wiggins (Eyebrow, ex Blur). Likened to the dirty bellow of Iggy Pop and the Stooges, and reminiscent of pre-punk garage rock, Black Crack are a gritty, provocative force. With exceptional guitar lead by Jon Wygen's and brutally sarcastic lyrics from ingenious Tilton, this five-piece is full-throttle, vital and entirely outrageous 8-11pm Free

### SUN 24TH

#### Stroud and Gloucester Vinyl Connection

Neil and Drew return for another Stroud & Gloucester Vinyl Connection event, a relaxed evening of record swapping and selling - or just a chance to play your favourites! It doesn't matter if it's obscure Swedish dub trance or a record you snapped up at the local car boot, all enthusiastic vinyl fans are welcome 8-11pm Free

### THURS 28TH

#### Yumi and the Weather

Ruby Taylor performs under the pseudonym Yumi and the Weather. Founded in 2012, Yumi and the Weather is a dynamic experimentation of live instrumentation and soulful, otherworldly vocals alongside synth-driven electronics, creating a dreamy, intriguing sound with a distinctive pop sensibility 8-11pm Free

### SAT 30TH

#### Ooberfuse

Cherrie Anderson and Hal St Jon are Ooberfuse, an electronic-based duo of enduring, complex beauty. The angelic vocals of Cherrie soar through quirky, pop influenced tracks with lyrics evincing surprising emotional depth. Promoting the release of new single 'Fall', mixed by Sam Williams (Supergrass, Plan B), Ooberfuse promise a charming, heartfelt performance 8-11pm Free

### SUN 31ST

#### Tigmus Music Showcase

Tigmus exists to make it easier for artists to find the best venues and make money from playing live music. They have the biggest online database of venues across the country and Europe - from pubs and theatres to cafes, homes and warehouses. Visit [tigmus.com](http://tigmus.com) for further info. Artists + times TBA

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

## Stroud Brewery

### SAT 2ND

#### Hamish and Andy

A post-New Year evening of music and fun, always full of energy, Hamish and Andy will help you keep the festive feeling lasting that little bit longer... 7:30-10pm Free

### SAT 9TH

#### Danadra

A fusion of semi acoustic guitar and dynamic percussion creating a unique and distinctive mix of bluesy/Latin/jazz /indie original material . From solid blues roots and world music influence - up tempo rhythms and melodies are complimented with melancholic soulful numbers to give a vibrant and inspiring set 7:30-10pm Free

### SAT 16TH

#### Wassail

The third weekend in January would not be the same if we didn't drink mulled cider and leave the brewery to serenade the apple trees in Thrupp. Return for more beverages and music from the ever lively Dead Dog Cider 7:30-10pm Free

### THURS 21ST

#### Burns Night

Stroud Whisky Club, Bison Kitchen and Stroud Brewery come together to celebrate Burns Night. We will be tasting a selection of whiskies, eating a two course meal with haggis (and toasting it where appropriate) and enjoying music and traditional Burns' poetry from Dark Island - All for just £20 a head. Booking essential visit the website for details 6-11pm

### SAT 23RD

#### Jan Vaisey and Ian Harvey

Jan and Ian perform a variety of songs from contemporary and traditional to easy listening with Ian sensitively accompanying Jan's vocals on guitar. Their songs are often interspersed with a variety of tunes with Ian playing mandolin accompanied by Jan on guitar 7:30-10pm Free

### SAT 30TH

#### Darren Hodge

Darren Hodge has been astounding audiences up and down the country with his ability to take the acoustic guitar to breathtaking limits. His instrumental playing spans a repertoire of blues, jazz, country, gypsy jazz and travis picking leaving audiences mesmerised with the challenges that Darren sets himself. A favourite of Huey Morgan and Rodrigo y Gabriela 7:30-10pm Free

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



## Subscription Rooms

## SAT 2ND

Stroud Ceilidhs:  
Steamchicken

One of the UK's premier Ceilidh bands Steamchicken is a swinging seven piece band with a four piece horn section whose genre defying sound flirts shamelessly with jazz, blues and folk. Caller Lisa Heywood 8pm £11adv/£10concs £12otd/£11concs/£5children

## SAT 9TH

Stroud Wassail:  
12th Night Revels

The world turned upside-down. Mid-winter merry-making with music, song, dance and drama. The evening event for the Stroud Wassail (see p4-5). Echoing 12th Night revels of the C15th Inns of Court, the evening will be presided over by the Chancellor of Mischief. Aply assisted by the Lady of Misrule he will oversee the election of King Bean and Queen Pea. There will be traditional festivities – the Wassail Bowl, The Boars Head Carol, games, mummer's plays, Morris dancers, and ceilidh dancing for all. A kind of medieval cabaret party. Please come in costume or disguise – Prizes for best costume and best mask! 7pm £8adv from Subscription Rooms Box Office

## WEDS 13TH

## Dark Island

Dark Island are husband and wife Dave Scott (Scotty) and Alex West. They regularly impress audiences with their diverse range of folk, blues/jazz and original songs, and their ability to embody characters and tell stories through music. Their distinctive arrangements use shared lead vocals, strong sung harmonies and instruments including guitar, soprano saxophone, bouzouki and flute 8pm Free (Mr Twitchetts)

## SAT 16TH

## James Chiseldine

James is a Stroud-based singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who sings lyrical songs inspired by nature and love, and the human spirit. His influences are diverse: he has trained in musical traditions of India, West Africa and Brazil, as well as listening to "Western" songwriters such as Neil Young and John Martyn 8pm Free (Mr Twitchetts)

## SAT 30TH

## Son Yambu

Son Yambu play authentic Cuban son, the intoxicating fusion of Spanish and African rhythms that gave rise to salsa. The band features a new generation of Cuban musicians who are all passionate about maintaining the traditions of the genre, continuing the Buena Vista legacy that put Cuban music back on the map in 1997. They give this irresistible music a contemporary edge, bringing their audiences a truly, sensational, authentic Latin music experience.

'Absolutely tremendous.... if you don't start to move to this there is no hope for you! Extraordinary music.' Sean Rafferty, BBC Radio 3 8pm £15/£13concs

## SUN 31ST

European Union  
Chamber Orchestra

Martin James Bartlett, BBC Young Musician 2014, has given solo recitals in prestigious venues including the Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall, St. John's Smith Square, Bolivar Hall as well as the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room and Moscow's Multi-Media Arts Hall. The EUCO gave its first concerts in 1981 and soon gained an international reputation as a musical ambassador for the European Union. It regularly performs in major concert halls throughout the UK and recent years have seen live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, the Bath Festival (with Alison Balsom) and a tour of Christmas concertos with Nicola Benedetti 7:30pm £16/£14concs/£5under 18's

[subscriptionrooms.org.uk](http://subscriptionrooms.org.uk)

## SVA

## SAT 2ND

## Uplifter

Heavyweight Reggae, Ska & Dub, Percussion & Visuals. The Uplifter finally returns to Stroud after a year since the sell out show back in January 2015. "It's lovely to perform in Stroud. It feels more and more like home after all these years... Armed with more music (that I'm very excited to play out), more drums, more percussion and more of that atmosphere that only SVA/Uplifter combined together can create." Brand new Uplifter T-shirts will be on sale exclusive to the SVA 2016 show 9pm-3am £6adv from Trading Post/£8otd (John Street)

## FRI 8TH/22ND/29TH

## John Street Social Club

The John Street Social Club is a series of Friday night club socials hosted by different artists each week with visuals, archive footage, informative curiosities and audio to share 7-11pm £1 membership otd

## THURS 14TH

Stroud Jazz Sessions  
Presents Craig Cofton

Stroud Jazz Sessions is delighted to host Craig Cofton on sax as special guest. Craig is jazzegorically fantastic, packing a fluid bebop punch and weaving the masters into his playing. He has a broad array of accolades, being lauded as a tutor, and performer in many great outfits not least his modern group Freight, and even a break beat producer in CCQ. Craig's opening performance will be followed by the Stroud Jazz Sessions usual energeti-frenetic jam, all welcome to play or sing 8:30-11pm £5otd/£3musicians (Goods Shed)

## FRI 15TH

John Street Social Club  
Hosted by Elvis and the  
Physiatrist

With Joe Reeves, Mark Darbyshire, Shiraz Akoo. An evening of sublime discovery, as Elvis, with his childlike curiosity and straightforward Southern Manner finds out about stuff. The John Street Social Club is a series of Friday night club socials hosted by different artists each week with visuals, archive footage, informative curiosities and audio to share 7-11pm £1 membership otd

## WEDS 20TH

## John Street Blues Club

Monthly blues night with a full set from invited guest plus open mic, archive foot- age and blues on vinyl. If you are a musician with a blues song that you feel needs to be heard then just turn up and find a slot somewhere in the evening! 8pm £5otd/£3concs/ Performing musicians free!

[sva.org.uk](http://sva.org.uk)

## The Convent - Woodchester

## SUN 17TH

## Alex Cornish

Singer-songwriter from Dunbar in Scotland. Alex has produced four critically acclaimed albums, toured all over, enjoyed heavy rotation on BBC Radio 2 and 6 Music and his songs have been featured in numerous films and television shows 9-11pm £10

## THURS 21ST

## Songs Of Separation

Songs of Separation brings together ten of the finest female folk musicians from England and Scotland, in the first performance of outstanding new music which spans the traditions of both countries, and explores a broad and compelling theme 9-11pm £15

## SAT 23RD

## Lauren Housley

Contender for the stand out 'up and coming' act of 2015 has to be Lauren Housley. Fresh from two compelling shows at O2's BluesFest, Lauren's unique blend of Nashville flavoured soul marks out as very much the one to watch for 2016, as evidenced by both Live Nation and Radio 2 support for this overnight success, some years in the making 9-11pm £10

## SAT 28TH

## Emily Barker

Stroud's own award-winning songwriter and performer of the theme to BBC's Wallander starring Kenneth Branagh. Her most recent album the Toerag Sessions features solo versions of songs from her six previous albums, recorded live to tape at London's Toerag studios with Grammy award winning producer Liam Watson 9-11pm £7.50

[theconvent.net](http://theconvent.net)

## Christchurch - Nailsworth

## SUN 17TH

## Bristol Ensemble

Endlessly popular for all the right reasons, Schubert's Trout Quintet was written by the composer when he was just 22 years of age. Its freshness and serenity has captivated players and audiences alike for nearly 200 years. Featuring Roger Huckle (violin), Carl Hill (viola), Robyn Austin (cello), Jub Davis (double bass) and Yoshiko Endo (Piano) 3pm £10otd

[bristolensemble.com](http://bristolensemble.com)

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**THE STROUD Subscription ROOMS**

## Son Yambu £15.00 (£13.00 concs)

Saturday 30 January 8.00pm

Son Yambu play authentic Cuban son, the intoxicating fusion of Spanish and African rhythms that gave rise to salsa. The band features a new generation of Cuban musicians who are all passionate about maintaining the traditions of the genre, continuing the Buena Vista legacy that put Cuban music back on the map in 1997. They give this irresistible music a contemporary edge, bringing their audiences a truly, sensational, authentic Latin music experience.

'Absolutely tremendous.... if you don't start to move to this there is no hope for you! Extraordinary music.' Sean Rafferty, BBC Radio 3

[www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk](http://www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk)

[twitter.com/SubRoomsStroud](https://twitter.com/SubRoomsStroud)

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## Dave Ayre's BAROQUE NIGHT at the Prince Albert

music for winter

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Henry Purcell,  
John Dowland and others  
beautifully performed as ever  
by a fabulous ensemble of musicians

Monday 11 January 2016 - 8pm  
THE PRINCE ALBERT, RODBOROUGH HILL

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[www.theprincealbertstroud.co.uk](http://www.theprincealbertstroud.co.uk)

**bristol ensemble**

## Tea-time concerts with the BRISTOL ENSEMBLE

A monthly series of Sunday afternoon chamber music concerts given by the professional musicians of Bristol Ensemble

Christ Church, Newmarket Road, Nailsworth

Sunday 17 January at 3pm

The series continues with a programme that includes Schubert's ever-popular *Trout Quintet*, written when the composer was just 22 years of age

TICKETS £10 on the door

For full programme and series details visit  
[www.bristolensemble.com](http://www.bristolensemble.com)





# GET

SCREEN PRINTING

# CASUAL

BY REBECCA MILLS



THE EVOLUTION OF GET CASUAL SCREEN PRINTING BEGAN IN 1998. WORKING PART TIME AT A COMMERCIAL SCREEN PRINTER, FOUNDER HAYLEY WALTERS BEGAN STAYING LATE TO PRODUCE HER OWN FASHION DESIGNS FOR SALE AT LONDON MARKETS. SEVENTEEN YEARS ON, IT HAS PROGRESSED INTO A PROLIFIC, HIGH QUALITY SCREEN PRINTING SERVICE FOR CLIENTS UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING A THRIVING CUSTOMER BASE IN THE LOCAL STROUD AREA. I MEET UP WITH HAYLEY AT THE INTIMATE STUDIO SHE SHARES WITH HER PARTNER, ILLUSTRATOR MARCUS WALTERS, TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE GET CASUAL STORY.

The current Get Casual studio is an understated unit tucked away on the second floor of Frogmarsh Mill. Inside, large windows line the exposed brick and spare white walls, punctuated by pops of colour from bold, playful illustrations. A mass of printing equipment commands most of the room. It is an informal and quietly bustling creative space. Yet it was in the legendary Mangle print works in Bethnal Green, London that it first began to transform and flourish. Shortly after establishing the fashion label, Hayley moved to Mangle print works, where she worked alongside other artists such as Rob Ryan and Dan Holiday. The success of her work soon established Hayley as one of the most exciting independent designers in London. However, discouraged by the continuous cycle of running her own label she gradually began to consider other opportunities and, surrounded as she was by a community of prolific artists and designers, discovered a steady demand for her printing skills. This demand encouraged Hayley to archive her label and progress toward a more commercial screen printing role, working with and for other clients who desired the exceptional quality prints that she could provide.

Hayley has since printed for prominent designers such as Giles Deacon, Emma Cook, Peter Jesen and House of Jazz. While many clients are still based in London and further afield, she has made an increasing transition to local projects since her move to Stroud in 2008. These Cotswold clients cover a broad range, illustrating the diversity of her printing skills, from Stroud Buzz Club, Hobbs Bakery, to branding for local bands such as 'Thee Ones'. Hayley also helped produce the incredible merchandise for this year's Stroud Fringe, and upcoming projects promise to be just as community-centred. In collaboration with Stroud Valley Artspace, she will be printing a range of t-shirts showcasing iconic poster designs from past events, such as Disco Sucks and John Street Socials. Planned in black and white with a bold, graphic finish, the range provides an ideal opportunity to snap up a souvenir from some fantastic Stroud events.

Glancing through a selection of Hayley's work, it is immediately clear why her printing is so celebrated. Through each product, ranging from tea towels to record sleeves, there is evidence of a high quality, beautiful finish, utilising an often-surprising colour palette, which she mixes herself. With years of experience, clients also have the reassurance of her extensive technical expertise.

Thanks to a fantastic series of workshops, curious individuals now have the opportunity to experiment with screen printing for themselves. Following on from the SVA Open Studios, Hayley recognised a stream of interest in her printing method and began to trial a series of interactive printing workshops late last year. Set over a full day, groups are invited to the studio to experience

the full printing process, from creating their own designs to taking home their products at the end of the session. With no more than four to a group, Hayley ensures that participants can be actively engaged the entire day, giving ample opportunity to practise new skills, with her on hand for demonstrations and guidance. Lunch is provided in the adjoining office, where there is plenty of inspiration from Hayley and Marcus' work. Set in a relaxed, creative space, the workshops are the perfect opportunity to catch up with a group of friends, or meet new people, in addition to honing a new skill.

While Hayley nurtures the growth of Get Casual, she also collaborates with partner Marcus Walters, printing paper editions of his illustrations and fusing different elements of his artwork together to create fresh compositions. Their latest joint venture is an exceptional range of house ware entitled 'In Home'. Such collaborations can be an exciting way to combine aesthetics, and this partnership is no exception. Informed by her background studying printing textiles at Middlesex University, Hayley continues to create everything by hand, turning to paints and pencils to produce her designs, which are often informed by her love of texture and mark making. The organic aesthetic of her work subtly contrasts with the graphic line and approach of Marcus' style. Brought together by a rich, considered colour palette, there is an evident sense of inherent, almost accidental, magic throughout the designs of the resultant new range.

Further collaborations with Marcus are high on the agenda for Hayley next year, alongside establishing more regular workshops, promising to continue the intriguing evolution of Get Casual. Chatting about these future aims while Hayley guides me through the studio and highlights samples of her previous work, it is apparent that passion, talent and hard-work are behind the success of Get Casual, driving its transformation from an after-hours fashion label to a prosperous screen printing service, increasing grounded in local community.

WORKSHOPS CAN BE BOOKED  
ONLINE THROUGH THE WEBSITE  
AT [GETCASUAL.COM](http://GETCASUAL.COM)

*Rebecca Mills was born in Stroud and has lived in the nearby valleys all her life. Following a BA Hons in English Literature, she worked locally as an editor and English tutor. She now spends her time travelling, reading, freelance writing and instagramming her miniature dachshund: mini\_moose\_esq*



# ART LISTINGS

## The Blue Room Gallery

**EVERY FRI & SAT**

Oliver Vivian: Lucidity

Oliver Vivian's Lucidity Exhibition continues with colourful expressive abstracts in oils on canvas, evoking the primal forces of the natural world

## Centre For Science And Art

**FRI 1ST - SUN 31ST**

James Kriszyk:  
When Spider Kisses Fly

A new collection of stunning black and white images by Good On Paper's resident photographer James Kriszyk. The photographs in the exhibition are a selection from his recent book 'When Spider Kisses Fly' which contains portraits and street scenes in his now instantly recognisable and unique style. They seem spontaneous yet considered and offer a relatable account of the world which surrounds him. The 27 page book is out now and can be purchased by emailing James at [jkriszyk@gmail.com](mailto:jkriszyk@gmail.com). "When we send James off to take pictures to accompany a feature in Good On Paper we always know it's going to be a difficult task to choose between them. Each image manages to convey the true essence of a person's character; a testament to the way in which he easily builds an instantaneous connection with his subject."

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

## Gallery Pangolin

**MON 11TH JAN -  
FRI 5TH FEB**

The Year Ahead

A glimpse of what's to come at Gallery Pangolin during 2016 with tasters from 'Sculptors' Prints and Drawings' which again runs alongside the biennial Impress Printmaking Festival, 'Jubilee', which celebrates the gallery's 25th birthday in June and our much-anticipated George Fullard solo exhibition, scheduled for the autumn Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-1pm

[gallery-pangolin.com](http://gallery-pangolin.com)

## GPC Printmakers Gallery

**FRI 8TH - FRI 29TH**

Scrum Down Print Forward

To celebrate the 2015 Rugby World Cup, Northern Print (gallery & printmaking studio) initiated a project to create a world record-breaking 33 metre long rugby themed linocut. Within the 33 metres (split into 11 x 3 metre sections), 20 rugby ball-shaped linocuts were designed by artists from countries participating in the World Cup. GPC members designed & cut one of the 3 metre sections, and a proof of this linocut, along with prints of the 20 rugby ball prints, and short films documenting the GPC's contribution to the project - from initial cutting to the final printing (by scrum machine) in Newcastle in

October, will all be on show at the GPC Gallery. The Gallery is open on Saturdays 11am-4pm

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

## The Line Gallery - SVA

**FRI 8TH - SUN 24TH**

Hywel Livingstone

Hywel's steel sculptures accentuate his love of the welding process. These structures that he creates are graphic and bold. Private view Friday 8th 6-9pm

**MON 25TH - SUN 31ST**

Nadine James

Nadine James looks for graphic shapes in nature. Her large watercolours are a modern take on a traditional subject matter. Private view Friday 30th 6-9pm

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

## Meme

**FRI 1ST - SUN 31ST**

Siobain Drury & Kay McLean

Mixed media and paintings from Meme resident artists Siobain Drury and Kay McLean. Original works and prints also on sale

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

## Museum In The Park

**FRI 1ST - SUN 17TH**

Camphill Foundation:  
World Wide Weave

'World Wide Weave' is an exhibition of 75 pieces of multi-media textile art by adults, children and young people with learning disabilities living in communities in 19 countries marking 75 years of the Camphill Movement. The exhibition celebrates unity in diversity and the essential spark of creativity which is common to all humanity, transcending differences of age, ability, language, culture, religion and politics. This colourful and uplifting exhibition toured the UK and Ireland in 2015 and after showing here in Stroud will visit Switzerland, Canada, USA, Norway, Finland and South Africa Tues-Fri 10am-4pm/Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

**FRI 1ST - SUN 31ST**

Agnes Miller Parker: Animals  
In Arcady - The Engravings  
To Aesop

Originally related orally, Aesop's Fables are survivals of folk storytelling that have been collected and published through manuscript and printed versions right down to the present day. In the early thirties the artist Agnes Miller Parker (1895-1980) engraved her outstanding illustrations to the fables for the famous Gregynog private press's edition of Caxton's Esop (originally published in 1484). A selection of these prints, printed directly from the original wood blocks have been collected together for this elegant show. Please note



## New Year, New Workshops, New Brewery Arts, New You!

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or Tel: 01285 657181 (or pop in and see us)

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## Victoria Works Studios

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## GALLERY PANGOLIN

### The Year Ahead

11th January - 5th February

A glimpse of what's to come at the gallery in 2016



And All The Birds Jon Buck

CHALFORD - GLOS - GL6 8NT 01453 889765  
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[www.tewkisburyprinting.com](http://www.tewkisburyprinting.com)



this exhibition shows in Gallery Two, opening hours vary from day to day – please call ahead on 01453 763394 before making a special visit or check the website for good days to visit.

**SAT 23RD JAN - SUN 28TH FEB**

**Cheltenham Illustration Awards 2015: Tales Of The City**

This exhibition showcases the winning entries from the 2015 Cheltenham Illustration Awards. Organised by The University of Gloucestershire, this annual competition invites submissions from all over the world and attracts students, established, and emerging illustrators. The successful entrants in this internationally known open competition are shown in an exhibition and published in a hardback, full colour annual. The chosen theme has always been one of narrative, to encourage visual storytelling. This leaves the artist free to explore their imagination and experience to create

all sorts of stories, imaginary worlds or documentary chronicles which may be conveyed in one illustration or a number of sequential images. The 2015 competition attracted 800 images submitted from more than 20 countries around the world. Look out for the Museum's half term holiday happenings which will accompany this show.

Tues-Fri 10am-4pm/Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

[museuminthepark.org.uk](http://museuminthepark.org.uk)

**Prema Arts Centre - Uley**

**MON 4TH JAN - SUN 14TH FEB**

**Rosemary Grace Booth**

Artist Rosemary Grace Booth (Rosie) is a recent graduate from Manchester School of Art. Her most recent works explore the intricate and delicate forms of an imaginary environment, twisting and flowing together. Her work always

begins with a meditative process of drawing; each one is packed with detail and intricacy. 10:30am-4pm

**MON 4TH JAN - SUN 14TH FEB**

**Kelly Kitsch**

Artist Sarah Kelly was born in Sierra Leone and grew up in various countries around the world including Australia, Yemen, United Arab Emirates and the Solomon Islands. Her experience of these countries, their cultures, mythologies and most importantly their distinctive natural landscapes continues to influence her artwork. The lush and bright jungles of the Solomons, where nature felt abundant and vivid often lend inspiration and colour to the opulent, playful creations made by Sarah. 10:30am-4pm

[prema.org.uk](http://prema.org.uk)

**New Brewery Arts Centre Cirencester**

**SAT 16TH - SAT 30TH**

**Secret Artisan 2016**

New Brewery Arts are staging an exhibition and blind auction of small donated works by the good, the great and the generous of this talented area and beyond. All the proceeds will support their Barrel Store development. From 16th to 22nd January audiences will be able to register silent bids either in the gallery or by emailing New Brewery Arts. A blind auction will then take place from 6pm onwards on the night of the 22nd January. Participants will have been sent an A5 postcard, if you'd like another card, or would like to participate please email [hello@bethalden.co.uk](mailto:hello@bethalden.co.uk)

[newbreweryarts.org.uk](http://newbreweryarts.org.uk)

## EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITY

THE UPPER LOCK CAFÉ IS CURRENTLY INVITING ARTISTS TO EXHIBIT THEIR WORK IN THE INTIMATE SURROUNDINGS OF THEIR BUSTLING CANAL-SIDE CAFÉ.

If you are an artist looking to organise a small exhibition and would like to find out more email Pam Jenkins at [pkjinx@hotmail.com](mailto:pkjinx@hotmail.com) or call 01453 297172

# THEATRE LISTINGS

**Victoria Works - Chalford**



**TUES 2ND FEB - TUES 19TH APR**

**Introduction To Scriptwriting with John Bassett**

This 10 week course provides an introduction to script writing for anyone who has ever fancied writing a play, radio or television script. Over the 10 weeks you will learn: how to get started, the differences between theatre/radio/television writing, how to create characters and plot, how to write effective and believable dialogue, the differences in writing required for different audiences and different formats and how to layout a script. Each week will feature practical exercises as well as formal teaching. At the end of the ten weeks, it is hoped that participants will complete a ten minute script which will have a reading by professional actors.

John Bassett is the director of the Stroud Theatre Festival, Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company and Good On Paper's Theatre columnist. He has been a professional writer for nearly thirty years and has experience writing for a range of venues and styles 7-9pm £120 for ten weeks Applications are now open, visit [swartworkshops.co.uk/event/introduction-script-writing](http://swartworkshops.co.uk/event/introduction-script-writing) for further info!

**Cotswold Playhouse**

**THURS 21ST - SUN 24TH/THURS 28TH - 30TH**

**Cotswold Players: Stoaf and the Amazing Ice Cream Adventure**

An incredible adventure about a boy called Stoaf and his intrepid companion - a dog called Diddums. Together they journey into a magical realm, ruled by a Wicked Witch, where the beautiful Queen has been put under an evil spell. The play uses many pantomime elements to tell the story of a young boy who strays into an enchanted land. There he meets: Mt Kettleman and his talking teapots, Cedric the knight, Mr Ice and Mr Cream - the ice cream makers and an evil Witch who turns people into frogs and has frightened everyone away by turning the queen of the land into a Skeleton!

This is fun for all the family with a traditional Dame, a cheeky dog, a haunted castle, and dancing and songs...7:30pm £13/£7under 16

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

**Lansdown Hall**

**SAT 2ND - SUN 3RD**

**Wynstones School: The Wind in the Willows**

Following a smash-hit run in November, the talented Sixth Form Students of Wynstones School transfer their successful production of this all-time

classic tale to Lansdown Hall. See River Bank, The Wild Woods and Toad Hall and enjoy the adventures of Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad in this hilarious play with songs and music. A must see New Year's treat for all the family. Only 3 performances, so book now to avoid disappointment. Poop, poop! Sat 3pm & 7pm/Sun 3pm £10/£5under 16s & over 60s available from Stroud TIC and otd

[lansdownhall.org](http://lansdownhall.org)

**Subscription Rooms**

**SAT 9TH**

**Stroud Wassail: 12th Night Revels**

The world turned upside-down. Mid-winter merry-making with music, song, dance and drama. The evening event for the Stroud Wassail (see p4-5). Echoing 12th Night revels of the C15th Inns of Court, the evening will be presided over by the Chancellor of Mischief. Aibly assisted by the Lady of Misrule he will oversee the election of King Bean and Queen Pea. There will be traditional festivities – the Wassail Bowl, The Boars Head Carol, games, mummer's plays, Morris dancers, and ceilidh dancing for all. A kind of medieval cabaret party. Please come in costume or disguise – Prizes for best costume and best mask! 7pm £8adv from Subscription Rooms Box Office

[subscriptionrooms.org.uk](http://subscriptionrooms.org.uk)

**Vue Cinema**

**SUN 3RD**

**Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company:**

The Winter's Tale (12A) 3:20pm

**SUN 10TH**

**Bolshoi Babylon**

+ Live Q&A (PG) 2:45pm

**SAT 16TH**

**Met Opera:**

Les Pêcheurs de Perles (Bizet) (12A) 5:45pm

**SUN 24TH**

**The Bolshoi Ballet:**

The Taming of the Shrew (12A) 2:45pm

**TUES 26TH/SUN 31ST**

**Royal Opera House Live:**

Two Pigeons/Rhapsody (12A) Tues 7pm/Sun 1:50pm

**THURS 28TH**

**National Theatre Live:**

Les Liaisons Dangereuses (12A) 6:45pm

**SAT 30TH**

**Met Opera:**

Turandot (Puccini) (12A) 5:45pm

[myvue.com](http://myvue.com)

## UPSTAGE/DOWNSTAGE

A new collective is being formed of professional actors, writers, theatre companies, directors, technicians and performers to help promote the skills and work of theatre practitioners in Gloucestershire. Provisionally titled Upstage/Downstage – Gloucestershire Theatre Workers Collective the group will draw on all the talent that exists in the county and look at establishing a network of new theatre performance venues throughout the region. Following an initial meeting in November the new collective can now go from strength to strength.

A special preview event will be happening at the Sub Rooms in Stroud on February 12th where six companies will present diverse fifteen minute extracts from new or existing works which they are looking to tour in the county.

IF YOU ARE A THEATRE PROFESSIONAL AND ARE INTERESTED IN THE COLLECTIVE PLEASE EMAIL: [INFO@SPANIELWORKS.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@SPANIELWORKS.CO.UK)



# LITTLE ISLAND PRESS

BY LEAH GRANT

Officially established in January this year, Little Island Press began life as a quarterly journal promoting poetry and cultural criticism. Now, as a small literary publisher, the business adds non-fiction and international works of translation to its portfolio whilst continuing to advocate the work of emerging and established poets: "In today's current publishing market we wanted to focus on tactility and books that lasted," explains the company's managing editor Andrew Latimer, "especially as a lot of poetry publication is based around ephemeral pamphlets." With the help of his business partner, Jessica Kelly, the pair have decided to concentrate their current efforts on three collectable series - Budding New Poets, Memento and Transits - creating aesthetically pleasing hardback books that aptly mirror the quality of the writing within them: "I think the more stuff becomes digital, the more people are starting to realise that reading is a three dimensional experience, there's the smell of the book, there's everything that goes with it that you forget when you're in the voyeuristic zone of just looking at the screen. That's why we are committed to the printed book and especially bringing poetry into print because I personally don't find poetry satisfying to read on the computer."

Both the Budding series (cleverly named after Edwin Beard Budding, the Stroud-born inventor of the lawnmower and - perhaps even more prestigiously - the namesake to Stroud Brewery's Budding Pale Ale) and the Memento series deal exclusively with poetry. Whilst the latter focuses on the work of established poets who have posthumously fallen out of public consciousness ("I often choose the Memento poets based on a quality that I feel the poet possesses that maybe contemporary poetry lacks, so it's like reinvigorating the soil of the work produced

at present..."), the former works as a foot ladder for new poets intent on making a name for themselves ("So many people are published on tiny presses or do it themselves and they just don't go anywhere. I've had a few friends who have done it and it's just the most anti-climactic thing in your life...").

Andrew's passion for poetry is evident in the compilation of these two series, but his motivation to give this art form greater prominence extends much further than just publishing new and existing work with talks of a possible mentorship scheme between experienced and early-career poets in the pipeline as well.

Under the Transits banner, Little Island Press will publish literature in translation - a skill that, whilst intrinsically creative, is often under-appreciated and one that Andrew and Jessica are keen to promote. Initially, the business will focus on translating Estonian literature ("...it's just been untouched for so long. When the Iron Curtain came up not much really came out of Estonia into English...") and there's one particular project that has really got Andrew excited - the translation of Anton Tammsaare's career-defining pentalogy, Truth and Justice: "We've got a really good translator from America who is due to be working on that quite soon. It will take about a year to do the first volume and then we will be bringing out a new volume every year.

The next twelve months may prove to be the most exciting to date for the new publisher as Andrew and Jessica ready themselves to release their first five titles - four poetry collections from the Memento series and one from Budding New Poet, Freddie Mason. It is this slow yet considered approach to publishing that epitomises Little Island Press and gives readers confidence in the titles they intend to publish; even their name - Little Island Press - is a well-thought-out representation of the business Andrew and Jessica

hope to create: "We incorporated the 'little' into our name in order to reference the so-called little magazines of the early twentieth century, such as The Dial, The Little Review and The Criterion. These were admirable enterprises that sprouted up in the US and UK around the 1920s, which published without concern for immediate commercial gain but that housed the likes of Joyce, Hemingway and T.S. Eliot before the big publishers took on such writers many years later. The publishing world is full of diminutive miracles - small magazines or presses that punch well above their weight. We are just one more such venture that intends to keep the voice of independent publishing vital and ubiquitous."

In a town known for its small, independent businesses and one with a particular affection for those who think outside the box, Little Island Press will undoubtedly be taken to Stroud's heart and could even become its next big success story.

*Leah Grant is a writer and photographer with a keen interest in art and literature. On her blog, Bellyful of Art, you can find reviews of exhibitions, installations, dance performances and literary events as well as her own lovingly created pieces of short fiction artbellyful.wordpress.com*

- If you would like to submit your work for consideration for publication by Little Island Press or to find out more about their titles due for release in 2016, please visit their website: [littleislandpress.co.uk](http://littleislandpress.co.uk)
- To keep up-to-date on all their latest news, follow Little Island Press on social media: @L\_Island\_Press or [facebook.com/littleislandpress](https://www.facebook.com/littleislandpress)

## G.O.P BLOG

VISIT [GOODONPAPER.INFO](http://GOODONPAPER.INFO)  
TO READ AN EXCERPT FROM  
ADA KALEH BY FREDDIE MASON

# LITERATURE LISTINGS

## Ale House

WEDS 6TH/13TH/  
20TH/27TH

Rick Vick: Writing Group

A weekly writing group run by Stroud Festival's Rick Vick. Discover your hidden voice, all welcome! 7-9pm £5 for further information contact Rick on 07973 225 694

## Hawkwood College

WEDS 13TH JAN -  
WEDS 23RD MAR

Wild Writing with  
Kevan Manwaring

This rule-breaking writing workshop is designed to encourage you to explore the untamed fringes of your desires and fears, to express that inner howl, to give voice to that long-denied cry. You'll be supported in a friendly, safe environment to venture beyond comfort zones and tap into words that can electrify, shock, motivate and move. Kevan Manwaring is a writer based in Stroud. He teaches for the Open University, was a consultant on latest series of BBC4's The Secret Life of Books, writes for The London Magazine and is the co-judge of their 2015 Short Story competition alongside Susan Hill. Every Wednesday 7-9:15pm £75 for ten sessions

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

## Museum In The Park

SUN 31ST

National Storytelling Week:  
Animal Adventures with  
Fiona Eadie

Storyteller Fiona Eadie invites you to come in from the cold, pull up a chair and enjoy some magical ancient and modern fables which will amuse and delight! For grown-ups of all ages, and children aged 5 and above. 3pm £5adults/£3children Booking necessary, please call on 01453 763394

[museuminthepark.org.uk](http://museuminthepark.org.uk)

## Subscription Rooms

MON 11TH JAN -  
MON 21ST MAR

Write A Novel In 2016  
with Kevan Manwaring

It is said everyone has a book inside of them. Start the year running with this practical course, and make that long-held dream come true! Over the ten weeks it will look at all the essentials of writing a novel: Character; Setting; Plot;

Point-of-View; Themes; Tone; Editing; Researching the Market; and Pitching your Proposal. Each week you'll get a chance to write, and to workshop work-in-progress - giving and receiving feedback in a supportive environment. No experience necessary - just an idea for a novel. Every Monday from 11th Jan 7-9pm £75 for 10 weeks

FRI 29TH

Stroud Out Loud!

Stroud's monthly spoken word showcase including poetry, storytelling and monologues! Celebrate free speech with this entertaining open mic showcase. 7pm (arrive early for a slot: 3 mins if reading; up to 10 mins if no text is used)

[subscriptionrooms.org.uk](http://subscriptionrooms.org.uk)

## Victoria Works

TUES 2ND FEB -  
TUES 19TH APR

Introduction To Scriptwriting  
with John Bassett

This 10 week course provides an introduction to script writing for anyone who has ever fancied writing a play, radio or television script. Over the 10 weeks you will learn: how to get started, the differences between theatre/radio/television writing, how to create characters and plot, how to write effective and believable dialogue, the differences in writing required for different audiences and different formats and how to layout a script. Each week will feature practical exercises as well as formal teaching. At the end of the ten weeks, it is hoped that participants will complete a ten minute script which will have a reading by professional actors. 7-9pm £120 for ten weeks

TUES 2ND FEB -  
TUES 1ST MAR

Calligraphy Course

Never tried it but always wanted to have a go? This five week course for beginners will talk you through pens, nibs, reservoirs, papers, inks and learning to use the broad edged pen. You will start with a suitable script for beginners, UNICIAL, used for centuries in ancient manuscripts and learn about thicks and thins in any script and what that means. There will be warm up exercises to help you get into it. You won't be jumping in at the deep end, but will start gently and gradually, to build up the skills. So don't be afraid. No experience necessary but intermediates welcome too! 10am-12pm £55 for five weeks

THURS 4TH FEB -  
THURS 10TH MAR

Creative Writing Course

This six week course will focus on creating a supportive group for people to explore their creative writing

practice. It will explore different genres of writing and look at ways to inspire home practice. The exercises you undertake will feature poetry, short stories, building a believable character and scene setting. Group members are encouraged to share their work, but this is not compulsory 7-9pm £65 for six weeks

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

## Ruskin Mill - Nailsworth

SAT 16TH

Stories for the New Year  
with Fiona Eadie

Story lovers young and old are warmly invited to a Saturday morning of seasonal stories at the Ruskin Mill fireside. Enchanting stories, enthralling tales and elaborate lies ... Enjoy listening to the wonder, wit, mystery and magic of stories from around the world. Coffee shop open for drinks and delicious home-made cakes 10:30am-12:30pm Adults £4/Children £3 (suggested minimum age is 5)/Family £10

[rmt.org](http://rmt.org)

## New Brewery Arts Centre Cirencester

THURS 7TH JAN -  
THURS 4TH FEB

Creative Writing: Spring  
Term with Rona Laycock

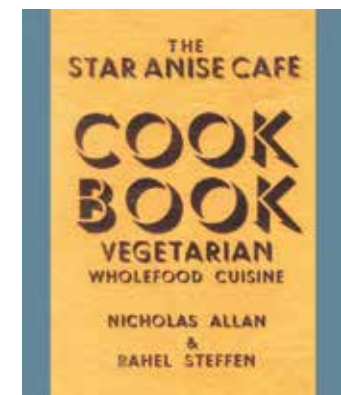
Writing Your Life Story: Your story is unique and should be told. Come and join the five weekly workshops to share your experiences and start to write your Life Story. Inspiring sessions with a practical focus on developing creative ideas and encouraging you to achieve your writing goals. To kick start the creative writing process, come along to the lively 'Writers in the Brewery' evenings on the last Tuesday of each month 1:30-4:30pm

TUES 26TH

Writers in the Brewery

A regular event that takes place on the last Tuesday of the month in the cafe. Everyone is welcome to come along, share their ideas and writing or just enjoy meeting writers and listening to their fiction, poetry, articles and autobiographical writings. Guest speakers include authors, poets, journalists, publishers, storytellers, musicians and filmmakers 7-9pm £4 (inc. free tea and coffee; other drinks at bar prices)

[newbreweryarts.org.uk](http://newbreweryarts.org.uk)



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Open House, Gloucester Street, Stroud, GL5 1QG





# COMEDY

BY CHRIS HEAD



MY STAND-UP COURSE IS ABOUT TO RUN FOR THE THIRD TIME IN STROUD ON FRIDAY NIGHTS FROM JANUARY. THIS TIME IT'S BUILDING UP TO A SHOWCASE AS PART OF THE LAUGH OUT STROUD COMEDY FESTIVAL AT THE SUBS ROOMS IN MARCH. AT THE SHOW YOU'LL SEE THE CAREFULLY WRITTEN ACTS THAT WERE DEVELOPED OVER THE PRECEDING WEEKS.

And yet in many ways stand-up comedy writing is a hidden art. The end product – the stand up performance – often looks so effortless, natural and chatty that many an innocent audience member doesn't even consider that any actual writing goes into it. At the start of my last Stroud stand-up course a student asked 'but can't you just improvise it?'. The short answer is: no.

The longer answer is that stand-ups exist on a spectrum. At one end you have the very carefully worded and crafted one-liner jokes of the likes of Milton Jones, Stuart Francis or Steven Wright that are dependent on delivering it very much as written and are essentially impossible to improvise. At the opposite extreme you have the likes of Ross Noble and Phil Kay who genuinely do a lot of ad-libbing but will have material they can fall back on. In between are the great bulk of comedians who have written material they are delivering as planned. If they're good they will change the odd bit on the fly and work the room but that will be a tiny proportion of the act.

How then does this writing look so chatty? On the course I tell people: remember you are writing speech. Write it like a character's speech in a film and not like a nicely written story or newspaper column. Then it will sound like you are talking spontaneously, rather than remembering a text. Make it seem like you are discovering the stuff as you go. Make it feel like a thought process. If the writing isn't like this, it'll be hard for the performance to be. The key here is that you

are not writing something to be read, you are writing something to be said. So write in a conversational style.

Note I say if you are writing a script. Writing stand-up is a very open and free process. You might do it on a laptop, in a notebook, recording voice notes or even compose it in your head. It's all writing. So when I refer to writing stand-up I'm referring to all of these possible ways of doing it. If you do have a script, remember you are not in a play where you have to be faithful to the script. The script is merely a blueprint for what you have to say. So don't be tied to a script that you feel you need to reproduce exactly. Better to be natural and chatty and miss bits or deliver some bits less effectively than to get it all right but be doggedly working through a script. Over time your freer version of the material will often settle into something consistent anyway but will always have that openness and spontaneity.

You can also plan for some ad-libbing, leaving certain bits more open and freshly word them each time on stage – as long as you know what you're doing with it and why it's funny. Hold your writing lightly. In fact, your 'writing' might even just be bullet points. This interplay between writing and performance is where stand-up writing comes alive.

Someone like Stewart Lee will do many warm-up shows where different takes on ideas are trialed while he forensically notes what versions are working best.

As well as finding the best wording or timing on stage, you may also discover a line, a tangent or a whole routine and that goes back into the writing. This is 'writing on stage'. Frank Skinner in his book "On the Road" says, "When I went through my post-gig check list I would often add in lines that I'd improvised on the night. This is simply the writing process occurring mid-performance."

The beauty of the course is that every week it features a performance of some sort from the participants in the safe space of the class. This allows the students to experience stand-up writing as a dynamic process in service of a performance that, in a fertile feedback loop, itself serves the writing.

And the form of that performance can be remarkably wide ranging. In addition to one-liner and conversational comics there are story-telling comics, prop comics, musical comics, topical comics, physical comics, character comics... All are welcome. And what they all have in common is the feeling that they are talking to the audience, not reciting a piece of writing – even when they are.

.....  
Chris Head has established himself as one of the UK's leading comedy coaches and has nearly twenty years' experience as a director of live comedy. Visit [chrishead.com](http://chrishead.com) for further info

## Black Book Cafe

FRI 22ND JAN - FRI 4TH MARCH

Chris Head's Stand-up Course

For beginners and improvisers. Subscription Rooms comedy open-mic night following 4th March class.

Showcase 5th March 10pm at the Subs Rooms. For course booking and queries visit: [chrishead.com](http://chrishead.com) 7-9:30pm

[blackbookcafe.com](http://blackbookcafe.com)

## The Prince Albert

SAT 9TH

Good On Paper at the Prince Albert

Featuring Miserable Malcolm (aka Bill Jones), Jonny Fluffypunk, John Bassett & much more... See p6-7 for further info! 5pm-12:30am £3 (min.) donation to Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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

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