

#16  
JULY 2016

# GOOD ON PAPER

An independent, free monthly guide  
to Music, Art, Theatre, Comedy,  
Literature & Film in Stroud.

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#16 | JULY 2016

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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

We are excited to announce our stage at this year's Stroud Fringe Festival in which we will be taking over the epic surroundings of St Laurence Church in the centre of town on Sunday 28th August...

The varied programme includes head-liner Rival Consoles (signed to renowned label Erased Tapes - Nils Frahm, Olafur Arnalds), an art exhibition of eight local artists including award winning illustrator and film maker Joe Magee (Bill Bailey, Time Magazine, the Guardian) and a record stall selling vinyl from independent labels and local record store JunKroom Records.

All for free.

For further information visit [goodonpaper.info/events](http://goodonpaper.info/events) and [stroudfringe.co.uk](http://stroudfringe.co.uk) - plus our poster on page 19...

P.S Follow us on facebook, twitter and visit our website for regular updated on-line content and news

Alex and Adam

EDITOR Advertising/Editorial/Listings:  
Alex Hobbs [goodonpaperstroud@gmail.com](mailto:goodonpaperstroud@gmail.com)

DESIGNER Artwork and Design  
Adam Hinks [adam@thepdco.co.uk](mailto:adam@thepdco.co.uk)

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### WE NEED YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

We are currently pursuing further sponsors enabling us to increase our circulation and also widen our reach to the surrounding areas around Stroud.

If you would like your logo and website to appear here and to support an independent local magazine, get in touch.



## EXPLORE AND DRAW

Playful drawing and printmaking for children

**AGES 7 - 13 AT THE MUSEUM IN THE PARK, STROUD**

**DATES:**  
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Call the Museum on 01453 763394 or email [museum@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:museum@stroud.gov.uk)

All children welcomed, those with special needs please come with a carer or parent. For more information please call the Museum on 01453 763394 or email Cathy: [cathy@cathygray.co.uk](mailto:cathy@cathygray.co.uk)

There will be an exhibition to show how it all happens, including the children's artwork, at the Museum during October 2016.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

# SMUGGLERS TRAIL FESTIVAL

BY FRED HULLS

THE SMUGGLERS TRAIL, COMING TO STROUD ON SATURDAY 9TH AND SUNDAY 10TH JULY, IS AN ARTS COUNCIL SUPPORTED TRAVELLING ECO-FESTIVAL, WITH ROOTS IN FOLK MUSIC AND SUSTAINABILITY. PROUD TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY, IT SHOWCASES LOCAL FOOD, MUSIC AND GREEN ENERGY IN A FUN AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT BRINGING TOGETHER ARTISTS, MUSICIANS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LOCATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

The Stroud-leg of the festival's tour takes place on Culver Hill; for those of you who are more like myself (relying on colloquial descriptions to help you find such places), to us that's the Amberley side of Minchinhampton Common. It's set to be a weekend of beautifully planned activities and music, based on the company's winning formula of folk bands, local beer and craft work.

Stroud favourite Hot Feet, who have played at the original festival in Kent for the past three years, are one of the headlining bands, alongside Cocos Lovers, the Langan Band, Sheelanagig and Fitty Gomash.



"We are excited to see the Smugglers take a version of their festival on the road this summer. Every year we're blown away by the music, always up-and-coming artists and world musicians. At the core, Smugglers are musicians, brilliant acts doing great things, in part, we're sure, thanks to the festival and community that they've built in Kent. It's the first of the festivals Hot Feet are performing at this summer and we're really looking forward to playing new songs from our upcoming album!" Jack Powis Page, Hot Feet

The festival has felt a strong link with Stroud due to the town's green ethos and thriving



music scene, which has been snowballing over the past five years, with great success stories exemplifying this. Progressive green businesses, as well as musicians of all genres hitting

a national stage, demonstrate a clear synergy around what the festival and our town are all about.

Thousands of festival-goers are expected over the weekend in Stroud, with opening times of 12pm-11pm each day. Along with a mixture of local and national music for the soul, with folk, African and roots themes, the festival will be brimming with activities for the whole family. Silver, copper and leather tutorials from Nailsworth Community Workshop will keep hands occupied, allowing you to take home your silver ring, copper bracelet or leatherwork that you have made, all of which are free (apart from a £5 fee to cover the cost of the silver). Gavin Pond, who runs the workshops jumped at the chance to get involved with the festival. "It's so exciting! What the Smugglers Trail is doing for local communities around England is just fantastic. Bringing music and arts to communities around the country, and demonstrating that it's possible to work in a sustainable way in areas of such natural beauty is a truly positive message."

Discussion groups to busy the mind will encourage talks on energy, waste, food, land ownership and sustainability, and takes place on both days. Finally, your spirit will be fed and watered with local beers from Stroud Brewery, cocktails and kids drinks from Fred's Bar and food from Food Cycle and Feed Bristol.

The entire tour, including Stroud, is being held on common land. The National Trust owns the land around Stroud and, although this is something which has never been requested from them, welcomed the Smugglers Trail to use the land in Amberley. "It's not always easy!" exclaims Creative Producer Sophie Bostock, "The National

Trust recognise our track record of green festivals and trust that we will respect the land and community around it, but we've also had some interesting requests in the past. Working within the folk music realms, I don't often experience diva requests, but at Riberola, an eco-festival I founded in the Catalonian mountains, we experienced one such request after inviting a local band of older gentlemen to join us and play some Flamenco. They agreed on the condition that we would provide a particular kind of sausages and a bottle of wine! Being an eco-festival we don't have refrigeration onsite so two of my team had to cycle around small mountain villages at 6am trying to find the sausages!"

Sophie has been producing festivals, parties, tours and managed bands for the past five years. She currently manages the Langan Band (who are also on the line-up) and lives a pretty nomadic lifestyle spending her time visiting different communities, finding inspiration from the places and people she meets. She is one of the producers, along with Will Greenham, founder of the Smugglers Festival in Kent (which is now in its sixth year) and a co-founder of the Smugglers Records. The label was founded 10 years ago by a collection of musicians in Deal, Kent all of which are members of the band Cocos Lovers.

Tickets for Saturday cost £10, £7 for the Sunday just £15 for a weekend ticket (under 12's free!). There will be plenty of parking, but the touring company is encouraging all locals to walk, if possible!

To purchase tickets and for the full line-up visit [smugglerstrail.org/stroud](http://smugglerstrail.org/stroud)

Since writing his last article for Good On Paper, Fred and his pop-up cocktail bar have been booked for weddings, festivals (including Glastonbury) and events around the country. He also manages a portfolio of local, national and international marketing clients and apparently never sleeps. [facebook.com/fredsbaruk](https://www.facebook.com/fredsbaruk)

# STROUD SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL

BY LARA SHINGLES

THE SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL PROMISES TO TRANSFORM STROUD INTO A HUB OF PEACE AND UNITY THIS MONTH, WHEN IT RETURNS TO ST LAURENCE CHURCH ON FRIDAY 1ST TO SATURDAY 2ND WITH PERFORMANCES FROM A POOL OF INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS, EYE-CATCHING STALLS AND A LIVELY ASSORTMENT OF WORKSHOPS, AMONG MORE.

Its return will represent the second year of the festival, which was born out of a dream by Reverend Simon Howell in 2015. "The Sacred Music Festival is essentially an act of peace," he says alongside co-organiser Girish Patel, who shares the belief that music is the language of the heart, and can succeed in bringing peace and unity where dialogue often fails. "We aspire to bring together outstanding and soulful musicians from many spiritual paths, including Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, anthroposophical and indigenous traditions, in this expression of unity." And, they certainly managed to achieve this last year.

Despite the challenges that come with hosting a festival for the first time, the Sacred Music Festival 2015 was a triumph, they add. "As it was the first festival of its kind in Stroud, the cost element was a huge unknown and it began with a zero balance so we both put our hands in our pockets to start the fundraising process. We both pretty naively went ahead and booked bands and had faith that the whole thing would come together. With lots of hard work and amazing support from the community, the festival was a huge success. In fact, it was beyond our expectations."

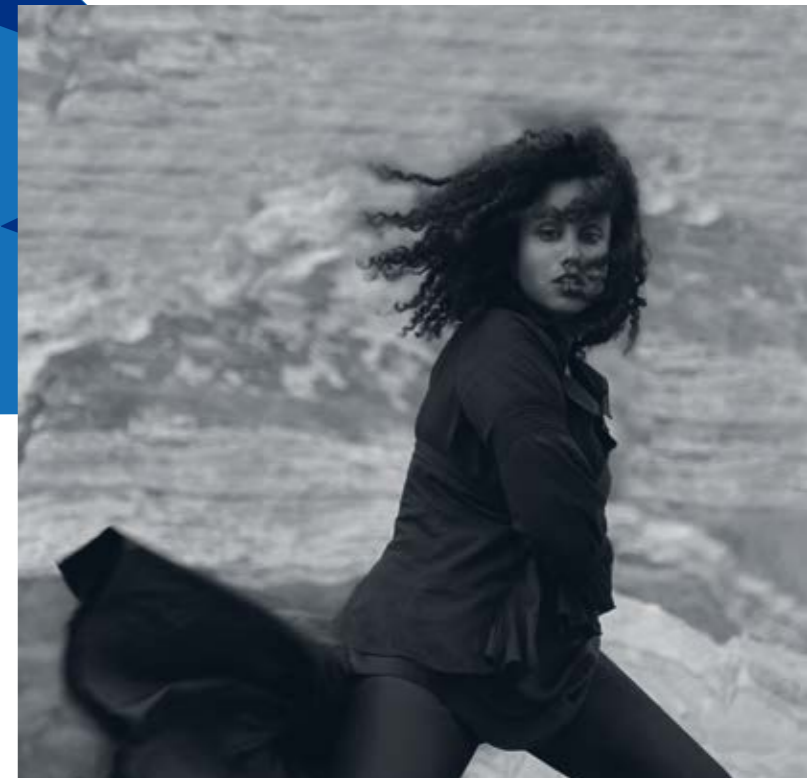
Blown away by the standard of music at last year's festival, the organisers have upped their game even further this time around and booked a brilliant line up of international artists across

two days. The first day of the festival will feature performances by HeartSong with Fiona Everett and Paul Ellson, devotional dance band the Raga Babas and headline act the Ganda Boys, an African fusion band featuring Stroud's own Craig Pruess.

Wynstone's School & Phoenix Choir, Qi Rattan and Tribal Rhythms Orchestra will take to the stage on the second day. Craig Pruess will also return to perform two tracks from his million selling album, 'Sacred Chants of Buddha', with Jon Sterckx playing tabla and Paul Ellson on percussion. World renowned Mercury and BBC prize nominated duo Susheela Raman and Sam Mills, meanwhile, will headline the final evening of the festival.

"We were contacted for the festival last year but sadly could not make it because of other work commitments," explains Susheela, "so it was really nice that they asked us again." In terms of what to expect from the duo's highly anticipated headline performance, Susheela says: "In the end it's about songs. We don't really try to conform to any fixed idea of what any genre of music should be like. It's simply something you have to zone in to. We do some dreamy stuff and some quite energetic stuff as well, but every gig is different so we will see on the night where it takes us."

She adds that it is important to celebrate sacred music and encourages everybody to attend this year's festival. "Music associated with the spiritual traditions has to do a job of lifting people out of the everyday. Obviously nothing is sacred in itself - it's a category we create - but it gives a certain elevated feeling and allows you to become a bit free of yourself," she says. "Perhaps you can say that about any music worth listening to. It has just been my observation that a lot of sacred music has a powerful charge to it because it is meant as a vehicle to get past your ego."



You might spot a friendly face on stage too at some point, as organisers have given local residents the opportunity to join and perform as part of a choir led by Congolese Gospel artist Jean-Paul Wabotai at this year's festival. "The choir seems to be coming along very nicely," the organisers add. "What we know about Jean-Paul is that, as well as being truly inspirational, he is highly professional and his choirs always deliver beautiful performances."

Away from the stage there will be an eclectic spread of food to satisfy all appetites, spanning Indian dishes and Italian pizza to world raw delights. There will also be a plethora of stalls selling gifts, CDs and Henna tattoos in the Church for guests to peruse while the performances are taking place. What's more, on Saturday, organisers have arranged a free bhangra workshop/concert at the Subscription Rooms forecourt as well as a procession through the town to St Laurence Church. There will be other workshops at various locations around the Church as well from 1pm.

If you haven't bought a ticket yet, be sure to snap one up soon. Organisers are expecting the festival to sell out again this year. Individual day tickets are available and cost £10 for Friday and £15 for Saturday, while weekend tickets are a steal at £22.50. For more information, visit [sacredmusicfestival.org.uk](http://sacredmusicfestival.org.uk)

Lara Shingles is a freelance writer with a keen interest in art, lifestyle and culture. Since graduating with a BA Hons in Magazine Journalism, she has written for SoGlos, Inkygoodness and a collection of popular blogs. She also works part-time as an editorial assistant for Stroud-based creative solutions company Carmar Media @larashingles

# WOOLPACK FESTIVAL

BY RACHAEL HILL



PICTURESQUE SLAD VALLEY IS HOME TO ONE OF THE COTSWOLDS MOST WELL-KNOWN HISTORIC LANDMARKS, THE WOOLPACK INN, FAMOUS FOR ITS CONNECTION TO THE POET AND AUTHOR LAURIE LEE. NESTLED IN THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE THE 200 YEAR OLD PUB IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND IT'S WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE, GREAT FOOD, AND REGULAR LIVE MUSIC MAKE IT A GREAT PLACE TO VISIT.

The pub is run by chef Adam Glover and manager Hannah Thomson, who, with a background in creative arts, found the chance to take on such a historic and unique venue an exciting opportunity that she could not resist. Speaking to Hannah she said what she loves most about running the pub is it's vibrant atmosphere, it's importance to the local community, and of course the breathtakingly beautiful surroundings. The idea of running such a special venue could be a daunting prospect, however she enjoys the challenge of making everyone feel welcome and maintaining what the pub means to the local community, whilst at the same time helping it to grow. "I'm not grumpy, I like to make people happy!" she says whilst explaining how she enjoys the role of hostess in what can at times be a challenging environment.

The end of July sees the welcome return of the Woolpack's annual festival, only this time there's a difference. Instead of running for just one day, this year it will take place from the 29th to the 31st of July, with a different theme planned for each day.

The festival will kick off on the Friday afternoon at around four o'clock with numerous stalls selling as many different types of food as possible for festival-goers to graze on whilst enjoying the live music. Hannah has said that her idea was to create "the hustle and bustle feel of street food" whilst offering a wide range of interesting flavours. These will include African stew for those who are vegan or vegetarian with flatbreads made to order, a fondue stall, and of course, a barbeque. Although most of the live music will take place on the Saturday there will be a DJ, an outside bar and a headlining band at the end of the evening.

Saturday promises to be a day for dancing with live music from 12 till 12, and although the line-up is still to be announced Hannah assures me that it will be an "eclectic selection of local talent", featuring up and coming music as well as old favourites and even a bit of flamenco. During the day there will be a barbeque as well as an outside bar which will include one or two guest ales and the usual ciders, ales and beer on offer inside the pub. For those with children to cater for there will be face painting, puppetry and story tellers, and for those not wishing to drive a regular shuttle bus will run from the centre of town to the Woolpack throughout the day, free of charge!

After the excitement of the first two days, Sunday will have a more relaxed 'makers market' feel. While there will still be an outside bar and food available, the pub will host a selection of market stalls both inside and outside the pub selling handmade products, jewellery and other vintage and craft goodies from the local

community. While already pretty full there are still a few slots available to rent for anyone who wishes to feature their work (contact the pub for further info). Although Saturday was the day for live music there will be a selection of 7inch records played on an outside set and another dose of storytelling for the younger generation.

With so much on offer the Woolpack Festival is set to be a great experience for everyone, and with the combination of good food and drinks, live music and curiosity stalls it makes for an event that is not to be missed. Just as excited as the rest of us is Hannah who tells me that she is looking forward to celebrating what the pub is and the community that it is a part of. Organizing an event like this is always a challenge however it is one that she has eagerly thrown herself into "When I started the planning process I thought of all the things I love most about festivals; curiosity stalls, face painting, music and of course, people coming together in a colourful and happy environment." And how has she managed to curate it all? "I just kind of throw things together, I think that's the best way to do it because when you've got so many different people you really need to have something for everyone."

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

Rachael Hill is the author of an online fantasy series called *Clara* on [channillo.com](http://channillo.com) and runs a writing blog at [breathingforwords.co.uk](http://breathingforwords.co.uk). She's also a member of the border morris side *Styx of Stroud* and volunteer at the *Maypole Youth Group*

# SQUARE BOMB

BY SARAH WATSON



I SPENT AN EVENING WITH ONE OF STROUD'S MOST WELL-KNOWN AND WELL-LOVED BANDS TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THEM. I'M STILL NONE THE WISER.

I've been staring at my keyboard for well over an hour now. There's nothing new there if I'm honest; I try to ensure I spend a good hour engaged in vacuousness each day. Most days I exceed my expectations, but today it's Square Bomb who've rendered me speechless, no mean feat.

Square Bomb are indescribable, they don't fit into any box I can form in my mind (and my mind is pretty good at forming even the most complex of boxes). It's not that there aren't enough words to describe them - just that there are so many. I'm going to try to put them in some kind of order, bear with me.

I spent an evening with Square Bomb at band founder Pavlos Kyriacou's house in Middle Street, Stroud. It's the perfect venue to talk to them; it all started there a couple of years ago in Pav's shed, before noise complaints forced them to move band rehearsals into the kitchen. He admits that he'd never even played a guitar before he started writing songs for the band, which meant that the first songs are written around what chords Pav had learned to play that week.

Joining us for tea and chat are Uta Baldauf, the band's performance artist singer, she'd never been in a band before Square Bomb and there's some mystery about how she came to be part of it. She wonders if it was a post she put on Facebook with a mix tape of influences which would form the band which she would want to be in entitled: "If I was a band what would be my roots". It turns out the rest of the band had never even heard the mix tape, I dig it out to see if it gives me a little more insight into the band's influences. The first song is The Star

of Bethlehem by Richard Crooks: "one of my favourite songs"; Uta enthuses when I ask her about it. That's that sorted then.

I ask Nick Buckle, the third band member, what it's like to play with two people who aren't musicians. "I don't know really," he says, "I don't really class myself as a musician." Nick is being humble, he also expertly plays with the phenomenally successful local band Thee Ones

I'm curious about how the creative process works and they're happy to fill me in; they write songs together, and record them in the kitchen before sending them to Sam Osborne (wAgAwAgA), who adds the drum backing tracks. Sam takes the recording literally, as they are playing they speed up and slow down, so that's what the drums do too. Complete backing tracks with the pauses and delays - the result is uncountable random lengths of time. The band stick to the results when they are sent back, they practise to make it work. Speechless.

Listening back to my interview tape I'm struck by just how much fun I'm having in their company, there's no ordered string of thought or consciousness that runs through the evening, no discernible rhyme or reason, but what is apparent is the amount of fun we're having. Every few seconds a burst of laughter cuts through the tape, mainly obscuring any words I might be able to use, but I'm smiling now just listening to it.

And that is reflected by the band; "it's so much fun" says Uta, but there's nothing precious about the trio; "we'll just keep on doing it until something else comes along," says Nick. This mixture of a very committed, serious approach to music, by a band who in the majority aren't musicians, fronted by a poetry penning performance artist and all delivered with a wry half smile and a knowing wink has created something refreshing different.

What's next for the band? They've got an album recorded which is currently being mastered, and they're in the midst of a Kickstarter campaign (due to complete on Weds 6th July) to help pay for the costs to have "Kitchenette" LPs pressed. The rewards for those who pledge and support them match the eccentricity of the band, one of them is a book of paper doll versions of the band members which you can dress up as scuba divers, knights or fittingly, chefs.

So who ARE Square Bomb? In words that make sense or relate to anything tangible? Not a huge amount. What I can do is recommend you listen to them, go and see them, support them with their new album. Because we have enough bands which can be put into boxes, defined by genres. Described by words. What we need more of is the indescribable, the illogical, extraordinary chaos and humour that surrounds the band.

In a nutshell; creative, anarchic, joyous noise. There, I sort of got there in the end.

You can view the exceptional Square Bomb Kickstarter video on the Good on Paper website at [goodonpaper.info/film](http://goodonpaper.info/film), pop over to Kickstarter to help the band make their album kickstarter. [com/profile/squarebomb](http://com/profile/squarebomb) and keep everything crossed that there will be a few tickets left for their amazing album launch event, which will feature some very special support from Neil Arthur Electronics and Chris Cundy (whose credits include Guillemots, Fyfe Dangerfield and Little Annie).

No one knows what Sarah Phaedre Watson really does, she spends time gallivanting off to Africa to make films, writing for various publications, or passionately supporting community arts and events. She certainly gets about a bit



Pushy Doctors as a featured artist. This monthly jazz jam is every 2nd Thursday of the month, the jazz hub, featuring special guest set followed by a stonkingly energetic jazz jam for all players and singers, aficionados and improvers, to participate in. All are welcome, to listen or perform. 8:30 - 11pm £5otd/£3musicians (John Street)

#### WEDS 20TH

##### John Street Blues

Monthly blues night with a full set from invited guest plus open mic, archive footage and blues on vinyl. 8:30pm £5otd/£3concs/Performing musicians free

sva.org.uk

#### THE HOG AT HORSLEY

#### THURS 7TH

##### Johns & Nowak

Guitar and Mandolin duo playing beautiful and layered acoustic songs in the American and English tradition. Listen out too for a smattering of superb self-penned song. 8:30pm Free

#### THURS 14TH

##### Alex Chapman

Eclectic and interesting covers from superb guitarist and vocalist Alex Chapman. 8:30pm Free

#### THURS 21ST

##### Sylvia Kay

Gifted songwriter Sylvia plays songs of that manage to be both powerful and

lo-fi at the same time. An excellent performer with a rare knack for melody. 8:30pm Free

#### THURS 28TH

##### Saskia Griffiths-Moore

Rising singer-songwriter from the Stroud area promoting her new album 'A Gentle Heart'. 8:30pm Free

thehogathorsley.co.uk

#### MIDSUMMER MADNESS

#### SAT 16TH

##### Days Orchard, Brookthorpe

From the team that brought you Masquerade and the Cruise. Come and join in for an evening of mischief and mayhem and be prepared for a magical experience in the woods. Live Music, DJ's, food, fire, and maybe a few pixies! £45 available from Wild Boar Stroud, all profits will be going to Refugee Aid Stroud

#### MISERDEN 8'S MUSIC AND

#### CRICKET FESTIVAL

#### FRI 8TH - SUN 10TH

##### Miserden Cricket Ground

Mixing beats n balls - music and cricket weekender at the beautiful Miserden cricket ground. Live music includes roots reggae, jazz, funk and culture from the fantastic King Solomon Band, upbeat blues, southern soul and ska from Steve & The Achievers and urban celtic psychedelicatessan from Kid Calico

and the Astral Ponies - all powered by the Black Box sound system! More live music and DJs are still to be announced...Plus free camping, free parking, the new Not Out Café and a fully stocked bar. £5 for the whole weekend

#### PAINSWICK CENTRE

#### SUN 3RD

##### The Painswick Singers

The Painswick Singers will be performing a Summer Concert with high-lights from shows from the 40s! - Porgy and Bess, Show Boat and Me and My Girl. £10otd or from the Patchwork Mouse, Painswick

painswickcentre.com

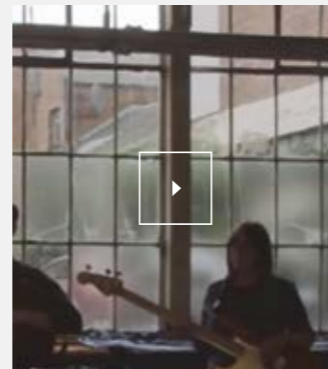
#### THE WOOLPACK FESTIVAL

#### FRI 29TH - SUN 31ST

##### The Woolpack, Slad

Full line-up TBC. See page 6!

thewoolpackslad.com



## G.O.P YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

EVERY MONTH WE  
COLLATE THE BEST  
MUSIC TO GO AND SEE  
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[GOODONPAPER.INFO/MUSIC](http://GOODONPAPER.INFO/MUSIC)  
FOR THE LATEST  
COMPILATION OF THIS MONTH'S  
BEST MUSIC... IN OUR OPINION.

## EVENTS IN JULY AT THE CROWN & SCEPTRE

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> Nothing But Trouble  
The Blues

WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> Steak Night +  
Booking Essential  
Euro 16 Semi-Final  
Starts at 20.00

THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> Euro 16 Semi-Final  
Starts at 20.00

FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> Will Killeen  
Blues 'n Slide Guitar  
Euro 16 FINAL  
Starts at 20.00

SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> Doctors Slash & Payne  
Duelling Guitars.

FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> The Hawds  
The Mushroom Men of Stroud  
Curry Night  
Booking Essential

WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> Rodda's Hairy Craic  
Irish Acoustic Sessions with Tim Potts

THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> The Dub Thieves  
Dub in Da Pub

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> The Pub's 7th Birthday  
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WASHINGTON POST

[facebook.com/ThePrinceAlbertStroud](https://facebook.com/ThePrinceAlbertStroud)

## OUT NOW

## CEILIDH-JO ROWE

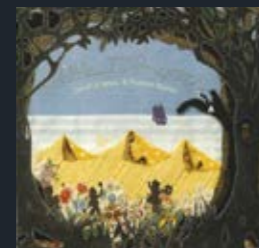
A much-loved series of children's albums by local musician Ceilidh-Jo accompanied by guitarist Matthias Weston.

To purchase copies and for further information including forthcoming live dates visit [ceilidh-jo.com](http://ceilidh-jo.com)



#### UPON A SONG

Folk songs for children of all ages (0-12yrs and upwards), bringing traditional stories to life.



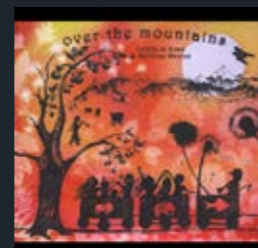
#### LITTLE IMP SONGS

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36 Folly Lane, Stroud, Glos GL5 1SD



## Bob Fox: The Warhorse Songman

£12.00 (£10.00 concs)

Saturday 3 July 7:30pm

Bob Fox has played the role of songman in WarHorse for the past three years, both in the West End and currently in the UK/Ireland and South Africa touring production.

Join him on this, the centenary of the first weekend of the Battle of the Somme, as he performs the songs from the multi award winning smash hit WarHorse, with additional material from his own personal repertoire - a number of stories and songs built up from his forty year career in the music industry. This event is a great opportunity to see one of the finest exponents of storytelling through song

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

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

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# ACP FESTIVAL

BY CAROLYN CARSWELL

**PAINSWICK, THE 'QUEEN OF THE COTSWOLDS', IS FAMED FOR MANY THINGS: ITS 14TH CENTURY STONE HOUSES, A HANDFUL OF CELEBRITY RESIDENTS, 99 IMMACULATELY PRUNED YEW TREES AND ONE FASHION CATWALK DRIPPING WITH GRAVITY-DEFYING FABRIC ENGINEERING, FLAMBOYANCE AND FLAIR. SORRY, MY MISTAKE. AS ANY LOCAL WILL TELL YOU THERE ARE IN FACT WELL OVER 100 YEW TREES. THE NUMBER 99 IS A MYTH...**

The Art Couture Painswick (ACP) Festival returns on Sunday the 17th to turn what would ordinarily be another idyllic day in this quaint historic village into a blank canvas for creativity. Now in its fifth year, the festival embraces 'wearable art' and attracts some of the most inventive artists in the area, not to mention some incredibly talented younger designers. Painswick streets will be closed off to traffic and instead a riot of colour and clothes, music and entertainment, fine food and fun for all ages will parade.

The festival itself began in 2010 after founder Chris Mercer visited the World of Wearable Art competition in New Zealand. Inspired by the originality and creativity it unearthed, he brought the idea back home to Painswick. Together with four other trustees they planned the first ACP event over their kitchen table. Such was the passion, the charity grew and they now proudly operate from their Bisley Street gallery.

This will be ACP's fifth festival, and Gallery Manager Rosanna Thorn-Lees' first. As Rosanna explains, it's a festival unlike any other. "The juxtaposition of holding it in Painswick

churchyard has its charm. People have said, 'why don't you move it to somewhere bigger?' but I think it would lose that factor. The churchyard is its own theatre. You have the catwalk, the parades coming through the yew trees... there's something quite magical about it."

The catwalk competition is open to all ages, from under 12s to over 18s. There are three categories; Wearable Art, Creative Headwear and Body Art, and entrants have been invited to answer an inspiring selection of briefs. Wearable Art entrants have designed their wares within the reimits of 'Flight', 'Underwater' and 'Moving Parts', Body Art entrants will be displaying their interpretations of 'Food For Thought', while the theme for the Headwear category is 'Graffiti'. In a bid to attract budding engineers and inventors, Dyson will be present, hosting their Creative Challenge Zone. At the ACP festival, inspiration can take any form...

This year's judging panel will feature plenty of famously qualified names who know more than a thing or two about creativity and fashion. Previous judges have included Savannah Miller, Dan Chadwick, Stephen Jones, Grayson Perry, Mary Wing To, Lily Allen and Todd Lynn. But there's more to the festival than name-dropping. The competition acts as a leg-up for entrants and a chance to talent-spot for judges. "Quite often the festival will have judges who are high up in the world of fashion and they'll recognise talent and offer work places," says Rosanna.

As if the festival wasn't vibrant enough, there will be a distinct Indian twist as sponsors Steppes Travel give ticket holders the chance to win a trip for two to India on their Fabric of India tour;

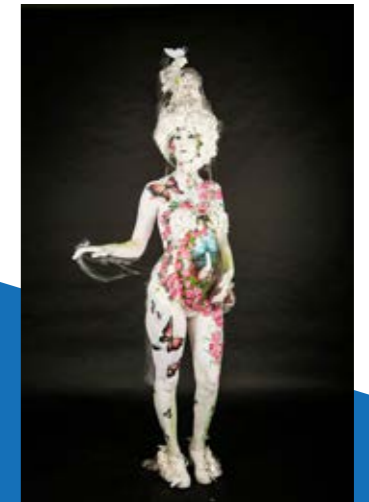
an insight into Indian textile production guided by V&A curator Rosemary Crill. Think lanterns, ethnic food stalls and henna painting, and if you're lucky you might even spot a herd of giant elephants soaring overhead – the work of local puppeteer Bee Daws and pupils of The National Star College.

Of course, no festival is complete without good food and live music, of which there will be plenty. "This year we've got the Big Red Bus Company, ethnic food stalls and a Victorian tea tent," says Rosanna. "We'll have Jazz Jive and Lindy Hop, kids' entertainers World Jungle (they do massive bubbles and face painting) and there will be music all day. We're doing busking podiums, mainly local talent, with a main stage where the big acts will play. Headlining in the evening is New Carnival with Max Radford."

The day begins at around 11.30am and tickets cost £8 for adults, £3 for children under 12 and student, but buy in advance either online or at the ACP gallery and they're £6 and £2.50 respectively. If you're undecided, remember: the festival is now a biennial event, so the next one won't come around until 2018...

There's no sense being fashionably late for this one - there's simply too much to see and do. Visit [canvasforcreativity.com](http://canvasforcreativity.com) for tickets and further information.

.....  
*Carolyn is an ex Bristolian but thoroughly Mancunian Freelance Marketing and Advertising Copywriter now living in Stroud. You can see her work at [copywritercarolyn.com](http://copywritercarolyn.com)*





Reasons to Live



Church of Clay



Starman

# CLAY SINCLAIR

BY JAMIE BALDWIN

AS A YOUTH HE WANTED TO BE A FAMOUS ROCK STAR, BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL MOVING TO ENGLAND THAT STROUD-BASED POP ART VIRTUOSO CLAY SINCLAIR RETURNED TO HIS UPBRINGING OF PAINT BRUSHES AND ART EXHIBITIONS. KIWI-BORN CLAY IS NOW GETTING ON FAMOUSLY, DISPLAYING HIS VIBRANT PERSPEX PAINTINGS ON THE STROUD HIGH STREET, AND HE'D LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN FOR YOU TO POP IN ON HIS POP ART...

**HOW DID YOU GET INTO BEING AN ARTIST?**

My father was quite a renowned artist in New Zealand so I guess I grew up with it. He took me to exhibitions and I witnessed first hand the life of an artist. Having said that I spent my youth avoiding art and focused on trying to be a rock star. Not many openings in that department back home though! After just missing out on a place in the New Zealand Jazz School in 1996, I came to England. Within a month I'd bought some paint and brushes and haven't looked back.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY ARTISTS THAT HAVE INSPIRED YOUR WORK?**

A turning point for me was going to Vienna and discovering Friedensreich Hundertwasser. I walked into his exhibition and it was amazing and inspirational. There were statements written on the wall, a crazy undulating floor, and fantastic vibrant paintings. I didn't really come into contact with much contemporary art in New Zealand, so this was an eye-opener. Art that can make a social comment. And I just thought, I want to do that.

**YOU MENTION ART AS SOCIAL COMMENTARY. IS THAT HOW YOU WOULD DESCRIBE YOUR ART?**

I like to describe it as 'provocative pop painting on perspex dealing with issues of power, prestige and possessions'. I guess it's kind of pop art, but yes I always want present a bigger picture than just the art itself. Several of my paintings use renowned images that I like to twist and maybe explore a particular emotion or issue. Fame is an issue I often deal with, perhaps pointing to my slight obsession to be famous. Actually most of the issues I highlight are issues that I am personally trying to deal with. Fame, success, ego, etc... A bit of humour helps as well.

**THERE ARE SEVERAL RELIGIOUS CONNOTATIONS IN YOUR ART. IS THAT DELIBERATE AND SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

I grew up in quite an evangelical, pentecostal environment. There was a lot of fear, control and hypocrisy. But also love, passion and wisdom. I have continually wrestled with my belief, but would still consider myself a Christian. A pretty open minded one though. I try and read the sermon on the mount most days. I figure if it's good enough for Ghandi, it's probably good enough for me. I guess it's something that's impacted my life, which is why it comes up in my art. I've really enjoyed the debate about the religious aspect of my art here in Stroud. People respect I'm trying to deal with big issues and people see it's authentic.

**HOW DO YOU FIND STROUD?**

I love it, it's a great place. After moving here a couple of years ago, my mum in NZ rang and asked if it's anywhere near Minchinhampton. It turns out that 150 years ago a branch of my family left here to start a new life in New Zealand. Maybe that's why I feel very much at home. We actually chose Stroud after I searched 'Where do the open-minded people live' in Google! Stroud came up. The deal was sealed when it also featured on a top 10 coolest places to live in the UK. We moved into the Applewood community in Cashes Green, which is great. I actually have an MA in Urban Design

so being at Applewood satisfies a lot of the good urban design principles I was taught.

**WHERE CAN PEOPLE SEE YOUR WORK?**

Woolff Gallery in London represent me both here in the UK and internationally, but I'm just about to sign a permanent lease on a shop at the top of Stroud High Street, which is where I've been for the last couple of months. It means I will be able to have my studio in the back and the gallery as the shop front. It puts a bit of pressure on to pay the lease every month but it's all going well so far. But what I really enjoy is people having the opportunity to come into the gallery to view the art, maybe start up a conversation and leave feeling that in some way their day is better for it.

**AND WHAT'S NEXT FOR CLAY SINCLAIR?**

I've just finished some work for the Woolff Gallery in London; it includes my tribute to Prince, 'Sign o the Times'. I'm not really sure what I will paint next. I tend to just go into the studio, sit down and start thinking, perhaps looking at my notes. Often it's an issue I focus on, maybe something I'm going through at the time. I'm really looking forward to moving my studio into the back of the gallery, so I guess that's what I need to do next.

Clay's studio and gallery is situated at number 48 High Street and is open most days except Sundays. If the door's open, pop on in...

For further examples of Clay's work visit [claysinclair.com](http://claysinclair.com)

*Jamie Baldwin is a renewable energy specialist with a background as a freelance journalist for the BBC, Discover Channel and Panos International*



# ART LISTINGS

## THE BLUE ROOMS GALLERY

### FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

#### Oliver Vivian

Exhibiting Oliver Vivian's expressive abstracts in oils on canvas. Self-replicating patterns occur in the painting process when applying the system of aleatory and gravity to intuitively produce geological compositions that are evocative of the primal forces of the natural world. 10am - 3pm or by appointment 07532071457

facebook.com/The-Blue-Rooms-Gallery-Stroud

## GALLERY PANGOLIN

### MON 13TH JUN - FRI 22ND JUL

#### 25th Anniversary Exhibition

Gallery Pangolin are celebrating their 25th birthday in style with a spectacular exhibition of silver sculptures, many of which have been specially commissioned. Exhibiting artists include Anthony Abrahams, David Bailey, Nick Bibby, Don Brown, Ralph Brown, Jon Buck, Daniel Chadwick, Lynn Chadwick, Ann Christopher, Michael Cooper, Terence Coventry, Steve Dilworth, Abigail Fallis, Sue Freeborough, Antony Gormley, Steven Gregory, Damien Hirst, Steve Hurst, Jonathan Kingdon, David Mach, Alastair Mackie, Anita Mandl, Charlotte Mayer, Ellis O'Connell, William Pye, Peter Randall-Page, Lorraine Robbins, Almuth Tebbenhoff, William Tucker and Deborah van der Beek. (See issue 15 available to read on-line) Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm/Sat 10am - 1pm

gallery-pangolin.com

## KENDRICK STREET GALLERY

### SAT 9TH - SAT 23RD

#### Galina Gardiner

Galina Gardiner is a professional oil painter, locally well-known for her humorous cow paintings depicting the Commons cattle of Minchinhampton, Rodborough and Selsley as they wander freely along the highways and byways, both delighting and frustrating drivers, walkers and cyclists. The exhibition also shows Galina's strikingly scaled-up food paintings, along with personal work inspired by recent travels in Zimbabwe. Mon-Sat 9:30am-5:30pm Meet the artist on Sat 9th 10am-12pm

kendrickstgalleries.co.uk

## LANSDOWN HALL

### MON 4TH - SAT 9TH

#### The Divine Dance In The Sacred Landscape of Britain

An inspiring and uplifting photography exhibition by Frances Lewis & Adelina Abad Pedrosa dedicated to Peace. Celebration/open evening from 7pm to 9.30pm on Tuesday 5th plus sacred songs and chants at 12 noon each day from Tuesday to Sunday - you are warmly welcome...Mon 3-5pm/Tues-Sat 10:30am-5:30pm/Sun 11am-1pm

### TUES 19TH - SUN 24TH

#### Gina Baum: Skin Deep

Gina Baum's 2nd exhibition introduces the viewer to her unique insight into vulnerability and the human surface, which is based on her continuing research, exploration of materials (porcelain, textile) and 30 years of nursing practice. With her experimentation, Baum asks the viewer to look beyond the superficial appearance of skin and to engage, appreciate and reflect on the past and future narratives that are related to individuals and their marks. Tues 10am - 4pm/Weds - Sat 10am - 5pm/Sun 11am - 4pm

lansdownhall.org

## THE LINE GALLERY

### FRI 24TH JUN - SAT 2ND JUL

#### Rhian and Oliver

Artists Rhian and Oliver have come together in this joint exhibition to respond to the digital mapping of Google Earth, exploring coordinates and abstracting landscapes. Both use mark making as a primary way in which to express their interest in this subject. Private view Fri 24th June/Open Fri and Sat 11-4pm

### SUN 3RD - THURS 14TH

#### Hanna Sunny

Hannah is a prolific Illustrator and sign painter. Her exhibition at Line Gallery will show a selection of her type based artwork. (hannasunny.co.uk) Preview Fri 8th July/Open Fri and Sat 11-4pm

### FRI 15TH - SAT 30TH

#### Aidan Myers

Aidan's paintings have an energetic quality, not only because of the colour, but the figurative aspects in the paintings. His compositions emphasize the movement of body like forms throughout the paintings. (aidanmyers.co.uk) Private view Fri 15th July/Open Fri and Sat 11-4pm

linegallery.co.uk

## MEME

### FRI 1ST - SUN 24TH

#### Jess Orr: Dovetail

Architectural forms, structure line and colour are all integral to these works by local artist Jess Orr. Their simplicity is intentional. The pairing down of the work as they progress is where the good stuff starts to happen. Adding in and taking away until the spacial play brings a certain harmony and balance to the eye. All works are for sale - ask at the bar for prices or contact Jess via email 54goats@gmail.com. Closing party/private view Sun 24th 6pm - close

memecafebar.co.uk

## MUSEUM IN THE PARK

### SAT 2ND - SUN 31ST

#### Bob Davison: Borders

Bob Davison's paintings and drawings evolve from his interest in nature, science and landscape. Details and contrasts seen in garden borders and Cotswold landscapes become striking combinations of colour, marks and shapes. Bob has been teaching on the BA course at the Art School/University in Cheltenham for over 30 years. Fifteen years ago he moved to Stroud. He has had many roles at the University, including Fine Art Field Chair and Course Leader of Fine Art Painting and Drawing. He has exhibited widely and has works in many national and private collections. Progress of The Walled Garden Project at the Museum in the Park has provided a great opportunity to exhibit some of Bob's recent work, particularly those that maintain their reference to landscape, gardens and plants. Much of the work stems from observations in his garden, just outside Stroud. Tues-Fri 10am-5pm/Sat-Sun 11am-5pm

museuminthepark.org.uk

## ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CHURCH

### SAT 16TH - SUN 24TH

#### Art In Brownhill 2016

An impressive array of talented artists in Brownhill have joined together for this year's Art in Brownhill Exhibition. This is the 4th annual edition of the exhibition featuring 11 artists, very much an established part of the Five Valleys art scene. The work will be an exciting mix of stonework, painting, photography, printmaking, ceramics, enamelling and mosaic. The artists

are an engagingly diverse mix, from those who exhibit internationally, to emerging artists. They are linked simply because they all live locally. The setting is the architectural gem of St Mary of the Angels Church, designed by renowned architect W D Caroe. There is no parking at the church, so visitors are asked to park in the village and follow the signs. There is a drop off area outside the church grounds for those with mobility problems, but there is no wheelchair access due to the steps. 10am-4pm for more information, contact Rick Burgess on 01453 889613 or email rick@rick-n-lyn.co.uk

## SGS STROUD SCHOOL OF ART

### TUES 28TH JUN - FRI 1ST JUL

#### Leisure Art Student End of Year Show

A thoughtful, sometimes quirky, but always lovely exhibition which gives students who have studied a twilight or evening course with SGS, a chance to curate and show their work. Preview Tues 7-9pm/Wed-Fri 10am-4pm

sgscol.ac.uk/studentshows

## SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

### TUE 28TH JUN - SAT 2ND JUL

#### Foto Forum 2016 Exhibition

This 2016 exhibition illustrates a diversity of interpretation with each contributor conveying their own creative message. Margaret Lister is an Independent Photographer working in a social documentary style, her work has been widely published and exhibited in the south west. For this exhibition she has photographed the Woodchester Valley Vineyard and ones in south west France. John Daniell is a film based photographer and for this exhibition he has explored the mystery of architecture and landscape in black and white format. Bill Henley is a retired secondary teacher who is a certified Apple Trainer for digital photography. His own images range from recording natural beauty and producing documentaries, to the purely pictorial and to producing experimental abstracts. Jenny Bircher keen photographer has been exploring local stretches of water and having great fun with an underwater camera. This body of work will demonstrate the movement and reflective quality of water and the distortions and wonderful colours captured just a few inches below the surface. 10am-5pm

subscriptionrooms.org.uk



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## ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

|      |   |                                |
|------|---|--------------------------------|
| JULY | <b>WEDS 20<sup>TH</sup> - FRI 22<sup>ND</sup></b> Mad hatters big draw with Paul Fowler                           | 9:30am - 4:30pm<br><b>£135</b> |
|      | <b>SAT 23<sup>RD</sup></b> Mad hatters clay workshop with Julie and Paul Fowler                                   | 10am - 4pm<br><b>£60</b>       |
|      | <b>WEDS 27<sup>TH</sup> - FRI 29<sup>TH</sup></b> Birds of prey big draw with Paul Fowler                         | 9:30am - 4:30pm<br><b>£135</b> |
|      | <b>SAT 30<sup>TH</sup></b> Birds of prey clay workshop with Julie and Paul Fowler                                 | 10am - 4:30pm<br><b>£60</b>    |
| AUG  | <b>WEDS 10<sup>TH</sup> - FRI 12<sup>TH</sup></b> drawing to painting extreme poses life drawing with Paul Fowler | 9:30am - 4:30pm<br><b>£165</b> |
|      | <b>SAT 13<sup>TH</sup></b> clay to life workshop - sculpting a figure in clay with Julie and Paul Fowler          | 10am - 4pm<br><b>£80</b>       |

FOR DETAILS OF REGULAR CLASSES VISIT THE WEBSITE  
[www.pegasusart.co.uk](http://www.pegasusart.co.uk)

# Jubilee

## 25th Anniversary Exhibition

Until 22nd July



Beehive Head 2 Steve Hurst

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01453 889765  
gallery@pangolin-editions.com  
www.gallery-pangolin.com

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Aidan Myers

Line.

Private View Friday 15th July



Open 11-4pm Friday & Saturday  
15th-30th July

4 John Street, Stroud

SVA



## SVA

## FRI 1 ST – SUN 31ST

Sally Hampson:  
The Weaving Shed

Sally Hampson, an artist and weaver, is back in SVA's project space at 29 High Street bringing weaving workshops and events throughout July. Also features guest weaver Tim Parry Williams. Email to SVA: office@sva.org.uk drop in or by appointment

## SAT 2ND/9TH/16TH/23RD/30TH

## Fungusloci

Artist and permaculture practitioner Dominic Thomas has designed and built a sustainable urban micro-farm in which oyster mushrooms are cultivated on spent coffee grounds from local cafes. Fungusloci is a project of Sustainable Creativity CIC with the help of Stroud District Food Grants taking place at Unit 23, Merrywalks. Open for sales Saturdays 10:30am -1.30pm or by appointment fungi@cscic.org

## SUN 10TH

## Nature Art in Korea

Seung-hyun Ko and Wongil Jeon talk about the work of YATOO—the Korean Nature Artists Association with Clive Adams from the Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World. Since 1981 YATOO has developed an increasingly ambitious International programme of exhibitions, residencies and a biennale. Do also join them afterwards from 2-5pm for a free drop-in Nature Art Workshop in Stratford Park, close to the Museum, part of the Stroud Festival of Nature.

Supported by the Artists International Development Fund from the British Council/Arts Council England. 11am £5 advance booking advised (incl. croissants and coffee!) (John Street)

## SUN 24TH JUL – SUN 11TH SEPT

## Crazy Golf

After an amazing first year, SVA's Crazy Golf at The Goods Shed is back!! An indoor 18 hole Crazy Golf course organised by SVA with each

hole designed especially by an artist/designer or collaborative team. The course will open from July 24th and will be open throughout the summer holidays. Check back closer to the time for a program of special events and opening times.

Artists taking part TBC! A full cafe and bar will be open daily. £3adults/£2children (Goods Shed)

sva.org.uk

## UPPER LOCK

## SUN 3RD – SAT 30TH

## Anni Golemienko

Born in Gloucester to an English Mother and a Polish father Anni now lives in Stroud. Here she enjoys creating an eclectic and diverse range of work, often painting with acrylics on canvas, but also likes to use pastels, gouache and a variety of mediums. Whatever her creativity drives her to use. Anni doesn't believe in limiting herself and enjoys a challenge. She has had very little formal training preferring to create from the heart, from her dreams, her imagination and from her experiences in life. Mon - Sat 9am-4pm/Sun 10am - 3pm

upperlockcafe.co.uk

## WETPAINT GALLERY ONLINE

## FRI 1ST – SUN 31ST

Contemporary Printmaking  
Exhibition

This Contemporary Printmaking Exhibition celebrates the art of printmaking and will feature an exclusive selection of contemporary printmakers from all over the country. Included in the exhibition will be linocuts by Melvyn Evans and Lucy Farley with further artists to be announced. On show will be a range of techniques including screen prints, linocuts, etchings and wood engravings. Sign up to the mailing list to receive further details about this exhibition nearer the time.

wetpaintgalleryonline.com

## RUSKIN MILL

## SAT 9TH JUL – MON 29TH AUG

Ruskin Mill College Student  
Summer Exhibition

The summer exhibition represents and celebrates every student who has attended Ruskin Mill College in the previous academic year. During their time at college, each student follows a personalised curriculum derived from the Trust's unique Practical Skills Therapeutic Education method. Their student journey offers a wealth of opportunities, reflected in the richly packed displays of craft, art and culture offered at Ruskin Mill. 10am-4pm

rmt.org

## NEWARK PARK

## WEDS 8TH JUL – SAT 11TH JUL

## Brunel Broderers: New Worke

This exhibition by a well-respected group of contemporary textile artists is inspired by Newark Park's buildings, estate and history. The artists: Linda Babb, Liz Harding, Julie Heaton, Liz Hewitt, Carla Mines, Corinne Renow-Clarke, Carolyn Sibbald, Louise Watson and Stephanie Wooster, have all created personal responses to this beautiful Gloucestershire National Trust property. Activities include meet the Artists every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, Storytelling Sessions with Michael Loader and Elinor Knapp and Children's Silk Painting Workshop with Julie Heaton. 11am-5pm

nationaltrust.org.uk/newark-park

## NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

## SAT 14TH MAY – FRI 10TH JUL

## How Does Your Garden Grow?

The gallery has been transformed by award winning garden designer Geoff Carr featuring ceramics, willow, sculpture, furniture and more, by artists including: Christine Ann Richards, Kate Risdale, Nora Kennedy, Mark Gregory, Jane Crisp,

Simon Hulbert, Karen Edwards, Derek Elliott and Implementations

newbreweryarts.org.uk

## PREMA ARTS CENTRE

## MON 20TH JUN – SUN 31ST JUL

## Sophie Rae

Sophie Rae is a printmaker although not in the traditional sense. Sophie employs a fairly spontaneous process, giving immediate and powerful results. She likes to work quickly, building up her prints with layers of transparent printing inks. Her work takes its inspiration from the scenery during her travels and the natural world around her

## MON 20TH JUN – SUN 31ST JUL

## Ashley Percival

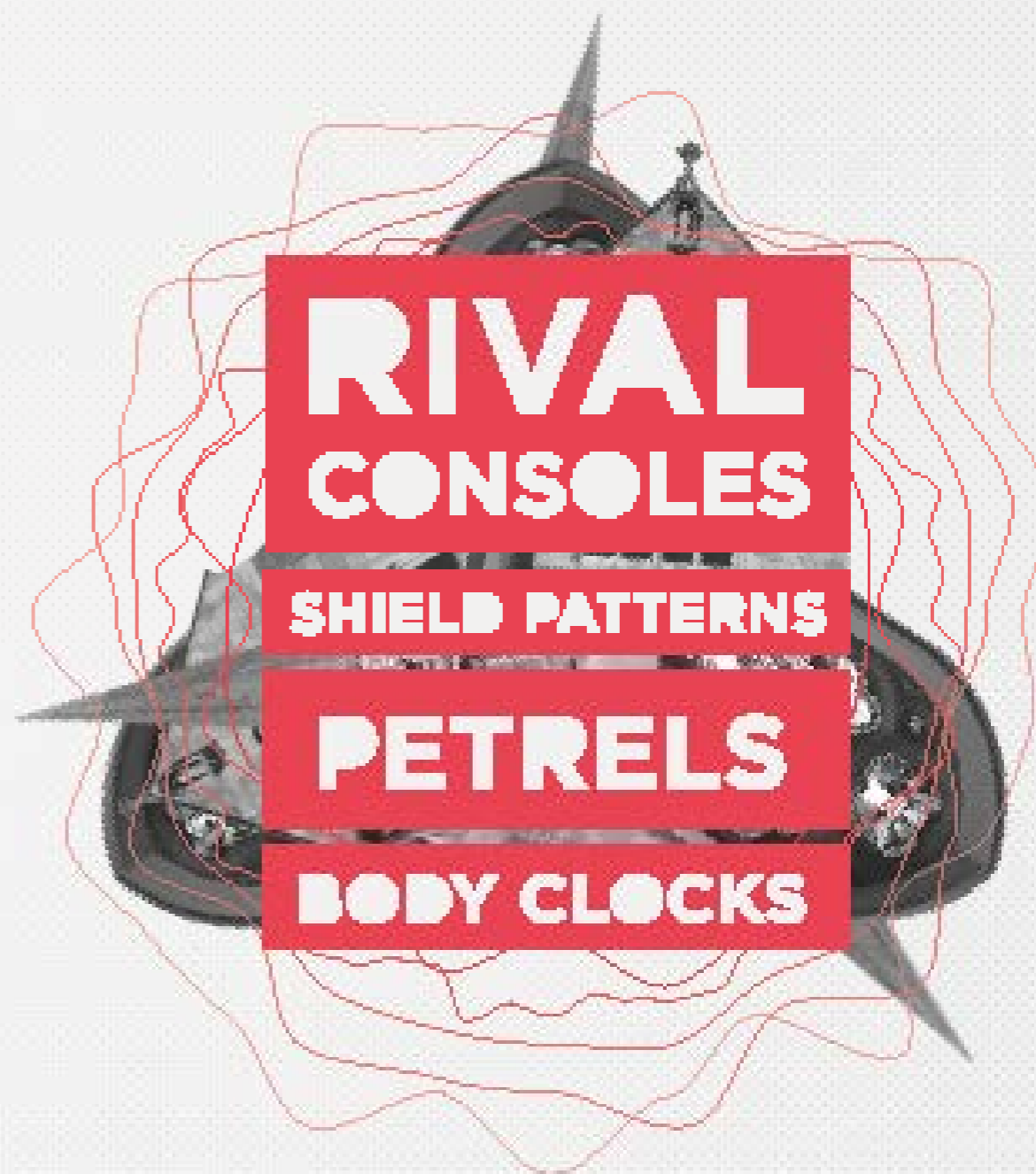
Ashley Percival is an illustrator who currently lives in London. He, like so many artists and makers, takes his inspiration from wildlife and nature, although the humorous and sometimes unsettling modifications come from his imagination and some of the darker/sillier recesses of his mind.

## MON 20TH JUN – SUN 31ST JUL

Harry Marshall and  
Zanna Goldhawk

Harry Marshall and Zanna Goldhawk are two young makers who met while studying illustration at the University of Gloucestershire. Zanna commences her illustrations with pencils and paper whereas Harry favours the iMac as his preferred device for drawing.

prema.org.uk

FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS  
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ATELIERSTROUD.CO.UK

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PEGASUS ART  
PEGASUSART.CO.UK

RUSKIN MILL  
RMT.ORG

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SWARTWORKSHOPS.CO.UK

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SGSCOL.AC.UK

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ON  
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STROUD  
FRINGE

SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST 2018

FROM 5PM

FREE ENTRY

## LOCATION:

St Laurence Church  
Stroud  
Gloucestershire



Record Still, Bar and Cui set by  
Sean Rose from Junihoo m Record s

Art installation featuring:

JOE MAGEE Fine installation

DEBIE SHY TH Mixed Drawings

DANIEL SPARKES Printings

DAN RAWLINGS Oil Mixed

ANN-MARGRETH BOHL Art installation

JAMES KRISZYK Printing setup

KATE WILLIAMSON Sculpture

ANDY LOVELL Screen Prints

with go on paper info/events

stroudfringe.co.uk

# JOHNNY FLUFFYPUNK

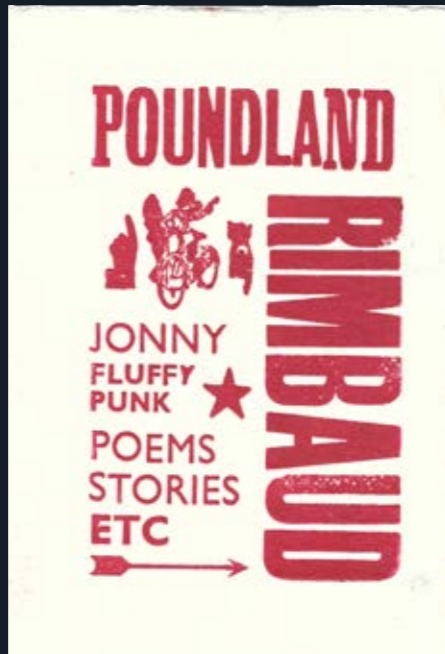
BY KATE MONTGOMERY

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL LATE SPRING EVENING WHEN I AMBLE TOWARDS THE PRINCE ALBERT IN RODBOROUGH TO MEET LEGENDARY POET JONNY FLUFFYPUNK. I HAVE READ SNATCHES OF HIS FIRST COLLECTION THE SUSTAINABLE NIHILIST'S HANDBOOK AND LOOK FORWARD TO READING SOME PIECES FROM HIS LATEST COLLECTION POUNDLAND RIMBAUD. HAVING A THOROUGH NOSE AROUND HIS WEBSITE I FEEL LIKE I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHO I'M ABOUT TO MEET...

Someone confident, someone who isn't afraid of swearing loudly in public, someone who will share with the world his experience of dressing up in his mother's underwear (yes, really. See Underwear from The Sustainable Nihilist's Handbook). I envision someone who will be over the top. Supremely sure of themselves and maybe a little bit over-bearing. I am pleased to say, as happens with alarming regularity, that I was wrong.

Now don't miss-understand. Jon Seagrave AKA Jonny Fluffypunk is confident. As a seasoned performance poet he isn't afraid of swearing loudly and yes, he does share some pretty intimate parts of himself in his poetry. But all this is done by a man so friendly and polite, so unassuming and self-effacing that you cannot help but instantly warm to him. So where does one end and the other begin? "Well the stage name was kind of given to me by Tony Allen (the man often credited, along with Alexei Sayle as starting alternative comedy), I was part of a band whose name I can't even remember called something something and the Fluffy Punksters. I managed the bookings so my email address was Jonny Fluffypunk...Tony saw this and said 'You've got to use that', so I did and it stuck." And has having a stage persona been a help or a hindrance? "Often when I go on stage I say 'good evening I'm Jonny Fluffypunk, but actually I'm not'. The stage persona is an exaggeration... but I think perhaps it became almost a comedy character. Now Jonny Fluffypunk and I are a lot more of the same person. The real me has developed confidence to meet the stage persona and the stage persona has become less edgy and defensive. It became a bit limiting and frustrating, so I'm trying to break away from that."

Jon's upbringing was the 1970s sub-urban ideal. His parents moved out of Hackney into the green arms of middle England. A middle he found distinctly lacking "In reality you've got no roots, there's nothing there, there's no anything. It's pretty, but I just had this overwhelming, yearning feeling that life was happening somewhere else." But poetry was calling. Jon's mother, a largely



self-educated woman who left school at 15, would recite poetry at the breakfast table and in the early 1980's Jon heard Attila the Stockbroker on Radio 4 and thought "I love that, it's brilliant... that's something I could do".

Jon began performing in his mid-teens, watching people jump onto the stage between punk bands to deliver heart-felt, engaging, angry poetry and thought 'I can do that'. "I remember the first time I wrote something to perform and I was so excited. I couldn't wait to show my friends, I felt so proud. I felt so confident up there. It's strange because as a performer I get crippled with self-doubt. I think I've been chasing that first experience ever since. There's never been anything else in my life that I've wanted to do..."

Jon's poetry is heightened by fictionalising his experiences, making them odd and dark and intriguing. His influences for this come in various guises, "I'm trying to get stuff so it's smaller and quieter, not so comically exaggerated; but so it somehow still works. I'm influenced by so many people and things, not just poets; what's more important to me is an attitude, a way of working. People like Darren Hayman, Stanley Brinks and Wreckless Eric who are happy being 'small'; very much lo-fi and independent and putting out their own records and organising their own gigs in strange places."

Jon's work is very accessible, communicating moments from his life, allowing people to see and understand him "an early motivation was, I guess subconsciously, through being a bit socially awkward, to get people to engage and wanting to be understood."

It's this drive to communicate, to be accessible as an artist, that Jon delivers so many workshops

VISIT [GOODONPAPER.INFO/LITERATURE](http://GOODONPAPER.INFO/LITERATURE) TO READ A SELECTION OF POEMS FROM JONNY FLUFFYPUNK'S POUNDLAND RIMBAUD!

in primary schools around the UK. "I see it as a personal psychology, a necessary counterpoint to the rampant egotism of being a performer. I'm just so interested in working with the people who have never done poetry or feel that they haven't got art in them, and getting those people to a) enjoy it and b) just realise 'oh I can do it!'"

When Jon is on stage he is an entertainer, but making a connection with the audience is key. "It's about bringing people together and communicating with people. It's about bringing joy rather than trying to get big..... It's human and intimate and honest and means I make a connection with everybody. I make the writing open, accessible and touching so people say 'yes, I get that' or 'yes I understand that'. The intimacy of that early punk scene; the home-made fanzines, the people who would write to each other, the bands would support each other - really drove me. There was this complete intimacy."

It is this intimacy which underpins Jon's desire to perform. Be heard, connect, and communicate. This philosophy shows throughout his written poems. The Sustainable Nihilist's Handbook is alarmingly honest, concise, funny and bittersweet in equal measures and Jon's latest collection Poundland Rimbaud follows the same vein. With each poem one feels as though a rather surprising gift is being bestowed. A doughnut hastily eaten in the supermarket car park before the kids see. A juicy secret overheard in a pub toilet. Each experience allows the reader to delve further into the past, peeling back the edges of his memories to gasp "me too!" (for me Towels from the Sustainable Nihilist's Handbook) or chuckle at the absurd describing the mundane. If you haven't read any of Jon's work I urge you to do so. It is intimate. In this world full of disconnected people prickling about offending or being offended it's a glorious salve.

I am a fully signed up fan by the end of the interview. By these honest connections and nuances within the stories we tell, we find real life. The poets among us allow these tiny pieces of themselves to float into the ether, ready to be caught by those lucky enough to pass them by.

Jon's latest collection of poems Poundland Rimbaud (with a front cover made at Dennis Gould's workshop) will be published by Burning Eye Books ([burningeyebbooks.co.uk](http://burningeyebbooks.co.uk)) and available later this month. Visit [jonnyfluffypunk.co.uk](http://jonnyfluffypunk.co.uk) for forthcoming gigs and further info...

*Kate Montgomery is a writer, artist and blogger. She lives in Stroud with her husband and two daughters. She hosts creative writing groups and wastes far too much time instagramming her food @clevermonty*

## 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

### ATELIER

TUES 26TH

Radio Cinema

Celebration of spoken words, radio pieces and experimental sound. Come and listen to a curated evening of radio shows/podcasts.7pm £3

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

### HAWKWOOD COLLEGE

TUES 26TH

Nikki Owen: How To Get Your Book Published

Are you a creative writer who wants to be a professional author? Do you have an idea for a book, or completed a draft of your novel and are looking at the next steps? This course will tell you what you need to do to get published, from securing an agent to bagging a book deal... Nikki's debut thriller, The Spider in the Corner of the Room, the first in a trilogy, is published by HarperCollins (Imprint Mira) in the UK, as well as translations across the globe. The second book 'The Killing Fields' was released last month (see Good On Paper issue 15 available on-line). A former copywriter, and teaching fellow at Bristol University, Nikki has written for the BBC, the Guardian and is a regular contributor to Good On Paper. 9:30am - 5pm £70 (includes lunch)

WEDS 27TH

Fiona Longsdon: How To Write A Story

This enlivening day with writer Fiona Longsdon will stimulate your imagination and help you tease out a story from the everyday material that surrounds us. Fiona wrote for newspapers and magazines before turning to fiction. In 2013, she completed the Bath Spa Creative Writing MA with Distinction and was shortlisted for the Janklow and Nesbit prize. She has now finished her first novel, Mother Love, and is currently writing her second.9:30am - 5pm £70

THURS 28TH

Fiona Mitchell: Fun With Calligraphy

Ever wanted to try your hand at calligraphy? Then this is the perfect opportunity. Using straightforward techniques and easily available materials, you will be guided through simple projects to get you started. This course is suitable for right and left handers and no previous experience is necessary. Fiona Mitchell is an experienced calligrapher artist and teacher, trained at Glasgow School of Art, and worked as a calligrapher and graphic designer in the West Country teaching groups and individuals. 9:30am - 5pm £70 (includes lunch)

FRI 29TH - SUN 31ST

Jay Ramsay: Poetic Edges Weekend

This course will help you to find new possibilities of expression through the written word working with a series of brilliant original exercises to extend our receptivity and imagination. Sharing our work and receiving supportive critique will ensure we will touch on our creative "edges" and progress in our craft. Suitable for all levels of experience. Jay Ramsay, BA Hons. (Oxon), PGDip, NFSH is the author and co-author of over 30 books, whose work has been praised by Ted Hughes, Kathleen Raine and Robert Bly. £260single/£225shared/£180non-res

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

### NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

SAT 2ND - SUN 3RD

Rona Laycock: Fiction For Beginners

If you have always wanted to write but don't know where to begin, this weekend workshop is for you. It is designed to help you get started. Through tutor-led writing exercises and discussion, we will explore how to create characters and give them voices, how to create settings, where to find ideas for your stories and what opportunities there are for getting your work published. 10am - 4pm £150

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



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## OUT NOW

### TYING DOWN THE LION

BY JOANNA CAMPBELL

It is 1967 and the Bishop family are departing their UK home for a somewhat unusual road trip. Their destination: Berlin, a gritty city recovering from the bombs of World War Two and now sliced in half by the Cold War. Will the journey unite the Anglo-German family, or rip them apart?

Debut novel by Bisley resident Joanna Campbell published by Brick Lane and long-listed for the Guardian's Not the Booker prize 2015. [joanna-campbell.com](http://joanna-campbell.com)

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## WRITING FROM HISTORY

BY JOHN BASSETT



ON THE 7TH AND 8TH OF JULY SPANIEL IN THE WORKS PRESENT THE FINAL JOURNEY OF EDWARD WILSON AT THE SUB ROOMS IN STROUD. THIS POWERFULLY EMOTIONAL PLAY LOOKS AT THE LIFE OF THE CHELTENHAM BORN NATURALIST WHO TRAVELLED WITH SCOTT TO THE ANTARCTIC AND SADLY DIED IN A TENT AT THE SOUTH POLE. THROUGHOUT MY CAREER AS A PLAYWRIGHT I HAVE WRITTEN A LOT OF SCRIPTS WHICH FEATURE HISTORICAL FIGURES AND ONE QUESTION WHICH I AM ASKED IS "HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE PERSON YOU ARE PRESENTING WAS LIKE THAT?" WRITING A SCRIPT IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WRITING AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY IS ABOUT THE CONCRETE FACTS. DRAMA IS ABOUT THE EMOTIONAL QUALITIES OF A PERSON WHETHER THESE BE GOOD OR BAD.

We know that Wilson went to Cheltenham College, that he married Oriana Souper and that he travelled to the Pole with Scott and Shackleton. These are hard documented facts.

But what was he like as a man? What was he like emotionally? The answer comes from reading his letters, diaries and the attitudes of others around him in personal documents. Of all the people who I have written about Edward Wilson was probably the nicest man. No one has a bad word to say about him which is very unusual. He was a religious man but deliberately avoided forcing his beliefs upon others going to the crow's nest on the ship whilst they travelled to the Antarctic to pray so that he wouldn't disturb anyone else. The reason I mention this particular fact is that when you are writing about a real person you read and research and often one single fact gives you the measure of that person. This care, consideration and thought for others by this one act was the true indication of Edward Wilson's nature.

**So when you are writing a script from history what do you need to do? Here are a few pointers:**

- Don't get bogged down in research. You want to get the facts right but that doesn't mean you have to read every single thing that has ever been written about the person. I know people who five years on are still researching their play about this historical figure and still haven't written one word of the script
- Try to find conflicting accounts about the person and then decide your own truth. For one character I wrote there were two recommended biographies - one said they were awful, the other said they were good - my script took a line down the middle. To quote the Manic Street Preachers album "This is My Truth Tell Me Yours"
- Find the one fact which defines them as a person.
- Most important - don't bore your audience. No one ever tells their life story by going from start to finish but will tell stories about their life as they remember them. If you see a play which starts with "I was born in....." chances are you are going to be asleep within half an hour!!
- Always find one "Wow! I didn't know that!" fact so that people will remember it and talk about it later
- Most importantly of all - just write the thing!!

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*John Bassett is an actor, writer and the director of Stroud Theatre Festival and Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company*  
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### COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE

**FRI 1ST**

**Second Face Theatre Company: Great Expectations**

Join Second Face Theatre Company as they reimagine Charles Dickens' original story, retracing the steps that lead Pip and Estella to the gates of Satis House after Miss Havisham's death. With a five star company who are known for powerful storytelling, and a show for all the family, you're guaranteed an innovative and exciting adventure. 7:30pm £12

**SAT 23RD**

**Madcap Theatre Productions: Much Ado About Nothing**

Shakespeare is always made understandable and enjoyable with MadCaps' way of staging fun, fast-paced and entertaining theatre with a lot of 'Madcap' flair! Combining comedy, music, dance, stage combat and physicality with the original script it truly promises to be an evening that is not to be missed! 7:30pm £12

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

### SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

**FRI 1ST**

**The Unknown Soldier**

A story of comradeship, betrayal and promises both broken and kept following the carnage of World War One. 7:30pm £12/£10concs (includes post show discussion)

**THURS 7TH - FRI 8TH**

**Spaniel In The Works: The Final Journey of Edward Wilson**

This play charts the life of Edward Wilson, explorer and naturalist on Scott's journeys to the Antarctic. £8/£5concs

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

### PREMA ARTS CENTRE

**THURS 21ST**

**Stephen Mottram: The Parachute**

The Parachute is a funny and mesmerising story of youth, love and confronting old age. Armed with glorious, atmospheric music from composer Sebastian Castagna and an armful of white tipped wands, puppeteer Stephen Mottram conjures up his characters from nowhere. Don't miss this truly remarkable, inspiring piece of science-theatre which is suitable for audience members aged 9+. £10/£7concs/Friends £8/£6concs/Family £25/£23concs/Otd £15

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

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