

#19
OCT 2016

GOOD ON PAPER

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

goodonpaper.info

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EDITOR'S NOTE

WELCOME TO THE NINETEENTH 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...

Whilst putting together this edition of Good On Paper (following a very busy month for team GOP consisting of the September issue, Stroud Fringe programme, our stage at the fringe and our 'actual' jobs!) it seems that Stroud has no intention of slowing down...

More venues providing live music, theatre and arts feature in our listings, a season of independent film screenings are popping up in halls and community centres, albums are being recorded and released, lost and forgotten spaces being opened and creative businesses being launched.

So read on and discover the ridiculous amount of cultural events Stroud and the surrounding areas have in store for you this month!

P.S We have just recently created a Good On Paper Stroud Events facebook group – a new group for anyone to promote their own forthcoming arts, music, theatre, literature, comedy and film events in Stroud. Visit [facebook.com/GoodOnPaperStroud](https://www.facebook.com/GoodOnPaperStroud) for the link and feel free to share, invite members and add your own events.

Right better start working on issue 20

Alex and Adam

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Fieldfare Café at Thistledown Farm



Fieldfare is a new, family-run café set in acres of space overlooking Woodchester Park. We have gourmet coffee, fine teas and delicious homemade cakes. Our simple menu is all cooked in a wood-fired clay oven: slow-roasted meats, za'atar flatbreads, stews, freshly prepared pizzas and more. We are fully licensed and stock a wide range of local alcohols and wines.

We are open: Friday 9am - 8pm
Saturday 9am - 8pm
Sunday 9am - 5pm

Lunch is served Fri - Sun, and pizzas on Fri and Sat evenings. Check our website for menu updates each weekend, inc. Sunday Specials and guest chefs, and look out for our series of autumn events and screenings...

thistledown.org.uk/cafe - 01453 860420 - Thistledown, Tinkley Lane, Nympsfield, GL10 3UH



Images by: James Kriszzyk

SITUATION SOUNDS

BY SARAH PHAEDRE WATSON

YOU'VE ALL HEARD OF SITUATION SOUNDS RIGHT? I MEAN THEY'RE A PRETTY IMPORTANT PART OF THE STAGGERING MUSICAL LANDSCAPE THAT WE HAVE THE PLEASURE OF ENJOYING IN STROUD. MENTION THEIR NAME, OR THAT THEY'LL BE DJING ANYWHERE AROUND TOWN, AND THE RESPONSE IS ALWAYS OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE.

I'm going to be honest (I usually am to a fault...), I didn't know that they did anything else other than provide a pretty spectacular backdrop, or focus even, for a night out. So, how about I share some insight into this glorious collective of talented musicians, so that you don't make the same mistake I did? With a new album released last month I had the pleasure spending the evening in the pub with one of the collective, Ben Vacara, and learning more about the people behind the grooves that are guaranteed to fill a dance floor.

Put simply Situation Sounds are a collection of musicians, DJs and producers who work together and are passionate about making music. The instigators, Ben Vacara and Mr Mulatto, have been attending "the ultimate gentlemen's club" together for nearly two decades, meeting once a week to write and produce their own tracks, as well as remixing and reediting. This album release will see the culmination of them and an impressive line-up of musicians working together over the last 9 years to create this much anticipated release.

Of course it now all makes complete sense; DJs are evangelic about music, their knowledge and passion for the records and the artists behind them is infectious, and that depth of knowledge, mixed with a ridiculously talented roster of collaborators, and a history of working with some of the most well-known and respected names in the dance music industry, means that this album of original work - "Visions" - was always going to be pretty impressive. Most of us have witnessed first-hand Ben and

Mr Mulatto's ability to mesmerise the crowd using careful track selection and technical skill, and having the creative minds to tie it all up into an eclectic bouquet of sounds that take us dancers on an epic journey. So the fact that they've been able to harness that and make an album, is staggeringly exciting.

The core group behind the Situation Sounds collective, Ben and Mr Mulatto, Dom Thompson, James Payne, Paul Walker, Lauren Rimell and Andre Espeut, all have an enviable background in DJing, performing and recording, and an almost obsessive love of house, disco, funk and soul. Although much of the album was recorded with them apart, they recently held a "funk jam" at the SVA with all of the band members present, plus some very special guests from other bands (The Mighty John Street Ska Orchestra and Ramses) forming a formidable all female brass section. It was a sneak preview of some of their material, the whole band playing a few numbers for the first time, and I am not sure which part I preferred more; being in a room crammed full

of ridiculously talented musicians sharing the music they have passionately created for the first time, or the look on Ben Vacara's face watching all of the hours that they have all spent in the studio creating the album coming to life. I'm pretty sure that was the same look that some parents have when their children are born.

Aside from loving their live performance (more of those please!) I've had a sneak preview version of the album for the last few weeks, and I've listened to it on pretty much a daily basis; to be honest I'm not sure how comfortable the musicians would feel about just how intimately I think I know them now.

So, what's the album like? Well, you know when you're having a shitty day, it's raining and the world has taken on a particular grey tinge? You can't bear to make eye contact as you walk down the street, let alone speak to anyone. So you stick your headphones in, fix your eye on the horizon and stride your way through the streets, destination-driven. This has become my go-to album on those days. I haven't timed

it but I think it takes just one of Lauren's incredible soulful tracks, followed by one with Andre's dulcet tones to change my mood, lift my head and my spirits, and possibly cause people to doubt my sanity. After approximately 10 minutes the album has turned into a disco-grooved, synth-drenched, house-stomping soundtrack to my day. I've started walking around town with a stupid smile on my face and a house tempo to my step. The other day I actually danced into a shop, it's getting embarrassing if I'm honest.

Next week, I'm going to swap the album for the companion release "Revisions", which features remixes of some of the tracks on Visions, as well as a few new ones thrown in for good measure. This feels more like an album for DJs, with what feels like more emphasis on the beat and the groove; it's disco-hazed, boogie-inspiring, balearic vibed treat. And it'll probably lead to me being banned from all kinds of shops in town for inappropriate dancing. ("cough" that should read dancing at inappropriate times maybe?) The Vampire Disco Mix is devastatingly funk-filled.

When I first chatted to Ben about the album, I asked him which his favourite tracks were, and what he hoped to achieve with the album. He couldn't choose his favourite track and neither can I; when I tried I found I'd just written down every single track on the album. But he told me that he believed the drive for Situation Sounds is about sharing music that they hope people will enjoy. It's certainly brightening up my days, I'm willing to put a substantial bet on it doing the same for all of you too...

Visions and it's remix album Revisions is out now via Nang Records. You can listen to clips from both releases at soundcloud.com/situation and follow the band on [facebook at facebook.com/Situation.Sound](https://facebook.com/Situation.Sound) for further news and updates.

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

RUSSIAN FLYING SQUIRREL

BY LARA SHINGLES

IN BETWEEN DAYTIME JOBS AND DADDY DUTIES, RUSSIAN FLYING SQUIRREL ARE BUSY BECOMING EVERYBODY'S FAVOURITE PART-TIME BAND, RECORDING KICKASS POST-PSYCHEDELIC ROCK IN STROUD'S VERY OWN ROCKWOOL STUDIOS.

The band consists of Rudy Carroll (guitar and vocals), Alan Walker (drums), Aidan Harvey-Craig (guitar) and Rob Bradshaw (bass and vocals). All four have partners, kids and jobs but they also have a whole lot of music that adds a harmonious, hi-fi backdrop to their lives near Stroud.

When first asked about their musical history before the band, all four remember their fair share of colourful tales. Rudy's musical history, for instance, extends back to 1973 when he bought his first single, 'The Israelites' by Desmond Dekker. "A sophisticated choice for a tiny chap," he says, "although in later years I realised that I had been cleverly worked on by my older brothers to spend my pocket money on something they wanted. Nonetheless, a good start." Throughout that decade, Rudy absorbed the groovyness and heavy sounds of the likes of Led Zeppelin and King Crimson coming from his brothers' bedrooms, and, for a while, a local lad named Graham Parker used to come and rehearse with his brothers in the same room. One night, Rudy snuck into the room and put his fingers into the back of one of the amps and suffered a severe electric shock. "I think that made me more, rather than less, interested," he says. "Then in 1979 one of my brothers had a hit single and was on Top of the Pops and my fate was sealed."

Aidan's early plan was "to become a rock star, tour the world and die around 30-ish of excessive drug and alcohol use", but hardly any of that worked out, he says. Instead, Aidan went on to play in a hard rock band in the 90s and later started formingbands.co.uk - a website to help other musicians get together - before joining Russian Flying Squirrel.

Rob, meanwhile, used to run a recording studio in Manchester, memorable mostly for a nocturnal visit by Snoop Dogg. He also made music videos for bands and had a couple of gigging bands of his own in the city, but eventually moved to Stroud to be closer to his parents and in-laws.

While Alan was the drummer in a band in his hometown of Ipswich before he even owned a drum kit. "Some friends and I formed a band in school, undeterred by a lack of skill, experience or instruments," he explains. At 13 or 14, Alan

admits that he figured being in a band was the best way to get into pubs (and ladies hearts). "I didn't want to do much else after that and I played in several bands; half-decent drummers apparently being in short supply," he says. "In recent years, I have tended to do it for the camaraderie and for the sake of it, rather than focusing on performing. Weirdly, I met Rudy online - I don't normally do that sort of thing, honest."

After meeting online, Alan and Rudy then met Rob through a friend and Aidan through the primary school their kids went to. One day, Rudy invited Aidan over to see his collection of 1970s guitars, and then had the idea to invite Alan over with his drums and Rob with his bass. And the rest, as they say, is history.

All four cite an eclectic mix of influences, both individually and as a band. These include everything from the motorik hypnotic experimentation of German bands like Harmonia, Neu! and Kraftwerk, through to early Eric



Clapton, and the likes of Mogwai, The Cure and Joy Division - the latter few perhaps most apparent in the band's own sound.

The band's 'big break' came earlier this year when it appeared on new BBC television series 'UK's Best Part-Time Band', hosted by comedian Rhod Gilbert. The band explains that a friend of Rudy's shared something about auditions for the show on Facebook and says that, whereas in other circumstances they would have run a mile, it seemed like what they were looking for was so them that it would have been kind of perverse not to enter. "They had such a great crew, and Rhod and Jazzy B were brilliant," says Rob. "We approached it with the intention to join in with them trying to make a great show. It made it a shared endeavour and drove us to being as

good as we could reasonably expect ourselves to be. We didn't at any point treat it as an actual competition." He adds: "The show itself was a great success and the feedback has been almost universally excellent. The public seemed to really appreciate the focus on graft and passion, which is the core of all music, rather than idle dreams of stardom."

Rhod has continued to support Russian Flying Squirrel since the show ended, regularly talking about the band on social media and even playing its music on his radio show. "To have his continued support has been quite a surprise as you assume that the talent does as little as possible just to get the show made and has no particular desire to further get themselves involved," says Alan. "Rhod genuinely loved doing the show though."

So, what's next for Russian Flying Squirrel? Well, the band is currently rehearsing and recording an album's worth of sublime English psychedelic rock - weird time signatures and all - following a successful crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo that, at the time of writing this, has raised £8,175. "It is beyond gratifying to have people tell us they like us and what they hear in our music, and willing us on and encouraging us," says Rudy. "But it is particularly amazing to have them on board for the ride. They have invested in us rather than just buying what we had to sell and that is kind of special."

The first single from the album, 'And The People Say', is available to listen to and download via the band's website. The track was recorded on the legendary Conny Plank's homemade mixing desk under the guidance of producer David M. Allen. While David engineered, and gave the band advice and techniques (and some juicy gossip), production rested with the band, with tracking and mixing finished in Stroud's very own Rockwool Studios.

To listen to 'And The People Say', or for upcoming gigs and further info, visit russianflyingsquirrel.com. To get involved in the band's ongoing Indiegogo campaign, visit indiegogo.com/projects/russian-flying-squirrel-debut-album#

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

MUSIC LISTINGS

ALE HOUSE

THURS 6TH/27TH

The Human Jukebox

Aron Attwood and his Velvet Duke combine with force to cover anything that you fancy. 8:30pm Free

FRI 7TH

Nothin but Trouble

Rockin' blues from new established, but firmly favoured local band. 8:30pm Free

THURS 13TH

The Dave Ayre Jazz Trio

The Ale House's ever popular session of world class jazz from Dave and friends. 8:30pm Free

FRI 14TH

Lewis Clark & The Essentials

Acoustic based with roots in folk and blues...hard to pigeon-hole! 8:30pm Free

THURS 20TH

Jim Reynolds

Bristol guitar legend known for this unique style and eclectic material - expect blues, ragtime folk and ballads. 8:30pm Free

SAT 22ND

Kid Calico & the Astral Ponies

They stalk in the shadows of the E street band, stumbling sideways into a drunken Dr John shuffle whilst copying Jonathan Richman meeting Tom Waits. 8:30pm Free

FRI 28TH

Hipkiss

Featuring Wishbone Ash's Muddy Manninen on guitar and acclaimed British saxophonist and vocalist Patsy Gamble. 8:30pm Free

BAR GREYHOUND

SAT 1ST

Notorious

Their summer has been filled with festivals and Block Parties but now djs Dubbu and Will Mendoza are ready to get back into their monthly Notorious night at Bar Greyhound...Expect to hear HipHop & RnB from the 90's and all the way up to the latest releases! 8pm Free

[facebook.com/BarGreyhound](https://www.facebook.com/BarGreyhound)

THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

FRI 7TH

The Charlton Blues Kings

Traditional Chicago Swing and Blues. 8:30pm Free

FRI 14TH

Southside

Americana R&B. 8:30pm Free

SUN 16TH

Robb Johnson

One of this country's most important songwriters, a powerfully literate emotional sensitivity. 8:30pm Free

FRI 21ST

Built For Comfort

When it comes to hot Chicago R&B, these boys take no prisoners. 8:30pm Free

FRI 28TH

Howlin Matt

Hard Rocking Boogie Blues Guitar. 8:30pm Free

SAT 29TH

All Cramped Up

God dam dirty Rock & Roll. 8:30pm Free

crownandsceptrestroud.com

THE GOLDEN FLEECE

SAT 8TH

Slimline Shufflers

The Slimline Shufflers play a New Orleans style of r'n'b pioneered by such luminaries as Professor Longhair, James Booker & Dr. John. Eric Arthur, Bristol's finest exponent of this piano style, provides a virtuosic base and is joined by Henry Slim bringing horn-like amplified harmonica & baritone vocals to the mix. 8:30pm Free

SAT 15TH

The Carry Nations

A three piece band of folk singers, song collectors and string pickers. 8:30pm Free

SAT 22ND

Jimbo & Griff

Bristol guitar legend Jim Reynolds and long standing musical collaborator Dave Griffiths play a unique collection of blues, folk, ragtime and ballads. 8:30pm Free

SAT 29TH

Will Mendoza - Halloween Special

Stroud calling and Stroud Block party founder Will Mendoza spins vinyl treats until late to celebrate Halloween. 8:30pm Free

[facebook.com/goldenfleecebar](https://www.facebook.com/goldenfleecebar)

LANSDOWN HALL

FRI 7TH

Misbehavin'

Misbehavin' features vocals, clarinet & bass clarinet, rhythm guitar and double bass. Four performers, Helen, Karen, Robin and James, all highly skilled musicians, bring great warmth as well as soaring performances. Their distinctive sound is intimate, lyrical and sophisticated. 7:30pm £10adv from Subscription Rooms/£12otd

lansdownhall.org

THE MALTHOUSE BAR & KITCHEN

FRI 7TH

Watson & Broomers

These two fantastic musicians play at the Malthouse on the first Friday of

every month. They play an eclectic mix of jazz standards with a modern twist and shades of gospel and funk. They love what they do and often play well into the evening, providing the perfect mellow dining atmosphere. 7pm Free

FRI 14TH

Appleby Kinsey

A four-piece band with a winning combination of voices, guitar, flute and saxophones. They'll be playing a mix of their own original songs and jazz standards, alongside some modern pop and Latin-flavoured tunes. Perfect for a chilled out Friday night dinner. 7pm Free

SAT 15TH

Mekon Man & the Cry Babies

This Saturday night will be bringing something a little bit livelier. Local to the Stroud area, Mekon Man are a band that sound like they raided their dads' record collection and came up with a set of up-tempo rockabilly songs featuring artists like Elvis, Roy Orbison and Eddie Cochran. They will be starting off quieter for diners but if you fancy a jive later on in the evening they'll be happy to oblige! 7:30pm Free

stroudmalthouse.com

THE PRINCE ALBERT

SUN 2ND

Rue Royale

Indie folk pop duo creating beautiful music with harrowing lyrics and mellow melodies, you will leave the pub feeling moved that's a given. 8:30pm Free

THURS 6TH

The Pictish Trail

The Pictish Trail's eloquent songs are as wildly varied as his selection of brightly coloured bobble hats and have seen him get mentioned in the same breath as his heroes Beck, The Beta Band and Hot Chip. His extraordinary vocals reveal hidden depths and have been accompanied by everything from acoustic guitar to a full-on four piece metal band to throbbing dance beats and samples, and often during the course of the same gig. 8:30pm Free

SAT 8TH

The Most Ugly Child

A 6-piece country powerhouse, with rabble rousing fiddle breaks and pedal steel swells to make you weep. They can have you dancing on the tables or break your heart with a song. 8:30pm Free

WEDS 12TH

Ben Reel and Tony McLoughlin

In the last 10 years Ben Reel has had numerous high profile TV, Radio and airplay under his belt including Bob Harris and has supported names like Jools Holland, Alabama 3 and The Cranberries. Touring with Tony McLoughlin who looks uncannily like Billy Connolly - these two troubadours bring a gritty soul to this much overcrowded Americana market. 8:30pm Free

THURS 13TH/27TH

Open Mic

The Albert's regular open mic night - all welcome and help is at hand if it's your first performance! Come and give it a go...8:30pm Free

FRI 14TH

Thrill Collins

Skiffle-pop group mash up well known bangers from 1960 to 2020, having played all round the country during the festival season they have entertained Royalty, Olympians and their mums...8:30pm Free

SAT 15TH

Jasper and the Company of Others

Expect an energetic fusion of indie pop at its very finest, similar to Nizlopi, Dry the River and Local Natives. Extremely popular at all the festivals they have hit with their feel good up tempo songs -coming back to rock the Albert for a second time. Bring your dancing shoes. 8:30pm Free

SUN 16TH

Elles Bailey

Not the kind of singer you come across very often in this country. Her bluesy style sets her apart from other singer-songwriters her age, she sounds natural and effortless and her voice has a husky quality which is fantastic live. 8:30pm Free

WEDS 19TH

Rackhouse Pilfer

A stomping, fiery and exciting 6 piece band that have been getting rave reviews with their brand of rootsy, stomping Irish-Americana & Alt-Country Folk. 8:30pm Free

THURS 20TH

Aaron Catlow & Kit Hawes

Bristol-based duo celebrating diverse strands of acoustic, folk and roots music. Best known as the virtuoso guitar and fiddle players from energetic Balkan-folk band Sheelanagig, Kit and Aaron draw on a shared love of traditional music from both sides of the Atlantic and throughout Europe, alongside their own original compositions. 8:30pm Free

FRI 21ST

Buffalo Skinners

The band draw influence from 60's Rock n Roll, Folk, Blues and whatever else they've been listening to recently - expect a variety of sounds from a very talented group. They have shared their songs with Bob Harris, Cerys, Dermot and loads of BBC radio shows. 8:30pm Free

SAT 22ND

Black Crack

Mark Tilton (guitarist, singer and founder member of the Membranes) fronts his five-piece - like Iggy Pop meets Charles Bukowski...Including last century Stroudies Fred Meek, and the Wigen/Wygensbrothers - a bit of trad old Punk tingled with garage rock and the Blues...8:30pm Free

SUN 23RD

Tim Wray

With his own tone and technique, his voice is smooth, encompassing honesty and truth with a touch of grit. His catalogue includes four albums of original music and popular covers from the likes of Johnny Cash, Ryan Adams and more. 8:30pm Free

TUES 25TH

Austin Lucas, Emily Barker and Dreaming Spires

Austin is an indie artist best known for his unique blend of punk, folk and alternative rock. Emily is well... she is a Stroud favourite as a solo artist and part of Appledwood Road. The Dreaming Spires bring their own cosmic mix of slow country burners and intriguing jangling guitars. 7pm £10adv

FRI 28TH

The Travelling Band

Folk noir band from Manchester (that are ticketed everywhere else on this tour!!). With a fourth album under their belt this band are huge. Influenced by the likes of Wilco, Neil Young, Bob Dylan and Creedence Clearwater Revival with their own inimitable sound...8:30pm Free

SAT 29TH

Halloween - Rise of the Dead

The Alberts favourite guru ghoul dj Dubbu will fill the place for the Halloween spectacular. This halloween brings beats from the grave...expect a night dedicated to the fallen stars of recent years. Your Princes and Thin White Dukes come as your fave dead rocker. Pop and Rock cocktails aplenty. 8:30pm Free

SUN 30TH

Jenny Wren and Her Borrowed Wings

Acoustic Rhythm and Blues stripped back and blushed with country. Powerful emotional vocals delivered with an open hearted honesty, supported by a heartbeat bass and dancing dirt road guitars, playing original music with an intuitive togetherness and impressive musicianship. 8:30pm free

MON 31ST

Baroque Night

Dave Ayre is back again with his fabulous musicians, for another Baroque Night at the Prince Albert. As usual there are wonderful performers from round the country, presenting beautiful 400-year-old music by the likes of Purcell, Bach, Handel, Ravenscroft and others. 8:30pm £10adv/£12otd/£3 12-18's from Subscription Rooms and the Albert

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

ST ALBAN'S CHURCH

FRI 7TH

Anomaly

Local 7-piece band playing a mix of acoustic, country and soft -rock original songs, including some tracks from their new album 'Long Long Road'. 7:30pm Free but donations invited for local charity; Marah

STAR ANISE

SAT 1ST

Johns and Nowak

EP launch party from Camilla Johns and Andy Nowak an acoustic duo that like to have fun with American music; weaving together mandolin and guitar and singing songs of heartache and longing. 7pm Free

staraniseartscafe.com

STROUD BREWERY

SAT 1ST

Madi Stimpson Trio

Madi set up his own trio in 2011, playing a mix of gypsy, jazz, bluegrass and folk roots.7:30pm Free

SAT 15TH

Wildwood Jack

A unique acoustic guitar and ukulele duo from Kent. Their melodic songs blend the acoustic guitar and ukulele with outstanding fingerstyle playing drawing influences from folk, country and world music.7:30pm Free

SAT 22ND

The Tristan Watson and Patsy Gamble Jazz Trio

The Tristan Watson and Patsy Gamble Trio is an exciting new collaboration playing a collection of Jazz standards and latin numbers in an intimate and stripped down setting. 8pm Free

SAT 29TH

Choosy Pickers

A multi-instrumental Gloucestershire duo, playing covers from the last five decades, with a fun and sometimes different take on some old favourites. They are guitar based, with the addition of vocal harmonies, mandolin, trumpet, harmonica, and ukulele to keep things interesting. 8pm Free

stroudbrewery.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

SAT 1ST

Stroud Ceilidh: Woodpeckers

The band's unique sound is a product of traditional and modern elements fused with a solid electric rhythm section giving the band an easily identifiable contemporary sound. 8pm £11adv/£10concs/£12otd (£11concs)/£5children

SUN 2ND

Chalford Band

Musical director Steve Tubbs puts together entertaining and versatile programmes, presented with style and humour. This concert will also feature Chalford Youth Band, current National Junior Champions of Great Britain. 3pm £10/£8concs/£5under 16's

WEDS 5TH

Dark Island

Their repertoire encompasses folk, blues/jazz and original songs which tell stories through music. Distinctive arrangements feature shared lead vocals, intricate harmonies and instruments including guitars and soprano saxophone. 7:30pm Free

WEDS 12TH

Simply Acoustic

They have a diverse repertoire of lesser known contemporary songs with original arrangements and harmonies. Favourites at numerous festivals in the west, this trio are not to be missed. 7:30pm Free

THURS 13TH

Your Musical Memories

Relive your musical memories at these monthly afternoon concerts; enjoy classical pieces that have always lived in your heart, hear songs from musicals and arias from operas that have always been yours to cherish. 2pm £6 (includes tea & biscuits)

SUN 16TH

Ange Hardy & Lukas Drinkwater

They perform live with a 27-string Salvi harp, 3 different Martin guitars, a parlour guitar, a double bass, an array of traditional whistles, an Indian shruti box and Irish bodhrán drum. Singing new material with a timeless English feel as well as number of reinterpreted traditional folk songs, all accented with Ange's innovative and subtle use of loop pedals to build layers of vocal harmony live from the stage. 7:30pm £10adv/£12otd

THURS 20TH

UNICEF Concert ft Keith James: The Music of Yusuf - Cat Stevens

The amassed body of music from this hugely popular and sincerely adored singer/songwriter made for a collection of 'must have' records across a whole generation. 8pm £12

SAT 22ND

Dire Streets

Fronted by finger picking guitar ace John Brunson and his band of accomplished musicians, they play with an attention to detail and musicianship that marks them as the stand-out Dire Straits tribute in the UK. 8pm £14adv/£16otd

SUN 23RD

Orchestras Live and the City of London Sinfonia: Lullaby Concert

Enjoy a unique interactive introduction to orchestral music by joining City of London Sinfonia and presenter Claire Henry for concerts specially devised for children between 2 and 7 years old. There will be lots of audience participation and children can also have a go on some orchestral instruments! 2:30pm £5/£2.50 child/£12family

THURS 27TH

BandIT 17

BandIT is a four day songwriter and band workshop for 70 students aged 7 to 17, followed by a final performance at the Sub Rooms. 8pm £15/£10concs

FRI 28TH

Jive Dance

A great atmosphere and great dance floor. Dance the night away to top swing and jive music. 8pm £8

SAT 29TH

Jazz Rite of Spring

David Patrick's stunning jazz reinterpretation of The Rite of Spring has received standing ovations at every performance given since its premiere on 29th May 2013 - 100 years to the day from the first performance of the original production in Paris. 7pm £14/£12concs/£5under 18s

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

FRI 7TH/14TH/21ST/28TH

John Street Social Club

John Street Social is a series of weekly Friday night club socials hosted by different artists each week with visuals and audio to share. The format: decks, laptop, and a limited number of selected youtube clips of archive footage and informative curiosities...7-11pm £1 membership on the door

SAT 22ND

Jet Set Radio

Live electronic music from the amazing Sheffield based Blood Sport. Expect an energetic and intense live show from this amazing 3 piece. Plus DJs playing the latest in house, techno and all other things bass driven. 9pm till late £7adv from SVA John Street and on-line/£8otd

SAT 29TH

Mockers Raving Looney Party

With Halloween approaching its time for Mockers Raving Loony Party! Join the campaign to keep music evil and "vote mockers with your feet" with djs Pavinyl & Nick Solid Kick! Expect a night of debauchery, hammer visuals and the wildest vintage beats in the west...Rare 45s from the fringes of RnB, Mod Beat, Garage, Ska, Blues, Northern & Club Soul, Popcorn, Titty Shakers, Frat, Surf, Wild Rockers, Latin and so much more! Thee classy night of excellent vintage...7pm £6adv from SVA John Street or on-line.

sva.org.uk

THE TRINITY ROOMS

SAT 22ND

Stroud Sacred Music Festival Presents: The Raga Babas

Local 9 piece band based on World Fusion Devotional music with ancient and contemporary sounds specifically for dancing! 7pm Donations (Fund raising event in aid of the refugees)

ragababas.co.uk

TWISTED FIX

SAT 1ST

Skankers Vs Stompers #03

Drum & bass, neurofunk, jungle, hard trance, techno and minimal hosted by Croaktek and Chemically Driven. 10pm £7

FRI 7TH/14TH/21ST/28TH

Twisted Fridays

Drum & bass, RnB, house, reggae, dub, jungle, hip hop and hard dance with Twisted residents DJ Dopamine and DJ Dayoo. Free before 11:30pm/£5 after

CHRIST CHURCH NAILSWORTH

SUN 9TH

The Bristol Ensemble

Bristol Ensemble's popular series of tea-time concerts at Christ Church continues with a programme of passionate and lyrical Russian piano trios including music by Tchaikovsky, Arensky and Rachmaninov's Piano Trio Elégiaque. 3pm £10otd

bristolensemble.com

01453 762588

EVENTS IN OCTOBER AT THE CROWN & SCEPTRE

WEDNESDAY 5TH **Steak Night**
Booking Essential
The Charlton Blues Kings LIVE
Traditional Chicago Swing and Blues

FRIDAY 7TH **Pie Night**
Booking Essential
Southside LIVE
Americana R&B

WEDNESDAY 12TH **Robb Johnson LIVE**
"One of this country's most important songwriters"

FRIDAY 14TH **Built for Comfort LIVE**
Hot Chicago R&B

SUNDAY 16TH **Meat Free Monday**
Booking Essential

FRIDAY 21ST **Curry Night**
Booking Essential

MONDAY 24TH **Howlin' Matt LIVE**
Hard Rockin Boogie Blues Guitar

WEDNESDAY 26TH **All Cramped Up LIVE**
God damn Dirty Rock n Roll

FRIDAY 28 **Halloween**

SATURDAY 29TH

MONDAY 31ST

WWW.CROWNANDSCEPTRESTROUD.COM

SUB TRAX PRESENTS:

FREESTYLERS VS DUB PISTOLS

SUPPORT FROM: **TEACHER VS MONK DJ JAMIE RAINBOW**

FRI 4TH NOVEMBER
THE SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS
£15ADV/£18 DOORS
8:30PM - 2AM (LAST ENTRY 11PM)

BOX OFFICE: 01453 760900
www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk

twitter.com/SubRoomsStroud facebook.com/Subrooms

Dave Ayre's

BAROQUE NIGHT

at the Prince Albert



400-year-old music about devils, witches and ghosts beautifully performed as ever by a fabulous ensemble of musicians

Monday 31 October 2016 ~ 8pm
THE PRINCE ALBERT, RODBOROUGH HILL

tickets £10 in advance, £12 on the door ~ 12-18s £3
available from The Prince Albert & Stroud Tourist Information Office
www.theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

bristol ensemble

Tea-time concerts

Join the professional musicians of Bristol Ensemble for a series of chamber music concerts at Christ Church, Nailsworth this Autumn and Winter

Sundays at 3pm
9 October • 13 November
4 December • 15 January

Sunday 9 October at 3pm
Rachmaninov Piano Trio Elégiaque
Tchaikovsky Melodie Op. 42, No.3
Tchaikovsky Scherzo Op.42
Arensky Piano Trio in D minor No.1 Op.32

Passionate and lyrical Russian Piano Trios from Russia feature in October's concert

TICKETS £10 on the door
For programme details visit www.bristolensemble.com

THE CONVENT WOODCHESTER**SAT 15TH****John Spiers**

Mixing infectious dance tunes with incredibly sensitive and moving slow airs on a mind-boggling range of different squeezeboxes, John's solo shows are a mixture of traditional material and his own more intricate compositions interspersed with an easy-going, humorous and informative banter. 8pm £15

SUN 2ND**Kirk Fletcher**

His unique approach to blues and roots music is both refreshingly modern and completely authentic. Widely considered one of the best blues guitarists in the world, he has commanded the respect and acclaim of critics, peers and fans across the globe. 8pm £15

WEDS 5TH**Chris Pureka**

Chris's elegant emotionality as a vocalist, and her flair and immediacy as a lyricist have garnered her favourable comparisons to Gillian Welch, Ryan Adams, Bruce Springsteen, and Patty Griffin. She has remained fiercely independent, selling nearly 50,000 albums through her own label, Sad Rabbit Records. 8pm £10

THURS 6TH**Jamie Williams and the Roots Collective**

This is a band who love to entertain people and to make them smile; to inspire them to dance & sing along too. Although the band plays festivals, and plenty of them, they still love playing clubs & venues all over and have been described as the English Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers which is not a bad comparison. 8pm £10

FRI 7TH**Johnny Coppin**

Singer/songwriter and composer who began his career as one of the founder members of the folk band Decameron. 8pm £15

SAT 8TH**Climbing Trees**

Pontypridd's Climbing Trees suffuse gospel, blues and country influences into a heady brew they call 'Cymrucana'. 8pm £10

SUN 9TH**Heidi Talbot**

An award-winning folk singer from Co. Kildare in Ireland. Her new album features modern, original songs taking their inspiration from the world of traditional music with guest contributions from artists as diverse as Mark Knopfler, Jerry Douglas, King Creosote, Julie Fowlis and Tim O'Brien. 8pm £17.50

THURS 13TH**Robbie McIntosh**

A versatile guitar player. Just as happy playing Blues and Rock on electric guitar as finger picking acoustic guitar. Current band features Peter Hope Evans-Harmonica (Medicine Head, Pete Townshend) Jody Linscott - Percussion (Kokomo, Elton John, Pete Townshend)

Paul Beavis - Drums (Andy Fairweather Low, Robert Fripp) Stephen Darrell Smith - Keyboards (Bad Company) and Steve Wilson - Bass. 8pm £10

FRI 14TH**The Carrivick Sisters**

Twin sisters Laura and Charlotte Carrivick are widely known on the UK folk scene. They have a unique sound incorporating their musical background of American bluegrass and old-time but also being influenced by English folk lore, having grown up in South Devon. 8pm £10

SAT 15TH**Martin Simpson**

40 years after he recorded his first album, Golden Vanity, in 1976, Martin is known as a guitarist of formidable talent. Equally at home playing English traditional folk, American folk and blues and his own compositions, he is consistently named as one of the very finest fingerstyle guitar players in the world. 8pm £20

SUN 16TH**Marc O'Reilly**

With gritty sonic depth, Irish songwriter Marc O'Reilly attacks his muse with a bipolar verve that swings from reflection to sheer riotous joy. 8pm £10

WEDS 19TH**David Ford**

Ford's songs combine Americana, English melodicism and a touch of rock 'n' roll, tied together with finely-crafted lyrics. His emotive stories of social commentary, politics and love in a world going to hell are powerful, engaging and hark back to an era of classic songwriting. 8pm £15

FRI 21ST**Dreadzone**

Electro-dub pioneers Dreadzone are still going strong after over 20 years with core members Greg Dread, Leo Williams, MC Spee and legendary reggae vocalist Earl 16 alongside Chris Compton on guitar and Bazil completing the current Dreadzone line up. They continue to tour extensively around the world and are currently in the studio writing and recording a new album for release in late 2016. 8pm £20

SAT 22ND**The Jar Family**

Six individual songwriters & musicians, who decided that, rather than strive for success in isolation, they would join forces to pool their talent. 8pm £15

SUN 23RD**Flight Brigade**

"Smack-bang into that global radio-friendly crossover territory usually inhabited by Imagine Dragons and The Killers." Record of the Day. 8pm £10

FRI 28TH**Southern Tenant Folk Union**

Edinburgh based string band who have produced a thought provoking and arresting take on roots & folk music. 8pm £15

SAT 29TH**Kevin Pearce**

There are similarities too Simon & Garfunkel and Cat Stevens, and that's heaped praise indeed. Kevin fits neatly into a niche of beautiful folk writers with a modern twist and he excels at sending you somewhere incredibly tranquil and warm. 8pm £10

SUN 30TH**Ben Watt and Band ft, Bernard Butler**

Musician and writer Ben Watt is most well-known for his twenty years as songwriter-performer-producer with Tracey Thorn in Everything But The Girl (1984-2000) and subsequent ten years as an acclaimed DJ, BBC 6Music presenter and label owner. In 2014 he returned to his folk-jazz roots, teaming up with guitarist-sideman Bernard Butler for the award-winning 'Hendra'. The follow-up 'Fever Dream' was released in spring 2016 to wide acclaim. 8pm £25

theconvent.net**THE HOG AT HORSLEY****THURS 6TH****Tristan Watson Duo**

Jazz and bebop from Stroud guitar wizard. 8:30pm Free

THURS 13TH**Ben Harrison**

Acoustic treats from across the eras played with class and good humour. 8:30pm Free

THURS 20TH**The Horsley Band**

A longstanding (30+ years) collective of folk musicians originating from the beautiful village of Horsley. 8:30pm Free

THURS 27TH**Steve Ferbrache**

Blues and soul enthusiast with a deeply secret and shameful passion for singing popular covers. 8:30pm Free

thehogathorsley.co.uk**PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY****FRI 14TH****James Hickman and Dan Cassidy**

The collaboration between James and Dan creates a sound that connects British and American folk and is bursting with the humour, heartbreak and excitement of these genres. Hickman's passionate, soaring vocals alongside his spirited guitar playing create a beautiful counterpoint to Cassidy's ingenious and virtuosic fiddling. 8pm £12/£9concs/Friends £10/£8concs/£15otd

prema.org.uk**RUSKIN MILL HORSLEY****SAT 15TH****The Rheingans Sisters**

With rave reviews across the national, folk and world music press, The Rheingans Sisters second album Already Home was one of the most talked about folk albums of 2015.

In this year's BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, as well as their nomination in the Horizon category for Best Newcomer, their song Mackerel won the prestigious award for Best Original Track: rarely awarded to artists so early in their career. 8pm £8/£6under 25's

rmt.org**ST CYR'S CHURCH STONEHOUSE****SUN 2ND****Ensemble i.a.t.B and the Cotswold Canal Singers: Songs of Love and War**

A concert in aid of restoring the Cotswold Canals featuring Ensemble i.a.t.B (leader Steve Harper) and The Cotswold Canals Singers (conductor Hugh Barton) performing a programme which ranges from 16th century madrigals to Barber Shop to a piece about the tragedy of war written specially for this event. 7:30pm £10/£8concs/children under 16 free. Tickets available from Cotswold Canals Trust, Bell House, Upper Wallbridge Lock, Stroud

cotswoldscanal.com**THE VAULT NAILSWORTH****SUN 2ND****Patsy Gamble & Anders Olinder**

World class jazz singer and saxophonist, accompanied on piano by Anders Olinder. 4:30pm Free

SUN 16TH**Lewis Clark**

Tricky to pigeon-hole but easy to love - Lewis Clarke is an original and dynamic songwriter who dips his toe into folk, blues and roots. Touring in support of his new album 'Vinyl Love'. 4:30pm Free

SUN 30TH**Tristan Watson duo**

Afternoon jazz session. 4:30pm Free

thevaultnailsworth.co.uk**THE VINE TREE RANDWICK****SAT 15TH****The Tadlib Collective Trio**

The Tadlib Collective Trio return to the Vine Tree with their eclectic mix of jazz, latin, bossa, fusion and funk. 7:30pm £8adv

thevinetreerandwick.co.uk**G.O.P
YOUTUBE
PLAYLIST**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
GOODONPAPER.INFO/
**MUSIC FOR THE LATEST
COMPILATION OF THIS
MONTH'S BEST MUSIC...**
IN OUR OPINION.

**ALEX
MERRY**

ALEX IS AN ILLUSTRATOR AND PORTRAIT ARTIST
BROUGHT UP IN STROUD AND NOW, ONCE
AGAIN, LIVING AND WORKING BACK HERE
ON HOME GROUND.

She studied Illustration at Brighton and Bristol universities and after many years painting in London in other artists' studios (mostly notably for Hirst and Quinn) she has returned to the artistic cradle that is The Five Valleys to pursue her own artistic career.

Her illustrations and portraits combine her technical skills with a gentle wit and an irrepressible delight in observing humanity and the world around her in all its colourful and surprising diversity.

Painting a portrait is, she feels, a magical process - to capture and immortalise on canvas a face and a likeness; to fix in paint a glance and a moment; to reveal the essence of the sitter (be it person or pet!) and show something of the spirit and character that shines out through the eyes. That is the intimate challenge of the art form and therein lies the thrill that has drawn Alex into the world of portraiture.

She works in any media but her painted portraits to date have mostly been in oils on canvas or wood. She enjoys the personal contact made between subject and commissioner. Hers is a domestic, kitchen table enterprise where she

often works with Stroud's cat Mabel in watchful and encouraging attendance.

Alex's long and very active association with the Folk world - both artistic and musical - local, national and international - informs her artwork and the one passion feeds into the other. Portraiture, for Alex, taps into the same grass roots, elemental and cultural landscape. It is, by its very nature, an art form about people, human contact, subtle relationships and insights far removed from the more objective and conceptual preoccupations of many contemporary art workshops.

Her sculptural portraits are also a sight to behold - be they sheep heads, a bison head (for Giffords Circus this year), giant's heads, horse heads or wicker men. Her fantastical creations have become a feature of Stroud's regular processions and festivals.

The pet portraits, a new departure developed over the past few years and begun after painting portraits of her parents' two moggies, have become a particular favourite with the punters. Painted from photographs they are treasured memorials to and of our beloved animal companions. Examples of some of her recent commissions can be seen on her website.

alexmerryart.com / [facebook.com/alexmerryart/](https://www.facebook.com/alexmerryart/) / [instagram.com/alexmerryart](https://www.instagram.com/alexmerryart)



WHEN I FIRST MET MARCUS WALTERS LAST NOVEMBER, IT QUICKLY BECAME APPARENT THAT HE IS A MAN OF MANY HATS. SINCE BEGINNING HIS CAREER AS AN ILLUSTRATOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER, MARCUS HAS WORKED AS AN ART DIRECTOR, CO-FOUNDED A DESIGN COMPANY, ESTABLISHED AN ILLUSTRATION STUDIO, COLLABORATED WITH SOME OF THE LARGEST BRANDS IN THE WORLD AND EXHIBITED ARTWORK INTERNATIONALLY. NOW MARCUS IS ADVANCING INTO A FURTHER DISCIPLINE, STARTING HIS OWN CREATIVE AGENCY, ABLE STUDIO, FROM HIS BASE IN FROGMARSH MILL. I MEET WITH HIM AGAIN TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT HIS PAST AND FUTURE VENTURES...

Having been attracted to a particular graphic style of picture books from a young age, Marcus began his career studying graphic design at Central St Martins, a prolific London university renowned for nurturing left-field designers. Following his degree, he fell into a position as a junior designer and later art director for popular women's magazines. Several years on, he broke away from the linear career path that such roles suggested in order to co-found New Future Graphic, a prominent design company based in London. "We had twelve great years at NFG working together on art direction, design and packaging," he reveals. During this time, the company established an incredible body of work for clients such as Innocent Smoothies, the Institute of Physics, Clarks footwear, Levi's and the BBC, with brands repeatedly turning to his small team for design input.

Eight years ago, Marcus began complimenting his position as director at New Future Graphic by establishing an illustration studio under his own name. As with NFG, his work at Marcus Walters Studio has been impressively diverse and iconic, working with the likes of Coca-Cola, the New York Times and the Fairtrade Foundation, in addition to collaborating with brands producing greeting cards, clothing and homewares.

Stylistic continuity has remained important to Marcus' work, and a glance through his previous projects highlights both the prestige of his clients and the instinctive style and outlook that his work is bound by. There is a tangible sense of optimism, with bold, joyful colour schemes and simple graphic arrangements that make his work playful, uplifting and engaging. His creative approach is a very organic process, which is often reflected in his finished images; to form ideas he begins with a drawing, supplemented by sketchbooks full of tactile collage work recording a huge body of patterns, typography and one-off images that initiate or inspire a finished piece. His final designs reflect this multifaceted collection of ideas through layers of patterning, lettering and elegantly abstracted organic forms.

Following a recent collective decision to bring New Future Graphic to an end, Marcus is now focused on establishing his creative agency. "I set up Able Studio as a means to continue my art direction and design," he explains. His years at New Future Graphic have been influential, for the remarkable range of work produced during his time there has provided an extensive backdrop on which to reflect and define his own direction. The central focus of Able Studio is brand elevation, helping enterprises with anything from brand identity and art direction, to packaging design, photography and illustration.

Having worked extensively for international clients, Marcus now hopes to have more time to enjoy working locally, be that with established companies or smaller start-ups. "Stroud has a great creative scene and I look forward to offering some of my experience to local business, big and small." While his years of experience have given him incredible expertise in areas such as design, strategy and marketing, Marcus also maintains an enduring belief that everything must have aesthetic merit, assuring clients of the quality and care essential for securing a brand in the minds and hearts of customers, no matter the size of their enterprise.

While Able Studio will inevitably remain at the forefront of Marcus' workload as he further establishes the agency, projects at Marcus

Walters Studio do not appear to have slowed down. His recent ventures include a range of homewares for Heal's in London, and prints and products for the V&A Museum in conjunction with their forthcoming Revolutions exhibition. Marcus has also recently finished working on a children's book for Penguin, and hopes for similar work in the future, as well expanding his involvement with homeware companies, designing products and textiles. Sounds like a lot of hats to keep juggling. "My mantra for next year should be just do one or two things, but we'll have to see how that goes!"

Visit marcuswalters.com and ablestudio.co.uk for further examples of Marcus' work.

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



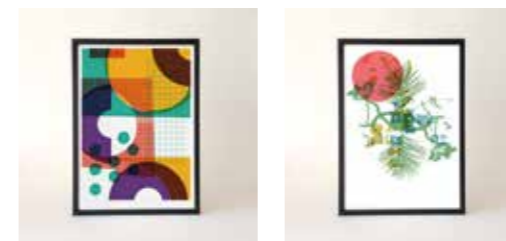
GOP TV

WHYART?

ft Marcus Walters

A series of 'interview shorts' with local artists in their studios filmed and edited by Katie Jane Watson.

visit: goodonpaper.info/film



EMILY JOY & ALISON COCKCROFT:

PERI-SCOPE

BY PAUL HARPER

EMILY JOY AND ALISON COCKCROFT ARE ARTISTS WITH WELL-ESTABLISHED, AND DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES. THEY SHARE THE SCULPTURE STUDIO AT STROUD VALLEYS ARTSPACE WITH ANN-MARGRETH BOHL, ANNA USBORNE AND AIMEE LAX. ALONGSIDE THEIR OWN CAREERS, THE STUDIO HAS DEVELOPED A STRONG COLLECTIVE IDENTITY AND A TRACK RECORD OF COLLABORATIVE WORKING OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS. NOW EMILY AND ALISON HAVE FORMED A CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP UNDER THE NAME PERISCOPE.

The focus of their work as Periscope is immersive, accessible workshops in which people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities are encouraged to participate unselfconsciously in creative processes. Between them they have a great deal of experience in running workshops and had observed that many people hang back from engaging fully in the activity - too self aware to relax and have a go. A main barrier is the fear that they might be expected to make something and that that might be exposing in some way - that a lack of skill or knowledge will be revealed and judged. They felt that people were denying themselves the pleasures and satisfactions that flow from making art for fear of being tested as artists. This led them to develop methods that focus on encouraging creative participation rather than aesthetic outcomes. They create theatrical environments, laid out with props, and information that might suggest, but not narrowly define, a narrative - and art materials that invite, but don't demand, involvement. People are welcome to drop in and stay for as little or as long as they want and are encouraged to interact in any way that they feel comfortable. Some people might simply become absorbed in reading or playing with the source material, or they might be prompted to have a go at getting more actively involved - quietly drawing, or engaging in a more dynamic making process. The aim is to afford the kind of rewards that flow from making art, but also to encourage participants to look at and reflect on their environment - unburdened of any anxieties about meeting any kind of technical or aesthetic standard.

This approach is consistent with their individual, highly refined, art practices, which are research driven and process-led, and open-ended - where the outcomes or artworks might be seen as by-products or as secondary to the experience of making.

For their next workshop Emily and Alison have been invited to create a special event to mark the opening of the newly revived Walled Garden at the Museum in the Park. The event is aptly titled 'The Dream of the Plant Collector' and is built around a loose narrative that follows the adventures of a Victorian plant collector/explorer. They've been busy making props that include lots of quasi-scientific optical devices such as periscopes and mirrors, which will be

used to focus the gaze of participants and encourage them to look more closely at the garden. This combination of a playful attitude with a serious intention is typical of Emily and Alison's approach.

They have a long-standing association with the Museum and with the garden in particular. Along with their colleagues at the sculpture studio, they were artists in residence in the garden at the very earliest stages of the project to rebuild it and have played a central role in shaping the Museum's ambitions. Through their long involvement Emily and Alison have acquired a deep understanding and knowledge of the garden's history and of the Museum's aspirations for its future. There is a clear sense of mutual trust and of shared goals between the Museum and the artists.

A measure of this trust is the invitation to mark the opening of the Walled Garden - a significant moment for the Museum in the Park. It is the culmination of many years hard work and a great achievement. Entering the garden through the museum, a winding path takes you through a series of distinct areas, formed and marked out by colour, texture and scale. The formality of the garden layout is balanced and animated by the variety and arrangement of the plants. The artist Cleo Mussi has been instrumental in sourcing the plants and in shaping the planting - drawing on a strong aesthetic vision and a deep knowledge of plants. From the top of the path you can look out into the treetops of the arboretum that surrounds the Museum, with glimpses of the town and Rodborough Common beyond. Creating a garden is a deeply optimistic act, a gesture towards the future. It's a lovely thought that we might visit it in ten or twenty years time and see it full grown.

As well as Cleo, Emily and Alison, the Museum staff have worked closely with a number of artists and designers to create a really delightful garden where visitors can walk or play, or sit and enjoy the peace. This builds on an established practice of working with artists to animate and interpret the Museum's wonderful collections.

At a time when many museums are struggling Stroud's Museum in the Park is doing well, and this beautiful garden is an expression of the Museum's close ties to its community - exemplified by the value that they place on their working relationships with local artists.

'The Dream of the Plant Collector' a celebration and opening of the Walled Garden is part of the Big Draw Festival 2016 and takes place on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th from 11am till 4pm. Visit periscopics.wordpress.com and museuminthepark.org.uk for further info.

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Paul Harper has a wide range of experience of working in the arts. He was a founding director of Alias Arts and is Vice-chair of the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust. He currently combines writing, research and teaching with consultancy in the visual arts and crafts.
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ART LISTINGS

ART OF CLAY

SAT 1ST - SAT 29TH

Clay Sinclair

Provocative post-pop paintings on Perspex by local/international artist Clay Sinclair situated at 48 High Street. Plus prints for those on a budget and People's Republic of Stroud tat for those joining the revolution. Open Mon - Sat

claysinclair.com

ATELIER

SUN 16TH

Textile and History Talks

History and Textile cloth industry talk by Ian Mackintosh in collaboration with the Stroud Textile Trust. 2pm Free

atelierstroud.com

THE BLUE ROOMS GALLERY

SAT 1ST/8TH/15TH/22ND/29TH

Oliver Vivian

Oliver continues his exploration of composition and process, in a new exhibition of works using his unique palette of fresh colours. 10am - 3pm or by appointment 07532071457

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

GALLERY PANGOLIN

TUES 30TH AUG - WEDS 21ST OCT

Synthesis

Late summer exhibition bringing together a collection of abstract sculptures by four male and four female artists: Jon Buck, Lynn Chadwick, Ann Christopher, John Hoskin, Ellis O'Connell, Charlotte Mayer, Peter Randall-Page and Almuth Tebbenhoff. Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm/Sat 10am - 1pm

gallery-pangolin.com

KENDRICK STREET GALLERY

SAT 6TH - SAT 22ND

Angela Cash: Exhibition of Recent Paintings

Angela Cash was born and brought up in the Stroud area and returned to live in Sheepscombe, just outside Stroud fifteen years ago. She paints in both oil and watercolour and enjoys the different characteristics of each. Her favourite subjects include landscape, gardens and street scenes, concentrating more on still life and interiors in the winter. Angela's paintings are delicate and beautiful,

full of Cotswold charm! Mon-Sat 9:30am-5:30pm/Meet the artist on Sat 8th 10am - 12pm

kendrickstgalleries.co.uk

LANSDOWN GALLERY

TUES 20TH SEPT - SAT 1ST OCT

Millie Wood Swanepoel: The Art of Looking, At Art

There is an art when looking at art and the world around us. We need to be able to look with awareness, mindfulness and engage with it. This exhibition is a collection of paintings, ideas/images inspired, fired and expressed in clay, glass, metal and found objects. 10am-5pm/Sun 11am-4pm

MON 3RD - SAT 8TH

Mark Masters: Let's Go Into The Garden

Stepping outside our back door, we encounter a world of shapes, forms and colours. We see shadows amongst the light and dark, the leaves and flowers, which sometimes give way to new forms and shapes that dwell within our garden. Remembering the infant fear of what lurks beneath the bed whilst we sleep, what monsters fester in the closet, the artist looks beneath the surface to re-examine what lives at the shady end of the garden! 10am-4:30pm

TUES 11TH - SAT 22ND

Gordano Textile Artists: Flourish

Gordano Textile Artists have taken the word Flourish as inspiration for their latest exhibition of contemporary textile art, using a wide range of different media from hand stitch, applique, needle felt, knitted paper, machine embroidery, silk painting and eco dyeing to create 2 and 3 dimensional forms. 11am-4pm (not open on Sundays)

lansdownhall.org

THE LINE GALLERY

FRI 9TH SEPT - SAT 1ST OCT

Alexander James Wood

Alexander (alexanderjameswood.com) combines graphic shapes with bold colours to create dynamic screen prints of interiors. These prints are full of intrigue and are reminiscent of Alfred Hitchcock's Rear Window. His prints are A1 and A0 so you can really transport yourself into the intricate scenes. Open Fridays and Saturdays 11am - 4pm

THURS 6TH - TUES 11TH

Lorraine Robbins: You Can Sit With Us

The making of an exhibition exploring the accommodation and negotiation of social rules and limitations. The developing process in the gallery will be visible throughout the week and will finalise in a tactile, interactive installation. 11am-4pm Private View Friday 7th

THURS 13TH - TUES 18TH

Daniel Sparkes: The Teutonburg Pellets

Sparkes' distinctive comic-abstracted 'Spoof Monuments' continue with this series of new works in oils marking a looser more colourful phase, informed by the likes of Guston, Quinn and Rauch. 11am-4pm Private View Friday 14th

THURS 20TH - TUES 25TH

Jo Casling

Jo's work explores the physicality and process of painting through imaginary spaces. Mainly large abstract pieces. 11am-4pm Private View Friday 21st

THURS 27TH OCT - TUES 1ST NOV

Lorna Bamsey

Through painting, drawing and conversation Lorna tries to decipher the world from both within and without. "Where could one become 'another'? I trust in pleasure, to prevent my own spontaneous combustion." 11am-4pm Private View Friday 28th

linegallery.co.uk

THE MALHOUSE BAR AND KITCHEN

MON 10TH OCT - MON 28TH NOV

SIT Select Presents: Bath Spa University Textiles and Design Graduates

Work from Bath Spa University Textile and Design graduates that is botanically inspired with vibrant colour and unique designs Opening with Rhian Beynon - hand printed interior textiles and wallpapers and Anne Louise James - hand printed interior textiles and wallpapers.

stroudmalhouse.com

MEME

TUES 6TH SEPT - FRI 28TH OCT

SIT Select Presents: Paintings By Camilla Ward

Camilla's background is in contemporary ceramics and that influence where strong abstract surface pattern adorned her vessels has passed to the bold, vigorous, inspiring paintings now on show.

memebar.co.uk

MUSEUM IN THE PARK

SAT 8TH - SUN 30TH

Momentum and Walking

Walking is something most of us do without thinking - it's such an automatic activity, learnt at a tender age and then largely taken for granted. Most of us walk before we talk or draw. This exhibition explores the subject of 'Momentum', bringing together artists from Somerset and Gloucestershire, whose work is initiated by or responds to the act of walking and the momentum it creates. Artists

include Louise Baker, Sara Dudman, Michael Fairfax, Gordon Field, Debbie Locke, Linn O'Carroll, Nicola Pearce, Kel Portman, Deborah Roberts and Deborah Westmancoat. Accompanied by walks and workshops for adults and half term holiday activities for all ages. Tues - Fri 10am-4pm (closed Mondays)/Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

SAT 8TH - SUN 9TH

The Dream of the Plant Collector

Stroud's very own secret garden, the Walled Garden behind the Museum, will be fully open from Saturday 8th October. To celebrate they invite you to join them on a journey of exploration and discovery, retracing the footsteps of the mysterious Plant Collector.

Enter a world of illusion and wonder, a place to make and play creatively. This weekend-long community celebration with creative activities for all ages will be led by artists Emily Joy and Alison Cockcroft. Save the dates and come along to enjoy this magical space! Part of The Big Draw Festival 2016, see page 14 - 15 for further info! 11am-4pm Free

SAT 8TH - SUN 9TH/SAT 15TH - SUN 16TH

Explore and Draw Exhibition

Come along and discover some of the artwork that children created during a series of special summer workshops! Celebration event on Weds 5th - Drop in and join the artists Cathy Mills and Alison Cockcroft for drinks and nibbles - all welcome! Exhibition 11am-4pm/ Celebration event 4-5:30pm

museuminthepark.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

TUE 27TH SEPT - SAT 1ST OCT

Deborah Roberts: Grasslands of the Stroud Valleys

The photographic images in the exhibition celebrate the beauty of the wildflower-rich grasslands surrounding Stroud and the work of local organisations to conserve these internationally important habitats. 10am-5pm daily (excluding Sundays)

TUES 11TH - SAT 15TH

Barnwood Trust: I Say It With Crayons

An exhibition of art produced whilst in two acute psychiatric wards at Wotton Lawn Hospital in Gloucester. The unit is for people who are in a crisis situation because of deteriorations to their mental health. Liam Whelan is an artist living in Gloucestershire. 10am-4pm Please note: This exhibition may be closed for workshops on certain days.

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

SAT 1ST - MON 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

Line.

Christmas Print Shop

Opens on Goodwill
Closes Christmas Eve

10am - 6pm Daily

Line Gallery, 4 John Street, Stroud

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Until 21st October

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John Hoskin Ellis O'Connell Charlotte Mayer
Peter Randall-Page Almuth Tebbenhoff

Symphysis Jon Buck

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workshops and events. Also features guest weaver Tim Parry Williams. Email to SVA: office@sva.org.uk drop in or by appointment

SAT 1ST/8TH/15TH/22ND/29TH
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

SAT 1ST - MON 31ST

UP This Way

UP This Way is an outlet within the Merrywalks highlighting the work of furniture and accessory makers within the broader Stroud area. Open Mon 9-6pm/Thurs-Sat 9-6pm or by appointment 01453 297260

sva.org.uk

WETPAINT GALLERY

THURS 6TH - SAT 29TH

Sophie Ryder Exhibition

Sophie Ryder is one of the leading female artists of our time and the youngest student since Turner to enter Royal Academy Schools where she studied Combined Arts, specialising in sculpture. Inspired by Picasso, Goya and Henry Moore, she famously developed the Lady Hare as a counterpart to the Minotaur of Greek Mythology. The Lady Hare has occupied her imagination for many years and the human parts are based on the artist's own body. Her imaginary world is populated by mystical hybrid creatures, bound together in intimate and affectionate companionship. These sculptures have the potential to forge powerful images charged with character and emotion which go well beyond representation.

THURS 6TH - MON 31ST

SIT Select Presents: Su Trindle Jewellery

Su works predominantly in silver and resin. Her jewellery designs are bold, colourful and geometric with strong linear elements. A recurring source of inspiration are the abstract works of early 20th century sculptors and designers.

wetpaintgalleryonline.com

NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

SAT 17TH SEPT - SUN 30TH OCT

Jackie Morris: The Quiet Music

Paintings and prints by Jackie Morris accompanied by contemporary and traditional musical instruments. Original artwork and prints of the work produced by Jackie Morris for the charity Help Musicians over the last 17 years. Accompanied by a range of musical instruments made by exceptional and renowned makers.

newbreweryarts.org.uk

PREMA ARTS CENTRE

MON 5TH SEPT - SUN 16TH OCT

Lea Phillips

Lea's work has always been based on throwing, creating forms that are strong and definite, simple shapes with harmonious relationships between their various parts. Oxidised stoneware seems to best suit Lea's expressive style - combining the decorative freedom of low temperature ceramics with the depth and texture of stoneware glazes.

MON 5TH SEPT - SUN 16TH OCT

Anna Bean

Anna Bean's atmospheric photographs, graphically astute prints and theatrical environments lure us into a world of burlesque enchantment and colourful psychosis. A freelance photographic artist and a lecturer at the School of Creative Arts, Hull College, artist Anna Bean creates surreal tableaux inspired by old masters, myths, fairy tales, cult films and television programmes from her childhood.

MON 5TH SEPT - SUN 16TH OCT

Sarah Dennis

Originally from the south coast of England, renowned Bristol-based paper illustrator Sarah Dennis has always possessed a strong desire to create a world of her own. Constantly thinking in three dimensions and playing with positive and negative space, Sarah magically transforms paper into dynamic art forms.

prema.org.uk

THEATRE LISTINGS

COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE

WEDS 12TH - SAT 15TH

The Cotswold Players: The Female of the Species

Written in 2006 by Australian playwright Joanna Murray-Smith and described in reviews as deliciously wicked and hugely entertaining, this is a play about the effect of feminism on each of the six characters. Please note that this play contains strong language and some sexual references. 7:30pm £12

TUES 18TH

Ballet Cymru: Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs

Award winning company Ballet Cymru present and extraordinary vision. Two stories from the mind of the most popular storyteller in the world, Roald Dahl. Ballet Cymru has been granted permission from the Dahl Foundation to produce two works based on sections of the wonderful authors Revolting Rhymes, Little Red Riding Hood and the Three Little Pigs. With costumes by designer Steve Denton and a stunning lighting design by John Bishop, this is a performance with many wonderful surprises! 7:30pm £16Adults/£12under18

THURS 20TH

Hexagon Theatre Company: Now Then Prime Minister

Stroud based Hexagon present two one-act plays with not just one but two female Prime Ministers - one fictitious, one very real, and neither Theresa May! Handbagged by Moira Buffini: Originally commissioned by the Tricycle Theatre this play went on to be developed into a full length play which was voted the Best New Comedy of 2015. As you might guess from the title, the Prime Minister in this play is Margaret Thatcher. Letter of Last Resort by David Greig: On the first day in office a British Prime Minister is required to compose the most difficult letter they will ever need to write - final instructions to the captains of Trident submarines in the event of a devastating nuclear strike. 7:30pm Tickets from £9 further information and tickets available from hexagontheatrecompany.co.uk and by calling 01453 828424

SAT 22ND

Opera Anywhere: The Magic Flute

Marrying Mozart's beautiful music with a witty script, this production celebrates the birth of 'teen culture' in a timeless coming-of-age story and explores the 'other-worldliness' which glamorous Hollywood brought to post 'Blitz' London. 7:30pm £16Adults/£10under18

cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

LANSDOWN HALL

SAT 1ST

Archetypes in Performance Workshop With Andrew St John

During the workshop you will learn twelve different 'character archetypes', using breath, movement and vocal exercises to explore the archetypes. You will create a range of short improvised pieces and discover how they work together to make dramatic performances. Archetypes can be used by writers to develop character and narrative, actors to deepen characterisations and improvisers and devisers to make performances. 10am-5pm £30

WEDS 19TH

Full Circle Productions: Outside the Box - A Live Show About Death

Full Circle Productions and Liz Rothschild presents a unique and original new show which combines mercurial tales and miraculous truths collected over the years from life's finishing line. Outside The Box asks its audience to embrace mortality and look on the bright side of life, with a weave of untold and surprising stories, a hint of history and some pithy commentary on the funeral industry (from one who knows!). 8pm £9/£8 from Subscription Rooms

FRI 21ST

Townsend Productions: Dare Devil Rides To Jarama

A new play from Townsend Productions, commemorating the International Brigades on the 80th anniversary of their creation. Featuring music by John Kirkpatrick, directed by Neil Gore, this is sure to be a lively, exciting night out. 7:30pm £15/£10concs available from trybooking.co.uk/531

lansdownhall.org

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

SUN 30TH

The Last Baguette: Dracula - A Terrifying Comedy

Bram Stoker's classic Gothic horror, adapted for the stage in this brilliant comedy by international theatre company The Last Baguette, with 21 characters, 4 actors, 3 nationalities, and 2 very sharp fangs. "The gags roll one after another... the laughter is non-stop" Reg'Arts magazine, Paris. 7:30pm £9 adv/£11otd

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

DURSLEY LIBRARY

SAT 1ST

Travelling Light Theatre Company: The Mysterious Vanishment of Pobby and Dingan

Travelling Light Theatre Company presents a production of The Vanishment of Pobby and Dingan, the story is about a shared memory from childhood. We see a brother and a sister telling their story, re-enacting key moments, switching from character to character, creating the atmosphere of Lightning Ridge, the opal capital of New South Wales. A funny and heart-breaking story about love, loyalty and the enduring power of the imagination. 10am Free

travellinglighttheatre.org.uk

NAILSWORTH LIBRARY

WEDS 26TH

Spaniel In The Works Theatre Company: Shakespeare Condensed

A performance and workshop from Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company. In the opening 30 minute performance the story of the Thane of Glamis and his rise to power is told with all its dark murderous overtones by a character who is MacBeth's friend. But who are they and why do they tell his tale? This is followed by a creative writing workshop where you can create your own rhyming spell like the three witches at the start of the Scottish play. Ever wanted to create a curse or put a hex on someone or something...well now is your chance. 2-4pm

spanielworks.co.uk

NAILSWORTH TOWN HALL

SAT 22ND

Hexagon Theatre Company: Now Then Prime Minister

See info under Cotswold Playhouse. 7:30pm Tickets from £9 further information and tickets available from hexagontheatrecompany.co.uk and by calling 01453 828424

hexagontheatrecompany.co.uk

PAINSWICK CENTRE

FRI 21ST

Hexagon Theatre Company: Now Then Prime Minister

See info under Cotswold Playhouse. 7:30pm Tickets from £9 further information and tickets available from hexagontheatrecompany.co.uk and by calling 01453 828424

painswickcentre.com

PREMA ARTS CENTRE

SAT 1ST

Theatre Re: Blind Man's Song

After sell-out hits at the 2015 London International Mime Festival, the Latitude Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe, Theatre Re presents a wordless tale about the power of imagination that blends together physical theatre, mime, illusions and a live musical score. £10adv/£7concs/friends £8/£6concs/family£25/otd£15

SAT 15TH

Smoking Apples: In Our Hands

Alf is a trawler fisherman whose experience, camaraderie and loyalty have put him and his boat at the top of the game. But times are changing and so is the industry. How will Alf adapt in order to survive? Follow a fish's journey from sea to plate, watch a seagull's ridiculous attempt to find food and witness a father and son reunite. £10adv/£7concs/friends £8/£6concs/family£25/otd£15

prema.org.uk

FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOPS AND COURSES VISIT:

ATELIER
ATELIERSTROUD.CO.UK

CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ART
ROOMHIRESTROUD.CO.UK

CREATIVE NETWORK
CREATIVENETWORK.ORG.UK

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRINTMAKING COOPERATIVE
GPCHQ.CO.UK

HAWKWOOD COLLEGE
HAWKWOODCOLLEGE.CO.UK

KENDRICK STREET GALLERY
KENDRICKSTGALLERY.CO.UK

LET'S TRY ARTS
LETSTRYARTS.COM

PEGASUS ART
PEGASUSART.CO.UK

RUSKIN MILL
RMT.ORG

THE SCULPTURE STUDIO
THESCULPTURESTUDIO.CO.UK

SIT SELECT
SITSELECT.ORG

SOUTH WEST ART WORKSHOPS
SWARTWORKSHOPS.CO.UK

STROUD COLLEGE
SGSCOL.AC.UK

STROUD VALLEY ARTSPACE
SVA.ORG.UK

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS
SUBSCRIPTIONROOMS.ORG.UK

VICTORIA WORKS STUDIO
VICTORIAWORKSSTUDIOS.CO.UK

NEW BREWERY ARTS
NEWBREWERYARTS.ORG.UK

PREMA ARTS CENTRE
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READATHON

BY NIKKI OWEN

WHAT OFFICIALLY CONSTITUTES READING TO YOU? YOU'D PROBABLY SAY SOME KIND OF BOOK, RIGHT? PERHAPS A HIGHBROW AUTHOR YOU WERE MADE TO READ AT SCHOOL SAY, SOMETHING MAYBE SHAKESPEAREAN. CHANCES ARE YOU MAY NOT HAVE ENJOYED IT AND, AS A RESULT, MAY NOT BE 'THAT INTO READING NOW.' OR MAYBE YOU'RE A TEACHER, SWAMPED WITH OFSTED AND PAPERWORK, WITH LITTLE TO NO TIME TO SLOT IN ANYTHING THAT CONSTITUTES READING FOR FUN, BUT YOU WISH IT WASN'T SO?

Step forward Readathon, a charity whose aim is simple: get children and teenagers to read more. Founded 30 years ago by Brough Girling, an English teacher and children's author, with its first Chairman the legendary Roald Dahl, I was keen to find out more about this rather humble yet remarkably successful organisation. With offices nestled in Nailsworth's breathtaking outskirts, I arrived to be greeted by Cherry Land, the wonderfully smiley Operations Manager who knows her stuff. And it's this combination of friendly, yet knowing exactly what needs to be done, that I came to realise very quickly over the course of the morning, symbolises what Readathon stands for. "We basically want to get more kids reading," says Heidi Perry, Readathon's warm, smartly dressed Schools Manager. "We aim to inspire."

To those who don't know how Readathon works, a quick synopsis: schools (primary and secondary) order a Readathon pack, and their pupils can read whatever they like for fun - from comics to classics - to raise money to help other children. And it's the 'reading whatever you like' bit that's key. Heidi and the Readathon team passionately believe that so much constitutes reading - anything, basically, goes. "We want to throw preconceived conceptions of reading out of window - reading doesn't have to be serious, it can be anything you like; it's a very refreshing approach." Heidi then goes on to tell me how one school in Nottingham even has a competition for the weirdest reading material,

which has included, and I quote, "The back of cereal packets and Xbox instructions." Brilliant. In fact, even Heidi has to remind herself that, when it comes to reading, it all counts. "Sometimes I feel guilty about not reading enough, and then I realise that I read the newspaper that day, I read websites and blogs and allsorts, and I think, 'Oh yeah, that's reading!'"

Readathon couldn't come at a better time. With an ever-changing education system and UK boys being less literate than girls (9% less at last count), more reading is something that's greatly needed. But it's not easy. "Our task to get kids reading is getting harder due to the pressure on teachers," Heidi says. "It's all so results based - so we try to help teachers to see the effect Readathon and reading for fun can have." It's at this point Heidi's colleague Vicky Pember pops in, the charity's hospital programme manager, a lady with the widest of smiles and an infectious enthusiasm. Says Vicky of how Readathon can help school targets, "Twelve years worth of data found that schools which did the Readathon, regularly outperformed significantly those that didn't. Basically, Readathon schools outperform on literacy."

Whoa. It's significant stats like this that are hard to ignore and what's more amazing is that now, under the guidance of Vicky, the benefits of Readathon are reaching children in hospitals. "Each half term we distribute 120 brand new books to 15, 000 UK hospitals." Wow. That's a lot of books, but here's the tricky bit: the books have to be brand new to reduce infection, with infection control kids getting to keep their book. It all means that every 6 weeks the book cases get replenished with brand new books. And how is this all funded? Via the money raised by the schools that take part in the Readathon challenge. It's the most wonderfully karmic full circle.

But it's a full circle that is very much needed. For example, it takes £12k a year to run a Readathon book case in one hospital, including providing professional storytellers, telling their own stories (note: these guys are story pros;

if you want to help at a hospital, contact the hospital directly). Siblings can access the free books, too, and so the book case is a much-needed chance for families, who've often had to travel many miles, to read together. If this wasn't heart wrenching enough, Vicky then goes on to tell me about nine year old Henry Bromberg. Henry was a Readathon ambassador who, very recently, sadly lost his battle with a rare heart condition. "He would just command the room," Heidi says, both her and Vicky smiling. Heidi continues, "We got very close to Henry and his family, as did his storyteller." And as I listen to them talk fondly of this inspiring boy, as I look at the books and learn how much-loved children's author duo Julia Donaldson and Axle Scheffler are the charity's new ambassadors (there's a great competition schools can enter to win a visit from either of the famed duo) I realise just how much reading not only affects our literacy levels - but it affects the way we view the world and each other, too.

I finish the interview taking some pictures of the (very stylish) Readathon team, and as we laugh and acknowledge how Readathon wants to double its reach to schools, we pause at the big picture of the charity's first chairman, Roald Dahl, that adorns the reception entrance. "He just wrote books that made you want to read," I say. "They're just such good fun." And at that, we all nod, because, that's what Readathon is all about: reading for fun. No stuffiness, no limits or boundaries, just love and laughter and tears and sadness, all not only in the pages of a book, but in the lives we lead, however short they may be, and in the amazing people we continue to meet.

To order a free Readathon school pack visit www.readathon.org

Nikki Owen is an author and writer. Her second book in the Project Trilogy - *the Killing Files* (Harper Collins), is out now. Visit her blog nikkiowen.wordpress.com or website nikkiowenauthor.com

LITERATURE LISTINGS

ALE HOUSE

WEDS 5TH/12TH/19TH/26TH

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 18TH

Radio Cinema

American Radio hosted by Bert Zippers and Lynn Haanen. Discover the amazing world of 'spoken word radio' (podcast etc) - Listen together - start a discussion and/or continue listening back home... - Listening can be done while stitching, knitting, making notes or ironing...7pm £3

atelierstroud.co.uk

NO 23

SUN 2ND

Short Stories for Grown-Ups

By turns moving and amusing, author-performer Mark Rutterford joins host Philip Douch for a selection of entertaining short stories. You can even bring one of your own (1500 words max) and see if you get pulled out of the hat to read on the night. And if you like, you can book yourself a meal at No 23 beforehand and you've got yourself a complete evening out. 8pm£5 avail in advance from pandjdouch@gmail.com

philipdouch.org.uk

STAR ANISE

FRI 21ST

Trevor Carter: Storyteller of the Year Entertains

One of Bristol's most renowned poets and storytellers, also known as The Bard of Windmill Hill performing his greatest hits! "Turns the absurd, bewildering and frequently frustrating aspects of modern life into laughter fodder - witty, ironic and waspish, this is cerebral stand-up at its best. Praised by the BBC's Dr Phil Hammond for the range and depth of his work, this could be the prescription you need." Cheltenham Poetry Festival. 8pm £8/£6

staraniseartscafe.com

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

MON 19TH SEPT - MON 5TH DEC

Creative Writing

Whether you are a curious beginner, a secret scribbler or someone in need of fresh inspiration, feedback and advice, this friendly, supportive and informative class will be for you. We'll look at finding and developing ideas in prose fiction and life-writing, cultivating a healthy writing practice and pathways to publication. By the end of the course you'll have a writer's tool-kit of techniques, a portfolio of work, and a clear idea of how to proceed. Each week there will be a chance to workshop your writing, give and receive constructive criticism and hone your critical faculties as a writer - cultivating a professional approach to editing and submitting your work for profit or for pleasure. All abilities welcome. Bring pen and paper.7pm-9pm £75

SUN 9TH

Doug Scott CBE: Everest the Hard Way

Legendary mountaineer, Doug Scott, will be telling the story of how he and Dougal Haston made the first ascent of the world's highest mountain by its massive South West Face in September 1975. Their epic climb would go down in mountaineering history as 'Everest the Hard Way'.

Using a lightweight approach, Doug went on to continue his outstanding mountaineering career - making over forty first ascents in the Himalaya and Greater Ranges. He also felt a need to set out to help the mountain people of Nepal who had helped him achieve these climbs. He did this by setting up the charity Community Action Nepal. Doug will provide an update on the progress made with reconstruction of CAN projects, such as health posts and schools, which were so badly damaged by the Nepal earthquake in 2015. Before the talk and during the interval there will be a sale of Nepalese goods and of signed framed mountain prints. Doug will also be signing copies of the first volume of his autobiography 'Up And About'. Proceeds from the talk will go to supporting the work of Community Action Nepal.7pm £12/£10concs/£5children

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

SAT 8TH - SUN 9TH

Rona Laycock: Ideas to Inspire the Writer

Two days of inspirational writing exercises to get you writing and to move your writing forward. We will

explore where to find ideas, how to use and develop those ideas to create fiction, non-fiction and poetry. 10am-4pm £150

SAT 15TH

Josie Brown: Gilded and Decorated Letters

This workshop will introduce a simple method of gilding with 23ct gold leaf as well as copper, aluminium and variegated leaf. We will look at designing initial letters - in both historical and contemporary styles - with suitable decoration and gilding. Those with some experience can explore a range of gilding or painting techniques to offer a variety of effects. The end of the day will see beautifully decorated initials as cards, bookmarks, on a folded box or as a personalised gift for someone special.10am-4pm £85

newbreweryarts.org.uk

HORSLEY MILL

SAT 23RD

Fiona Eadie: Introduction to Storytelling

An engaging, practical day for beginners wishing to tell stories to family and friends or as part of

their work. Find the stories that engage you, learn useful storytelling techniques and develop confidence - with support and fun. In stunningly beautiful, peaceful valley setting at Horsley 9:30am-5pm £75 For more information, or to book, please contact Fiona on 01453 834793 or email: fiona@fionaeadieltd.co.uk

fionaeadiestoryteller.com

RUSKIN MILL

SAT 29TH

Fiona Eadie: Stories For Autumn... and the Coming of Winter

Story lovers young and old are warmly invited to listen to Saturday mornings of stories at the Ruskin Mill fireside. Enchanting stories, enthralling tales and elaborate lies...Wonder, wit, mystery and magic from around the world. 10:30am - 12:30pm £4/£3 - coffee shop open in interval. For more information, or to book, please contact Fiona on 01453 834793 or email: fiona@fionaeadieltd.co.uk

rmt.org.uk

Stories for Autumn... and the coming of Winter

Story lovers young and old are warmly invited to listen to Saturday mornings of stories at the Ruskin Mill fireside. Enchanting stories, enthralling tales and elaborate lies... wonder, wit, mystery and magic from around the world.

- Saturdays: 29 Oct; 19 Nov; 17 Dec 10.30 to 12.30, £4/£3 - coffee shop open in interval

Introduction to Storytelling

Inspiring 1-day workshop

Storyteller: Fiona Eadie www.fionaeadiestoryteller.com

An engaging, practical day for beginners wishing to tell stories to family and friends or as part of their work. Find the stories that engage you, learn useful storytelling techniques and develop confidence - with support and fun. In stunningly beautiful, peaceful valley setting: Horsley Mill, Nailsworth GL6 0PL

- Sunday 23rd October 2016 9.30 - 5.00 • £75

For more information, or to book, please contact Fiona: Tel: 01453 834793; Email: fiona@fionaeadieltd.co.uk

FILM LISTINGS



SUN 23RD

Lansdown Film Club Presents: Mustang

Lansdown Hall

7:30pm



THURS 13TH

The Hard Stop

Stroud Film Society @ Open House

7:30pm

COMEDY LISTINGS

LANSDOWN HALL

SUN 2ND

Groundswell Rising

38 Degrees and Frack Free Five Valleys presents a screening of 'Groundswell Rising - Protecting Our Children's Air and Water', followed by a discussion. The documentary gives voice to ordinary folks engaged in a David and Goliath struggle against Big Oil and Gas. We meet parents, scientists, doctors, farmers and individuals across the political spectrum decrying the energy extraction process known as fracking that puts profits over people. This provocative documentary tracks a grassroots movement exposing dangers to clean air, water, and civil rights. See the trailer at: vimeo.com/ondemand/groundswellrising. 7:30pm £4/£3concs

SUN 9TH

Lansdown Film Club Presents: The Brand New Testament

A 2015 fantasy dark comedy film written, produced, and directed by Jaco Van Dormael. It is a co-production between Belgium, France, and Luxembourg and was screened at the Directors' Fortnight section at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival. 7:30pm £6/£5concs/£2annual membership

SUN 16TH

Listening Post Presents: In Utero

A look at life in the womb and its lasting impact on human development, human behaviour and the state of the world. 7:30pm £7adv from Trading Post or email booking@listeningpost.org.uk

SUN 23RD

Lansdown Film Club Presents: Mustang

A 2015 internationally co-produced drama film directed by Turkish-French film director Deniz Gamze Ergüven. The film is set in a remote Turkish village and depicts the lives of five young orphaned sisters and challenges they face growing up as girls in a conservative society. The event that triggers the family backlash against the five sisters at the beginning of the film is based on Ergüven's personal life. 7:30pm £6/£5concs/£2annual membership

lansdownhall.org

STROUD FILM SOCIETY

@ OPEN HOUSE

THURS 13TH

The Hard Stop

"A Riot is the language of the unheard" (Luther King). This documentary focuses on the lives of Marcus Knox-Hooke and Kurtis Henville, who had been friends of Mark Duggan, shot by a policeman in August 2011.

This film explores a section of society largely unrepresented by mainstream media, but is sensitive and revealing. It tells of the redemptive efforts of these two young men, besides dealing with the disturbances following that shooting. Directed By: George Amoponash, cert 15. 7:30pm £40 for full year membership/£22 from Jan 2017. Contact Beth Cheyne on 01453 823551 for membership details and guest tickets, which cost £6 and must be booked in advance.

stroudfilmsociety.org.uk

NAILSWORTH FILM CLUB

@ THE ARKELL CENTRE

FRI 21ST

Marvellous

Winner of a BAFTA TV Award in 2015, Marvellous is the true story of Neil Baldwin, a gentle soul (brilliantly played by Toby Jones) who shrugs off his perceived limitations to fulfil the most unlikely ambitions including playing for his beloved Stoke City - despite having very few footballing skills. The film is like a modern fairy-tale, completely unbelievable, utterly heart-warming...except that it's a true story! Cert 15. Bar opens at 7:30pm/film starts at 8pm See website for membership details.

nailsworthfilmclub.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

FRI 14TH

Isosceles Presents: Probably the Best Comedy Songs in the World Ever, Maybe

This show does exactly what it says on the tin, possibly - a host of comedy songs covering a number of years by a host of great names... and a few surprises. "Masterful.... An evening of consistent laughter." Time Out 8pm £12/£10concs

SAT 15TH

Andrew Lawrence: Uncensored

As seen on Live at the Comedy Store and BBC's Live at The Apollo. Subversive and intelligent comedy from a double Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee who is about to record his fourth series

for BBC Radio 4. Direct from this year's Edinburgh Fringe, his tenth show in consecutive years, Andrew Lawrence brings you his most honest, fearless and uncompromising stand-up show to date. No joke is unacceptable. No subject off-limits. Absolutely no concessions made to political correctness. Stand-up without boundaries.

8pm £14/£12concs

SUN 30TH

The Last Baguette: Dracula - A Terrifying Comedy

Bram Stoker's classic Gothic horror, adapted for the stage in this brilliant comedy by international theatre company The Last Baguette, with 21 characters, 4

actors, 3 nationalities, and 2 very sharp fangs.

7:30pm £9adv/£11otd

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

SAT 1ST

Johnny Quiz Presents...

Straddling the pub quiz format, Johnny hitches his skirts and rummages for the truths of his questions, that are on the tips of your tongues. 8pm £5

sva.org.uk



Wycliffe

A Way of Life

Senior School Open Morning

Saturday 1st October 2016, 9.00am-12.00pm, for ages 13-18

To register your interest please email charlotte.phillips@wycliffe.co.uk

Prep School Open Morning

Saturday 1st October 2016, 10.00am-12.00pm, for ages 2-13

To register your interest please email prep@wycliffe.co.uk

Scholarship and Bursaries available - for information call 01453 820412

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Coming up in October...

OCT 2016
Book at the Box Office
01453 760900



Probably The Best Comedy Songs In The World Ever, Maybe

This show does exactly what it says on the tin, possibly – a host of comedy songs covering a number of years by a host of great names... and a few surprises. Songs from the like of : Stan Freeberg, Tom Lehrer, The Pythons, Pete and Dud, Lonnie Donegan, Bernard Cribbins, Richard Digance, Tom Paxton, The Goons, Kenneth Williams, Benny Hill, Noel Coward, George Formby, Flanders and Swan, Chris de Burgh, Alan Sherman, Robb Wilton, Noel Murphy etc.

Fri 14th Oct

8pm £12/£10concs

Andrew Lawrence

As seen on Live at the Comedy Store and BBC1's Live at The Apollo. Subversive and intelligent comedy from a double Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee who is about to record his fourth series for BBC Radio 4. Direct from this year's Edinburgh Fringe, his tenth show in consecutive years, Andrew Lawrence brings you his most honest, fearless and uncompromising stand-up show to date. No joke is unacceptable. No subject off-limits. Absolutely no concessions made to political correctness. Stand-up without boundaries.

Sat 15th Oct

8pm £14/£12concs



Jazz Rite of Spring

David Patrick's stunning jazz reinterpretation of The Rite of Spring. It is unique in featuring all of the main themes and orchestration of Stravinsky's masterwork, while seamlessly opening up into improvising sections featuring the members of the band, described as "a world-class ensemble completely at ease with each other and this incredibly complex music" by BroadwayBaby during their sell-out run in the Edinburgh Fringe 2014.

Sat 29th Oct

7pm £14/£12concs/£5u18's £5

Dracula – A Terrifying Comedy

Bram Stoker's classic Gothic horror, adapted for the stage in this brilliant comedy by international theatre company The Last Baguette, with 21 characters, 4 actors, 3 nationalities, and 2 very sharp fangs.

Sun 30th Oct

7:30pm £9adv/£11door

