

#23
FEB 2017

GOOD ON PAPER

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

goodonpaper.info



THE CHELTENHAM ILLUSTRATION AWARDS 2016

Tales of Nonsense

Saturday 25 February – Sunday 19 March 2017

The Museum in the Park, Stratford Park, Stroud GL5 4AF

www.museuminthepark.org.uk

Admission free, open Tuesday to Sunday

Illustrators' Fair on Saturday 4 March, 11am – 4pm



Illustration by Yasmin Mattich

 UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
at Cheltenham and Gloucester



Pittville Press



Museum in the Park

Stroud District (Cowle) Museum Service

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

We currently print over two thousand copies which is distributed to over sixty independent stockists in and around Stroud (full list available at goodonpaper.info/stockists), however with most editions now 'selling out' each month we are looking to increase our circulation and widen our reach!

Good On Paper is a part-time project which relies on contributing writers, advertising revenue and sponsorship to secure its ongoing future and development. If you (or know someone who might be) interested in either advertising or sponsoring the publication please do not hesitate to get in touch...

We would also like to extend a huge thanks to the artists who performed and the people who came to our party at the Prince Albert last month, together we raised over one thousand pounds for Stroud Women's Refuge and Rodborough Playgroup!

There are further GOP events in the works but until then turn the page and read on...

Alex and Adam

P.S Follow us on facebook and twitter for regular news and updates.



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Sound of the Sirens

Sat 18th Feb - 8pm £10adv/£12otd
Foot-stomping, crowd-engaging female folk/rock duo

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STAFF ONLY: OFF THE RECORD

BY LEAH GRANT

LAST YEAR, SVA'S SITE FESTIVAL KICKED OFF WITH AN EXHIBITION THAT TRULY MADE OUR SMALL TOWN BUZZ. OCCUPYING THE DISUSED FORMER HOME OF OUTDOOR RETAILER MILLETS, STAFF ONLY WAS CREATED AND CURATED BY A GROUP OF TWENTY-FIVE ARTISTS WORKING WITHIN STROUD'S CREATIVE INDUSTRIES. THE SECRECY THAT SURROUNDED THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE GROUP'S MEMBERS ADDED AN AIR OF MYSTERY THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE EXHIBITION'S POPULARITY, BUT IT WAS THE OBVIOUS TALENTS OF ITS ARTISTS THAT REALLY DREW IN THE CROWDS.

Running for just over a week, Staff Only covered every ounce of available wall space within the old Millets building, creating a palpable excitement that didn't just fill the exhibition space, but led to curious passers-by peering in through the shop's large windows. For the artists, the positive response to their first exhibition as a group was extremely encouraging: "The opening night was crazy," says Caroline Jaïne, contributing artist and organiser. "Within ten minutes of opening we'd sold four pieces...I think all in all, we sold about £6000 worth of art and of course a percentage then went to the SVA, so that's a brilliant thing."

Despite working together in a creative environment, Staff Only was a daunting prospect for many of the exhibition's artists, not least because it meant creating and sharing new work of their own: "What was nice about the Millets one was that it was the first time a lot of people had made their own work for a number of years," says Caroline. "People were out of practice, they were quite used to making art for other people, but not for themselves so it was a bit of a test to see how we'd get on and see how it worked... everyone was so daunted by it though, because we're obviously very picky about what we do

every day so getting your own art and showing it was really difficult."

Encouraged by the exhibition's success, the group are now planning to hold a second show, this time at Stroud's Meme Art Bar Café, a venue that differs greatly to the first on one rather obvious level: "...there's not much space compared to Millets so we decided to find a way of restricting people to a size. We've given everyone a vinyl record and we've told them that they have to either use the record itself or make artwork no bigger than the record and the sleeve - basically 12-inch square."

This unique idea taps into the resurging popularity of vinyl and the exhibition's new title recognises the group's artistic brief whilst also offering a small nod to the secretive nature of their day jobs: "...we think it's quite funny. There's a lot of secrecy and confidentiality around what we do...so we're now calling ourselves as a group Staff Only, but the exhibition is called Off the Record."

Though the concept is an interesting one, I can't help but wonder if a restricted brief will impact on the work produced for Off the Record especially given the creative freedom the group were afforded first time round, but Caroline is quick to reassure me: "...a lot of them are illustrators and designers and they like a brief. I think the Millets one they actually found quite difficult."

A couple of weeks after our interview, my worries are assuaged further as Caroline kindly offers me a sneak preview of a handful of pieces due for presentation at the upcoming exhibition. Though the images she sends seem disparate at first, there are several strong threads that hold these artworks together: their size, their shape, their quality, but - perhaps most importantly - their originality. From Kasia Coleman's acrylic and silver leaf on board to Ella Kenyon's lino cut to Caroline's own gloss and oil paint on vinyl, the materials utilised within these pieces, as well as the multitude of techniques employed

to create them, are so diverse that it highlights both the creative individuality of each member of the group and the subjective nature of artistic interpretation.

It would be foolish to consider Off the Record as a follow-up to its successful predecessor; much like the talented group of individuals who have created it, Off the Record does not live in the shadow of that which has gone before, but stands firmly on its own two feet. As the group continues to evolve, new members join for the first time, benefitting from the experience and kindness of the rest of the collective: "...we all love each other, we're a genuinely supportive group. If you'd said to me, work with a bunch of twenty/thirty artists I'd have imagined there would be fights, but it's the nicest place I've ever worked...everyone's so kind and relaxed and very, very laid back..."

Stroud's community is one that invites creative expression, supports artistic experimentation and nurtures those striving for an independent identity. The same could be said of Staff Only. This unique collective epitomises our town's values; cut open Stroud's creative heart and this is the artwork you'll find.

Off the Record runs from February 2nd to April 16th at Meme Art Bar Café in George Street, Stroud. Don't miss the launch party (a chance to meet the artists) on Feb 2nd and closing party (featuring Kasia Coleman's band The Greyhounds) on April 13th.

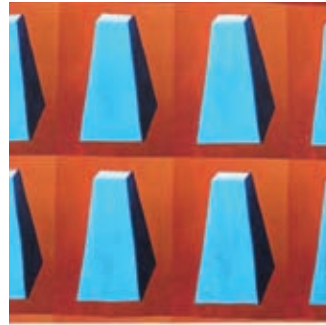
Leah Grant is a writer and photographer with a keen interest in art and literature. On her blog, [Bellyful of Art](#), you can find reviews of exhibitions, installations, dance performances and literary events as well as her own lovingly created pieces of short fiction [artbellyful.wordpress.com](#)



Caroline Jaine



Jon Easey



Lewis J Blake



Jess Orr



Lisette Lubeck



Oliver Goodson



Jessie James



Kasia Coleman



Matt Moran



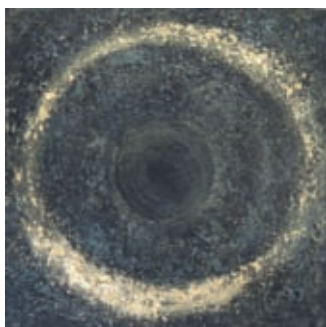
Nicky Preston



Ella Kenyon



Lara Robinson



Taryn Arnold



Traci Smith



Caroline Knaggs



Jodie Downes

Image by James Kriszyk



BY PAUL HARPER

THE DONNELLY SISTERS

IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS THE DONNELLY SISTERS BROUGHT A BIT OF LIFE AND ARTY GLAMOUR TO AN OTHERWISE UNLOVELY LITTLE CORNER OF STROUD. IN A LABYRINTHINE EMPTY SHOP IN BEDFORD STREET, THEY CREATED A POP UP GALLERY FEATURING WORK BY MOSTLY, THOUGH NOT EXCLUSIVELY, LOCALLY-BASED ARTISTS – AND THEY CARRIED IT OFF WITH A DEAL OF PANACHE AND APPARENT ASSURANCE.

The Donnelly Sisters is a new artist's agency representing contemporary artists working in various mediums and disciplines: sculptors, painters, photographers, designers, and live performers. The agency has been founded by sisters, Kirsty and Katy Donnelly. Kirsty and Katy haven't come from a gallery or artworld background, but they bring an impressive range of professional experience, as well as a good eye for interesting work and a flair for marketing. Kirsty was a TV producer for the BBC and Katy was a recruitment consultant. Both have found parallels in their previous careers with supporting and promoting artists. Kirsty describes them as being practiced at nurturing talent whilst looking out for opportunities.

Their aim, beyond the pop up gallery and further events planned for 2017, is to develop a bespoke service for individual artists, including mentoring support as well as specialist photographic services, a website and creative marketing plans tailored to individual needs. At this early stage in the project they are already representing a strong group of artists, including Abigail Fallis, Colin Glen, Beatrice Brown, Marcus Walters, Daniel Sparkes, Sam Marsh, James Kriszyk, Lorraine Robbins, Sean Heather, and Tamzin Malleison-Mason. There is no unifying aesthetic; rather the list is characterized by the singularity of the work – and the high quality.

The Bedford Street Gallery was seen as way of launching the agency whilst showcasing their artists and building on their already existing community of friends and collaborators in Stroud. They had two weeks to transform the building, hang the work and prepare to make a bit of a splash. The building offered three stories of maze like interconnected spaces. As it stood, it

was full of potential, but badly lit and incoherent. By the time they opened in November, they had created an intriguing and convivial gallery with a touch of cool DIY sophistication. The work was well chosen and presented – happily combining established artists with emergent, but inexperienced artists; the difficult to navigate space was opened up, drawing the visitor into its farthest corners. When Goodwill Evening came around the gallery had already become a lively hub and a welcome, freshly distinctive addition to the thriving art scene in the town. One of the artists, Beatrice Brown, was in regular residence, providing an on-demand, drop-in portrait-painting service.

Kirsty and Katy were able to draw on an expanding local network of family and friends to get the gallery set up and to run it over the following weeks – Keith Allen pitched in with some corrugated tin, a cocktail bar and a collection of tools to create a chic reception area...with a raw agricultural edge. The gallery became a home from home to Kirsty's daughter for the duration. As well as spending hours patiently making her own drawings whilst her mother got on with business, the 3-year old actually managed to sell some work!

The whole venture had a warmth and spirit of community to it, which reflects the value that Kirsty and Katy place on building their venture around relationships. They both came to Stroud, leaving behind successful careers and busy London lives in order to create a more connected way of life. They aspire to integrate work with family, friendships and community – this should provide a sound bedrock on which to grow their business. They already had friends here (Kirsty is Godmother to Tamzin Malleison-Mason's child)

and they have found themselves quite at home in a place that is open to those who have the energy and vision to make things happen.

As a launch event and as a key building block for their enterprise, the gallery has been a great success. Pulling off something like this is not easy. As well as their time and considerable flair, Kirsty and Katy have made a significant investment in the artists that they are working with. They bring a tremendous sense of fun to their enterprise, but they also have high ambitions for the agency and seriousness in their approach to working with artists.

In the long-term, plans for the future include creating studio space in which to develop emerging artists – which would compliment the existing provision in the town. Already in development for the coming year is a collaboration with local DJs Dubbu and Stroud Calling (who were behind the excellent Block Party at Stroud Fringe) on a multi-artform club event in a Bristol venue.

In a town that already has a rich cultural ecosystem it is exciting to see that there is room for more. The Donnelly Sisters are bringing something fresh and we can all look forward to seeing their project evolve.

For further information on the artists and regular updates visit donnellysisters.co.uk

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.



Lorraine Robbins



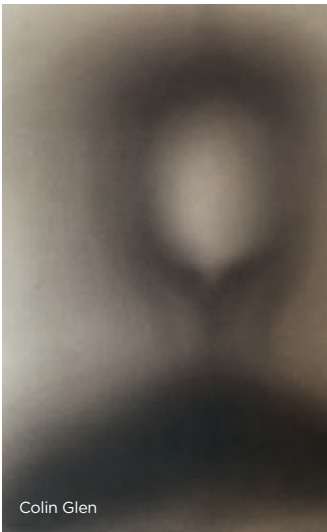
Daniel Sparkes



Abigail Fallis



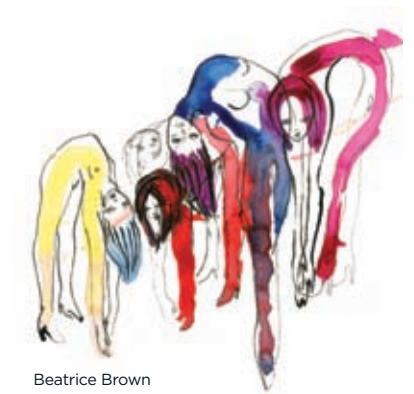
Sean Heather



Colin Glen



James Kriszyk



Beatrice Brown



Marcus Walters



Sam Marsh



Tamzin Malleson-Mason

ART LISTINGS

ART OF CLAY

WEDS 1ST – TUES 28TH

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

THE BLUE ROOMS GALLERY

WEDS 1ST – TUES 28TH

Tony Morris

Eclectic collection of mainly acrylic and watercolour paintings. Subjects range from religious commissions through local views of Stroud to sports and jazz portraits and Architectural illustrations. 1-4pm (closed Thurs and Sun).

GALLERY PANGOLIN

THURS 12TH JAN – FRI 3RD MAR

New Year, New Art

Colourful, exciting sculpture and works on paper to welcome the New Year and chase away the winter blues. Artists include Anthony Abrahams, Nick Bibby, Petur Bjarnason, Don Brown, Ralph Brown, Jon Buck, Michael Cooper, Terence Coventry, Geoffrey Dashwood, Steve Dilworth, Sue Freeborough, Jonathan Kingdon, Anita Mandl, Charlotte Mayer, Merete Rasmussen, Lorraine Robbins, Almuth Tebbenhoff and Deborah van der Beek. Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm/Sat 10am – 1pm

gallery-pangolin.com

GPC GALLERY

SUN 12TH FEB – SAT 4TH MAR

Diversity In Print

Seventeen contemporary printmakers from Bristol, Stroud, Cheltenham and Gloucester will be exhibiting their work in an exhibition that showcases the diverse nature of print making and their unique approaches to the art-form, from traditional copper plate etching and letterpress, through to screen prints from robot drawn images, and digital technology combined with traditional print processes. Most of the contributors are graduates and technical/teaching staff from the MA Multi-Disciplinary

Printmaking course at UWE in Bristol. Tues and Thurs 9:30am-12:30pm/Sat 10am-4pm.

gpchq.co.uk

THE LINE GALLERY

FRI 3RD – SAT 25TH

Alan Pocaro and Andrew Parkinson

Alan Pocaro is a printmaker from America. Pocaro builds up collages using his own screen prints and lithographs as a starting point. His work is modern with a renaissance twist (alanpocaro.com). Andrew Parkinson is an abstract painter based in Nottingham. Parkinson uses the grid to create repetitive, systematic, rhythmic paintings (andyparkinson.co.uk). Open Fri and Sat 11am-4pm/Private view Fri 3rd.

linegallery.co.uk

THE MALHOUSE BAR AND KITCHEN

TUES 31ST JAN – TUES 18TH APR

SIT Select presents Rosalind Wise

Large detailed colourful plant and garden paintings on canvas (rosalindwise.co.uk)

stroudmalthouse.com

MEME

THURS 2ND FEB – SUN 16TH APR

Staff Only: Off The Record

Ft. works by Caroline Jaine, Jon Easy, Lewis J Blake, Jess Orr, Jessie James, Kasia Coleman, Matt Moran, Nicky Preston, Ella Kenyon, Lara Robinson, Taryn Arnold, Traci Smith, Caroline Knaggs, Jodie Downes and more...See feature on page 4-5!

MUSEUM IN THE PARK

SUN 1ST JAN – SUN 19TH FEB

Two Make: Collaborative Project By Contemporary Makers

'Two Make' plots the shared output of ten pairs of established makers who have created new work together. The exhibition is part of a wider project that explores cooperation within craft communities of practice, particularly drawing on the role of regional craft guilds and associations in supporting crafts practitioners livelihoods. Curated by Miranda Leonard in partnership with Dr. Nicola

Thomas, University of Exeter and the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen the exhibition is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Arts Council and features works by Bella Peralta, Jenny Bicat, Matthew Tradgett, Sarah Pearson Cooke, Valerie Michael, Tim Blades, Karen Hansen, Rowan McOnegal, Susan Early, Sarah Cant, Derek Elliott, Faith Ristic, Trevor Lillistone, Su Trindle, Stephanie Kemp, Alison Dupernex, Nicholas Ozanne, Gemma Sangwine, Tessa Wakeling and Kristian Pettifor. Tues-Fri 10am-4pm/Sat-Sun 11am-4pm.

SAT 25TH FEB – SUN 19TH MAR

Tales of Nonsense: Cheltenham Illustration Awards 2016

This exhibition showcases work by contemporary illustrators who were shortlisted for the 2016 Cheltenham Illustration Awards. Organised by the University of Gloucestershire, the annual competition attracts entries

from around the world and is open to students as well as emerging and established professionals. The exhibition is accompanied by a full colour Annual and focuses on narrative and visual storytelling. Tues-Fri 10am-4pm/Sat 11am-4pm.

museuminthepark.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS ROOMS

TUES 7TH – SAT 11TH

Monique Oliver: Metamorphosis

Showcasing one of Monique's techniques exploiting the hydrodynamic instability of oil-based paints when applied in varying densities, specific ratios and at different times of radial spread. 10am – 5pm (closed on Sundays)

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IMAGINE-THERAPEUTIC-ARTS.CO.UK

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NEWBREWERYARTS.ORG.UK

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PEGASUSART.CO.UK

PREMA ARTS CENTRE
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RUSKIN MILL
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Abstractions

Alan Pocaro & Andrew Parkinson



Private View Friday 3rd February



3rd- 25th February

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TUES 21ST FEB – SAT 4TH MAR**Melancholia: The Art of Death**

This is a beautifully horrific unveiling of a common, yet socially suppressed, state of mind to fight the stigmas surrounding depression and suicide. (Warning – Explicit) 10am – 5pm (closed on Sundays)

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA**WEDS 1ST – TUES 28TH****Sally Hampson: The Weaving Shed**

Sally Hampson, an artist and weaver at 29 High Street bringing weaving workshops and events. Drop in or by appointment. Workshops in Feb: Sat 11th–Sun 12th Make Your Own Scarf Weekend Workshop 10am–3pm £90/ Sat 18th – Sun 19th Bespoke Weaving Workshop 10am–3pm £90.

FRI 3RD – SAT 25TH**UP This Way**

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

SAT 4TH/11TH/18TH/25TH**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

sva.org.uk

UPPER LOCK CAFE**SUN 29TH JAN – SUN 26TH FEB****Kenton Hodges**

Kenton is a self-taught photographer born and raised in Stroud. Inspired by architecture, the natural world and people's interaction with them, his work is exciting and varied. This collection of photographs combines his love of urban and natural landscape with a playful take on humanistic realism. A larger collection of his work can be viewed, and numbered prints purchased, at thirty5.co.uk. Mon–Sat 9am–4pm/Sun 10am–3pm

upperlockcafe.co.uk

PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY**WEDS 4TH JAN – SUN 12TH FEB****Sam Branton**

Working in softly applied coloured pencil and drawing influence from the landscapes of Claude Lorrain and Poussin, Sam Branton depicts neo-classical landscapes filled with unlikely

animal friendships. His latest series of drawings, *Deluge*, imagines the comical and confused moments that could happen during the aftermath of a great downpour.

WEDS 4TH JAN – SUN 12TH FEB**Hannah McVicar**

Hannah McVicar's floral illustrations are influenced by her childhood, growing up on an organic herb farm and helping her parents at all the major RHS flower shows. Her upbringing around plants and her passion for drawing became naturally entwined. Hannah has developed her style through years of practicing the technique of screenprinting.

WEDS 4TH JAN – SUN 12TH FEB**Emily Ketteringham**

In recent years Emily Ketteringham's work has strayed away from her trademark landscapes to include laser-cut flowers and trees – all reminiscent of her 70's childhood and a development of the ideas conceived when working on "Groovy Baby" as part of the Shaun in the City celebrations in partnership with Aardman.

MON 27TH FEB – SUN 9TH APR**Paul Fowler**

For his current project Paul Fowler introduces us to the unsung slaves of the artist's studio – the lay figure. A visitor to a renaissance studio might have witnessed a lay figure in use to help rehearse composition, the fall of light and the painting of drapery and clothing when the sitter was absent. Paul's most recent body of work begins to explore these characters as individuals, allowing their identity to flourish, posing poignant questions about the subject matter and, at times, giving the viewer a disquieting experience.

MON 27TH FEB – SUN 9TH APR**Hannah Dyson**

After moving to Stroud seven years ago artist Hannah Dyson fell in love with the Cotswold valleys. She explains "The landscape here feels exotic and it's easy to imagine an 'other' world still hiding in its hollows. Sometimes these elementals can be found in my drawings." Hannah joins us in late February as one of our new artists in residence.

MON 27TH FEB – SUN 9TH APR**Ken Eardley**

His background in textiles and love for colour and pattern is abundantly clear across Ken Eardley's ranges of functional ceramics. The work is hand-built using slabs of earthenware formed into cylinders that are then manipulated to make the vessels. Once fired they are then decorated using under glazes and hand cut stencils to create the bird, flower and elegant pattern motifs before a final firing using a layer of transparent glaze.

prema.org.uk

RUSKIN MILL HORSLEY**SAT 14TH JAN – TUES 14TH FEB****Simon Packard: Dark Beyond the Blue**

An interrogation of the material properties of graphite and litho ink, this site-specific work alludes to the history of the space.

FRI 17TH FEB – MON 6TH MAR**Francesca Clark-Stone**

An exhibition of evocative paintings by Frances Clark-Stone, exploring the transformatory nature of the night, particularly the long moonlit nights. The theme of the influence of the moon is carried forward from a previous collection of work, focusing on the influence of the lunar cycle on mood and emotion as well as the artist's relationship with a special place, the River Lune. Frances will be available to discuss her work on Saturday 18 February from 12 – 4pm

rmt.org

CORINIUM MUSEUM**CIRENCESTER****SUN 15TH JAN – SUN 5TH FEB****Cotswolds AONB: Arts Inspired By The Cotswolds**

This year sees the Cotswolds celebrate 50 years of being designated an

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The anniversary will culminate in a public art exhibition open to amateur and professional artists from within and beyond the Cotswolds. The exhibition will showcase art work in a variety of mediums and genres inspired by the Cotswolds landscape.

SAT 11TH – SUN 26TH**Sarah Smart and Christina Rice**

Sarah E J Smart loves to paint. She is an artist living in north Wiltshire. She draws inspiration from many sources. Whether a landscape or an abstract work, Sarah generally uses acrylic paints, and anything else that will help her to achieve a satisfying interpretation of a subject. Christina Rice is a Stroud based artist who finds her primary inspiration in the natural world. Her paintings and mixed media works reflect this. She is particularly interested in the overlooked elements of the landscape. Little worlds contained in hedgerows, the beauty and texture of bark, shadows and reflections all inform her work.

coriniummuseum.org

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THEATRE & DANCE LISTINGS

COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE

THURS 9TH

Blue Orange Theatre: Lady Chatterley's Lover

Obscenity only comes in when the mind despises and fears the body, and the body hates and resists the mind." The story follows Connie Reid, a cultured, independent thinker who marries the emotionally distant Sir Clifford Chatterley. Connie turns to the bed of the lowborn gamekeeper Mellors and experiences true passion and genuine intimacy for the first time. This however begins to lead to a dramatic love triangle and public scandal. Warning: Contains full frontal nudity and scenes of an explicit sexual nature...7:30pm £12

cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

STAR ANISE

FRI 24TH

Flamenco Flamenco

The amazing Cuffy Cuthbertson playing flamenco guitar with Jaime Cantera singing and playing percussion. Dancers Aneta Skut and Vicki Clifford. 8-11pm £8adults/£4children adv from Star Anise

staraniseartscafe.com

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

TUES 14TH - WEDS 15TH

HiJinks: Lovely Bugs and Ugly Slugs with Cheryl Parmenter

Two fun-packed days of drama play for 6 - 11 year olds. There will be high energy team games, acting, dancing, singing, dressing up and storytelling as you create mini plays in a day. Children need a packed lunch, drinks and a healthy snack. 8:45am - 4:45pm £23 a day/£40 for two days/Special Offer: 10% sibling discount

FRI 17TH

Fluffed Up

Out to Lunch, Jonny Fluffypunk, Crispin Thomas and John Bassett present their third annual spectacular 'dress to frill' love - themed Valentine's Cabaret (see literature listings for further info). 8pm £8.50adv/£10otd

THURS 23RD

Dot to Dot Drama Presents: Red Riding in the Hood by Paul Cockcroft

If you love traditional tales with a twist, then you'll love Red Riding in the Hood. Packed full of fun and

terrible jokes, it's too good to miss! The Stroud Schools' Drama festival takes us deep into the woods this February for a howlin' good time! 5pm £9.50/£6.50concs

FRI 24TH

Jive Dance

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

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

HORSLEY 3 IN 1

SAT 25TH - SUN 26TH

CirqOn the Seam: Betwixt and Between

See pages 12-13!

facebook.com/cirqontheseam

PAINSWICK CENTRE

FRI 24TH

Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company: Area8 - The Story of the Stroud District in World War 2

Based on the book written by Captain P R Symonds, Area8 is a lively, funny, poignant performance looking at the experiences of the Civil Defence Services and A.R.P in Stroud and Nailsworth. The performance takes in all aspects of life during wartime from rationing and nursing to what to do in an emergency and what the cry "Rallyho!" means...8pm £10/£7 from Stroud TIC

painswickcentre.com

FILM LISTINGS

LANSDOWN HALL

SUN 12TH

Lansdown Film Club: Sweet Bean

Japanese drama - the manager of a pancake stall finds himself confronted with an odd but sympathetic elderly woman looking for work. A taste of her homemade bean jelly convinces him to hire her, which starts a relationship that is about much more than just street food...8pm £6/£5concs/£2members

SUN 26TH

Lansdown Film Club: After Love

French/Belgian drama - after 15 years of marriage, a couple with two kids are about to divorce. Until the husband finds a new place to live, they have to cohabit and figure out how to share their belongings.8pm £6/£5concs/£2members

lansdownhall.org

OPEN HOUSE

THURS 16TH

Stroud Film Society: Rams

2 feuding brothers, Gummi (Sigurour Sigurjonsson) and Kiddi (Theodor Juliusson) each tend their own flocks of rare breed sheep. An outbreak of the deadly scrapie disease is found in Kiddi's flock. Both flocks should be slaughtered. The brothers have to settle their differences to save their flocks from slaughter, and themselves from ruin (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

THE ARKELL CENTRE NAILSWORTH

FRI 24TH

Nailsworth Film Club: Ex Machina

An unusual (for the Film Club!) excursion into sci-fi, this elegant and stylish film explores the theme of what it really means to be human and raises many philosophical questions along the way. A young programmer is selected by his company's reclusive

and brilliant CEO to participate in an experiment to evaluate the human qualities of a breath-taking humanoid, played by Alicia Vikander, the results of which take both men by surprise (Cert 15). Bar opens at 7:30pm/ film starts at 8pm See website for membership details.

nailsworthfilmclub.co.uk

THE PAINSWICK CENTRE

FRI 3RD

Wick Flix: Bridget Jones' Baby

Britain's most famous and much loved singleton, Bridget Jones, is back again in this third film in the unconventional rom-com series. This time Bridget (Renee Zellweger) finds herself unexpectedly expecting, but with a big problem - she is only fifty percent sure of who the father is! Bridget has to work out whether her ex, Mark Darcy (Colin Firth) or the suave American millionaire, Jack Quant (Patrick Dempsey) is the father of her little bundle of joy. As always some great lines that underscore the Britishness of Helen Fielding's unlikely heroine (Cert 15). 7:45pm £6 (includes one free drink!)

painswickcentre.com

STROUD FILM FESTIVAL

9th - 19th March 2017

w: stroudfilmfestival.org
 e: info@stroudfilmfestival.org
 f [stroudfilmfest](https://www.facebook.com/stroudfilmfest) t [@filmstroud](https://twitter.com/filmstroud)



CIRQON THE SEAM: BETWIXT AND BETWEEN

BY HELEN ELLIOTT-BOULT

[IN A GREY AND DRIZZLY DAY IN THE FIVE VALLEYS, I VISITED ALICE WATSON, A FREELANCE AERIAL PERFORMER, IN HER BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE HOME AMIDST THE TOWERING TREES IN HORSLEY. ONCE PARKED NEXT TO HER HORSE BOX, AND MINT-GREEN TEA IN RAINBOW MUG, IN HAND, WE HAD A CHAT ABOUT WHO ALICE IS, HER AMAZING AERIAL ART FORM AND HER EXCITING UPCOMING PREMIERE 'BETWIXT AND BETWEEN'.](#)

HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN YOUR ART FORM?

Well, I guess I'm a trapeze artist. There are lots of genres of circus performance which are coming out now; I've definitely been on the performance art side. The show that we're doing now is a contemporary circus, theatre and dance kind of show. In my solo performance and teaching I use a trapeze or simple silks, but for the new show we've developed a new piece of equipment, which is completely different. It uses trapezes, but is a whole different mechanism, a system linked with pulleys, where it goes up, down and over, so should be interesting to see.

WHAT ARE YOUR ART INFLUENCES?

I studied Art foundation, so I've always been interested in art and drama. I never went to circus school, so I'm not officially trained; I'm a self-taught artist. I think I have quite a

different approach and in some ways different skills, which is why Océane Sunniva Peillet, my partner and I work really well together, as she's so highly trained and I have a more creative approach because I haven't been so locked in to the structure of it. I think in my own work I've been very influenced by different movement techniques, such as Flamenco, movement in dance collectives and a lot of things that aren't tied down to one art form.

WHAT ABOUT MUSIC?

I've always found it hard to choose music as you have to conform to the piece, I find it difficult to fit in between the constraints, I find it much easier and more enjoyable if I'm just creating towards the process as I go. Now working with a composer is really amazing as they and the music evolve along side you, it's an integral part of the process for our show.

WHEN DID YOU DECIDE AERIAL ART WAS YOUR LOVE?

I was always really physical when I was younger, I did ballet until I was sixteen, so I've always been strong and flexible. I went to Uni and I spent a year or so doing no real physical activity and really noticed it. I'm really bad at academia and I felt that intellectual work you can do at any time in your life, but I decided I felt I needed to be moving my body. I'd volunteered at different circuses and decided that's the life I wanted, so

I started taking evening classes in Edinburgh, where I lived at the time. Later, I taught myself, alongside working my job as an English assistant in Spain, which also helped me learn my love of teaching.

WHO IS SKYLARK AND WHAT IS CIRQON THE SEAM?

Skylark is my personal project, I've done a few solo performances a year. These performances are often in corporate or commercial environments, which I don't enjoy as much. I prefer to focus on developing CirqOn the Seam and working in partnership with Océane, as it's more of a theatre concept and I'd prefer to focus on that kind of audience. Océane's a swinging and flying trapeze artist and has toured internationally; she has a very high level of skill and a clear understanding of rigging. Together we built up a body of material, ideas and concepts for the show. We managed to obtain Arts Council funding in May last year, which means we now have a director, movement director and composer, who all contributed hugely in the making of the story.

SO, TELL ME ABOUT THE PRODUCTION 'BETWIXT AND BETWEEN'...

(Alice decides to read the blurb, then explain)

'It has been a long & dangerous journey for June. She is not from here, and Marthe could help...if she knew how. Betwixt & Between is the story of



two women's struggle to relate across a cultural divide. We witness the development of a very human relationship with all the issues that miss-communication can create. CirqOn the Seam use physical theatre and aerial acrobatics on a bespoke piece of equipment to tell this story.'

There are two performers me and Océane. It's based a lot on cultural divides, we don't speak the same language and we don't have the same cultural references and we come upon each other within this contraption. So it's about how we start to try to communicate, what those dynamics create; the fear, the anger. Added to this is The Beast (our trapeze) playing with us. It's quite a dangerous contraption and very unpredictable. It's a lot to do with balance, we both have to be on it at the same time and if one of us makes a move it always affects the other, which is symbolic really. It's exciting because it came upon us, we didn't start with the idea - it evolved with us, but it seems quite relevant to what's going on in the world right now. It's great to feel like we're making relevant art.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE AN INTERESTING WARDROBE TOGETHER WITH STRIKING MAKE-UP, DOES THIS HELP WITH THE PERFORMANCE/CHARACTER?

In the new production we haven't completely sorted the costumes, we're still talking to the costume designer; we want them to be quite simple but with interesting touches. It definitely won't be as flamboyant as some of my solo

costumes. I get quite bad stage fright on my own and the face paints and costumes really help. But I've always loved really unusual clothes. There are a lot of things you can't really wear in everyday life and to make a beautiful visual image is really important.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR TEACHING AND THE SCHOOL OF LARKS CIRCUS AND ARTS SCHOOL...

We have a range of different classes, from family sessions to children's; we do a lot of home education classes as well and then some intensive workshops in specific skills, too. We've taught toddlers and 80 year olds! In June every year the school does an end of year show which is open to the public and involves all the students, last year the show was called 'The Tale of the Hulahula Bird'. We also run holiday sessions. At the moment we're trying to work out how to expand, as we have waiting lists for the courses. Last year we started an apprenticeship scheme, so young people can join the team with me and Claudia Weston, my partner. We've also started doing some workshops at Cirencester College - we received some grants and funding from Sports England, which we had to work really hard for, to show them we too, are a sport. They're going really well, which is exciting as it opens up a whole other world and an alternative to mainstream sports. I love teaching, it's a never ending inspiration and you never stop learning. I think the circus is an amazing tool for teaching people skills in confidence, fitness and different disciplines.

SO, WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

The next big thing is the premiere of our show on the 24th February, through Circomedia at St Paul's Church, in Bristol (see circomedia.com for tickets) and the 25th and 26th at the 3 In 1 Church, here in Horsley. After that we would like to take the show out on tour, we are really interested in rural touring in France and Spain, as Océane is French and I lived in Spain for so long. We'll also continue to work on the show and evolve the performance as it's a never-ending, always moving process...

Tickets for CirqOn the Seam's 'Betwixt and Between' at the 3 in 1 Church costs £7 in advance and £9 on the door, £5 for children and free for under 3's. Buy tickets online at brownpapertickets.com or call **0800 411 8881** There will be limited tickets on the door. The times of the shows are: Saturday 25th at 7pm and Sunday 26th at 4pm, see [facebook.com/cirqontheseam](https://www.facebook.com/cirqontheseam) for info. To find out more about School of Larks visit schooloflarks.com and skylarkaerial.com for further news and updates from Alice.

Helen Elliott-Boult is a fairly new Stroud dweller. She is an art enthusiast, short story dabbler, music and dance admirer and survivor of Media and Art school.

MUSIC MAKERS

BY DAN GUTHRIE

IN AND AROUND STROUD THERE ARE PEOPLE MAKING ALL TYPES OF UNIQUE, BESPOKE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, FROM INNOVATIVE GUITAR PICKUPS TO TRADITIONAL AFRICAN XYLOPHONES. HERE'S AN INTRODUCTION TO JUST A FEW OF THEM...



Ian Cormack-Hicks

Ian Cormack-Hicks first started building box guitars when he bought one made by a Swiss engineer while he was on holiday in Devon. He loved the look and feel of it, but felt like it was slightly too flawed for his liking, and so took it into his own hands to make something he truly wanted to play. He improved on the classic cigar box design by repurposing the neck from a professional electric guitar, and added an extra fourth string to the instrument, giving it an extra level of depth to the sound. Ian's box guitar fascination has developed into something more than just a hobby, as he develops guitars in all different styles and shapes. He uses anything from bolts to belt buckles to craft the bodies of his guitars, with each design a completely unique one-off, as well as encouraging new owners to "put their own individual stamps" on any of his creations. A selection of Ian's guitars are currently available to try out at Duffle Vintage on John Street.

ianguitartuition@gmail.com



Jamie Linwood

Jamie Linwood started his musical career as a drummer in a punk

band. He later completed an HND in Instrument technology then a PhD in Pitched Percussion. Jamie then spent three years in Africa and Indonesia, studying alongside skilled percussive instrument makers to learn about traditional and authentic instrument making. He draws on all of these experiences and knowledge from across the percussion spectrum to make all sorts of beautiful instruments. Some of his work includes bespoke drums for theatre group Oily Cart, to xylophones and marimbas for musical artists such as the deaf Scottish percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie. However, it is his work for Sudanese-Egyptian trance collective Rango that draws most from his time in Africa. The 'rango', that the group is named after, is a traditional Sudanese instrument, thought to have been lost in time. However, Linwood, who had thoroughly researched xylophones during his time in Central Africa, was able to create and build two new rangos, from scratch, for the band to use.

jamielinwood.co.uk



Creag and Morwenna Louttit-Vermaat

Creag and Morwenna first met in Australia, and bonded over a shared passion for music. They spent several years travelling around the world playing music, from Kilimanjaro to the Philippines, before deciding to settle in Nailsworth. Creag is a self-taught guitar player with a passion for woodwork, and Morwenna has studied the harp since the age of thirteen, so they decided to combine the elements of their two lives into their new careers.

Their business, Hands on Harps, consists of two aspects. Firstly, they make the harps in their Nailsworth workshop, hand carving them - though they are not overly ornate which makes them more affordable. Secondly, they teach people how to play. Pupils can rent a harp from Creag and Morwenna and instruction is given through a series of online video lessons presented by Morwenna and

focusing on her hands. The learner can access the lessons at their own convenience.

handsonharps.com



Charlie Orme

Charlie Orme started off his life in software development, but his true passion was always music. One day, looking around on the internet whilst bored at work, he found a seven day electric guitar making course in Scotland run by Mark Bailey, and decided to try it out. After only a week learning the ropes of being a luthier, he decided to go to London Metropolitan University to do a four year course in guitar making. Charlie has been making guitars in Nailsworth since June, and exists only via word of mouth. When I had the chance to speak to him, he told me that he prefers to make acoustic guitars, which take about six weeks, as he prefers the experimental process of choosing the wood and shaping it, as well as the therapeutic nature of carving the guitar out of wood using only hand tools.

charlieormefx@gmail.com



Pete Roe

Pete Roe is a former piano player for Laura Marling as well as an accomplished professional guitarist and song writer. Pete found that in performances when he was playing support slots he was struggling to create a bigger sound. After the second day of a tour where he was supporting a much louder band he felt particularly frustrated and headed to Maplins for some supplies. Back in his dressing room, after fiddling around with a tiny magnet and a lot of wire, he created a primitive, early prototype of the Submarine pickup. The basic

concept of the Submarine is that it slips covertly under guitar strings to allow you to pitch them either an octave higher or lower, creating the effect of two different sounds coming from the same guitar at the same time. After Pete had received a bulk payment of royalties from various songs he'd worked on, he decided to spend eighteen months developing and experimenting to turn the Submarine into the sleek metal device that it is today. Pete describes himself as somewhat of a "guitar purist", preferring to use as few pedals and effects as possible to enhance his fingerstyle technique, nevertheless he finds the Submarine an essential part of his day-to-day music-making gear.

submarinepickup.com



Alan Tocknell

Alan Tocknell designs and builds bespoke drums from his studio in Ebley. He makes drums in sizes ranging from six to twenty six inches, using specific types of construction materials and finishes to tailor the sounds of the drums to the drummer's specifications. Alan purposely constructs his drum shells with a vertical birch grain, to improve the quality of the sound, and combines the birch with other woods such as maple and mahogany to give the drums more depth. Alan's drum shells come in a variety of finishes, from traditional wood finishes such as walnut and ash, to more eye catching designs like strawberry swirl and blue poplar burr. He customises all of them himself, supplying bands such as the Buzzcocks with his instruments, from single snares to seven piece drum kits.

alantocknell-drums.com

Dan Guthrie is an aspiring teenage journalist with a passion for music, who lives in Stroud. He can be found on twitter at @danylkurtbeng, and writes a blog called medium.com/black-boy-in-da-burbs

MUSIC LISTINGS

ALE HOUSE

THURS 2ND/THURS 23RD

The Human Jukebox

The Ale House's musical polymaths Aron Attwood and The Velvet Duke play your requests. 8:30pm Free

FRI 3RD

The Bob Porter Project

Americana band from Stroud playing a fine blend of mellow Alt Country and gritty Roots Rock. 8:30pm Free

THURS 9TH

The Reverend Stretch

Stroud's own dark lord of country playing classic acoustic Americana - now with added cheerful tunes! 8:30pm Free

SAT 11TH

Shooting the Crow

Stomping old-time, bluegrass and Americana trio - guitar, double-bass, mandolin and superb harmonies. 8:30pm Free

THURS 16TH

The Dave Ayre Jazz Trio

World class Jazz from Ale House resident bassist Dave Ayre. 8:30pm Free

FRI 17TH

So What?

Expect a lively set of new wave, funk, & soul. 8:30pm Free

FRI 24TH

Slimline Shufflers

The Slimline Shufflers play a New Orleans style of rhythm'n'blues pioneered by such luminaries as Professor Longhair, James Booker & Dr. John. Led by Eric Arthur, Bristol's finest exponent of this piano style. 8:30pm Free

BAR GREYHOUND

SAT 11TH

Notorious

It's a new year and the new improved Notorious is back! Taking up the residency at Bar Greyhound DJ's Dubbu and Will Mendoza will be bringing you the best HipHop and R'n'B from the last couple of decades all played on original vinyl records. They plan to go heavier than normal on the hiphop this month but will still have some R'n'B bangers to bump to...8pm Free

BLACK BOOK CAFÉ

SAT 25TH

Cas Greenfield and Dominic James: Words and Music

Local musician Cas Greenfield teams up with poet Dominic James

(launching his new book) and a number of friends including Nick Cameron-Jones, Sandra Ireland, Clare Benjamin, Paul Deaton & Mike Cooling for an evening of words and music...7:30pm £3

blackbookcafe.com

THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

FRI 3RD

Mr. Markos Outer Space Emporium

Live electronic space rock n beats n bleeps. Featuring guest vocalists! 8:30pm Free

FRI 10TH

The Ragged Edge Soul Band

Upbeat music from a superb six piece band playing a wide variety of their own music and rearranged covers from soul to blues to jazz contemporary dance tracks. 8:30pm Free

THURS 16TH

Open Mic Night with the Rev. Stretch

All abilities welcome. First come ... first play so please arrive early! 8pm Free

FRI 17TH

The Narco Lounge Combo

Bristol's most handsome band, Narco Lounge Combo construct a Lynchian soundscape of noirish jazz, uneasy listening and space-age exotica. Brushed drums, tremolo guitars and voodoo marimbas create spiked cocktails in a nightclub where it is forever after hours...8:30pm Free

FRI 24TH

The Bob Porter Project Live

A fine blend of mellow Alt Country and gritty Roots Rock. 8:30pm Free

SAT 25TH

The Return of the Crooked Stylus

More love in the area: Darius presents an evening of grooves to warm your heart's cockles. 8pm Free

crownandsceptrestroud.com

THE GOLDEN FLEECE

SAT 4TH

Los Gusanos

Formerly THB Jazz Trio, Los Gusanos return to the Golden Fleece following hugely popular performance last year. Expect hot swinging jazz & blues with latin flavours - not to be missed! 8:30pm Free

SAT 11TH

The Vipers

A trio of superb jazz mercenaries - some of the South West's finest exponents of the swing and blues styles. 8:30pm Free

SAT 18TH

Dusk brothers

Rustic, driving blues played on homemade instruments and foot-operated percussion - a truly inventive and original duo. 8:30pm Free

SAT 25TH

Swing from Paris

Stylish gypsy jazz & vintage swing - the sounds of a chic Parisian café and the French jazz of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. 8:30pm Free

facebook.com/goldenfleecebar

THE PRINCE ALBERT

THURS 2ND

Open Mic

All welcome to the Alberts irregular friendly bring and share session. Help on hand to get you set up...8:30pm Free

SAT 4TH

Errols Kitchen

Seasoned Bristol quartet play homage to the Meters, Grant Green and Lou Donaldson. If you don't know these names but you love music and dancing then come and find out. Dj set. 8:30pm Free

THURS 9TH

Soccer96

The synth and drum boys are back... Duo Danalogue (Dan Leavers) and Betamax (Max Hallett) are most famously known as two thirds of The Comet is Coming (as well as a storming show here last autumn) and are back playing live electronics with a bit of afro polyrhythmic flavour. 8:30pm Free

MON 13TH

9Bach

9Bach were formed by Welsh singer/songwriter and Gruff Rhys collaborator Lisa Jen and English guitarist Martin Hoyland. With their unmistakable sound of Welsh language vocals shimmering alongside swamp guitar, harp as well as rhythm and a subtle use of technology they have been widely credited with giving a new voice to Welsh song. It's an absolute dream for the PA to host them here (they have sold out the Union Chapel and every venue they play in Wales.) £12 8pm

THURS 16TH

Fara

Brings together four emerging musicians at the forefront of today's young Scottish folk scene, Jennifer Austin, Kristan Harvey, Jeana Leslie and Catriona Price's three fiddles and a piano, to produce a fiery sound rooted strongly in their upbringing among the music of Orkney. With

vibrant arrangements full of rich harmonies, energetic fiddle playing and driving piano, Fara's show is sure to be an exciting one. 8:30pm Free

SAT 18TH

Sam Green and the Midnight Heist

A band from the southwest of England who play swamp infested Blues, Folk, Roots Rock music. This high energy 4 piece whip up a storm with stompin' beats, dog house bass and growlin' slide guitars. Throw in wailin' harmonicas and 4 howlin' voices and you have yourself a modern day juke joint sound; guaranteed to bring any old house down. 8:30pm Free

WEDS 22ND

Alcuna Wilds

A British/Dutch band based in the Netherlands. The band creates ambient trip hop music, combining atmospheric soundscapes, driving beats and strong melodic riffs, with rich, melancholic vocals. 8:30pm Free

THURS 23RD

Lukas Drinkwater and Tobias Ben Jacob

Tobias and Lukas are a formidable duo - the former having played with Philip Henry and Hannah Martin and the latter has performing with the likes of 3 Daft Monkeys, Tankus the Henge and currently the award winning duo he has with Ange Hardy. Tonight however we have the two as the PA first meet them two years ago as the soulful brooding performers of terrific songs such as 'Burning Low' and Tobias's new album 'This Polyphonic Life'. 8:30pm Free

FRI 24TH

Justin and the Argonauts

The recently formed "Justin and the Argonauts" are a fresh four piece ensemble from Rochester. Comprised of violin, accordion, guitar and tuba they play an eclectic blend and fast paced tango, classical and out there pop as you've never heard it before...8:30pm Free

SAT 25TH

The Screaming Dead, Chinese Burn and Burnout13

Cheltenham's original horror punks the Screaming Dead play the five valleys with our own Stroud punkers Chinese Burn. Introducing from Taunton Burnout13 who although still in their early teens have secured a gig at this year's Glastonbury. An evening of good old fashioned screechers from three great bands. 8:30pm Free

SUN 26TH

The Hut People

Taking the audience on a musical journey around the World, English instrumental duo The Hut People (Sam Pirt and Gary Hammond) mix global rhythms with folk tunes from Quebec

to Spain, Scandinavia to Sussex and everywhere in between. Expect feel-good dancing tunes, audience participation, step dancing, Quebécois foot-percussion (whilst playing the accordion!) and humour aplenty. 8:30pm £8

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

ST LAURENCE CHURCH

FRI 10TH

Philippa Hanna and the Beacon Gospel Choir

Stroud Sacred Music Festival in conjunction with Ignition Gloucestershire presents one of the biggest names in UK Gospel music, acclaimed singer-songwriter Philippa Hanna in concert with Gloucestershire's own Beacon Gospel Choir. 7pm £12/£8concs in adv from philippahannastroud.eventbrite.com and Scrollaters Bookshop or £14otd/£10concs

ignitionglos.com

STROUD BREWERY

SAT 4TH

Ethenia

Ethenia are an acoustic duo, their sound can be likened to Fleetwood Mac, The Beautiful South and their chemistry to The Civil Wars. 7:30pm Free

SAT 11TH

The Tristan Watson and Pasty Gamble Jazz Trio

An exciting new collaboration for the two musicians playing a collection of Jazz standards and Latin numbers in an intimate and stripped down setting. 7:30pm Free

SAT 18TH

Danadra

A fusion of semi acoustic guitar and dynamic percussion creating a unique and distinctive mix of bluesy/ Latin/ Jazz /indie original material. 7:30pm Free

SAT 25TH

Bob Porter Project

An Americana guitar band from Stroud. If you like Alt Country & Roots Rock it's a must see. 7:30pm Free

stroudbrewery.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

SAT 4TH

Stroud Ceilidh: Bedlam

Bedlam Ceilidh Band, a group of four blend, British, French and self-penned tunes with driving rhythms and powerful harmonies to create their unique and highly inspiring sound. 8pm £11 adv/£10concs/£12otd/£11concs/£5child

SUN 5TH

European Chamber Orchestra with Angela Hewitt

One of the World's leading pianists, Angela Hewitt, regularly appears

in recital and with major orchestras around the world. Programme: Elgar, Mozart, Toby Young (played by the Gloucester Academy Strings) and Haydn. 7pm £19/£16concs/£18s £5

WEDS 8TH JAN

Vaisey and Ian Harvey

Jan and Ian perform a variety of songs from contemporary and traditional to easy listening with Ian accompanying Jan's vocals on guitar. Influences range from James Taylor to Alison Krauss and more!

7.30pm Free.

FRI 10TH

The Goat Roper Rodeo Band

With an upright bass, two old guitars and a bucketful of aching harmony, The Goat Roper Rodeo Band create the sound of 'Country Blues' and foot stompin' rock 'n' roll along the way.

8pm £10adv/£12otd

SAT 11TH

Politics of the Heart with Spiro, Jennifer Maidman and Hattie Briggs

Stroud's Politics Kitchen presents a musical experience for a new politics - the politics of the heart. With prominent speakers, and music from sensational Bristol-based Spiro - entrancing archetypal World Music speaking directly to the soul. If there were a 'Stroud Sound', Spiro would surely be it. With special guests Jennifer Maidman (ex Penguin Café Orchestra) and Hattie Briggs (BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award Nominee 2014). 7.30pm £15/£9concs

SUN 12TH

Glos Youth Wind Orchestra and Glos Symphonic Wind Orchestra present: Hitchhikers Guide to the Wind Band

A family fun concert taking you on a journey around the wind band, with over 80 of the county's finest young musicians performing. A concert to brighten those dark February days.

3pm £7/£5concs/£12's free

THURS 16TH

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 (including Tea & Biscuits).

SAT 18TH

Sound of the Sirens

Sound of the Sirens bring their new album tour to Stroud! Abbe Martin and Hannah Wood comprise the foot stomping female folk/rock duo that, will steal your attention and take you on a musical rollercoaster. Strap yourselves in! 8pm £10adv/£12otd

SUN 19TH

Flowers Brass Band

The No 1 band in the West of England and currently ranked No6 in the World! Under conductor

Paul Holland they bring a fresh and exciting experience to their shows. The Subscription Rooms are pleased to announce them as their opening band of the 2017 season. 3pm £10/£8concs/£5Under16's/Special Offer: 5 concerts for the price of 4 £40/32concs/£20U16s

SAT 25TH

Big Band Extravaganza

GYJO (Glos. Youth Jazz Orchestra) and OYBB (Oxfordshire Youth Big Band) in their first joint concert of Big Band, playing music that spans the '30s to modern contemporary jazz. A must see concert! 7.30pm £7.50/£5concs/£20family

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

WEDS 1ST/8TH/15TH/22ND

Funk-In Sessions

Come down each and every Wednesday night and immerse yourself in some live funk! Whether you're a seasoned veteran of the funk or whether you just feel like jamming for the hell of it, the funk-in-sessions guys will make you feel welcome! 8pm Free (John Street)

FRI 3RD/10TH/17TH/24TH

John Street Social Club

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...7pm £1 membership on the door

THURS 9TH

Stroud Jazz Sessions with Craig Crofton

February's monthly jazz hub features special guest Craig Crofton on sax, and a fantastically energetic jazz jam for all players and singers, aficonados and improvers, to participate in. All are welcome to listen or perform! £3musicians£5otd 8:30pm

sva.org.uk

CHRIST CHURCH NAILSWORTH

SUN 12TH

Tea-time Concert with the Bristol Ensemble

The Bristol Ensemble's musicians perform Schubert's E flat piano trio, a work full of shifting moods and unexpected twists and turns. Its slow second movement features one of the composer's most haunting melodies, contrasted with a dance-like Scherzo and a brighter finale. In this tea-time concert, Schubert's work is paired with Haydn's 'Gypsy rondo' trio, which gets its name from its spirited Hungarian-style final movement. It features the lively melodies of verbunkos (recruiting) dances which were used by Romany bands of the 18th century Austrian hussars. The violin part of the trio includes virtuosic 'gypsy' effects such as left hand pizzicato. 3pm £10otd

bristolensemble.com

RUSKIN MILL HORSLEY

FRI 3RD

Ange Hardy and Lukas Drinkwater

BBC Radio 2 Folk Award-nominated Ange Hardy and Lukas Drinkwater have been stunning audiences all over the country and have rapidly gained a reputation as a phenomenon on the folk music circuit. The duo's magical musical interplay weaves its way into compelling arrangements of their own and traditional songs. 8pm £8/£6concs

rmt.org

THE VAULT NAILSWORTH

SUN 5TH

Los Gusanos

Formerly THB Jazz Trio, Los Gusanos return. Expect hot swinging jazz & blues with latin flavours.2:30pm Free

SUN 12TH

Girl and a Guitar

Expect a stripped back reworking of some of your favourite tunes, with percussive beats and intricate guitar playing as well as a few surprises up her sleeve. 2:30pm Free

TUES 14TH

Valentines Night

Jazz Singer Jeanne Marlow singing with keyboard player John Broomhall and Tristan Watson on guitar. 7:30pm Free

SUN 19TH

Bob Porter Trio

Americana band from Stroud playing a fine blend of mellow Alt Country and gritty Roots Rock. 2:30pm Free

SUN 26TH

Lewis Clark duo

Bringing his excellent blues and folk influenced songs to Nailsworth for a laid-back Sunday session. 2:30pm Free

thevaultnailsworth.co.uk

PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

SAT 11TH

Gregory Jolivet and Anne Niepold

Anne Niepold (Belgium) is a force of nature - brash, adventurous and phenomenally skilled, she takes the humble accordion into a startling new dimension. Gregory Jolivet (France) is a familiar face at Prema, having performed there a number of times. He is simply one of the best hurdy-gurdy players in the world - funky, melodic, poly-rhythmic and effortlessly tuneful. £12/£9concs/£10friends/£8concs/£15otd

prema.org.uk

CROWN & SCEPTRE EVENTS: FEBRUARY

- WEDNESDAY 1ST** Up the Workers - Chicken & Chips in a basket
Booking essential
- FRIDAY 3RD** Mr Marko's Space Emporium
Live electronic space rock n beats n bleeps
Featuring guest vocalists
- SATURDAY 4TH** England v France, 6 Nations Rugby International
Live - Kick off 4.45pm
- FRIDAY 10TH** The Ragged Edge Soul Band
Fun time party band
- SATURDAY 11TH** Wales v England 6 Nations Rugby International
Live - Kick off 4.45pm
- THURSDAY 16TH** Open Mic Night, with the Rev. Stretch
from 8pm - all welcome
- FRIDAY 17TH** The Narco Lounge Combo
Bristol's most handsome band - noirish jazz,
uneasy listening and space-age exotica
- WEDNESDAY 22ND** The Curry Lounge
Booking essential
- FRIDAY 24TH** The Bob Porter Project
A fine blend of mellow alt-country &
gritty roots rock
- SATURDAY 25TH** The Return of the Crooked Stylus
More love in the area: Darius presents an evening
of grooves to warm your heart's cockles.
From 8 - midnight, free entry
- MONDAY 27TH** Meat free Monday - veggie & vegan delights
with Erin Baker. Booking essential

WWW.CROWNANDSCEPTRESTROUD.COM 01453 762588

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STROUD

www.theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

9BACH

MON
13TH
FEB 8PM

TICKETS £12 IN ADVANCE
FROM SEETICKETS.COM

"9BACH'S MUSIC IS RIPPED THROUGH WITH
TRANSCENDENCE; A BROODING MELANCHOLY AS
MUCH AS A GOSSAMER DREAMINESS."

THE LINE OF BEST FIT

facebook.com/ThePrinceAlbertStroud



Join the professional musicians of Bristol Ensemble for
our Spring series of chamber music concerts

Christ Church, Newmarket Road, Nailsworth

Sunday 12 February at 3pm

Schubert Piano Trio in E flat Op.100

Haydn Piano Trio No.39 'Gypsy Rondo'

Sunday 12 March at 3pm

Beethoven Septet in E flat major, Op.20

Sunday 23 April at 3pm

With pianist Viv McLean

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5

(arrangement for string quintet and piano)

TICKETS £10 on the door

For programme details visit www.bristolensemble.com

A poster for a live jazz event. The background is a dark blue with a pattern of thin white lines forming a grid or geometric shapes. A large, 3D-rendered gold heart is the central focus. In the top left, the text 'FEB 14 2017' is displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the heart, there's a circular area with a gold glitter texture. At the bottom, the text 'LIVE JAZZ COCKTAILS & SHARING PLATES' is written in a light, white, sans-serif font. On the far right, it says 'CELEBRATING LOVE IN STYLE' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, it reads 'THE VAULT NAILSWORTH WWW.THEVAULTNAILSWORTH.CO.UK' and at the bottom right, 'TO BOOK CALL 01453833666'.

TOM AND NIMUE BROWN: HOPELESS MAINE

Tom and Nimue Brown have been working together for about a decade. This is a creative partnership that turned into a marriage, and that continues to result in books and other curious offspring. Their story started on opposite sides of an ocean and now finds itself alive and well, and living in Stroud, Gloucestershire. The joint project that brought the Browns together is *Hopeless Maine* - a graphic novel series set on a co-created island, inspired by a shared love of all things strange, steampunk, gothic and moody, as well as ongoing love affairs with landscapes and wildlife. Working at the same table, sharing the same coffee maker, being trampled by the same cat has led to greater depths of collaboration, with non-fiction titles, novels, and an illustrated novella with *Professor Elemental*. Aside from the bookish joint projects, Tom and Nimue do workshops together, lead bad poetry slams, sing radically political folk songs and turn up wearing hats in places no one expects hats to be... (the events, not the bodily location)

"The *Hopeless, Maine* series focuses on the life and times of a young orphaned girl, Salamandra, and her fellow inhabitants of the desolate titular isle. This is a world filled with shadows and shades, an eerie and often desolate place despite glimpses of the profusely detailed architecture and rich language uttered in hushed, even strangled tones by its denizens. And yet it's also home to bright hope and the warmth of undying fellowship, a land that offers rare delights to those who visit it, whether in the flesh...or in spirit, as eager readers." Bill Baker

Hopeless Maine is available now from Stroud Bookshop and on-line at the bookdepository.com. Visit hopelessmaine.com for further info.







JOANNA CAMPBELL

BY KATE MONTGOMERY

TO SAY THAT JOANNA CAMPBELL IS AN INSPIRATIONAL WRITER WOULD PROBABLY BE OVERLY EFFUSIVE. SO I WON'T. I'LL JUST TELL YOU THAT IN THE EIGHT YEARS SHE'S BEEN A FULL TIME WRITER, SHE HAS WRITTEN THREE NOVELS, HAD ONE PUBLISHED AND LONG-LISTED FOR THE GUARDIAN'S NOT THE BOOKER PRIZE, HAD A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES PUBLISHED TO CRITICAL ACCLAIM, BEEN SHORTLISTED FOR TEN AWARDS AND WON TWO. I'M EXHAUSTED JUST RESEARCHING IT ALL. BUT INSTEAD OF A SCARY EGO DRIVEN CAREER WRITER I EXPECT TO WALK INTO THE CAFE ON A COLD JANUARY MORNING, THE WOMAN I MEET IS WARM, FUNNY AND (YES I'M GOING FOR IT) INSPIRATIONAL.

Joanna has worn a few careers throughout her life. In the 1980's she cut quite the figure as a financial advisor in some rather captivating shoulder pads, but has also worked in retail, as a proof reader and as a secretary. All these jobs had one thing in common, they were wholly unsuitable for someone who is utterly driven by their imagination. A trait which has always been at the forefront of Joanna's character.

"Once at University, I was with a group of friends after an exam. As we sat on the grass, chatting in the sunshine one of them nudged me and said 'what about you Joanna?', to which I replied 'I wonder what an ant thinks about?' Queue laughter from my friends who had been talking about the exam we had just been through, and were unrealistically assuming that I was thinking about the same thing."

It's this abundant inventiveness that drives Joanna's writing practice. Getting up at 5am to write, Joanna doesn't use online prompts or a group to inspire her work. It all comes from this incredible imagination. So how does this innate ability lead to becoming such an accomplished writer? "I started writing short stories initially

for women's magazines and then I realised that I could enter short story competitions, and those are useful as they give a good idea about whether you're on the right track. If you get shortlisted, you know that somebody out there has appreciated your writing. So that gives you confidence. And I kept on writing them and sending them out to magazines, some literary, some commercial, and competitions. One of the competitions I sent a story to was a website called Ink Tears who existed purely to run the competitions and publish them online. But then Anthony Howcroft, who runs Ink Tears, decided he wanted to publish the stories in collections. He wanted to publish them in hardback, so they were almost like calling cards for the future, with a view to some of them being turned into films one day."

When Anthony approached Joanna for her stories, she gathered a selection which had done well in other prizes and sent them off. "He said yes! It took four years after that for the collection to come out. I had to be very patient. But seeing them now altogether, I'm so proud of it. Seeing your work anywhere is a thrill, but seeing these stories (in this format) is just wonderful."

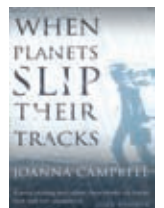
Joanna is a big advocate of short stories. "It's such a shame that short stories don't seem to capture people, and I've never understood that as I love short stories. They're so comforting! You can think 'well I've got ten minutes I can sit down and read the whole thing', whatever length of time you have, there's a short story to fit. I have always loved them, all my life. It's a snapshot, the author William Trevor called it 'the art of the glimpse' it really is a glimpse into someone's life. It's a very intense thing indeed."

Joanna's collection really is intense, but with the most refined and delicate touch. It is varied and beautiful in its depiction of human interaction. She has an innate ability to catch the nuances and interactions between character and environment that most people miss until everything is slowed down to one word at a time.

"Although I love writing short stories, I feel that I should concentrate my time on writing novels for the time being. I've written two novels and am writing a third at the moment. I've learnt so much with each novel I've written, where my faults lie with my writing, what works and what doesn't. I'm trying to remember all that with the latest one." However, keeping the commercial viability of a novel in mind can be a blessing and a curse. "If I've got my mind on that I feel that I'm not fully immersed in the story." This immersion of the imagination is what drives Joanna's storytelling and makes her work so engaging. It's a fine balance to master, discerning readers will tire easily of stories which pack little heartfelt punch. But few readers find work which is unpublished.

It's safe to say that I left this interview as a true fan of Joanna's work and, let's be frank, of Joanna herself. While the rest of the world is burning with scorn and anger and bullying, why not ponder what an ant thinks? Why not rest gently against the shoulder of a short story for ten minutes, rather than click on another article which tells you just how completely awful another politician is? Seek refuge in your imagination and if yours is too tired, seek out another's. I can put you in touch with a marvellous local author who can help.

Joanna's collection of prize winning stories *When Planets Slip Their Tracks*, published by Ink Tears (inktears.com) is available now. Visit joanna-campbell.com for further information.



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

LITERATURE LISTINGS

ALE HOUSE

WEDS 1ST/8TH/15TH/22ND

Rick Vick: Writing Group

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

HAWKWOOD COLLEGE

THURS 16TH

Last Tales/New Stories: Narratives of the Forgotten Tongue with Kelvin Hall

Alongside rational and scientific modes of thought, contemporary women and men continue to hear the voices of trees, to be consoled by birds who visit them when bereaved, and even shapeshift into other creatures. The narratives Kelvin offers here record many such happenings. They have been collected during ten years of research conversations, and evoke a rhapsodic and intimate exchange with the other-than-human world. They will be delivered in the age-old medium of oral storytelling by author, therapist and storyteller Kelvin Hall. 8pm £8/£6concs

hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

THE LITTLE VIC

SUN 26TH

Stroud Out Loud!

Come and join in at the lovely new venue for Stroud's monthly spoken word showcase. Celebrate creative free speech with this entertaining bardic circle for all. 7pm Free

firesprings.org.uk

MUSEUM IN THE PARK

SUN 5TH

Inspire Tales: Storytelling Workshop for Adults

Celebrate this year's National Storytelling Week and try the storyteller's craft for yourself in a Sunday workshop at Stroud's Museum in the Park. Course tutor Chloë of the Midnight Storytellers, who trained in storytelling at Ruskin Mill Nailsworth, guides participants through a sequence of spoken word exercises. No writing required! The day rounds off with the sharing of tea and tales, your moment to try out what you've discovered. 11am-4pm £15

museuminthepark.org.uk

NO 23

SUN 5TH

23 Book Club with Nikki Owen

This month's chosen book will be *Hot Milk* by Deborah Levy, a richly mythic, colour-saturated tale of mothers and daughters from the Man Booker-shortlisted author of *Swimming Home*. The monthly book club is run by Nikki Owen, author of the critically acclaimed *Project Trilogy* (and *Good On Paper* writer). Stroud bookshop is also offering 10% discount on the 23 Book Club books and 23 will be offering discounts on the day to Book Clubbers too. Email hello@no23stroud.com for further info...3pm Free

OPEN HOUSE

SUN 5TH

Story Party Stroud

Story Party Stroud is a new event where real people share their life experience by telling stories from their lives. Up to eight speakers will talk for 10 minutes each, and delicious refreshments are available at Star Anise Cafe after the event. Come and join the SPS for their second outing, for which the theme will be 'The First Time!' "Great event - moving, interesting, funny, open." "I was thoroughly, generously entertained and riveted by the storytelling. I laughed loads!" "An honest, heartfelt afternoon - thank you!" 3-4:30pm £6adv from Star Anise Arts Café/£7otd

facebook.com/storypartystroud

STROUD BOOKSHOP

SAT 11TH

Bill Jones: The Life and Times of Algernon Swift

Local writer, illustrator and performer Bill Jones will be at Stroud Bookshop to sign copies of his new illustrated novel of puns *The Life and Times of Algernon Swift*, published by Head of Zeus. Through a series of original hand-drawn illustrations, we follow Algernon as he navigates the troubles of life, love and language. Eventually, Algernon learns to feel joy amidst all the confusion. Wickedly clever and original, *The Life and Times of Algernon Swift* contains some of the best - or indeed worst - puns and jokes you will ever read. 11am

hawkerspot.com

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

FRI 17TH

Fluffed Up with Out To Lunch, Jonny Fluffypunk, Crispin Thomas and John Bassett

It's back! Following two previous sell out shows, *Fluffed Up* presents their third annual spectacular 'dress to frill' love-themed Valentine's cabaret. Sparkling comedy, mesmerising live music, scintillating spoken word and tantalising theatre from some of Stroud and the circuit's finest performers. *Out To Lunch*: Seriously funny and much loved Stroud combo. "A Car-Bootful of Roots Blues and Nonsense", Jonny Fluffypunk: Sumptuous extracts from his new

acclaimed show 'How I Came to Be Where I Never Was' with intricate humour, surreal fantasy and England's most pretentious moustache, Crispin Thomas & Jeff The Fuse: Right at the cutting edge of fluff and stuff, John Bassett: Stunning and often hilarious theatre from Stroud Theatre Festival's very hugely talented actor and writer extraordinaire. £8.50adv/£10otd 8pm

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

RUSKIN MILL HORSLEY

SAT 18TH

Storytelling For All with Fiona Eadie

Enthralling tales, fabulous fables and elaborate lies...Stories are for everyone ... Adults without children are as welcome as children with adults. (Suggested minimum age 5.) Coffee shop selling drinks and delicious home-made cakes in the interval. For more details contact Fiona Eadie: fiona@fionaeadield.co.uk. 10:30am-12:30pm £4/£3/£10family

rmt.org

NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE CIRENCESTER

SAT 18TH

Illustrating Children's Picture Books with Korky Paul

Korky Paul is an international children's book illustrator. On this one

day masterclass he will teach you how to design and illustrate a double page spread for a children's picture book and to prepare a presentation package to show prospective publishers. The workshop will be a mixture of an editorial-style meeting and practical work. 10am-1pm £55

MON 20TH FEB - MON 20TH MAR

Weaving Words: The Craft Of Writing Fiction with Sue Mayfield

Playful workshops exploring how to create a sense of place, develop character, tell a story and convey emotion. Using photographs and objects as starting points - working with imagination and memory - novelist Sue Mayfield will help you develop your fiction-writing skills. Workshops will focus on the craft of telling a story - how to evoke sense of place, build authentic characters, construct a plot, develop narrative voice and create emotional tension. Each session will include playful warm-ups and guided exercises with plenty of space to try out techniques and receive gentle feedback as you 'weave' with words. Mondays 2-4pm £95

newbreweryarts.org.uk



This book offers an intimate portrayal of the Stroud Valley communities living in the shadow of the 'war to end all wars'.

Available from Stroud Bookshop
RRP £12.99

www.thehistorypress.co.uk



COMEDY

BY CHRIS HEAD

FEBRUARY SEES A NEW LONG FORM IMPROV COURSE FROM STROUD NEWCOMER AND TOP IMPROVISER REBECCA MACMILLAN AND A COMEDY SHOW FEATURING MY COURSE GRADUATES AND MORE ORGANISED BY SELF-CONFESSED COURSE JUNKIE HELEN WOOD. SO KEEN AM I TO BRING THESE THINGS TO YOUR ATTENTION THERE IS NO ROOM TO PLUG MY OWN IMPROVERS STAND-UP COURSE – FOR COURSE GRADUATES AND GIGGING COMICS – AT BLACK BOOK CAFÉ, FRIDAY NIGHTS FROM 10TH FEB TO 10TH MARCH WITH A LIVE SHOWCASE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEK. OH, LOOKS LIKE I JUST DID PLUG IT. AND BELOW I CHAT WITH REBECCA AND HELEN ABOUT THEIR VENTURES...

REBECCA, HOW DID YOU GET INTO IMPROV?

In 2003 I had a visit from an American friend while I was living in Brighton. She was studying improv in New York, and I remember afterwards I said to my (now) husband Tom "It sounds amazing but I can't ever imagine that happening here". At that very moment I flicked through the local paper and on the page I stopped at was an advert for improv classes! Those classes (with John Cremer) eventually formed what is now The Maydays. We perform internationally, run classes in London, Brighton and beyond and over the 12 years we've been performing together we've been to Chicago (the natural home of improv comedy) several times to train, and have had lots of teachers over to train us from the US too. I also perform with Impromptu Shakespeare and the Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes.

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU MOVE TO STROUD?

I moved in April 2006 having lived in Brighton for 13 years. We wanted to be closer to Tom's work in Bristol - but also to move to a smaller town. We drew up a big list of things that were important to us and Stroud ticked a lot of the boxes. It's a pretty special place and we are very glad we made the move.

SO, WHAT'S THIS COURSE YOU'RE RUNNING?

Back in November I taught a Long Form Improvisation workshop organised by Helen Wood, which sold out so now I'm running my first Stroud course proper. Long Form Improv is creating theatre (usually comedic) where anything can happen. We move away from the structured games of short form improv that fans of 'Whose Line' will know, to a blank canvas where the group learns to create amazing scenes together in the moment, with no script. This course is already nearly full but if there's a lot of interest beyond the 14 places I will run another one in the not too distant.

TURNING TO HELEN HERSELF: SO WHAT IS THIS SHOW YOU'RE PUTTING ON HELEN? (WHAT AN INQUISITOR I AM.)

The Comedy Cabaret will be a comedy variety night that not only showcases all sorts of different forms of comedy but involves a whole host of local comedy performers. In this celebration of comedy there'll be stand-up, sketches, comedy improv, clown, poetry, ukuleles and comic songs. Early February can be a pretty miserable time of year and hopefully this show will give audience members a smile. 'Improve your laugh-life!' is our message. It would be great if some of the people in the audience got tempted to give the developing local comedy skills scene a go themselves too.

WHO IS INVOLVED AND HOW DID THEY GET INTO COMEDY?

Many of the performers are graduates from your Black Books comedy courses, Chris. I've been on lots of them since they began in Stroud a couple of years ago and I've enjoyed watching fellow alumni go on and develop their performance skills at other events. Gavin Pond, Kai Gwynn and Amy Godfrey are just some of the talented locals who will be performing on the night. The brilliant Jonny Fluffypunk will also be appearing. Then there's the Comedy Collective, a local ensemble of semi-professional and keen amateur performers, who will present sketches created on your courses, some comic improvisation and much more besides.

AND WHY ARE YOU PUTTING THIS ON?

It's a fund-raising event in which funds raised will go towards affordable skills training workshops in comic performance - not in stand-up or sketch comedy, Chris, as that would be competing with you! I ran two Saturday workshops in the autumn, one using archetypes and one a Long Form Improvisation taster day, led by Rebecca MacMillan. The next one that I organise probably won't be until the summer as both you and Rebecca are putting on such exciting courses between now and Easter!

Chris Head has established himself as one of the UK's leading comedy coaches and has nearly twenty years' experience as a director of live comedy. His stand-up course runs again in Stroud on Thursday nights from January 12th. Visit chrishead.com for booking and further info

COMEDY LISTINGS

BLACK BOOK CAFÉ

FRI 10TH FEB - FRI 10TH MAR

Improvers Stand-up Course with Chris Head

Visit chrishead.com for further details and booking.

blackbookcafe.com

LANSDOWN HALL

SAT 4TH

Comedy Cabaret

Improve your laugh-life at a variety night showcasing different forms of comedy and involving a host of local comedy performers. It will be a celebration of comedy with stand-up, sketches, comedy

improv, clown, poetry, ukuleles and comic songs. Performers include Gavin Pond, Kai Gwynn, Amy Godfrey and Jonny Fluffypunk, as well as members of The Comedy Collective. 7:45pm (door and bar 7:15pm) £7/£5concs on the door or in advance from Trading Post.

lansdownhall.org

LITTLE VIC

TUES 21ST FEB - 4TH APR

Long Form Improv Course with Rebecca MacMillan

In this seven week course you'll have a solid introduction to the core techniques and principles of long form improvisation, working

towards an (optional) showcase performance at the end of the course on Thurs 6th April. Visit the Maydays website for further info! 7pm-9.30pm

themaydays.co.uk

SVA

SAT 25TH

Johnny Quiz

Johnny's humour twists the typical pub quiz format in surprising and unexpected ways. 7:30pm £5otd.

sva.org.uk

Fieldfare Café at Thistledown Farm



Fieldfare Café is a new, family run café set in acres of beautiful meadow overlooking Woodchester Park. Following our winter break we're open again from February, serving gourmet coffee, fine teas and delicious homemade cakes. Our simple menu is all cooked in our clay oven, BBQ & smoker, and includes slow-roasted meats, mixed mezze plates, seasonal soups and stews, pancakes with compote or bacon & syrup, homemade beans on toast, bacon sandwiches and more (inc vegan, gluten free & dairy free options).

All of our meat is local and free range and all of our vegetables, pulses and nuts are Organic wherever possible. We use our own lamb, veg and herbs from the farm. We are fully licensed and serve local beer and cider, and wine.

In February and March we are open 9am - 5pm Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Brunch is served 10am - 3pm and lunch 12pm - 3pm. Pizza nights will return in April with new sourdough bases and toppings.

Café patrons can explore the top meadow, which includes ponds and a stone circle, and dogs on leads are welcome. We have seating inside and out, a woodburner for colder days, disabled facilities and baby changing.

Check our website and social media for our Sunday Special, menu updates each weekend, and details of events at the café. You can also hire the café for private dining and commercial events, and camping is available at Thistledown Farm.

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