

GOOD ON PAPER

**ISSUE
#24**

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**STROUD
FILM
FESTIVAL**

**GOOD
GRIEF
PROJECT**

**HALAS
AND
BACHELOR**

+

Toni Wickens | Low Chimes | Lensmen | Alice Jolly | Mark Thomas

STROUD FILM FESTIVAL AT THE SUBS

FRIDAY
10TH
MARCH

STROUD
FILM
FESTIVAL
5th - 19th March



EDITOR'S NOTE

WELCOME TO THE TWENTY FOURTH 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...

And so the Stroud Festival season begins!

There are over ten festivals, fringes, trails and weekends due to take place in and around Stroud this year and it all starts this month with the triumphant return of the third Stroud Film Festival.

Screenings, workshops, premieres, exhibitions, talks, Q&A's, a themed screening held in a secret location and community film awards all feature at the relatively new addition to Stroud's busy festival calendar.

You'll find all the details in this month's issue and don't forget to visit our website at goodonpaper.info/film for our monthly film listings...

Alex and Adam

P.S Be sure to pick up issue #25 for our annual Stroud Festival Guide!

Front Cover Image: Ken Loach - Lansdown Film Club presents: Versus - the Life and Films of Ken Loach, Sun 19th Mar, Lansdown Hall (Stroud Film Festival)

EDITOR
Alex Hobbs
Advertising/Editorial/Listings:
goodonpaperstroud@gmail.com

DESIGNER
Adam Hinks
Artwork and Design
adam@thepdco.co.uk

ONLINE
goodonpaper.info
FACEBOOK
[/GoodOnPaperStroud](https://www.facebook.com/GoodOnPaperStroud)
TWITTER
[@GoodOnPaper_](https://twitter.com/GoodOnPaper_)

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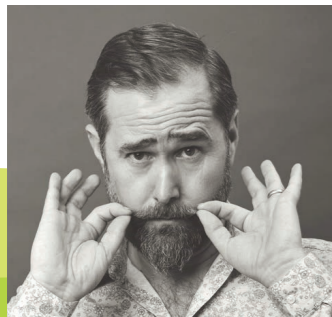
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10am - 12pm

What Makes A Film Go Viral?

Presentation and Q&A With Ed Robinson, Creative Director, The Viral Factory.



2pm - 5pm

Using Film for Social Media

Business workshop with Andy Poulton, Social Media Consultant & Trainer.



6pm - 7pm

Can Culture Help End Conflict?

Q&A plus talk with David Owen, Consultant, Researcher & Founder of Bristol Palestine Film Festival.



8pm

Indifference To Action

A panel-led discussion on what makes an impactful film; reviewing and critiquing techniques used in short films commissioned to inspire action and social change. Includes Domonic White's new short film premiere and the opportunity to experience 360 degree footage using immersive headsets.

Tickets

Book tickets for this, and other Stroud Film Festival events online via subscriptionrooms.org.uk by phone 01453 760999 or in person at the box office.

Coming Soon

Film Nights at the Subs featuring; National Theatre Live, Royal Shakespeare Company, Royal Opera House, Channel Four, British Film Institute, Arts Council of Great Britain, The Globe, Pathé Frères Cinema and so many more...

Spring Workshops at Pegasus Art Now taking bookings!

Launching our new programme of workshops & masterclasses at Pegasus Art, Griffin Mill Trading Estate, just outside Stroud.

Try something new, pick up your paintbrush & join our artistic community! We are running a variety of workshops throughout the year with expert tutors in our light & spacious studio.

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STROUD FILM FESTIVAL

BY LARA SHINGLES

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! STROUD WILL BECOME A HUB OF CINEMATIC GOODNESS THIS MONTH, WHEN THE STROUD FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR ITS THIRD YEAR WITH FRESH FILMS, RARE GEMS AND MORE THAN A FEW SURPRISES!

The Festival has quickly grown to become a mainstay of the town's calendar of annual events. It's not only a showcase for fresh films and critically acclaimed classics, but an ideal place to present short films made in and around Stroud – not forgetting exhibitions, workshops and Q&A sessions with local filmmakers.

This year's Stroud Film Festival promises more of the same, with an eclectic mix of films and events set to take place at various locations in and around the Five Valleys between Sunday 5th and Sunday 19th March. As organisers Andy Freedman and Claire Levy both say, there's something for everyone, though Claire adds that this year's festival is really trying to tap into the active nature of local residents, and the fact they love getting out there and doing new things.

The festival also promises to shine a light on film culture in Stroud, she says. "We're looking at a local animation studio which was involved very much in animations in the past and showcasing Animal Farm, among others. There's also a lot of local artists here and it's important to bring that to light. I think the festival will hit home with many people in the creative industry who are

interested in seeing new things." Claire adds that this year's festival is partly about activity as well as a coming to see great films. From workshops, talks and discussions at the Subscription Rooms to filmmaking at Atelier, there's a plethora of film-related events for all ages to get involved with. Both the Toni Erdmann showing at Wotton Electric Cinema House – which is a partner in the festival for the first time this year – on Friday 17th March and the Ken Loach screening at Lansdown Hall on Sunday 19th March are not to be missed, says Claire. About Toni Erdmann, she adds: "It's an Oscar nominated German comedy about a father who is estranged from his daughter and tries to reconnect with her, but he decides to do it through an alter ego called Toni Erdmann, a life coach who dresses up in a suit, with fake teeth and a wig. It's quite a crazy and unusual film but also brilliant, so I'm very excited about it coming to a local cinema."

Families can also enjoy an early screening of The Red Turtle at Lansdown Hall on Saturday 11th March, a hypnotising animation from Studio Ghibli, Japan, about a boy and a turtle, not officially released in the UK until May 2017.

Returning this year is the annual Stroud Community TV Awards. Taking place at Lansdown Hall on Saturday 11th March, this event will include a screening of winning films from seven categories, made by and about people from Stroud. There will also be the chance to hear from local filmmakers, including the renowned media production team at Slimbridge Wetland Trust.

Strictly Cinema is a new event for this year, which both organisers describe as an "immersive cinema event". "This is an opportunity to see a classic film in a surprise venue decorated in the style of the chosen movie," says Andy. "There will also be the chance for the audience to dress up, and enjoy cocktails alongside home-cooked dishes and desserts."

"We're putting on a screening, but a screening with a difference," teases Claire. "We're going to transform a location in Stroud and really take our audience into the world of the film that we've chosen." While both keep mum about the exact location of the event, Claire encourages guests to put on their glad rags and dancing shoes for what promises to be a brilliant experience at a local venue. She hopes the event will have a broad appeal and encourage people who otherwise might not think the festival is for them to join in. "People might think it's just a load of stuff with subtitles and it's not for them, but actually this event is not that. This film is a very accessible film. It's something that touches on a theme that now is very commonplace," she says. "We want it to be something that people who might be a little bit older will want to come to, but also people who are younger."

For a full programme of events and/or to book tickets, visit stroudfilmfestival.org

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

FILM FESTIVAL LISTINGS

THE PRINCE ALBERT

SUN 5TH

Launch Party with Music and Screenings presented by George Platts

George Platts presents a Synchronous Sound Multi-Screen Experience. This unique combination of music and images provides the setting for a chance to find out more about the festival and what's happening over the next two weeks. Stay for a quick drink or a long evening. 8pm Free

MUSEUM IN THE PARK

TUES 7TH MAR – SUN 2ND APR

Moving Art: Animation in Stroud

See page 8-9!

THE BRITISH SCHOOL

THURS 9TH

Halas and Batchelor: Stroud's Animation Legacy

With Vivien Halas featuring screening of Animal Farm and shorts the Symphony Orchestra, Birds, Bees & Storks and Automania 2000. 8pm £6.50/£5.50concs

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

FRI 10TH

How Film Affect Our Lives: What Makes A Film Go Viral and How Is It Done?

Presentation, discussion and Q&A with Ed Robinson the Creative Director of the Viral Factory. 10am-12pm £10

FRI 10TH

How Film Affect Our Lives: Film For Social Media

Workshop with Social Media Consultant and Trainer Andy Poulson. 2-5pm £20

FRI 10TH

How Film Affect Our Lives: Can Culture Help End Conflict?

Talk and Q&A with David Owen; Consultant, Researcher and Founder of the Bristol Palestine Film Festival. 6-7pm £6/£5concs

FRI 10TH

How Film Affect Our Lives: From Indifference To Action – Getting Heard

Panel discussion and documentary film premier of Freedom & Safety with Domonic White and James Hill. 8pm £10/£8concs (inc £3 donation to Shared Universe Foundation).

SECRET LOCATION...

SAT 11TH

Strictly Cinema

Book your tickets for ringside seats at the Pan-Pacific Dancing Championship – an immersive film screening like no other. Sequins, glitz and glamour. Expect ballroom cocktails alongside home-cooked dishes and desserts. Dress for the occasion... dancing shoes are a must! £12adv from Stroud TIC

LANSDOWN HALL

SAT 11TH

Lansdown Film Club Presents: The Red Turtle

Animation for all the family from Studio Ghibli, Japan. Michael Dudok de Wit's hypnotizing and entrancing fable of a boy and a turtle, not officially released in the UK until May 2017. 3pm £5/£4concs/£3children

SAT 18TH

Stroud Community TV Awards

The Community TV Awards evening is always a night to remember, a fun celebration of the best short films made in and around the Five Valleys. The evening includes a screening of winning films from seven categories, and a chance to hear from local filmmakers including the renowned media production team at Slimbridge Wetland Trust. 7:30pm

SUN 12TH

Lansdown Film Club Presents: All Sorts of Shorts

An evening of screenings of a superb variety of short films from 10 to 20 minutes each. Including

drama, horror, romance, comedy and the bizarre. A stimulating feast of contemporary cinematography. 8pm £6/£5concs

SUN 19TH

Flies On the Wall Youth Theatre presents: Finding Film

A look at the work of young professional filmmakers from Stroud, discussion about the realities of working in the film industry and a screening of A Day Off, a 15 minute silent movie made by Flies Youth Theatre, with original sound design by a young Stroud musician. Supported with funding by Stroud Arts Festival. 4pm £5/£4

SUN 19TH

Lansdown Film Club Presents: Versus – the Life and Films of Ken Loach

A sharp-witted documentary about the work of film director Ken Loach. Filmed during the making of I, Daniel Blake which brought the 79-year-old Loach out of retirement to rail against punitive Tory austerity policies and their ramifications, with archive material from Loach's incendiary early work for the BBC. 8pm £6/£5concs

ATELIER

SUN 12TH

The Death of Klinghoffer

Penny Woolcock's powerful film adaptation of John Adams' critically acclaimed and controversial opera The Death of Klinghoffer. Based on a 1985 hijacking of a Mediterranean cruise ship by Palestinian terrorists, culminating in the murder of passenger Leon Klinghoffer. Introduced by composer Emily Hall and sound designer David Sheppard. 3pm £6

SAT 18TH

Filmschool

As part of the festival, an opportunity to make, as well as watch film. Develop your skills while you devise, shoot and edit a short video. Explore ways of telling stories through camera angles, sound and editing techniques.

Age 14 and above. No previous experience needed Equipment provided. 10am-4pm £40 (book by 11th March!)

TUES 21ST

Radio Cinema Presents: Film On Radio

Radio Cinema is another way for people to experience spoken-word radio by lifting it out of its traditional settings and celebrating it in ways that are closer to a proper cinema experience. Tonight's theme will be radio about film. 7pm £3

THE MALTHOUSE

WEDS 15TH

The Lunchbox

The first in a series of fabulous films inspiring fabulous food at The Malthouse Bar and Kitchen. Alongside a local, Indian cook, the Malthouse Chef will deliver a wonderful Indian meal after the film. Award-winning The Lunchbox is a gentle romance flowering after one man's lunchbox is delivered to the wrong desk in Mumbai. £20 (inc film + Indian meal)

VUE CINEMA

THURS 16TH

The Good Grief Project: A Love That Never Dies

Screening followed by Q&A with directors Jimmy Edmonds and Jane Harris (see page 6!). 7:30pm £9.79

ELECTRIC PICTURE

HOUSE CINEMA

FRI 17TH

Toni Erdmann

The German comedy that has won critical acclaim and awards around the globe. Winfried tries to reconnect with his adult daughter, Ines, through his alter ego of Toni Erdmann, a life coach in a tacky suit, wig and fake teeth. Through Toni's efforts Ines sees that her eccentric father deserves a place in her life. £7.50/£6.40concs

THE GOOD GRIEF PROJECT: A LOVE THAT NEVER DIES

BY JUDITH GUNN

THE LAST TIME I SAW JOSH EDMONDS, WAS OUTSIDE VUE CINEMA IN STROUD, IT WAS COLD AND WE WERE GOING TO DIFFERENT FILMS SO WE CHATTED IN THE QUEUE. ON MARCH 16TH AT 7.30PM, JOSH WILL BE BACK AT VUE CINEMA, ONLY THIS TIME IN SPIRIT, BECAUSE JOSH DIED IN A ROAD ACCIDENT IN VIETNAM SIX YEARS AGO. HE WAS TWENTY-TWO. HE LEFT BEHIND HIS PARENTS, A BROTHER AND SISTER AND MANY, MANY FRIENDS. A LOVE THAT NEVER DIES IS A FILM INSPIRED BY JOSH'S LIFE, HIS DEATH AND THE TRAUMA OF THE LOSS OF A CHILD.

Bereavement may seem to be a bleak subject matter, but the trailer and the clips I have seen reveal a bright film, vivid with light and smiles. Josh's parents, Jimmy Edmonds and Jane Harris share their personal journey; Josh is there, his humour, his youth and his life are celebrated. Jane and Jimmy visit Vietnam where he died, and carry on to India, to Varanasi, to finish his journey for him. They visited Mexico, the Grand Canyon and then they crossed America, the film is a good old fashioned road trip movie!

A Love That Never Dies evolved from Jimmy and Jane's grief, their good grief. Jane is a therapist, Jimmy is a BAFTA Award winning filmmaker (Chosen) and Josh was a filmmaker. When he died, Josh was working as a producer at the Ministry of Sound in London. As a result, in the days that followed his death, the family found that they were immersed in images of, and films about and by Josh. There was the sky jump he did at age twenty-one, there were the films he had made at college, and the Ministry of Sound sent them a filmed tribute for the funeral. "When I was preparing that stuff for the funeral"

Jimmy commented "that was within two or three days of when Josh had died and I am still working with him on the screen...So making the film about the funeral was about continuing to have his presence." Jane and Jimmy met at film school and had made films together before about their personal journey so it was a natural progression to decide to film the funeral itself.

where Josh and his parents had shared their last holiday, and the road trip that is A Love That Never Dies began. "Josh died travelling...we thought it would be amazing just to do a road trip, a homage to Josh" says Jane.

And did they enjoy it? "Loved it" says Jimmy, "We had a brilliant time". "And Josh was with us.



Image by James Kriszzyk

Jane says part of it was "the strangeness of not being there when he died, not being able to say goodbye" and that created a response in them and many others to say goodbye using film.

But after the funeral a sense of isolation set in and the couple became involved in an organisation called the Compassionate Friends, which enabled them to talk to other parents who had also lost a child. They then helped Jimmy and Jane set up contacts in America

The thing about Josh was that he loved music, we love music, so just driving and listening to music, we felt like big teenagers!" adds Jane. But this was a road trip with a focus. "Trauma is a really important part of this, there is not a single bereaved parent who has not been traumatized..., and one of the ways to deal with it is to immerse yourself in it." says Jane.

Being able to talk to each other and to the camera was part of the process for the parents

they met, and for Jane and Jimmy themselves. "We could actually get these stories because we are ourselves bereaved parents." adds Jimmy "people would not talk to us, if we didn't have a similar experience". So the film tells the stories of bereaved parents and how they deal with the loss of a child. Such a loss is unique to each parent, but it is also more commonplace than anyone wants to think. Jane and Jimmy had 60 applications to participate, they Skyped with 12, chose 11 to film and completed 80 hours of film.

Not surprisingly, once they were back home, editing the film was difficult. It was a question of finding the balance between their own experience, Josh's life and the experiences of others that made the film a challenge to edit and demanded some difficult decisions. "We made a promise" says Jimmy "to everyone who participated in the film, that if they were not in the documentary, they would have a film on the website." So they created The Good Grief Project (a registered charity) which has a website where the stories not told in the documentary are shown on the site. Jane and Jimmy have been running bereavement, photography and mindfulness workshops and counselling, as part of this project, and they are continuing to do that and to make more films. The Good Grief Project allows more parents to apply to have a film made about their loss, their child and their good grief.

A Love That Never Dies will have its Charity Premier at Vue Cinema in Stroud on March 16th at 7.30pm as part of this year's Stroud Film Festival. Visit stroudfilmfestival.org for tickets and thegoodgriefproject.co.uk and [facebook.com/thegoodgriefproject](https://www.facebook.com/thegoodgriefproject) for further info.

Judith Gunn was a lecturer at Cirencester College where she taught Josh Media Studies. She is the author of *Dostoyevsky: A Life of Contradiction* which is available now via Amberley Publishing judithgunn.com

THEATRE LISTINGS

COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE

TUES 14TH – SAT 18TH

Cotswold Players: Ladykillers

A stage version of the classic Ealing black comedy that starred Alec Guinness - a sweet little old lady, alone in her house, is pitted against a gang of criminal misfits who will stop at nothing! Posing as amateur musicians, Professor Marcus and his gang rent rooms in the house of Mrs Wilberforce and plot to involve her in Marcus' brilliantly conceived heist job. With only her parrot, General Gordon, to help her, Mrs Wilberforce is alone with five desperate men...but who will be forced to face the music? 7:30pm £12

FRI 31ST MAR – SUN 2ND APR

Glitter and Twisted Theatre Company: H.M.S. Pinafore

Following a sell-out run of *The Pirates of Penzance* in February 2016, Glitter & Twisted Theatre Company return to the Playhouse with another Gilbert & Sullivan musical, *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Josephine, a middle-class captain's daughter, is in love with a horny-handed sailor on her father's own ship, but Daddy wants her to marry his own boss, the First Lord of the Admiralty. Of course love will find a way - these stories always end happily - but not before some tears, more than a few belly-laughs, and a string of glorious musical numbers. Glitter & Twisted's superb cast wake up a Victorian classic and make it relevant to today's audience. 7:30pm £12

cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

RODBOROUGH TABERNACLE

FRI 31ST

Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company: Area 8

Based on the book written by Captain P R Symonds, *Area 8* 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...7:30pm £10/£7concs from Stroud TIC

spanielworks.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

SAT 11TH

Commedia dell'Arte: The Art of Comedy with Cheryl Parmenter

This popular workshop is running again to give you the chance to explore this classic theatre form in a

highly physical day of comedy and techniques. Commedia dell'Arte is a masked theatre style from 16th century Italy that has provided us with familiar character types and slapstick routines that we still know and love today. You will learn the movement, mannerisms and behaviours of characters, such as Pantalone, Arlecchino and Capitano as well as the key principles of mask work and audience interaction. Short comic scenes will be improvised in the masks meaning that participants will gain a broad understanding of the characters, the relationships and plot lines typical of traditional Commedia dell'Arte. A good level of fitness is required. Please wear clothes for movement work. 10am-4pm £35

SAT 25TH

Rhodri Miles: Burton

Burton vividly presents the life of the great Welsh actor in his own words from humble beginnings to Hollywood mega-stardom. Beautiful women (not least Liz Taylor), alcohol, wealth, stage and screen are the threads woven into this sad, happy, exuberant often hilarious one-man show. Rhodri Miles (*Game of Thrones*, *Eastern Promises*, *Atlantis*) takes on the role of the younger Burton which has previously received critical acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe and also Hollywood fringe festival where the play won 'Best International' show. 7:30pm £14/£12concs

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

FRI 3RD

Third Angel: Partus

Birth. It's a massive life or death thing that happens every minute of every day in every country of the world. The expectations, the exhaustion and the euphoria. The shock, the sadness and the stupidly long shifts. The joy, the pain, the mess. Third Angel delves into the myths, the statistics and the politics of birth, engaging with real people and real stories. 7:30pm £10/£7concs/£8friends/£6concs/£15otd

SAT 11TH

Sparkle and Dark: I Am Beast

After the death of her mother, Ellie escapes into her own fantasy world of comic book superheroes and bewitching strangers, recreating herself as the ultimate vigilante. Running amidst dark alleyways and sinister villains, she soon meets the wild and mysterious Beast and together they seek revenge. But as the walls of her new world begin to crumble, Ellie must finally face the truth behind her fantasies. 7:30pm £10/£7concs/£8friends/£6concs/£15otd

prema.org.uk



ANIMATION IN STROUD:

HALAS & BATCHELOR

BY LORNA DAVIES

IT WAS FOR 50 YEARS THE LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL ANIMATION STUDIO IN WESTERN EUROPE AND PRODUCED THE ICONIC FILM ANIMAL FARM, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT HALAS & BATCHELOR (H&B) WAS BASED IN STROUD?

John Halas and Joy Batchelor met in London in 1937. John had arrived from Budapest having been asked to set up British Colour Cartoon Films Limited and was looking for animators. Joy answered his advertisement. He saw her work and hired her on the spot. The pair married in 1940 and went on to make over 2000 films from their London and Stroud studios, earning them an international reputation for superb quality animation in a distinctive graphic style. Their most famous work is undoubtedly the animated adaption of Orwell's timeless political fable Animal Farm, which perhaps today is more

relevant than ever, all made in their studio at the Old Vicarage in Cainscross, Stroud. This month, to coincide with Stroud Film Festival, there will be a special screening of the film at OpenHouse introduced by Halas and Batchelor's daughter Vivien, as well as a concurrent exhibition at Museum in the Park.

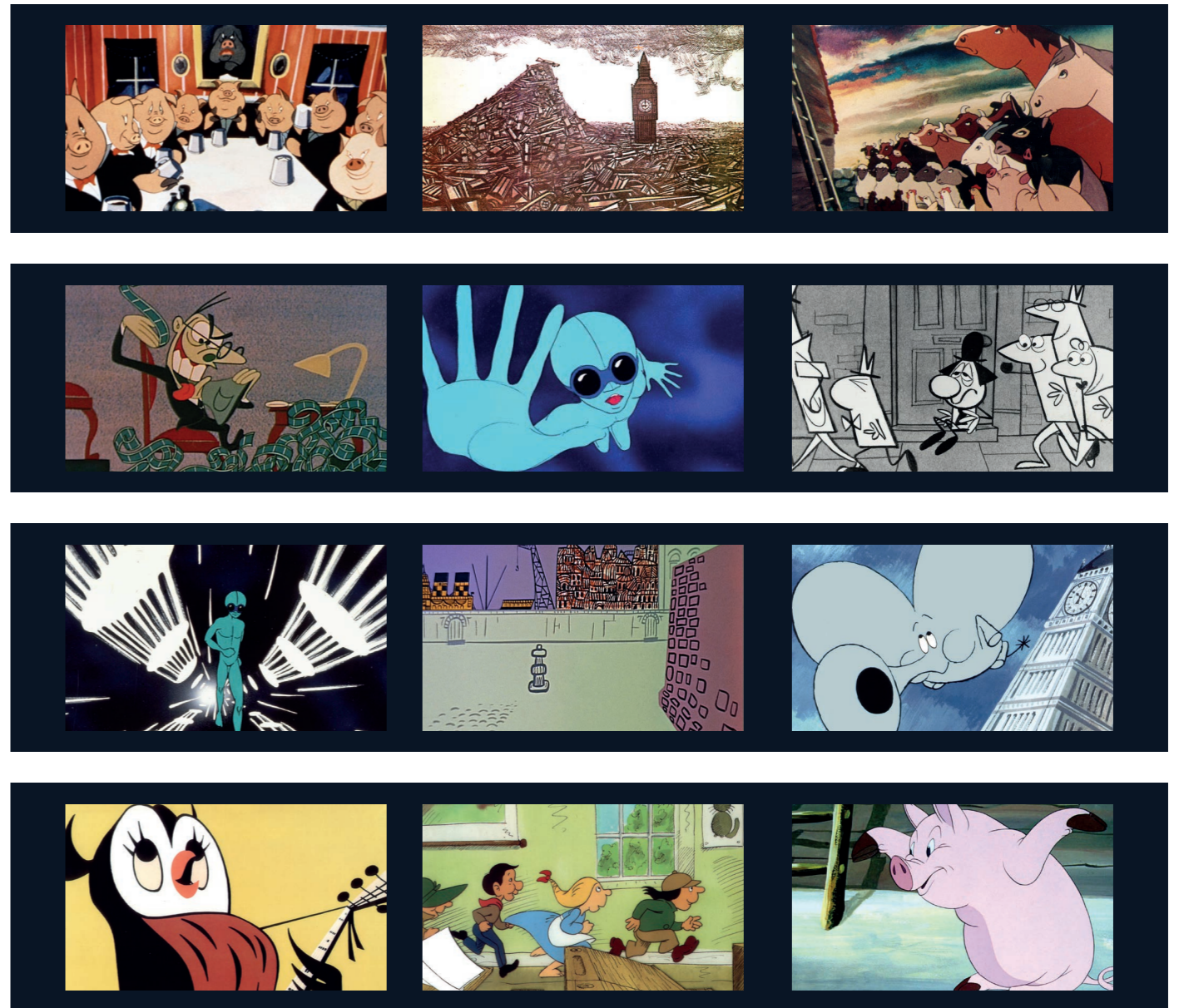
The exhibition will be centered around a sound and film editing machine, called an Acmiola. The Acmiola belonged to Harold Whitaker, one of the chief animators at the Stroud studio. "After he died in 2013 the Acmiola was donated to us, and with help from Stroud Auction Rooms, it arrived at the museum in 2014. Since then we have been working to create a permanent display for the Acmiola to tell the story of

“I hope the exhibition will be a chance for a bit of reunion and that it will be the start of people coming forward to tell their stories of this important part of our local history,”

animation in Stroud,” Fern Ryan, assistant curator at the museum, explains. After receiving Arts Council England funding last year, the museum got the go-ahead to produce the show. As well as cells and drawings from the H&B films, the exhibition will highlight the work of Anson

Dyer. His animation studio came to Stroud from London in 1940 to escape the Blitz, and Whitaker, as well as Tony Guy (who worked at H&B before going on to produce Watership Down) both started their careers with him. “They were based at Stratford

Abbey, a beautiful old building that has since been demolished (the site of it is now the Tesco petrol station). This is the reason Halas and Batchelor came to Stroud, they took over Dyer's studio in 1951,” says Fern, who has been at the museum for three years. “I hope the



exhibition will be a chance for a bit of reunion and that it will be the start of people coming forward to tell their stories of this important part of our local history,” she adds.

For the past 21 years Vivien has been looking after her parent's heritage - the archive and work of Halas & Batchelor Cartoons. “I have wanted to celebrate the work of Harold Whitaker for many years and had kept in touch with him. With the help of Martin Pickles, a film maker animator friend, and Jez Stewart of the British Film Institute, I conducted a series of interviews with Harold that form part of a short documentary about my father. There's enough material and footage to make a separate film about Harold and the H&B studio that I still hope to develop,” Vivien tells me. Vivien and her brother, who lives in Stroud, regularly visited the studio as children: “We would play in the garden or even with the editing equipment while our parents worked,” Vivien reminisces. What was it like, growing

up with such influential and creative parents? “Looking back, it was fairly amazing,” Vivien agrees, “but at the time it seemed normal that we spent so much time in the animation studios and got to see previews of animation before anyone else.”

With technological advances, political turmoil and ‘fake news’ all abundant right now, Animal Farm has not only stood the test of time but fits perfectly in today's uncertain times. The film itself remains a triumph, as Vivien explains: “Both John and Joy believed passionately about the power of animation as the most comprehensive art form and its ability to entertain, captivate and inform adults and children alike. This gives their work a lasting quality as well as period charm.”

• The Animation in Stroud exhibition runs from Tuesday 7th March to Sunday 2nd April in Gallery 2 at the Museum in the Park. As this space is sometimes used for meetings

and workshops please call ahead on 01453 763394 and visit museuminthepark.org.uk for further information.

- Animal Farm and shorts The Symphony Orchestra, Birds, Bees, and Storks, Automania 2000 will be showing at OpenHouse on Thursday, 9th March at 8pm. Tickets cost £6.50 (£5.50 concessions) and are available on-line at stroudfilmfestival.org.uk or the box office on 01453 760900.
- To find out more about Halas and Batchelor visit halasandbatchelor.co.uk

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Lorna Davies is a journalist who lives in Stroud. She also paints (mainly sheep) and sells her work on Etsy (search 'PaintingsbyLornaD'). Follow her on twitter @lornadavies and lornadavies.contently.com

TONI WICKENS

A wife and mother of two young children and born and raised in Gloucestershire, Toni's signature style captures the carefree existence of a child raised in the glorious Cotswolds countryside.

Relatively new to photography but with an innate appreciation of light and perspective, her work has most recently been published by Horse & Hound who praised her refreshingly unobtrusive images of our fellow Stroudie, Zara Phillips, competing at the Gatcombe Horse Trials.

Toni was delighted to be invited by Olympus Events Team UK to attend their exclusive event in London at Chiswick House and photograph Gloucestershire based Giffords Circus, as they prepared for their 2016 summer tour, 'The

Painted Wagon' and her work was later then published in Olympus' monthly magazine.

This unique, previously unpublished series of images captures the ethereal yet equally commanding presence of the Giffords performers. Now internationally renowned, Giffords village green roots tie beautifully with Toni's aim to capture the natural environment and the fun and whimsy of times gone by...

Toni's images of Giffords Circus is currently exhibiting at the Retreat (retreatstroud.com) until the end of March.

Giffords Circus 2017 touring show Any Port In A Storm starts in May, visit giffordscircus.com for tickets and further info.

toniwickensphotography.co.uk



ART LISTINGS

ART OF CLAY

Tues and Thurs 9:30am-12:30pm/Sat 10am-4pm.

gpchq.co.uk

WEDS 1ST - FRI 31ST

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

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

MON 20TH MAR - FRI 5TH MAY

Focus on the Figure: Sculptors' Prints and Drawings

This year, Gallery Pangolin's annual exhibition of works on paper by Modern and contemporary sculptors explores the many ways in which the human form can be portrayed through printmaking and drawing. Work by Harold Ambellan, Kenneth Armitage, Hamish Black, John Bridgeman, Ralph Brown, Jon Buck, Lynn Chadwick, Geoffrey Clarke, Terence Coventry, Sue Freeborough, George Fullard, Marino Marini, Henry Moore, Oliffe Richmond and Harry Thubron. 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.

LANSDOWN HALL

TUES 28TH FEB - MON 6TH MAR

Ruskin Mill College Art and Craft Exhibition

Inspired by the insights expressed by Rudolf Steiner, John Ruskin and William Morris, Ruskin Mill College staff and students have joined together to celebrate the creativity and skills central to the curriculum at Ruskin Mill College. 'Fine art is that in which the hand, the head, and the heart of man go together.' John Ruskin 10am-4pm closed Sunday 5th Mar

MON 13TH - SAT 18TH

Stroud Life Drawing Group Exhibition: Perspectives

'Perspectives' is the fifth group exhibition by artists who attend Stroud Life Drawing's twice weekly sessions. Again this year, it not only features the human form but also an exciting variety of other work done beyond the life room, including landscapes, still-life, portraiture, ceramics, digital art and botanical illustration. The exhibition is intended to showcase the great talent which exists within the group and to highlight other aspects of the artists' work. 10am-4:30pm

MON 27TH MAR - SUN 2ND APR

Paintings and Drawings by Nigel Westaway and Christina Rice

This is Nigel and Christina's third joint exhibition and will show a variety of paintings, drawings and mixed media work. Subject matter includes portraiture, landscape, still life and other themes drawn from nature as well as some abstracts. Expect strong colours and a range of emotional tones. 10am-5pm

lansdownhall.org

THE LINE GALLERY

FRI 3RD - SAT 25TH

Lucas Zimmerman, Nikita Teryoshin and Max Slobodda: (un) Mundane

Lucas Zimmerman is a photographer based in Germany. Zimmermans photographs comment on society and everyday life in theatrical way. He uses light and colour as a basis in the series Traffic Lights 2.0, of which he will be showing in Line Gallery (lucas-zimmerman.com). Nikita Teryoshin and Max Slobodda form the Kuechendienst Collective. Their interest in documentary photography overlapped with their own lives, photographing the abstract landscape of their kitchen (kuechendienst.org).

Open Fridays and Saturdays 11am-4pm/Private view Fri 3rd

linegallery.co.uk

THE MALTHEUSE BAR AND KITCHEN

TUES 31ST JAN - TUES 15TH APR

SIT Select presents Nettle Grellier and George Lloyd-Jones

Large abstract paintings on canvas (georgelloyd-jones.com / nettlegrellier.com)

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...

memecafebar.co.uk

MUSEUM IN THE PARK

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.

SAT 4TH

Illustrators Fair

Interested in studying illustration at degree level or wanting to find out more about the inventive, diverse world of illustration? Come along to the Illustrators Fair, organised by the University of Gloucestershire's Illustration Department and meet illustrators and illustration students. This is also an excellent opportunity to

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

GL5 ART
GL5-ART.COM

HAWKWOOD COLLEGE
HAWKWOODCOLLEGE.CO.UK

IMAGINE THERAPEUTIC ARTS
IMAGINE-THERAPEUTIC-ARTS.CO.UK

KENDRICK STREET GALLERY
KENDRICKSTGALLERY.CO.UK

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
PREMA.ORG.UK

(un) MundaneLucas Zimmerman,
Nikita Teryoshin and Max Slobodda

Line.

Private View Friday 3rd March

3rd - 25th March

4 John Street, Stroud

Focus on the Figure
Sculptors' Prints & Drawings
20th March - 5th May

Reclining Figure 1966 Harry Thubron

GALLERY PANGOLIN
CHALFORD - GLOS - GL6 8NT 01453 889765
gallery@pangolin-editions.com www.gallery-pangolin.com

admire or buy diverse illustrated books and artefacts created by local artists and designers. 11am-4pm

TUES 7TH MAR - SUN 2ND APR**Animation In Stroud**

See page 8-9!

SAT 25TH MAR - SUN 23RD APR**Anglia Textile Works Spring Exhibition**

Anglia Textile Works is a small but well-established group of eight contemporary textile artists based in East Anglia. This exhibition will include two specially made works, one inspired by Laurie Lee's 'Cider with Rosie' and another on the theme of 'red', to reflect Stroud's tradition of making cloth for soldiers' uniforms. Each artist will also exhibit two other pieces. Featuring Fay Allwood, Yvonne Brown, Kathy Colledge, Sara Impey, Chrissy Leech, Annette Morgan, Cherry Vernon-Harcourt and Niki Chandler. Tues-Fri 10am-4pm/Sat 11am-4pm.

museuminthepark.org.uk

THE RETREAT**FRI 3RD - FRI 31ST MAR****Toni Wickens: Giffords Circus**See page 10! Mon-Thurs 12pm-11pm/
Fri-Sat 12pm-2am

retreatstroud.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS ROOMS**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 - FRI 31ST****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. For info on workshops email office@sva.org.uk

FRI 3RD - FRI 31ST**Imogen Harvey-Lewis and Alun Hughes: Day of the Dead Exhibition**

SVA hosts a collaborative exhibition from renowned artist and illustrator Imogen Harvey-Lewis and poet singer-songwriter Alun Hughes. This dynamic duo shares a consuming passion for their creative process, finding a common ground in life and death. Imogen's graphic art is a true and honest blend of line and emotion, capturing a moment and redefining it with simplicity and creative integrity. Visit the exhibition at the SVA during John Street Café opening hours, where you can have a delicious freshly

cooked brunch, coffee and cake or a sensational roast on Sundays. Fri-Sat 10am-4pm/Sun 1-5pm/other times by appointment

FRI 3RD - FRI 31ST**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 26TH FEB - SAT 1ST APR****Rick Burgess**

Although Rick's not a true native of Gloucestershire, he's lived in the Cotswolds for most of his life, and now lives near Stroud. He makes fine art digital prints, using photography as a starting point. The collection here is a cross-section of his work over the past 18 months, and includes two principal themes: contemplative images where he's not at all concerned with 'the moment', but much more so with timelessness, the eternal, even; and those where he wants to work on an image, dig around, twist the dial, to see what's under the surface, whether good or bad. Mon-Sat 9am-4pm/Sun 10am-3pm

upperlockcafe.co.uk

PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY**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 elements 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**FRI 17TH FEB - MON 6TH MAR****Francesca Clark-Stone**

An exhibition of evocative paintings by Francesca 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.

FRI 10TH - THURS 23RD**Gig Binder: An Eye On Nature**

Gig Binder presents an exhibition of wildlife and landscape photographs that capture the exquisite beauty of the world around us. Come to browse,

to find peace in nature, to dream and to be inspired. Experience the unique eye Gig has for nature.

SAT 25TH MAR - SUN 23RD APR**Ruskin Mill Pottery**

A collaboration of Ruskin Mill students, tutors and the community features the work of the Ruskin Mill Community Pottery, revealing the alchemy of processes and materials from the Horsley Valley and further afield. Functional ware - plates, bowls and mugs - will be for sale, as well as decorative pieces.

rmt.org

NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE**SAT 25TH MAR - SUN 14TH MAY****Outpost Spring Fling**

New Brewery Arts select work from Scotland's premier open studios visual art and craft event. This spring they are proud to partner Upland to bring exciting and beautiful new work from South West Scotland down to South West England. Each year Upland selects up to 100 artists and makers from Dumfries and Galloway to take part in Spring Fling. Renowned for being Scotland's premier open studios visual art and craft, Spring Fling enjoys a national and international reputation in a region which claims more artists per head than anywhere else in Scotland. And from this extraordinary selection of artists and makers, New Brewery Arts has chosen 28 to showcase their work in the South West including printmakers, photographers, jewellers, ceramicists, blacksmiths, sculptors and textile designers.

newbreweryarts.org.uk



In collaboration with:

**Outpost | Spring Fling**

25th March - 14th May

A carefully curated showcase of makers from South West Scotland in the South West of England; Including printmakers, photographers, jewellers, ceramicists, sculptors and textiles designers



New Brewery Arts
Cirencester
GL7 1JH
01285 657 181
newbreweryarts.org.uk



select^{ed}

Paintings by
Nettle Grellier +
George Lloyd-Jones

closes Saturday 15 April

Malthouse Bar & Kitchen
Salmon Springs GL6 6NU
www.stroudmalthouse.com

www.sitselect.org

LOW CHIMES

BY REBECCA MILLS

FOUR-PIECE BAND LOW CHIMES BEGAN RECORDING THEIR DEBUT ALBUM IN LATE 2015. FOLLOWING A YEAR OF INTENSE CREATIVITY, LONG STUDIO HOURS AND NUMEROUS COUNTRY-WIDE TOURS, THE FINAL STAGES OF COMPLETION ARE UNDERWAY AND RELEASE DATES ARE SET FOR AUTUMN 2017.

Since Low Chimes began releasing music back in 2012 with the critically acclaimed EP 'Wood House', the band have successfully established their sound as an exceptional evocation of alt-folk, with lyrics pertaining to natural motifs and live sets expertly constructed around the acoustic nature of their instruments. Several years on, the impending release of the first full studio album, 'Illumine', is marked by an exciting progression into the genre as electronic elements infuse their rootsy origins with energy and depth: throughout the new record, tracks eschew the linear tradition to expand outward, seamlessly combining delicate pastoral themes with upbeat grooves and atmospheric echoes of synth and reverb. It is a rich, beautifully layered interpretation of their roots.

Producer Greg Freeman, who worked on the record with the band, was influential in this development. "Greg has a glossy, modern production style," reveals drummer Rob Pemberton, "and that amalgamated perfectly with the organic sound we usually create". With Greg primarily based in Berlin, the band also had time and space for the music to really evolve throughout last year. "We had chance to bring the tracks home and experiment with synths, reverb, delays and percussion, and really got to know our instruments. It all added to the creative process."

Further testament of their growth is evident in their decision to leave behind their former name

'Hot Feet' - a name chosen when the band first formed over ten years ago. "We felt that it didn't represent us anymore," bass player Lachlan McLellan explains. "There's been line-up changes since the early days, and we've felt for a long time that Hot Feet was no longer fitting. The move to Low Chimes gave us that extra freedom for experimentation and a fresh start."

While the band's energy was predominantly focused on the album last year, they also completed a ten-date festival tour, giving them chance to introduce the new tracks to a live audience. Pete Roe, long-standing friend to the band and producer of their previous EPs, joined them on keys for many of the dates, helping perfect the translation of electronic influences into a live set. For the band, touring and working alongside other artists in this way is imperative to creating great music. "It's one of the things that makes us tick," explains guitarist Jack Page. "It's about the people you meet, what keeps them inspired. It helps us keep driving toward the end goal and keeps us buzzing."

The importance of nurturing a supportive and creative environment has been evident throughout the entire process of making Illumine. Back in 2015, the band raised the initial funds for the album through weekly pizza nights at the Prince Albert, and since then they have continued to work in the community with local artists, filmmakers and photographers in order to bring the record to life. "Stroud has such a vibrant community of creative minds," Lachlan tells me. "We couldn't do it without the support we have here." With mastering now complete, the band are tapping into their foundations of community and collaboration once again through a fantastic, six-week pledge campaign, set to raise the final funds for the album. "Pledge is becoming an increasingly popular avenue for independent artists," Jack explains. "It seemed really right for us as we feel so supported by our fans."

Through pledge donations, Low Chimes are offering up a range of exclusive experiences and unique merchandise, from membership packages and photo bundles to limited edition screen-prints and private gigs, giving fans the opportunity to gain a true insight into the music and the workings of the band. "It feels like the perfect continuation of our outreach and, hopefully, it'll allow us to give something back to those who have helped us along the way."

Prior to the album drop in autumn, the first single, 'Sleepwalking', complete with full-length video and artwork, will be released in April as the band head out on their first tour of 2017. "Now that the work is done we want to get the music out there as soon as we can," lead-singer Marianne Parish reveals. "We hope we'll be touring for most of the year, in between writing the second album, which we've already begun! Our first Stroud gig with the new record will be in April to coincide with the Sleepwalking release - that's going to be a proud moment. The town has been our base and support for so long now; it'll be really special to bring this new music home."

Pledge information can be found at pledgemusic.com/projects/low-chimes-debut-album

Visit the band at lowchimes.com and [facebook.com/lowchimes](https://www.facebook.com/lowchimes) for further news and updates and listen to previous releases via [soundcloud.com/lowchimes](https://www.soundcloud.com/lowchimes)

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

image by Rebecca Mills

LENSMEN

BY SARAH PHAEDRE WATSON

ASK LENS MEN TO DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AND THEY'LL ANSWER "DARK LOUNGE, BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN ANYTHING..."

As a writer my job is to share an emotion, paint a picture for my audience, but that's always going to be hard when the subject matter in front of you is shape-shifting. It's not just describing the undefinable, it's defining something which refuses to be defined. Which is surprising really, Gavin tells me that the core band originally started out performing covers "cataclysmically badly" in pubs around Stroud - because they were "drunk and unready" and it's only been in the last 18 months or so that they've evolved, begun evolving, into what they are now.

But what are Lensmen now? As with most things Stroud, I vaguely knew a couple of members of the band, from the pub, to nod to in the street. But after I spent half an hour or so talking to Alun during an accidental meeting in a Stroud cafe I asked to write this article. Alun had told me about the band's focus on collaboration; they'd been working with artist Imogen Harvey-Lewis, an illustrator whose work is "around the human condition. Each drawing pretty much a self-portrait of the everyman, feeling their feelings, expressing their emotions, being real." I'd seen some of her responses to their work. They're dark, powerfully intense... frightening at times. I hadn't heard any of the band's music at that point, I was intrigued as to what could have inspired such a profound response. So I went to see a joint exhibition/performance between Imogen and the band at the SVA. Imogen's stunning drawings were simply pinned to the walls, the band were playing records, the usual suspects were seated around the bar, a projector displayed flickering images against one of the walls. So far so good, very "Stroud", enjoyable, engaging ... expected.

Alun and Gavin took position in front of the wall projection, a new piece of Imogen's began to appear behind them, an animated loop of one of her pieces coming to life, to fruition. Mesmerising. Alun began to read. Alun describes himself as a "lyrical poet" and he is, his words have a rhythm, a melody, they're almost a song. He's been with the band for 18 months; before which he had "all these words, and they didn't have a home". Gavin's bass underpinned Alun's readings that evening, it felt like he was responding directly to his words, filling the pauses, picking up in the nuances

of his tone - there was a conversation taking place between the words and the music. And Imogen's drawings, played and danced to the melody in the background. "When you pick on a specific topic then people also respond with their own interpretation and experience. Imo is now exploring animating the characters, which will need to a bit of time to explore and develop. Collaboration always provides more than you thought..." I was struck by the collective stillness of the audience while they witnessed the performance, almost a rapture.

A few weeks later I met with Gavin and Alun in one of Stroud's many pubs and, as I'd sent them some pretty standard questions beforehand we start by running through those: Band members: Vocals: Al Hughes, Guitar: Richard Pead, Bass: Gavin McClafferty, Keyboards: Dan Fisher, Drums: Jason Wilkinson.

How the band got its name: A nod towards both the pre-DC comic and Liquid Len and the Lensmen, the lighting crew behind Hawkwind's early performances. This all makes sense, Imogen's drawings perfectly illustrate the band's darkly cartoonish world...

Their musical influences: Here it falls apart.

As soon as I invite the band to discuss their music Gavin is in his element. He's passionate and obviously has an in-depth understanding of music and how it works. He name checks everyone from Hawkwind to Bach, we touch on Public Enemy and Run DMC, the transcendental quality of Flamenco... Alun joins in and now we have PJ Harvey, Nick Cave and other storytellers. Gavin apologises; "there are no touchstones I'm afraid, all music informs what you do, and what it is you're trying to make..." Gavin begins to explain that he and drummer Jason go back 30 years, and are like brothers, Alun clarifies "musical genius brothers, that they bicker about this stuff that the rest of the band don't even understand. And the product of that piece is something really amazing. We see that constantly, it's totally part of what they do..." Each of the band members bring an obsessive creativity to the band. Some of the members are artists, others went to art college - to them music is another form of self-expression.

But how does the process work? It starts with the bass riff or a poem and "generally it crunches around for a bit, there's a time where it just feels uncomfortable and quite hard work, and

then something happens, usually something happens that's beyond us. And that's the thing with collaboration, it's just us bringing our bits and then something magical, some alchemical blesses us..."

When I first listened to some of the music on Lensmen's Bandcamp page I was struck by their similarity to some of my favourite artists (Nick Cave, Tindersticks, P J Harvey) and their Facebook page describes them as a band whose "...dark and atmospheric explorations of the passions draw influences from post punk, new wave and psychedelia ..." But in reality Lensmen are a band formed of deeply creative and passionate individuals who are collaborating not only with each other but with external artists to explore "the transportative (sic) nature of music, we're trying to find that moment where you are in the track, you're not anywhere else."

The band are impossible to confine by description. As Alun says "We're conditioned to expect certain things. The reality is that we've got the time we've got and we want to create the very best work we can possibly do, in the time we've got... Because we don't fit into any of the moulds, we're middle aged blokes the moulds are obvious, but creatively we don't, behaviourally we don't, politically we don't. We just don't."

Lensmen don't know where they are going with the process (they have an open invite to other collaborators to approach them) and that's one of the many things that make them so exciting. Their music is a constant testing ground for ideas, more ideas than they could ever possibly have time to work through, and it's an inspiring space in which to invite an audience.

Dark Lounge presents 'Night of the Living Lensmen' at the SVA on Saturday 11th March, visit sva.org.uk for further info.

You can hear their music here: lensmen.bandcamp.com and follow them here: [facebook.com/lensmen101](https://www.facebook.com/lensmen101)

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



image by James Kriszyk

MUSIC LISTINGS

ALE HOUSE

THURS 2ND

Jim Reynolds

Legendary Bristol songwriter & guitarist - folk, blues, ballads and ragtime. 8:30pm Free

FRI 3RD

Choosy pickers

The Choosy Pickers (also known as John and Ade) are a highly experienced multi-instrumental duo with a big-band sound. 8:30pm Free

THURS 9TH/23RD

The Human Jukebox

Regular resident request night from Aron and The Velvet Duke! 8:30pm Free

SAT 11TH

Kid Calico & The Astral Ponies

A band that exists, but shouldn't be real. They make a joyous racket, wet and grubby from the musical ground from which it bubbles, brushed off and thrown to the wind with delightful abandon. 8:30pm Free

THURS 16TH

The Dave Ayre Jazz Trio

Popular jazz session led by double bassist Dave Ayre. 8:30pm Free

SAT 18TH

Lewis Clark & The Essentials

Bristol based Lewis Clark & The Essentials perform original compositions and little heard of folk, soul and blues gems. 8:30pm Free

SAT 25TH

The Ragged Edge

Upbeat music from an upbeat band. Get your dancing shoes on and prepare for the storm! 8:30pm Free

THURS 30TH

Steve Ferbrache

Classic covers, Blues, soul, Jazz standards and just about anything else that takes his or the audiences fancy. 8:30pm Free

FRI 31ST

The Whiteshillbillies

Bluegrass, country, rock n' roll and Americana from local ensemble of roots music specialists. 8:30pm Free

BAR KITSCH

FRI 10TH/24TH

Dubbu @ Kitsch

A regular new series ft. popular local DJ and co-founder of Stroud Block

Party Dubbu spinning an all 45 set focusing on HipHop, funk and soul and creating a cool, funky lounge atmosphere perfect for after-work drinks or an ideal venue to kick off your night out! Free 5:30pm

[facebook.com/KitschCoffeeWineBar](#)

BRITISH SCHOOL HALL

FRI 10TH

Hang Journey with Kabeção

Kabeção from Portugal is one of the world's leading Hang (handpan) players. He is a much loved maestro in the hand pan community who has redefined the boundaries of the instrument, playing complex compositions with virtuoso flare, delicate technique and deep rhythm. 8pm £12adv from Star Anise/£15otd

THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

FRI 3RD

Waking Lucy

A Stroud based band offering their unique take on a variety of rock, blues and modern covers. 8:30pm Free

FRI 10TH

Kent Duchaine and Leadbessie

Has opened up for, travelled and played with the likes of Bukka White, John Lee Hooker and Howlin' Wolf. Kent and his faithful beat up 1934 steel guitar have probably clocked up over 2 million miles together regularly touring Europe and the UK promoting delta blues and blues music in general. 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

Rodda's Hairy Craic

Irish Acoustic Session with Tim Potts. 8:30pm Free

FRI 24TH

The Virginia Slims

Old school r&b, funk and rock! 8:30pm Free

SAT 25TH

Crooked Stylus

DJ Darius presents and evening of vernal grooves and spring sounds... 8pm Free

FRI 31ST

Will Killeen

Foot stomping Blues guitarist backed

only by a harmonica and a gravelly voice. 8:30pm Free

[crownandsceptrestroud.com](#)

THE GOLDEN FLEECE

SAT 4TH

Los Gusanos

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

SAT 11TH

Seven Come Eleven

Swing trio led by Stroud's own virtuoso guitarist Tristan Watson. 8:30pm Free

SAT 18TH

The Reverend Stretch

Dark Americana, folk, blues and acoustic country classics. 8:30pm Free

SAT 25TH

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

[facebook.com/goldenfleecebar](#)

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

SAT 25TH

Stroud Symphony Orchestra

Programme - Rimsky-Korsakov: Russian Easter Festival Overture, Vaughan Williams: Symphony No.2, Schumann: Piano Concerto in A Minor featuring soloist Katya Apekishiva. Since becoming a prize-winner in the Leeds International and Scottish Piano Competitions and receiving awards such as the London Philharmonic 'Soloist of the Year' and the Terence Judd Award, Katya has performed with the London Philharmonic, The Philharmonia, the Halle Orchestra, the Moscow Philharmonic, the Jerusalem Symphony, the English Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. 7:30pm £12/£10concs/under 14 free from Stroud TIC or on the door.

[stroudsymphony.org.uk](#)

LANSDOWN HALL

FRI 10TH

The Unravelling Wilburys

The Unravelling Wilburys perform the songs of the late 80s 'supergroup', The Traveling Wilburys (Handle With Care,

The Devil's Been Busy, End Of The Line, etc) and choice cuts from the solo careers of George Harrison, Tom Petty, Roy Orbison, Bob Dylan and Jeff Lynne of ELO with songs such as Got My Mind Set On You, The Waiting, You've Got It, Mr Tambourine Man, Mr Blue Sky plus loads more. 7:30pm £10adv/£12otd

[lansdownhall.org](#)

THE PRINCE ALBERT

WEDS 1ST

Benjamin Folke Thomas

Q Mag describes this crazy Swede with a liking for the darker things in life as "One of the best guitarists you are ever likely to hear". Having never 'found' God he prefers the church of grunge and now mixing this with Americana his style is distinctive and always humorous. And often offensive. Fabulous! 8:30pm Free

THURS 2ND

The Undercover Hippy

A rare chance to experience the solo set from The Undercover Hippy's frontman Billy Rowan, previously a drum and bass DJ he swapped the decks and MCing at a festival a few years ago and has never looked back. The band are one of the most exciting on the live circuit, and this will be a high energy and entertaining night too. 8pm Free

SAT 4TH

Baby Queens

Described as sounding like TLC produced by Portishead, to be honest this female five piece from Cardiff are pretty incomparable. Criss-crossing the narrow divide between rock, hip-hop, soul and reggae each band member has their solo own projects bringing forth a genre breaking melting pot. Fantastic. 9pm Free

SUN 5TH

Stroud Film Festival Launch with George Platts

An exciting a friendly launch event for the third year of this Stroud wide event. Night Owl Projections and George Platts will spin some discs whilst projecting an interesting backdrop of films from his archive. Food from Wanjes West African Nosh Shack and all welcome. Come and find out what's going on and talk celluloid. 6pm Free

MON 6TH

Dirty Bourbon River Show

Deftly melds sounds that range from hard-edged blues to Lisztian piano driven ballads to New Orleans brass

into a result that is truly a blast of new energy into the musical landscape. Their live shows pair exuberant, syncopated lyrics with complex, harmony-rich song writing and orchestration. 8:30pm Free

THURS 9TH

Sheelanagig

Shhhhhh...This is a secret gig. And it's free. Don't tell your friends. Ok? 8:30pm Free

FRI 10TH

4Square

Ferocious folk foursome 4Square are winning fans from all four corners of Europe and beyond. The powerful young quartet has already stormed festivals and venues all across the UK, Canada, Norway, Sweden, The Czech Republic, Greece, and Denmark with their fiery, inventive and virtuosic brand of alternative folk. 8:30pm Free

SAT 11TH

The Evil Usxes and Run Logan Run

The Evil Usxes: "Bristol based four-piece that play, as they describe, 'jazzy notrock, post-op pop'. Through wildly chaotic sax solos and spasmodic guitar bursts, A band full of sensory passion and provocation." Bristol Live Magazine. Run Logan Run: Taking cues from the British Punk Jazz scene and utilising extended breathing techniques and special FX (championed by players such as Mats Gustafson and Colin Stetson), Run Logan Run create music that is both beautiful and brutal...8:30pm £12

Alasdair Roberts acclaimed for his original interpretations of traditional ballads as well as being an innovator of avant-folk through is ensemble Appendix Out. Signed to Drag City he has toured his music widely in the UK and abroad performing alongside the likes of Joanna Newsom and Waterson/Carthy. 8:30pm Free

SAT 25TH

Matt Woosey Band

An artist who slips the creative straightjacket of the modern industry, a trailblazer with no reverse gear, a performer who drags the acoustic guitar kicking and screaming into fresh relevance. His eighth studio album, Desiderata, captures the most daring and progressive music of his career... 8:30pm Free

WEDS 29TH

Nine Below Zero Duo

Nine Below Zero founding members Mark Feltham & Dennis Greaves go "unplugged" to pay homage to the legendary musicians who inspired them covering songs by blues legends such as Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee, Jimmy Reed, Slim Harpo and Leadbelly. They will also play unplugged versions of well-known Nine Below Zero material...8:30pm £12

THURS 30TH

Open Mic

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

FRI 31ST

Winter Mountain

Hailing from the shores of Cornwall, UK Winter Mountain is a blend of melodic rock songs, an extraordinary voice and heartfelt lyrics in a sound reminiscent of a time before digital recording when the emphasis fell on the importance of live performance and the essence of the song.8:30pm Free

[theprincealbertstroud.co.uk](#)

STAR ANISE

FRI 3RD

Robin Bigwood: Dreams and Dances

Elegant and extravagant works for harpsichord from 17th century England, played by one of the UK's foremost harpsichordists, Gloucestershire-based Robin Bigwood. Featuring music by William Byrd, Thomas Tomkins, Giles Farnaby and John Bull. 7:30pm £8/£4under 18's adv from dreams-and-dances. eventbrite.com

FRI 17TH

Lewis Barfoot

Half English, half Irish, modern eclectic folk singer songwriter returns to Star Anise for an intimate solo concert to celebrate St Patricks night. Playing songs from her debut EP Catch Me and forthcoming album Folkalism.8pm £7.50adv/£5concs/£10otd

THURS 23RD

Alisdair Roberts

Singer, guitarist and songwriter

SAT 18TH

Steve Ferbrache

Local musician who plays covers versions of classic songs from the 50s-00s using just his acoustic guitar and voice, as well as wide variety of music from stomping blues to classic folk/country/rock covers. Expect to hear some Creedence, Neil Young, John Martyn, Tom Waits, Howlin' Wolf and many more. 7:30pm Free

SAT 25TH

The Bad Dads

A 4 piece line up led by Mark Tolfree on vocals and harmonica, Jason Titley on drums and percussion, Mike Powell on guitar and Andy Guy on double bass, vocals and percussion. The sound has an acoustic vibe, heavily influenced by the blues, but has elements of folk, bluegrass, jazz and rock and roll in there too. 7:30pm Free

[stroudbrewery.co.uk](#)

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

FRI 3RD

The Music of John Denver

Singer songwriter Chris Bannister celebrates the life and music of John Denver. 8pm £15/£12.50concs

SAT 4TH

Stroud Ceilidhs Presents Threepenny Bit

Threepenny Bit takes 8 of the finest folk, jazz and classical musicians in Hampshire and lets them loose on the world of folk dance music. They play lively arrangements of traditional and original tunes in an 'all out musical bombardment'. Caller: Will Hall 8pm £11adv/£10concs/£12otd/£11concs/£5child

WEDS 8TH

The Bob Porter Project

A blend of Country and Roots Rock. 7:30pm Free

FRI 11TH

The Darkside of Pink Floyd

More than just an ordinary Pink Floyd tribute band, The Darkside of Pink Floyd entertain audiences throughout the UK with a fantastic light show and passionate performances. 7:45pm £16adv/£15concs/£17otd/£16concs

THURS 16TH

Your Musical Memories

Relive your musical memories at these monthly afternoon concerts with Trevor Smith. 2pm £6 (incl tea and biscuits.)

FRI 17TH

Croabh Rua

Live and direct from Belfast for St Patrick's Night - exciting four piece band, true ambassadors of Celtic music. 8pm £15adv/£13concs/£16otd£14concs

WEDS 29TH

Jazz Night with Gloucestershire Jazz Live

Local youth musicians from GYJA

(Glos. Youth Jazz Academy) and GYJO (Glos. Youth Jazz Orchestra) as well as adult musicians from Jazz2Go present their Spring showcase concert...

FRI 31ST

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

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

WEDS 1ST/8TH/15TH/22ND/29TH 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...

FRI 3RD/10TH/17TH/24TH/31ST

John Street Social Club

A series of weekly Friday night club socials hosted by different artists each week with visuals and audio to share...

SAT 4TH

Mermaid Chunky presents Nina Harries

Double bassist and soprano, singer-songwriter, cabaret and theatre performer Nina Harries is a classical double bassist specialising in contemporary and chamber music...

THURS 9TH

Stroud Jazz Sessions ft. Andy Novak

Monthly jazz jam every 2nd Thurs of the month. March's monthly jazz hub features special guest Andy Novak on piano...

SAT 11TH

Dark Lounge Presents: Night of the Living Lensmen

Stroud's one and only 'dark five'; Lensmen (see page 15!), are headlining the SVA with support from Junk Props and an Alun Hughes spoken word set...

sva.org.uk

TWISTED FIX

SAT 4TH

Thee Mockers Birthday Party

Nick hits 50 and Pav hits 52 on the night with special guest all the way from three European cities...

facebook.com/mockers.clubs

CHRIST CHURCH NAILSWORTH

SUN 12TH

The Bristol Ensemble Tea Time Concert

Written in 1799 and premiered in 1800, Beethoven's Septet in E flat major enjoyed immediate and enduring success due to its youthful charm, elegance and grace...

bristolensemble.com

PITCHCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

SAT 4TH

Mazaika

An evening full of Russian soul, tango passion and operatic melodrama. 7:30pm £9adv by calling 01453 763181...

edgepitchcombe.org.uk

RUSKIN MILL HORSLEY

FRI 3RD

Dipper Malkin

This inspiring duo is the meeting place for new ideas to meld with traditional song and dance tunes. John Dipper is a founder member of the English Acoustic Collective...

rmt.org

ST MARY'S CHURCH PAINSWICK

SAT 25TH

Painswick Music Society Presents: Tasmin Little and John Lenehan

Tasmin Little (violin) and John Lenehan (piano) perform works by Schubert, Ireland, Faure and Franck. Check website for times and ticket details

painswickmusicsoc.co.uk

THE VAULT NAILSWORTH

SUN 5TH

The Tristan Watson Trio

Jazz guitarist Watson leads a local all-star ensemble. 2:30pm Free

SUN 12TH

Shooting the Crow

Old Time meets Country Rock meets Rock n Roll. Guitar, mandolin, banjo/guitar-jo and vocals...three chords and the truth's, their way! 2:30pm Free

SUN 19TH

Los Gusanos

Vault regulars return for a popular afternoon of jazz and swing with bluesy/latin flavours. 2:30pm Free

SUN 26TH

The Vipers

A trio of superb jazz mercenaries - some of the South West's finest exponents of the swing and blues styles. 2:30pm Free

thevaultnailsworth.co.uk

PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

SAT 25TH

Maddy Prior with Giles & Hannah

A true legend of British music, Maddy Prior has built her career on exploring various musical avenues and a much-charted history of collaborations with unusual and unexpected musicians...

teams up with Giles Lewin and Hannah James. 8pm £16/£13concs/£14friends/£11concs/£20otd

prema.org.uk

UNDER THE EDGE ARTS

WOTTON UNDER EDGE

SAT 4TH

Sean Taylor

One of the most exciting and hardworking names on the roots and blues scene. The response to his latest album has been sensational having been featured in Mojo, the Guardian and listed in the Daily Telegraph as one of the best albums of the year...

SAT 11TH

The Earl Trio

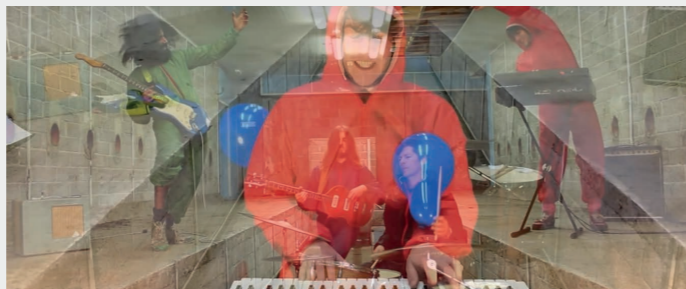
Singer songwriter and guitarist, Stuart Earl accompanied by legendary slide guitarist Michael Messer, and guitarist extraordinaire Lyndon Webb. 8pm £10.50/£8.50concs

SAT 25TH

Brejeiro

An infectious and uplifting mix of mandolins, cavaquinho, flute and guitar propelled by Latin percussion, Brejeiro combine driving rhythms and haunting melodies, skilfully improvised and exquisitely arranged, capturing the essence of Brazil. 8pm £12/£10concs

utea.org.uk



GOOD ON PAPER



YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

EACH MONTH WE PUT TOGETHER A YOUTUBE PLAYLIST FEATURING ARTISTS TAKEN FROM OUR MUSIC LISTINGS.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GOODONPAPER.INFO/MUSIC FOR OUR MARCH COMPILATION AND SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR MORE VISUAL GOODIES...ENJOY

CROWN & SCEPTRE EVENTS: MARCH

WEDNESDAY 1ST

Up the Workers - Steak Night Booking essential

FRIDAY 3RD

Waking Lucy LIVE Stroud based band with a unique take on rock, blues and modern covers

FRIDAY 10TH

KENT DUCHAINE + Lead Bessie LIVE See what he can do and hear what he knows!

SATURDAY 11TH

England v Scotland 6 Nations Rugby LIVE & EXCLUSIVE in HD KO 5pm

THURSDAY 16TH

Open Mic Night with the Reverend Stretch All welcome from 8pm

FRIDAY 17TH

St Patrick's Day The highlight of the National Hunt Season All the races, including the Gold Cup, LIVE & EXCLUSIVE in HD from the Cheltenham Festival...

SATURDAY 18TH

England v Ireland 6 Nations Rugby LIVE & EXCLUSIVE in HD KO 5pm

FRIDAY 24TH

The Virginia Slims LIVE Old Skool R&B, Funk and ROCK!

SATURDAY 25TH

The Return of the Crooked Stylus DJ Darius presents an evening of vernal grooves and spring sounds from 8 - midnight, free entry

WEDNESDAY 29TH

The Curry Lounge - Food from the East prepared by the Chef Reverend Stretch Booking Essential

FRIDAY 31ST

Will Killeen LIVE - foot stomping blues slide guitar + harmonica + gravelly voice

WWW.CROWNANDSCEPTRESTROUD.COM 01453 762588

the PRINCE ALBERT

STROUD

www.theprincealbertstroud.co.uk



ROBIN NOLAN

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST RESPECTED EXPONENTS OF GYPSY JAZZ GUITAR SINCE DJANGO REINHARDT...

SUN 19TH MARCH 8:00 PM £12

NINE BELOW ZERO DUO

NINE BELOW ZERO FOUNDING MEMBERS MARK FELTHAM & DENNIS GREAVES GO 'UNPLUGGED' TO PAY HONOR TO THE LEGENDARY MUSICIANS WHO INSPIRED THEM...

WED 29TH MARCH 8:30 PM £12



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Tea-time concerts

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

Christ Church, Newmarket Road, Nailsworth

Sunday 12 March at 3pm

Beethoven Septet in E flat major, Op.20

A performance of Beethoven's elegant and graceful Septet which has been a favourite with audiences ever since its premiere in 1800

Sunday 23 April at 3pm

Beethoven arr. Lachner Piano Concerto No. 5

The virtuosic pianist Viv McLean returns to Nailsworth to perform a chamber arrangement of Beethoven's mighty and majestic 'Emperor' concerto

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



ALICE JOLLY

BY KATE MONTGOMERY

ALICE JOLLY IS NO ORDINARY STORYTELLER. AS I DO SOME RESEARCH ON THE ESTEEMED AUTHOR PRIOR TO OUR INTERVIEW I AM STRUCK BY THREE THINGS; FIRSTLY, SHE IS AN EXCEPTIONAL WRITER, SECONDLY SHE IS EXTREMELY BRAVE AND THIRDLY SHE HAS HAD A RATHER REMARKABLE LIFE.

I am referring, of course, to Alice's experience having a child through surrogacy and her unflinching description of the heart break which lead to this decision. But I refer as well to Alice's ability to go for the road less travelled. Her last two novels have been crowd-funded by the publisher Unbound. Eschewing mainstream publishing seems risky, but Alice views it as just a different experience. One which can be every bit as rewarding.

In 2016 Alice was awarded the Pen Ackerley Prize for her memoir *Dead Babies and Seaside Towns*, a prize which is awarded to a literary autobiography of excellence. Alice's success made her decision to go with Unbound for her latest novel *Between the Regions of Kindness* a rather easy one. "It was a really good experience doing the memoir with them, I just really liked the people involved and I really like what they're doing and they're publishing really interesting books. I feel very grateful to them, as they supported me when lots of other publishers wouldn't. A lot of other publishers decided that the subject matter (in *Dead Babies and Seaside Towns*) was too difficult. They had the courage to say yes."

This method of publishing has deep historical roots in the industry, although its modern day interpretation seems to have less aversion to risk, and more reliance on the internet. "They're like any other publisher, in terms of they do all the book production, the cover design and all of

that, but the difference is that before you start you've got to raise money which is (in the form of), pledges or subscriptions which is basically pre-sales of the book so you have to have sold a certain number of copies of the book. It sounds really modern, but actually it's a really ancient way of publishing. Lots of 19th century books were published by subscription. A bookseller would put a notice in his window saying 'we want to publish this book' and people used to come in and pay money and when enough people had paid they had enough money to print the book. So actually, not modern at all. But it works very well now because the internet makes it much easier to find people to sign up."

Alice's latest book is due for publication in 2017. It is set in Brighton in early 2003 just before the beginning of the Iraq War. It's about a single mum who wakes one morning to find out that her eighteen-year-old son has gone off on a double decker bus, as an unarmed witness to peace to Iraq. The story focuses on what happens to his family after he leaves. The ones who are left behind, waiting and not knowing what's going to happen. It feels very relevant in today's political climate as it looks at what people are and aren't responsible for. "He personally feels that he has to go and stop this war. But obviously he's putting himself in incredible danger and it's incredibly difficult for his family to accept that decision. It looks at peaceful protesters through the ages, and about the cost of peace."

Alice moved back to Stroud around eight years ago, having grown up in the Gloucestershire countryside and then living here for two years in the early 90s. "I've always had a connection with this area, and with Gloucestershire. Both my family and my husbands' family are here. We both really like Stroud, it's a good place to come to. It's really friendly, I love the farmer's

market and the fact you always meet someone you know when you come in. I think people are really open minded and welcoming here." In fact, Alice is working on a novel about the Stroud Valleys at the moment. "It's a historical book, which has been great as I've had to do a lot of research about the history of Stroud and the history of the mills. The people here have a huge amount of knowledge and are really generous with their time and information. It's been lovely for me as it's given me the opportunity to know more about the district. This area has such an amazing history." There are rich pickings in the area for literary fodder, as many Stroud authors will tell you. A great many memorable characters are born within the folds of the valleys. "I often think people must think I'm mad, as characters become extremely real for me. I almost talk to them in my head."

And will her next novel be crowd-funded? Alice laughs, "I'm pretty sure my friends and family are a little bit fed up with me asking them to fund my books! But in all seriousness I haven't actually given it much thought. I may do. We'll see what happens."

Alice's memoir *Dead Babies and Seaside Towns* is available now and her forthcoming novel *Between the Regions of Kindness* is due for publication later this year via Unbound Publishing. Visit alicejolly.com for further information and updates.



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

SAT 11TH

Writing the New Story with Jay Ramsay

What are the stories we need to tell? What are the stories we need to drop? We're living at a time of deep transition and that also means we need to find a new story, both personally and collectively. As part of the 'Poetic Edges' series you'll be exploring what that means today for you and in your writing with a series of exercises designed to spark your imagination, your memory, and your intuitive sense of direction within meaning, purpose and value. Suitable for all levels of experience. Jay Ramsay is the author and co-author of over 30 books, whose work has been praised by Ted Hughes, Kathleen Raine and Robert Bly. His latest book is the landmark visionary poetry anthology *Diamond Cutters* (with Andrew Harvey). £70 (incl lunch and refreshments)

hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

THE LITTLE GEORGE

WEDS 22ND

Stroud Radical Reading Group: Mark Fisher - Capital Realism: Is There No Alternative?

The Stroud Radical Reading Group meet every month at the Little George and aim to read a variety of articles and books on radical issues, feminism, environmentalism, trade unionism, politics, and current affairs. This month's reading is motivated by the sad early death of Mark Fisher, an influential writer and theorist on politics, economics and culture also known as k-punk. 7:30pm

stroudmicropub.co.uk

MUSEUM IN THE PARK

SAT 4TH

Illustrators Fair

Interested in studying illustration at degree level or wanting to find out more about the inventive, diverse world of illustration? Come along to the Illustrators Fair, organised by the University of Gloucestershire's Illustration Department and meet illustrators and illustration students. This is also an excellent opportunity to admire or buy diverse illustrated books and artefacts created by local artists and designers. Families can also enjoy Tracy Spiers' brand new Mad March Hare trail which will be launched today. 11am-4pm

SAT 4TH

Make A Mini Picture Book with Hannah Shaw

A special workshop as part of the all-day Illustrators' Fair! Make a mini picture book to take home with popular local author and illustrator Hannah Shaw. Listen to some of Hannah's new animal stories and have a go at making a short illustrated story based around an animal character. 11am-12:30pm For families with children aged 6 and above, cost £2 per child. Booking necessary, please call on 01453 763394.

SAT 4TH

Stand Up Creatures and Mini Worlds With Martha Lightfoot

A special workshop as part of the all-day Illustrators' Fair! Inventive local illustrator Martha Lightfoot will be showing you how to make a fabulous mini stand up character and a mini paper world for them to have adventures in. Let your imagination soar, and be as serious or as silly as you like! A drop in workshop for families with children aged 6 and above. 2-4pm £2

THURS 16TH

Thursday Afternoon Talk with Rose Hewlett

Rose will be talking about how the War affected life in local villages, based on her new book. £5 Advance booking and payment is necessary, please call on 01453 763394

museuminthepark.org.uk

NO 23

SUN 5TH

23 Book Club with Nikki Owen

This month's chosen book will be the *Trouble With Goats and Sheep* by Joanna Cannon: "Full of humour and careful depictions of everyday suffering, this is not so much a mystery novel as an investigation into the wealth of secrets and heartbreak that even the most commonplace street can hold." The Guardian. 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

ST LAURENCE CHURCH

SUN 19TH

Sweet Darkness: The Invisible Foundations of a Human Life with David Whyte

Hawkwood College are privileged to present one of contemporary culture's most respected and prolific writers for an evening of poetry and conversation. David Whyte's thoughts on love, vulnerability, nature and work are full of encouragement and wisdom, provoking our own inner

knowing and daring. His life as a poet, author, speaker and guide brings together literature, spiritualenquiry and leadership. 7pm £20

stlaurencefuture.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

SAT 25TH

Calligraphy Workshop with Pam Harmer

An introduction into using the broad edged nib, which is just one of the methods of creating beautiful writing. Pam will also demonstrate brushed lettering and talk about other methods of work and what is needed to practice this discipline. The workshop will require £5 per student to cover use of materials and photocopying, payable to the tutor on the day. 10am-4pm £60

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

RUSKIN MILL HORSLEY

SAT 25TH

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

THISTLEDOWN FARM

NYMPSFIELD

MON 20TH

Spring Solstice Storytelling with Fiona Eadie

The Vernal Equinox marks the midway point between the longest and shortest days, with equal hours of dark and light heralding the onset of spring. Join storyteller Fiona Eadie in the café and hopefully stone circle, weather permitting, for an enthralling hour and a half of seasonal stories, myths and folktales. Suitable for everyone over the age of 8 - adults without children as welcome as children with adults. The event will be mainly indoors although one story may be told outside, depending on the weather. 7pm £9adults/£6.50under18 (ticket includes a drink and a snack in the café)

thistledown.org.uk

PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

SAT 18TH

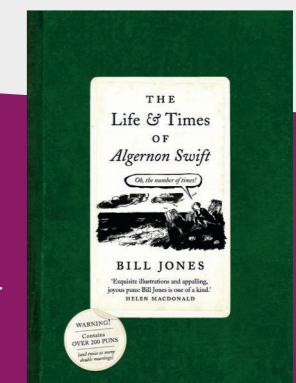
Micro Fiction with Billy Muir

Micro-fiction (also known as flash-fiction) has often been described as a story about something caught by the glimpse of an eye, a distilled narrative that focuses on a particular moment, gesture or conversation. In this workshop, Billy Muir teaches you how to write fully rounded, successful short stories that contain no more than a hundred to five hundred words. £42/£39concs/£40friends/£37concs

prema.org.uk

OUT NOW

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ALGERNON SWIFT BY BILL JONES



A lavishly illustrated novel of puns that pits its earnest young hero, Algernon, against the pitfalls and pratfalls of the English language...Published by Head of Zeus the Life and Times of Algernon Swift is available on-line at headofzeus.com and locally from Stroud Bookshop. Visit goodonpaper.info/literature to read an exclusive extract!

hawkerspot.com

MARK THOMAS

BY CHRIS HEAD

THIS MONTH SEES TWO AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL COMEDY SHOWS IN STROUD. MARK THOMAS COMES TO THE SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS WITH HIS SHOW THE RED SHED AND MEANWHILE ABI ROBERTS BRINGS HER SHOW ANGLICHANKA TO THE PRINCE ALBERT AS PART OF MY OWN EAT & LAUGH NIGHTS. I CAUGHT UP WITH MARK FOR A BRIEF CHAT PRIOR TO HIS LONG-AWAITED RETURN TO STROUD...

MARK, YOUR SHOW CELEBRATES THE 50TH BIRTHDAY OF THE RED SHED IN WAKEFIELD, A WOODEN HUT THAT DOUBLES UP AS A LABOUR CLUB AND THIRTY YEARS AGO THE VENUE FOR YOUR FIRST GIGS. IN IT YOU TELL THE STORY OF YOUR POLITICAL COMING OF AGE ALONG WITH THE TALES OF THE PEOPLE WHO INSPIRED YOU. WHEN DID YOUR WORK START TO BECOME MORE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL, STORY-TELLING AND THEATRICAL?

The stuff I do has been heading this way since the 90's, I loved running campaigns against Post Office privatisation from the stage and inevitably these turned into stories. Even when I was doing telly I was urging the producer to let me do a show which was just me telling stories. But I suppose the first big story was the Illisu Dam Campaign - I was a campaign founder - which was about fighting a dam building scheme in the Kurdish region of Turkey. I remember doing an interview with a journalist in Scotland who was flabbergasted that I would do a two hour show about fighting a dam in Kurdistan. But it worked and ever since then the shows have been primarily about telling stories. Officially the first theatrical show was Bravo Figaro, which was about my dad and opera and a condition he had called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. I had talked about my dad on Radio 4 and by complete chance some people from the Royal

Opera House heard the broadcast and asked if I would meet the film director Mike Figis (who was curator of the ROH Festival that year). We meet and he commissioned me to do a show. The end result was the start of Bravo Figaro. What I do is very simple, I go and do things, I create a story and then I come and tell it.

EVERY NIGHT IN THE SHOW YOU GET PEOPLE UP ON STAGE. THE SHOW MUST CHANGE A LOT WITH THE VOLUNTEERS' INPUT.

The Red Shed is all about community and collective memory, so I wanted people to come and see a show that couldn't work unless the audience join in and create a sense of community. So I very nicely ask people to help me on stage, each night they add a little bit of chaos and improvisation which is huge fun. To be honest, the volunteers each bring something different but the jobs they are asked to do are set into the script; the way they do it is the chaos. And very nice and beautiful it is too.

HOW HAVE REAL PEOPLE FROM THE STORIES YOU TELL REACTED TO THE SHOW?

Generally well. An artist who is mentioned in the show has been to see it four times. My favourite reaction was from a man called Richard who saw the show and said, "Someone came up to me and said, 'Did you really say that?'" I said, Yes I did. But I said it in the subcommittee not the committee."

IT'S OFTEN ARGUED THAT SATIRE DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO THAT?

Yes, that argument is occasionally wheeled out but it completely ignores the notion of community, identity and the fun in debunking people and notions. If comedy is so powerless



Image by Tracey Moberley

why is it that people want to ban cartoons or dictators want to suppress satire? In my career I have done shows that forced multi nationals to change their business practices, stopped seven companies, seven governments and a torturing star building a dam, changed the law on tax (making it harder for the rich to avoid it) and changed the law on protest.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE WITH THIS SHOW?

I hope to create a show people have not seen before, to be original in the telling of working class stories and their importance.

Mark Thomas will be at the Subscription Rooms on Friday 24th, visit subscriptionrooms.org.uk and listings below for further info.

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

THE PRINCE ALBERT

SUN 12TH

Eat Laugh Comedy Shows Present: Abi Roberts in Anglichanka

For their second dinner-and-a-show night at the Albert, Lotte and Chris Head bring you "Anglichanka" with stand-up Abi Roberts, who was described as "true comedy genius" by GQ Magazine. In this "incredible stand-up show from a one-of-a-kind comedian"

(Edinburgh Festival Magazine)/ Abi Roberts' reveals all about living in the former Soviet Union in the 90s and returning after 18 years as the first UK comic to perform comedy in Russian. The title means "Englishwoman" in Russian and it's a compelling autobiographical stand-up hour where Abi reveals the truth about gay rights and censorship in modern Russia and also the consequences of drinking hardcore vodka, studying opera and using outdoor loos in -20 temperatures. Food @ 6pm/Live comedy @ 7:30pm followed by audience Q&A with Ali Roberts. £8food (optional)/£8comedy show

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

SVA

SAT 25TH

Johnny Quiz

The quizmaster to end all quizmasters is back with his monthly installment of hilarity. From his humble beginnings as a lowly, cross-dressing, pub quizmaster Johnny has developed the form into an extravaganza of bombastic irrelevance. No prior knowledge of any subject is required to answer the questions of Johnny Quiz but a strong constitution and liberal values are a definite advantage! 7:30pm £5otd

sva.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

FRI 24TH

Mark Thomas: The Red Shed

Multi award winner Mark returns to where he first started to perform, a red wooden shed in Wakefield, the labour club, to celebrate its 50th birthday. The show will involve the audience (in a nice way) to recreate the shed and its inhabitants. Part theatre, stand up, journalism, activism it's the story of the battle for hope and the survival of a community in a small wooden shed. 8pm £16/£14concs

subscriptionrooms.org.uk



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