

# GOOD ON PAPER

An illustration of a man with a long dark beard and glasses, wearing a blue jacket over a pink shirt. He is holding a large, thick roll of orange paper. The background is a geometric pattern of orange and yellow triangles.

**ISSUE  
#27**

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& SCULPTURE TRAIL**

**+**

**Stroud Sacred Music Festival | Graham Harvey: No Finer Life | Rachel McDonnell | Stroud Authors Books**





# THE OLD FLYING CLUB NYMPFIELD

## New café now open

Watch gliders fly overhead whilst enjoying a range of fantastic coffees, teas, cakes, lunches and wines. Visit the Old Flying Club Café at the Nympsfield airfield

*Find us at The Gliding Club on the B4066, 2.5 miles from Selsley GL10 3TX*



BREAKFAST | LUNCH | CAKES | WINE

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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

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

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

We are also looking to add to our existing hoard of writers so if you are an aspiring writer, want to build your portfolio, looking for work experience or a professional writer who simply wishes to get involved let us know!

P.S Visit our website for extra content including film listings and downloadable archived issues...

Alex and Adam

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PRINTED BY: Tewkesbury Printing Company  
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SPONSORED BY:



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## ONE WEEKEND IN JULY

Sunday July 9  
**Stroud Festival of Nature 2017**  
11.00am – 5.00pm | Stratford Park | FREE

The Flagship day of the three month long programme of events and activities that is Stroud Nature 2017. It takes place among the trees in the arboretum at the wonderful Stratford Park. Sitting on the edge of Stroud at the entrance to the Painswick Valley, the park contains a sports and Leisure Centre, a museum, an outdoor lido, acres of green space, woodland and lake.

In 2016 the event attracted close to 3,000 people and 56 local and regional organisations took part. The atmosphere was superb, as families and children in particular were kept engaged and amused by an amazing array of activities and information. There will be food and drink available, but we also invite people to bring their own picnic.

Children are at the centre of Stroud Nature's project. We are therefore really pleased that, in recognition of this, Stroud Festival, a long established trust responsible for promoting and bringing Arts events and performances to Stroud, have decided that their first dedicated Children's Festival, will take place on Stroud Festival of Nature weekend.



[www.stroudnature.org](http://www.stroudnature.org)

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

[www.twitter.com/stroudnature](https://www.twitter.com/stroudnature)



## Stroud Childrens Festival

Friday 7th - Sunday July 9

A new Children's Festival designed for and with young people and the young at heart.

Cindy Jefferies, curator of last year's Children's Book Festival says: it's wonderful to work with Stroud Nature to offer even more for children during this summer weekend. We will have exciting things happening, from puppets on Friday to singing on Sunday so don't miss out! There's a wishing tree, a library tent, and a butterfly hunt in the museum!

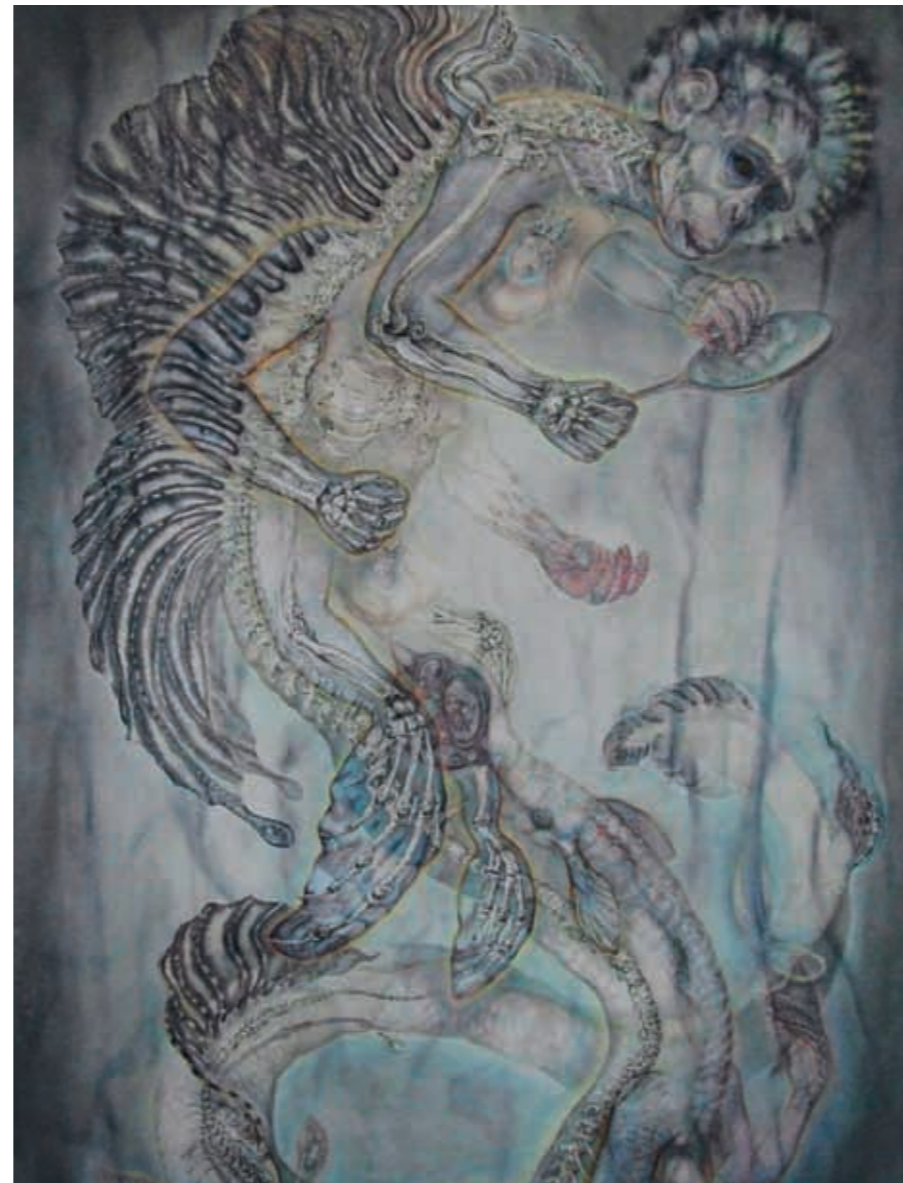
Martha Lightfoot, Hannah Shaw, Linda Newbery and Jamila Gavin will all be in the museum on Saturday, celebrating nature in stories. There will also be exciting news about a new Book Prize to celebrate the life of children's writer Eugenie Summerfield.

Music will be celebrated on Sunday, with workshops around the theme of Odyssey, culminating with wonderful OperaUpClose, giving a performance of children's opera Ulla's Odyssey. And to add a touch of magic, the Minpins will be singing in the Secret Garden.

[www.stroudfestival.org](http://www.stroudfestival.org)  
[www.museuminthepark.org](http://www.museuminthepark.org)  
[www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk)







# Adam White

**When I meet Adam he is caught between preparing for Open Studios and finishing a body of work for his forthcoming exhibition at the Museum in the Park. His studio is crowded with sculptures and rolled up paintings, finished or in progress.**

By Paul Harper

He picks things up or directs my attention towards castings, enthusing about the light refracting quality of the resins that he likes to work with, explaining the multiple meanings embedded in each piece. Objects and ideas seem densely layered, like archaeological strata. A certain amount of creative chaos is evident, which belies his highly planned and systematic approach to making and the detailed investigative approach that characterizes his working methods. In the centre of the space sits a new work, a section of tree trunk, the rotten interior of which is apparently encrusted with wood resin that has crystallised into clusters of hexagonal nodes. More resin oozes from a gaping wound in the trunk. The impression is of something between a natural organic process of decay and a catastrophic parasitic infestation. Either way the object is in a state of transition - from one material to another, from one state of being to another.

This kind of transformation seems central to Adam's work - most often mapping slow, geological or evolutionary processes of change. He unrolls a large painting that depicts a plesiosaur, an aquatic dinosaur, its skeleton partially revealed, overlaid with other figures - humans, a winged rodent. These figures seem to dissolve into, or to be indivisible from, the dinosaur and each other. Drifting around this cruciform image are more ambiguous shapes, leaves, or seed cases perhaps - votive objects, each containing a further image of evolving life. In one of the floating pods a giant penguin is pursuing a killer whale - a role reversal in which the prey has out-evolved its hunter. At the base of the painting a pair of cupped hands are shown, opening to suggest an originating, god-like presence, unleashing an endlessly unfolding, and endlessly fecund, process of generation. Like much of Adam's work, this painting occupies a space somewhere between a rational

scientific diagram and a schematic for a symbolic narrative of how the world began. The symbolism is typically rich and complex, but unresolved, open to multivalent interpretations.

The almost theological nature of the symbolism bolsters an attitude of morality that hangs about the work. Adam's interest in these weighty matters is not purely academic. He is addressing the mysteries of life and death, asking questions about how we should live. If this sounds overwhelmingly loaded with significance, it should be said that Adam's philosophical inclination and the undoubted seriousness of his intentions is often surprisingly and engagingly leavened by jokes or humour, sometimes hidden or embedded in the detail of his work.

Adam's large paintings are alive with ideas, but they also demonstrate an attention to technique. He uses technically experimental approaches to watercolour paints for instance.

A medium often associated with more modest sketches or gentle subjects is here used on a very large scale to create translucent, indefinite surfaces as well as precise draughtsmanship. There is a tension between the very deliberate, analytical image making and the characteristic tendency of the liquid paint to flow and bloom when it meets the absorbent paper. Images swim in and out of clarity. The sometimes darkly portentous content is matched by a decorative, seductive, beauty. The ambition of Adam's vision is matched by his technical mastery.

Many of Adam's concerns seem esoteric, referring to creation myths and hinting at complex unifying theories. He has a wide-ranging and detailed knowledge, particularly of zoology, palaeontology and geology. He is a member of a number of geological societies and, when he isn't working through the night in his studio, he can often be found on the banks of the River Severn, fossil hunting. Listening

to him talk he can seem like a gentleman of the early Romantic period, an 18th century amateur scholar, the Reverend White, strolling about the countryside in a dark frock coat with his geologists hammer, searching for ichthyosaur bones, his head full of wonder and poetry, resisting the reductive natural philosophies of the Enlightenment, formulating theories of the universe that insist on the importance of subjective experience and the imagination alongside methodical scientific inquiry.

For his upcoming exhibition at The Museum in the Park Adam will be showing his large watercolours alongside sculptural works that explore both the underlying structures of the physical world and the stories that we use to explain the world to ourselves, the mythologies that we live by. Notwithstanding the singularity of his vision, Adam has invited various other artists to respond to or interpret the material that he is

dealing with. The programme will include a half-term fossil hunt as well as an interactive installation by artists Emily Joy and Alison Cockcroft, working as Periscope. There will be live performances by artists Uta Baldauf and Kirsty Limburn, and a musical recital involving a Geiger counter by Sean Roe and Richard Dean.

Palaeontology is a Dangerous Beast will be showing at the Museum in the Park from Saturday the 27th of May until Saturday 25th of June. Visit [adamwhiteartist.co.uk](http://adamwhiteartist.co.uk) and [museuminthepark.org.uk](http://museuminthepark.org.uk) for further information.

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





# Hidden Gardens and Sculpture of Rodborough

Rodborough's third Hidden Gardens and Sculpture trail has been extended to two days, promising more stunning gardens, enthralling sculpture, demonstrations, workshops, book signings and of course more tea and delicious cake than you can shake a stick at.

By Lorna Davies

Mike Bigland

Taking place in beautiful, hidden gardens around Church Place in Rodborough on June 10-11, the spaces range from pub gardens and intimate cottage styles to larger landscaped gardens and the fascinating 'secret garden' surrounding Rodborough Court. Each garden will include a sculpture, and some will have demonstrations from artists.

Set up in 2015 by garden designer Sarah Watts, author Katie Fforde (whose garden Sarah designed and looks after), and others in the local community, this year features around 15 sculptors, including Amanda Moriarty, Christian Vaughan Jones, David King, Freddie Wise, Gabriel Bennett, Helen Lomborg, Ian Rank-Broadley, Kim Francis, Marion Mitchell, Mike Bigland, Paul Grellier, Spencer Jenkins, Sammy Adams and Tom Harvey. New artists

include ceramicist Adrian Bates; metalwork artist Dan Rawlings; and stonemason Sebastien David. "It's a nice mix of existing and new people," Sarah explains. "Lots of them are local, but we've also got someone from Warwickshire, South Wales, and further afield." The artists are usually people the organisers have discovered through their interest in art and recommendations from others. "It's also looking at who takes part in the Open Studios, conversations with Stroud Valleys Artspace (SVA)," says Sarah. "The idea long term would be to have a selection process. So far I feel like we've had really good quality artists and an interesting range of different media and styles."

Before the event, Sarah takes the artists around the gardens so they can respond to the space. "Many of the artists make pieces for specific

locations," Sarah explains.

Tom Harvey, who makes amazing wooden sculptures out of tree trunks, along with Helen Lomborg and Dave King, will be demonstrating in the gardens, giving visitors a rare insight into the making process. "Any piece of sculpture represents a huge amount of effort and time from the person that has made it, so to actually see it being made and to be able to have a conversation with the person making it is really helpful for someone perhaps thinking about buying the work, so they really understand the process," says Sarah. "We're very used to being able to buy things relatively cheaply and we have a very throwaway idea of a lot of the things we surround ourselves with, so to understand a little bit more about the processes of unique pieces that are being made by

hand, helps to inform a different way of thinking about what you might be choosing to spend your money on. You buy a piece of sculpture, it's essentially something that is with you for life and for your family, it's an investment piece." The works range from the very affordable to more expensive. All the pieces are available to buy, and most of the artists are available for commissions.

New for 2017 is an exhibition of sculpture created by local primary school children. "We're really trying to broaden the appeal this year because we've got funding to do workshops for children," Angela Dyer, who is on the committee along with Sarah, explains. "We're doing one in Rodborough School and Gastrells School and those sculptures are going to be displayed over the weekend, and there will also be free drop-in

workshops for children on the Sunday. We've tried to create a really interesting feel for the event and make it a lovely day out for everybody and we've generally had really positive feedback." The majority of people who visit are from Gloucestershire, says Angela, but the event's proximity to the Open Gardens (which began in May and runs all summer) means visitors are broadening out location wise. "It's a wider opportunity for getting people to come to Gloucestershire," says Angela.

Other happenings over the

weekend include book signings by Kate Fforde, whose latest release *The Secret Garden* appropriately tells the story of talented gardener (and frankly beautifully-named... ahem) Lorna and her plantswoman friend Philly who work in the grounds of a beautiful manor house in the Cotswolds. There will also be plant sales, cake and refreshments and a talk from Julie Wickham of Stroud Valleys Project (SVP) on creating wildlife habitats in gardens. All the proceeds go to The Old Endowed School; the event's partnership charity SVP; and a third

charity that changes each year - this year it's bereavement charity Ronan's Trust.

The main sponsor is Omnitrack, who are based on Rodborough Court, one of the gardens open for the event. "Without their funding it wouldn't happen," says Angela. "Corporate responsibility in a local community and contributing to their local community, so I think it knits everything in really well."

After you've had your fill of cake, head to The Prince Albert for a BBQ, live music from 5pm on Saturday, June 10. The pub's

garden includes some sculptures that particularly lend themselves for display at night...

The Hidden Gardens and Sculpture of Rodborough weekend is open from 11am until 5pm and costs just £5 per adult per day (children go free). For further information visit [rodboroughrealgardens.com](http://rodboroughrealgardens.com)

Lorna Davies is a journalist who lives in Stroud. She also paints and sells her work in *Made in Stroud* and on Etsy (search 'PaintingsbyLornaD'). Follow her on Twitter and Instagram: @lornadavies



Adrian Bates



Amanda Moriarty



Dan Rawlings



Gabriel Bennet



Ian Rank Broadley



Kim Francis



Marion Mitchell



Sammy Adams



Sebastian David



## Exhibition Space:

# Rachel McDonnell

Rachel McDonnell is a painter whose preoccupations include light, and our experiences of it, paying homage to the minutiae/neglected things in life through the medium of painting, optical trickery and pattern. Beyond that she has interests in philosophy and politics, feminism and the environment, amongst other things, all of which feed into her work, though not necessarily in a straightforward way.

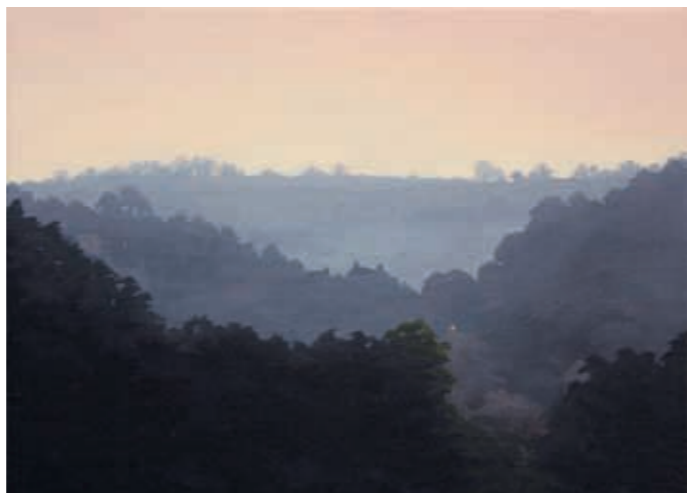
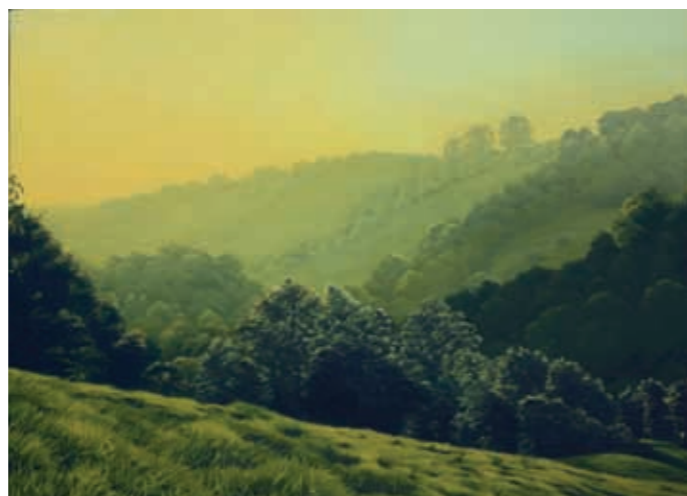
She tries to amalgamate thoughts and ideas about art and the world into something which draws the viewer in, and might lead them both to appreciate the work as an object in itself, and also to think about both the work and its subject.

Recent works include both landscapes inspired by the odd wander in the five valleys and further afield (there aren't as many of these as she'd like, as she and her partner have had two daughters since moving to Stroud

nearly seven years ago, which has been a limiting factor on both work and wandering time), and a series of more abstract works formed of dots. These play with the idea of creating something three dimensional using only the simplest two dimensional shapes (the rectangle of the canvas, and the circles that form the image). Some of this series is just three dimensional, others are thoroughly confusing and disorienting, as the dots seem to shift about, boggling the eye and confusing the brain.

As her children get bigger, Rachel is looking forward to having more time in the studio and out and about, and finally making it to the monthly Walking the Land artists walks after four years of trying and missing!

Rachel will be exhibiting a series of paintings at the Vault in Nailsworth for six weeks from Mon 26th June. Visit [rachelmcdonnell.com](http://rachelmcdonnell.com) for further examples of her work.



# ART LISTINGS

## ART OF CLAY

**SAT 20TH MAY – THURS 8TH JUN**

**Clay Groovara – The Peoples Republic of Stroud Presents: Pop Posters On Politics**

A satirical look at the state of politics through the propaganda prints of Clay Groovara. "Make Stroud Even Greater". From Sat 10th June the gallery reverts back to displaying Clay Sinclair's post pop paintings on perspex. Want to join the People's Republic of Stroud revolution? Buy your badge here!! Open Mon – Sat

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

## BISLEY HOUSE

**THURS 18TH MAY – AUGUST**

**Donnelly Sisters: Artist in Residence**

This interchanging exhibition at Bisley House by Stroud based arts agency the Donnelly Sisters currently features the work of Beatrice Brown, James Kriszyk, Anna Marrow, Karen Thomas, Colin Glen, Daniel Sparkes, Nicola Grellier, Lorraine Robbins, M/H Walters Design, James Green (TheArtfulGreen), Joe Magee, Andrew Wood, Soozie Roberts, Rebecca Mason and Abigail Fallis. Tues-Sat 12pm-11pm/Sun 12pm-6pm

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

## ELVERS STUDIO

**THURS 1ST – FRI 30TH JUN**

**Colin Heavingham: Essex Boy**

New gallery on Nelson Street featuring Essex Boy a neo-expressionist exhibition by Colin Heavingham which was recently exhibited at the Hastings Arts Forum. The gallery also includes unique jewellery by Tristana and poetry by Daniel F Davis.

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

## GALLERY PANGOLIN

**MON 22ND MAY – FRI 21ST JULY**

**In House II: Pangolin Makers**

Many of the highly-skilled workforce at Pangolin Editions are also talented artists and craftsmen in their own right. Following the success of 'In House' in 2013 this new exhibition showcases drawings, paintings, sculpture, jewellery, textiles and a host of other media, all created by Pangolin makers. Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm/Sat 10am – 1pm

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

## HIDDEN GARDENS AND SCULPTURE OF RODBOROUGH

**SAT 10TH – SUN 11TH**

Rodborough's third Hidden Gardens and Sculpture trail promises to be a visual extravaganza, and is an exciting addition to Stroud's calendar of key cultural events. See feature on p6-7! 11am-5pm

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

## LANSDOWN HALL

**TUES 30TH MAY-SUN 4TH JUN**

**Inspired Skies**

A photographic exhibition inspired by our beautiful skies stunningly framed in sycamore from a local wood. Amazing images to inspire you every day, be it at home or work. Signed limited editions by Deb Parkes and George McClarkin. Tues-Sat 10am-5pm/Sun 10am-2pm

**TUES 6TH-SUN 11TH**

**Stirrings**

An exhibition of various kinds of abstract works about colour: its movement, the forms it might generate, the richness of lighter and darker hues. It should be a fun exhibition to see, made up of conventional framed pieces (in oil, acrylic, chalk pastel, oil pastel), colourful assemblages in card and balsa wood, painted glass through which light heightens the colour, and various hanging pieces, most of which turn or twirl on themselves. Tues-Sat 10am-4:30pm/Sun 10am-1pm

**MON 19TH-SAT 24TH**

**Keith Symonds: People Places Faces**

Stroud based artist Keith Symonds will be showing around 60 recent oil paintings in his first solo exhibition since finishing as an art teacher at Marling School. As well as numerous portraits of local people there are figure studies derived from observational work undertaken at Stroud Life Drawing, the twice weekly class which Keith runs at the Centre for Science and Art. 9:30am-4:30pm

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

## MALTHOUSE BAR AND KITCHEN

**THURS 20TH APR – MON 19TH JUN**

**Select Festival: Nicola Grellier – Future Giants**

Future Giants' are large scale figure drawings in charcoal on canvas. The

giants are members of a growing population of Heads of States – unreconstructed characters who, in the process of growing up, are investigating their interests and directions by clothing themselves as superheroes and other invented characters. By 'dressing up' or disguising themselves they can strike a pose and take on a strength they may not yet feel. They are 'Future Giants'. Presented by SIT Select as part of the Select Festival 2017.

**WEDS 21ST JUN – TUES 8TH AUG**

**Andy Lovell: Binary Compositions**

New works created in response to the Malthouse interior. Andy explores recurring themes through abstraction, pattern and texture in a series of large scale, mainly monochrome, silkscreen prints and paintings on fabric. Presented by SIT select

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

## MUSEUM IN THE PARK

**SAT 27TH MAY – SUN 25TH JUN**

**Adam White: Palaeontology Is A Dangerous Beast**

An Exploration of All Things Geological through an Artist's Fossil Myopia. Adam White interrogates geology through a series of giant experimental watercolours and votive objects that address the vital human concerns of our origins, hidden mythologies of the present day, how and why we think, the mystery of life and death, and the wilful blurring of belief and science. See feature on p4-5! Tues-Fri 10am-4pm/Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

**THURS 1ST – SUN 4TH**

**Pop Up Artist Studio in the Secret Garden Pavilion**

Visit a pop up studio full of intriguing artefacts, mineral magic and fossil finds! Call in and look, or stop and linger, draw, dream and imagine... Creative, playful art activities and displays presented by Periscope artist duo Emily Joy and Alison Cockcroft, to coincide with Adam White's exhibition in Gallery One. 11am-4pm Free (donations welcome)

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

## THE OLIVER VIVIAN GALLERY

**SAT 3RD/10TH/17TH/24TH**

**Oliver Vivian: I'd Like To Be**

The Oliver Vivian Gallery will be open every Saturday in June with a new exhibition, 'I'd Like To Be' - his continued adventure working with

an unique process in oils on canvas. 10am – 3pm or by appointment 07532071457

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

## SGS STROUD SCHOOL OF ART

**FRI 9TH-FRI 16TH**

**Full-Time Student Art and Design Show**

One of the most electric nights in the year at SGS Stroud campus is opening night of the School of Art's exhibition which this year takes place on Friday 9th from 6:30 – 9pm. The calibre of the student's final work is often lauded as degree or industry standard. It's a showcase for the best new talent in fine art and design, graphics, illustration, textiles, fashion, 3D, photography and games design. Sat – Fri 10am-4pm (closed Sunday)

**TUES 27TH-FRI 30TH**

**Part Time Leisure Courses Art and Design Show**

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

[sgscol.ac.uk/studentshows](http://sgscol.ac.uk/studentshows)

## SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

**TUES 6TH-MON 12TH**

**Fragility, Power and Presence**

Katie's collection of paintings explore themes of transformation, fragility and power with images of flowers and landscapes. Further inspiration comes from writer John O'Donahue: "Presence is alive...it comes towards you and engages you. Landscape has a vast depth and subtlety of presence. The more attentive you are and the longer you remain in a landscape, the more you will be embraced by its presence." 10am-5pm (Please note that the exhibition will not be accessible on the Wednesday.)

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

## SVA

**FRI 2ND – FRI 30TH**

**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 3RD/10TH/17TH/24TH****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](mailto:fungi@cscic.org)

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

**PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY****MON 24TH APR – SAT 3RD JUN****Rupert Russell**

This debut exhibition is an opportunity to enjoy significant moments of Rupert's photographic journey and features landscapes and portraits, pictorial and documentary.

**MON 24TH APR – SAT 3RD JUN****Becki Whatley**

Beci's paintings will bring a powerful sense of colour and bling to Prema's Vestry Café in the early summer, offering a variety of sizes and colours – always affordable and sure to bring a zing of vitality to a dark corner in every home!

**MON 24TH APR – SAT 3RD JUN****Sally Harker**

Sally's screen prints often start off as block prints, which are enlarged and transferred onto a screen. In this way the textures and marks that are characteristic of a block-print are retained but the modification onto a screen means that the artist is able to print larger designs in vivid colours onto fabric.

**MON 19TH JUN – SAT 29TH JUL****Peta Taylor**

A Brighton artist specialising in brush-pen drawings of woodland on the theme of 'A Modern Arcadia'. The drawings are made into limited edition prints using giclee, a digital process on archival paper.

**MON 19TH JUN – SAT 29TH JUL****Karoline Rerrie**

Karoline Rerrie is an illustrator who creates images by hand using drawing and screen-printing. She sees her work as a craft and wants to maintain a handmade element - precisely the thing that originally attracted her to printmaking. She now designs, makes and sells a range of hand printed products including greetings cards and limited edition screen prints.

**MON 19TH JUN – SAT 29TH JUL****Emma Leith**

For her exhibition with Prema, Emma will be immersing the showcase gallery in a riot of colour and texture

– crochet, yarn-bombing, mosaic work and various kits and projects for people to try at home. Emma is passionate about helping others to locate their own "inner-artist" and reminds us of the words of Einstein – "creativity is contagious, pass it on".

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

**RUSKIN MILL HORSLEY****FRI 26TH MAY – SUN 18TH JUN****Miranda Baker**

The colourful graphic world of Miranda Barker is peopled with friendly superheroes, mythical animals and an infectious sense of fun. Using a combination of traditional drawing and computer techniques, her characters strike poses, undertake adventures, all the while addressing such contemporary issues as identity, gender and bullying. Miranda studied at Ruskin Mill and currently works on her artwork from home in Nailsworth and at Stroud Valleys Artspace. 10am-4pm

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

**NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE  
CIRENCESTER****SAT 20TH MAY – SUN 16TH JULY****Julie Cope's Grand Tour: The Story of A Life by Grayson Perry**

A Crafts Council touring exhibition. The Crafts Council have recently acquired an exciting new addition to its national collection of contemporary craft: a pair of tapestries by Grayson Perry, winner of the Turner Prize in 2003. The tapestries are the only pair in a public collection and had their first public showing at Collect: The International Art Fair for Contemporary Objects from 2 – 6 February at the Saatchi Gallery, London. The tapestries will be shown at New Brewery Arts as part of a national tour. (Main Gallery)

**MON 5TH – MON 19TH****Amelia Scott-Hopkins**

Amelia is an abstract artist that predominantly works using oil paint. She expresses her unique style through the creative use of bright colours, that are portrayed in all her commissions and studies.

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

**FOR ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS  
& COURSES VISIT:**

**ATELIER**  
[ATELIERSTROUD.CO.UK](http://ATELIERSTROUD.CO.UK)

**CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ART**  
[ROOMHIRESTROUD.CO.UK](http://ROOMHIRESTROUD.CO.UK)

**CREATIVE NETWORK**  
[CREATIVENETWORK.ORG.UK](http://CREATIVENETWORK.ORG.UK)

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRINTMAKING COOPERATIVE**  
[GPCHQ.CO.UK](http://GPCHQ.CO.UK)

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[GL5-ART.COM](http://GL5-ART.COM)

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[KENDRICKSTGALLERY.CO.UK](http://KENDRICKSTGALLERY.CO.UK)

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[PEGASUSART.CO.UK](http://PEGASUSART.CO.UK)

**RUSKIN MILL**  
[RMT.ORG](http://RMT.ORG)

**THE SCULPTURE STUDIO**  
[THESCULPTURESTUDIO.CO.UK](http://THESCULPTURESTUDIO.CO.UK)

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[SITESELECT.ORG](http://SITESELECT.ORG)

**SOUTH WEST ART WORKSHOPS**  
[SWARTWORKSHOPS.CO.UK](http://SWARTWORKSHOPS.CO.UK)

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[SGSCOL.AC.UK](http://SGSCOL.AC.UK)

**STROUD VALLEY ARTSPACE**  
[SVA.ORG.UK](http://SVA.ORG.UK)

**SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS**  
[SUBSCRIPTIONROOMS.ORG.UK](http://SUBSCRIPTIONROOMS.ORG.UK)

**VICTORIA WORKS STUDIOS**  
[VICTORIAWORKSSTUDIOS.CO.UK](http://VICTORIAWORKSSTUDIOS.CO.UK)

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[NEWBREWERYARTS.ORG.UK](http://NEWBREWERYARTS.ORG.UK)

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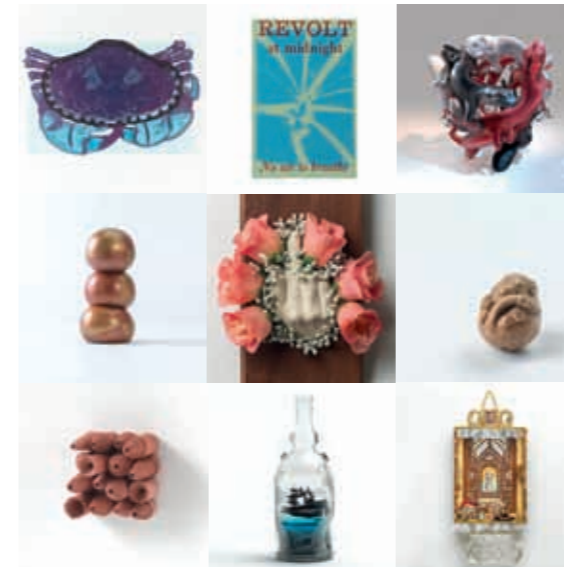
**GOOD  
ON  
PAPER**

Visit our YouTube channel for a series of interview shorts with local artists filmed and edited by Katie Jane Watson featuring Marcus Walters, Kate Williamson, Andy Lovell, Dan Rawlings and Ann-Margreth Bohl.

**In House II: Pangolin Makers**

Until - 21st July

Drawings, paintings, sculpture, jewellery, textiles and a host of other media, all created by Pangolin makers



Artists clockwise from top left: Joe Carpenter, Andy Kinnear, Manuel Calderon, Dan Cummings, Soraya Redondo, Victoria Collins, Sally James, Philip Lineker, Rachel Coombes

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[gallery@pangolin-editions.com](mailto:gallery@pangolin-editions.com) [www.gallery-pangolin.com](http://www.gallery-pangolin.com)

arts • sustainability • spirituality • well-being

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**Seed Festival**  
Planting Big Ideas 7-9 July



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Deep rest retreat \* Day courses in wellbeing

Hawkwood College, Stroud, GL6 7QW  
01453-759034 [www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk](http://www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk)

**Binary Compositions****Andy Lovell**

21 June – 8 August

Malthouse Bar & Kitchen  
Salmon Springs GL6 6NU  
[www.stroudmalthouse.com](http://www.stroudmalthouse.com)

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# Stroud Authors Books

As we proudly pointed out in last year's Literature Special Stroud is in no short supply of published authors; covering every genre from romance, thrillers, sci-fi, folk-tales, comedy, poetry and much more. Here is just a short selection of the latest books penned right here in the Five Valleys...



## THE PEOPLE AT NUMBER 9

BY FELICITY EVERETT

**Publisher:** Harper Collins  
**Release Date:** 6th April

'Have you met them yet, the

new couple?' When Gav and Lou move into the house next door, Sara spends days plucking up courage to say hello. The neighbours are glamorous, chaotic and just a little eccentric. They make the rest of Sara's street seem dull by comparison. When the hand of friendship is extended, Sara is delighted and flattered. Incredibly, Gav and Lou seem to see something in Sara and Neil that they admire too. In no time at all, the two couples are soulmates, sharing suppers, bottles of red wine and childcare, laughing and trading stories and secrets late into the night in one another's houses. And the more time Sara spends with Gav and Lou, the more she longs to make changes in her own life. But those changes will come at a price. Soon Gav and Lou will be asking things they've no right to ask of their neighbours, with shattering consequences for all of them...Have you met The People at Number 9? A dark and delicious novel about envy, longing and betrayal in the suburbs...

harpercollins.co.uk



## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ALGERNON SWIFT

BY BILL JONES

**Publisher:** Head of Zeus  
**Release Date:** 9th February

Young and earnest, Algernon Swift is perplexed by life and all the ambiguities that language throw at him. By contrast, his elderly uncle, Reverend Hawker, revels in them.

Through a series of original

hand-drawn illustrations, we follow Algernon as he navigates the troubles of life, love and language. Eventually, Algernon learns to feel joy amidst all the confusion. Wickedly clever and original, The Life and Times of Algernon Swift contains some of the best – or indeed worst – puns and jokes you will ever read.

hawkerspot.com



## INTO THE NO ZONE

BY EUGENE LAMBERT

**Publisher:** Electric Monkey  
**Release Date:** 6th April

What price for peace on Wrath? The blood-curdling sequel to science-fiction epic The Sign of One. Hiding out in a Gemini stronghold, Kyle is finding out that being a hero is a bit of a let-down. The rebels may have struck a blow against the Slayer army, but victory is far from won and Wrath is as hostile as ever. Kyle finds himself caught between his ident brother Colm, who he saved from certain death, and his friend Sky, who is desperate to follow up a trail that may or may not lead to her lost sister. When the Slayers offer a peace deal with a sting in its tail, the rebels are split into factions – with Kyle at its centre. There's no choice but to run – and this time the path leads deep into Reaper territory, into the No-Zone.

eugenelambert.com



## BALLAD TALES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF BRITISH BALLADS RETOLD

EDITED BY KEVAN MANWARING

**Publisher:** The History Press  
**Release Date:** 8th June

A ballad is a song that tells a story and many traditional British

ballads contain fascinating stories – tales of love and jealousy, murder and mystery, the supernatural and the historical. This anthology brings together nineteen original retellings in short story form, written by some of the country's most accomplished storytellers, singers and wordsmiths. Here you will find tales of cross-dressing heroines, lusty pirates, vengeful fairy queens, mobsters and monsters, mermaids and starmen – stories that dance with the form and flavour of these narrative folksongs in daring and delightful ways. Richly illustrated, these enchanting tales will appeal to lovers of folk music, storytelling and rattling yarns.

kevanmanwaring.co.uk



## THE GIRL WHO RAN

BY NIKKI OWEN

**Publisher:** Harper Collins  
**Release Date:** 15th June

Running from the enemy...Dr Maria Martinez has finally escaped The Project facility that has been controlling her since birth. But in going against The Project's rigid protocol, the powers at the very top of the organisation will go to any length to re-initiate her. Their aim? To bring her back to the tightly-regimented headquarters where their intense training of Maria can be completed. Fleeing to Switzerland in an attempt to outwit her enemy, Maria must never lose sight of potential danger, but soon finds there's nowhere to run. And as she starts to question whether she can trust even those closest to her, returning to the one place she has fought so hard to leave might be her only option. An electrifying thriller, perfect for fans of Nicci French and Charles Cumming.

nikkiowenauthor.com



## PRACTISE MAKES PERFECT

BY PENNY PARKES

**Publisher:** Simon and Schuster  
**Release Date:** 29th June

The Practice dressing heroines, lusty pirates, vengeful fairy queens, mobsters and monsters, mermaids and starmen – stories that dance with the form and flavour of these narrative folksongs in daring and delightful ways. Richly illustrated, these enchanting tales will appeal to lovers of folk music, storytelling and rattling yarns.

at Larkford has suddenly been thrust under the spotlight – and its nomination as a 'NHS Model Surgery' is causing the team major headaches. Dr Holly Graham should be basking in the glow of her new romance with fellow doctor, Taffy – but she is worried that the team is prioritising plaudits over patients, and her favourite resident, the irreverent and entertaining Elsie, is facing a difficult diagnosis. Add to that the chaos of family life and the strain is starting to show.

simonandschuster.co.uk

## GOOD ON PAPER

Visit our website at [goodonpaper.info/literature](http://goodonpaper.info/literature) to read extracts from the Ballad Tales and the Life and Times of Algernon Swift!

# LITERATURE LISTINGS

## ALE HOUSE

WEDS 7TH/14TH/21ST/28TH

Rick Vick: Writing Group

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

## ATELIER

TUES 27TH

Radio Cinema: The Freedom Delusion hosted by Richard Wilson

'The ideal of freedom is at the heart of our political and economic system. It is foundational to our sense of justice, our way of life, our conception of what it is to be human.' - Just what you need after the general election... Radio Cinema is the amazing world of 'spoken word radio' (podcasts etc) - Listen together - start a discussion and/or continue listening back home...7pm £3

atelierstroud.com

## BRITISH SCHOOL

FRI 9TH

Ballad Tales Launch

Celebrating the launch of Ballad Tales: an anthology of British ballads retold from The History Press with a lively showcase of storytelling and song from a selection of contributors including Kevan Manwaring, Chantelle Smith, Anthony Nanson, Kirsty Hartsiotis, Nimue Brown, Fiona Eadie, David Metcalfe, Chrissy Derbyshire, Karola Renard, Mark Hassall and Laura Kinnear. 7pm Free

thehistorypress.co.uk

## THE LITTLE GEORGE

WEDS 28TH

Stroud Radical Reading Group: Rebecca Solnit – Hope in the Dark

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 Rebecca Solnit's Hope in the Dark. 7:30pm Free

stroudmicropub.co.uk

## THE LITTLE VIC

SUN 25TH

Stroud Out Loud!

\*Poetry \* Storytelling \* Song \* Stand-up \* Monologues \* Stroud's monthly spoken word showcase. Celebrating creative free speech with this entertaining bardic circle for all. Whatever your party piece – a new poem, a comedy routine, a folk tale, a song, a dramatic monologue, your latest artwork – come and share it! Arrive early for a slot (10 mins or less). Celebrate the art of memory and learn your piece by heart. 7:30pm Free

firesprings.org.uk

## MUSEUM IN THE PARK

TUES 6TH

Poetry at Museum in the Park with Jeff Cloves and Philip Rush

Jeff Cloves is a mainstay of the Star Anise Café and a writer with a programme this year of completing a poem a week...His elegantly small book, 'Popular Poetry' will be featured. Philip Rush has recently retired from teaching and is spending a little more time on his writing; he has been included in a Carcanet anthology and in the Bloodaxe Ledbury anthology, 'Hwaet!'. The two of them shall be reading 'poems old and new', which means poems which are available to buy in pamphlets, as well as poems that are only recently completed. 7:30pm Free

SUN 18TH

Unearthing Stories: Creative Writing Workshop with Kevan Manwaring

Using Adam White's exhibition Palaeontology is a Dangerous Beast (see feature on p4-5!) for inspiration this playful, exploratory workshop will use short writing activities to stimulate your imagination and create mini-stories, poems, and life-writing. Through personal excavation who knows what stories you will unearth? No experience necessary. Just bring pen and paper. For adults and children aged 12 years and older. 2-4pm £10/£8concs Booking required Tel: 01453 763394

museuminthepark.org.uk

## NO 23

SUN 7TH

23 Book Club with Nikki Owen

This month's chosen book is the Paying Guest by Sarah Walters: "A page-turning melodrama and a fascinating portrait of London on the verge of great change" The Guardian. The monthly book club is run by Nikki Owen, author of the critically acclaimed Project Trilogy. 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...4pm Free

## THISTLEDOWN FARM

WEDS 21ST

A Time of Light: Storytelling on the Solstice

This summer solstice – the longest day of the year – Thistledown Farm invites you to a storytelling celebration of midsummer. Join Fiona Eadie in the beautiful Fieldfare Café for an engaging evening of seasonal stories, myths and folktales. Fiona is passionate about language and about bringing the spoken word to life. Like most storytellers, she works with stories that have come down to us through the oral tradition and delights in telling these face to face rather than reading from books or scripts. Suitable for everyone over the age of 8 – adults without children are as welcome as children with adults! The event will mainly be indoors although one story may be told outside. 7:30pm £7.50adults/£5.50under18's (booking essential - ticket price includes either a soft drink, hot drink or small glass of wine.)

FRI 23RD-SUN 25TH

Tales of Witchcraft and Wonder

Inkubus Suktubus' have sought out a fascinating, historic - and haunted - location for 2017. It will be a weekend of wonders, with, on the Saturday night, a cornucopia of delights: Kevan and Chantelle, as Brigid's Flame, will be telling bardic tales and song, then after a feast, will be Kirsty and Anthony performing dark tales of the Forest and Welsh borders - then the band will be launching their new album Belas Knap in a wonderful acoustic set. 7:30pm

thistledown.org.uk

## NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

SAT 3RD

Hardbound Travel Journal Workshop with Emily Northern

A 3 hour workshop making a personal journal, the perfect size to take on your travels. Using a selection of different papers, or simply cartridge paper, and optional pocket pages you will hand sew a longstitch journal with a wraparound leather cover. All tools and materials will be provided. However, students may wish to bring papers e.g. maps or destination images to include in the journal. 10am-1pm £45

TUES 27TH

Writers in the Brewery with Matt Duggan

A 'pop-in' social session for everyone who is interested in writing. Poets, fiction writers, biographers and non-fiction writers – all are welcome. Guest speaker/performer each month: an author, publisher, poet, journalist, musician or groups, who share their work and entertain us. Open 'mic' each evening for anyone to read and share their work. It is an opportunity to meet like-minded people, learn about groups, competitions, classes and workshops and a chance to showcase your own work if you want to. So come along to share your work or just sit back, sip your drink and listen to others. This month's guest is Bristol poet Matt Duggan, editor of a brand new poetry magazine The Angry Manifesto. 7-9pm £4otd

newbreweryarts.org.uk

## PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

SUN 11TH

Imogen Harvey-Lewis and Alun Hughes: The Art of Words

Artist and illustrator Imogen Harvey-Lewis joins forces with writer and lyricist Alun Hughes for a creative collaboration. Work with two intuitive artists as you discover the world of visual storytelling in its broadest sense. You will spend the day writing, drawing and collaborating together to create responsive imagery and text that aims to become the basis or starting point of your artistic exploration. 10am-4pm £68/£65concs/£66friends/£63concs

prema.org.uk



# Graham Harvey: No Finer Life

Graham Harvey is the agricultural story editor for BBC Radio 4's long-running soap, as well as the writer of more than 600 scripts for the show and books such as *The Killing of the Countryside*. It's safe to say that he is deeply embedded in rural Britain, and in the matters that drive it.

By Adam Horovitz



So it's no surprise that the new play he has written, and which stops off in Stroud's St. Laurence's Church this month, is about the land, and the people who inhabit it. *No Finer Life* is not a fictional play, however. Imagine, if you will, that *The Archers* had started life as a documentary series during World War Two, and you'll begin to get the idea.

The play tells the remarkable story of Elizabeth Henderson, a young woman who craves the farming life, despite the fact that she was not born to it, and made sure that she became involved in it by joining the Women's Land Army towards the end of the war, heading off to milk cows at a nearby farm. For her 19th birthday, Elizabeth's mother bought her the wartime bestseller *The Farming Ladder*, about the management of a small farm in the Cotswolds run by George Henderson, which laid out a chemical-free method of farming that was wildly successful – astonishingly so, in these days of monoculture farming and pesticides with everything.

"In its day," says Graham, "this little farm of just 87 acres produced more food per acre than almost any farm in Britain. In fact it was so productive that the Ministry of Agriculture bussed in hundreds of farmers to show them the way to feed the nation in wartime. With no pesticides and few chemical fertilisers, George and his brother Frank built up the fertility of their little farm using entirely natural methods. That's why as well as producing copious amounts of food it remained rich in wildlife. In *The Farming Ladder*, George says the land on their small Cotswold farm was so poor, they needed to stock it with large numbers of cattle, sheep and poultry to build the fertility to grow the bumper wheat crops the war-torn nation needed. Together grazing animals, poultry and pasture plants are nature's method of re-cycling carbon – taking carbon dioxide

from the air and storing it in the soil. Then through the ceaseless actions of unimaginable numbers of soil microbes it's turned into compounds plants can use to grow. George Henderson reckoned that if all of Britain were farmed in the way he and his brother did it, the nation could easily feed a population of 100 million."

Graham Harvey is a keen advocate of respecting the basic laws of nature, and sees the results of the modern methods as: "...ruined soils, polluted streams, contaminated food and lost wildlife." "There's only one answer," he says. "We need to put grassland and grazing back into farm rotations. It'll bring a whole new life to our countryside."

The play is as much about the people as it is about the farming practice, though. Elizabeth, reading *The Farming Ladder* in one sitting throughout the night ("even though she had to be up at 5am to do the milking"), decided that she had to work on George Henderson's astonishing farm. "She persuaded George to take her on as a farm pupil," says Graham, "even though they'd only ever employed young men in the past. Before long romance flourished, and with the war entering its final days George and Elizabeth were married. Suddenly, this young woman from Ilminster found herself helping to run the most famous farm in the land. She was also drawn into George's campaign to save small farms and prevent what he saw as the political take-over of farming through the back door of farm subsidies."

"For me Elizabeth and George are unsung heroes. I read George's book in my student days. By that time it was over 30 years old. But, like Elizabeth, I was inspired by it. In a land of factory farms, farm amalgamations and relentless mechanisation, it presented an alternative vision; a countryside of family farms, thriving villages and teeming wildlife.

"Though I've told many country stories in *The Archers* over the years, none has inspired me more than that of Elizabeth and George Henderson. I believe it has much to teach us today about our relationship with the land and the food we buy. Many flaws are emerging from our system of modern industrial agriculture – soil erosion, flooding, pesticide contamination. Who's to say George's creative approach won't be equally inspiring to a new generation in post-Brexit Britain?" Elizabeth herself is still alive, a sprightly 93 year old still living on the small farm that inspired the play. Her determination, and the prodigious bounty of the farm she helped to manage as Britain faced the austerity of war, ringed by U-Boats preventing the delivery of food from beyond these shores, have been honoured well.

*No Finer Life* stops off on the Stroud leg of its tour at St. Laurence's Church on June 12th at 7.30 p.m. The night opens with a short reading of farming poems by a certain poet of this parish who has been the Pasture-fed Livestock Association's poet in residence for the past year, and the play itself is followed by a Q&A session with Graham Harvey, who will be answering questions about the play, *The Farming Ladder* and even *The Archers*...

Tickets, priced £10 or £9 concessions, are available from Trading Post Records in Stroud or on the door. Visit [nofinerlife.co.uk](http://nofinerlife.co.uk) and [stlaurencefuture.org.uk](http://stlaurencefuture.org.uk) for further info.

**Adam Horovitz is currently the Pasture-fed Livestock Association's poet in residence. No one is more surprised by this development than him, but he's been enjoying bottle-feeding calves and walking up steep hillsides after fractious sheep.**

## THEATRE LISTINGS

### COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE

THURS 15TH-FRI 16TH/WEDS 21ST-SAT 24TH

The Cotswold Players: *The King and I*

One of the most iconic and popular musicals from the Golden Age, *The King and I* offers romance, wit, beautiful and exotic costumes and settings, but above all glorious music. Rodgers and Hammerstein once again weave their magic in classic songs such as 'Getting to Know You', 'Hello, Young Lovers', 'Shall We Dance', and 'I Whistle a Happy Tune'. A richly-layered night of music, romance and thought-provoking social situations is guaranteed. 7:30pm £13/£8under 16's

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

### MINCHINHAMPTON MARKET HOUSE

THURS 1ST

Everyman Theatre Cheltenham Production: *Twenty-One Pounds*

A brand new play for Gloucestershire, commissioned by the Everyman Theatre. Based on real-life events, this historical drama – written by local playwright Martin Lytton – follows the story of Hannah, a Gloucestershire slave, and her owners. As they prepare for the abolition of slavery they each find in their own way the real cost of servitude and the true price of freedom. 7:45pm £10

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

### MUSEUM IN THE PARK

WEDS 14TH

The Festival Players: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

The roguish and foolish Knight, Falstaff, schemes to woo two married women to get his hands on their husbands' money, but the wily Wives of Windsor are more than a match for him. The Festival Players Theatre Company brings you this colourful comedy in an all-male, fast-paced, costumed summer feast of farce. An outdoor production directed by Michael Dyer with music by Johnny Coppin. Grounds open at 6pm for picnics. Please bring low-backed chairs and rugs and clothing to suit all weathers. Pimms, teas and coffees on sale at the Museum! £15/£13.50concs

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

### ST LAURENCE CHURCH

MON 12TH

No Finer Life

See feature on p14! £10/£9concs from Trading Post or otd

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

### SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

THURS 1ST

Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company: *Dark Tales of Gloucestershire*

Hanged men, witches, sea serpents and drunken fairies can all be found in *Spaniel In The Works Theatre Company* popular show *Dark Tales of Gloucestershire*. *Dark Tales of Gloucestershire* takes traditional folk tales from the county and retells them in a lively, funny and exciting way using rhyme, music, dance and puppets. From the Royal intrigue of the Bisley boy to the sad tale of the ghost pub of Dursley and the strange Sea Serpent of Coombe Hill, *Dark Tales of Gloucestershire* is an ideal fun entertainment for family audiences. 8pm £10/£8concs

THURS 8TH-FRI 9TH

Kriya Art Presents: HIP

Based around found objects, this semiautobiographical one woman show introduces the audience to a flat caught between two timelines and personalities: the home of Anne Clarke during '70s bohemian Brighton, and a squat established by Jolie in 2002. HIP transports the audience, in this extra-live performance, to a cosy living room. Jolie's soothing and passionate storytelling interweaves Annie's real letters and diaries with vestiges from her own life. 7:30pm £8/£6concs

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

### PAINSWICK CENTRE

FRI 16TH

Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company: *Dark Tales of Gloucestershire*

See info in listings above! 8pm £10/£8concs

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

### NIBLEY HOUSE DURSLEY

THURS 8TH

Rain or Shine Theatre Company: *Twelfth Night*

Hopeless romantics, drunken knights, a pompous steward and fools galore abound in one of Mr. William Shakespeare's most celebrated comedies. Sure to delight family audiences from age 6 to 96, this is an ideal choice for an outdoor theatrical event. 7:30pm

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

## COMEDY LISTINGS

### BLACK BOOK CAFÉ

THURS 8TH JUN – THURS 27TH JUL

Live Sketch Comedy: *Improv to Script to Stage*

The group becomes a sketch team and in the sessions participants improvise and brainstorm characters and situations. Chris Head provides inspiration and jumping off points that lead to the creation of characters and material. This improvised work is then written up as scripts with the best of the material going into the final show. You will learn how to write professional sketches, how improvisation can develop into scripts, how to stage and perform sketch comedy and how to put a show together. Complete and near beginners welcome, as well as those wishing to refresh their technical skills or create new material. Visit [chrishead.com](http://chrishead.com) for further info. 7-9:30pm £125

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

### LANSDOWN HALL

SAT 24TH

Comedy Characters: 1 Day Workshop with Andrew St John

Starting from twelve 'character archetypes' to develop strong physical comedy characters. Getting them moving in the space, exploring comic walks and postures and teaching them to speak. Creating the 'worlds' where they live and looking at their interactions. Putting everything together in short physical comedy scenes. 11am-5pm £25

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

### SVA

FRI 2ND

Tonight with Elvis: Election Special

Regular live chatshow hosted by Elvis, with resident Psychiatrist Dr Shiraz Akoo, featuring fantastic guests and live music. Come and be part of the audience and join in the fun live from the SVA...8pm Free (John Street)

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

### STROUD BREWERY

SUN 25TH

CrazyBird Comedy Club: Larry Dean, Dickie Richards, Rosie Holt, Sully O'Sullivan with MC Geoff Whiting

After the huge success of the recent Comedy Night at The Lansdown Hall in Stroud, The CrazyBird Comedy Club returns to the Stroud Brewery. As always, the CrazyBird fans favourite Geoff Whiting will be hosting the night and will be introducing four fantastic comedians. Headlining this stunning line up will be Larry Dean who has all you want from a classic stand up. Confident, easy-going with some great lines and full of surprising twists. Larry has scooped a number of comedy awards in his career, most recently the top comedy prize at the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Wood fired pizza from 5pm, show starts at 8pm £12.50adv (from Stroud Brewery, Trading Post, seetickets.com and crazybirdcomedy@gmail.com)/£14otd

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

### UNDER THE EDGE ARTS WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

SAT 10TH

Harriet Braine

Harriet Braine's genre-defying musical comedy act is essentially a light hearted mockery of artists, art history and the art world. If you like amusing accents, bizarre characters, a woman making trumpet noises (with her mouth), and 1980s one hit wonders, you'll love this...8pm £10.50adults/£8.50concs/£8.50children

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

GOOD ON PAPER

Visit our website at [goodonpaper.info/film](http://goodonpaper.info/film) for monthly film listings

**STROUD COMEDY WEEKENDER**  
6th-9th JULY

STROUD  
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**ZOE LYONS**

**HAL CRUTTENDEN JETHRO**

**MILO McCABE ANDREW RYAN**

**JOE WELLS NICOLA CLARK KIDOCRACY**

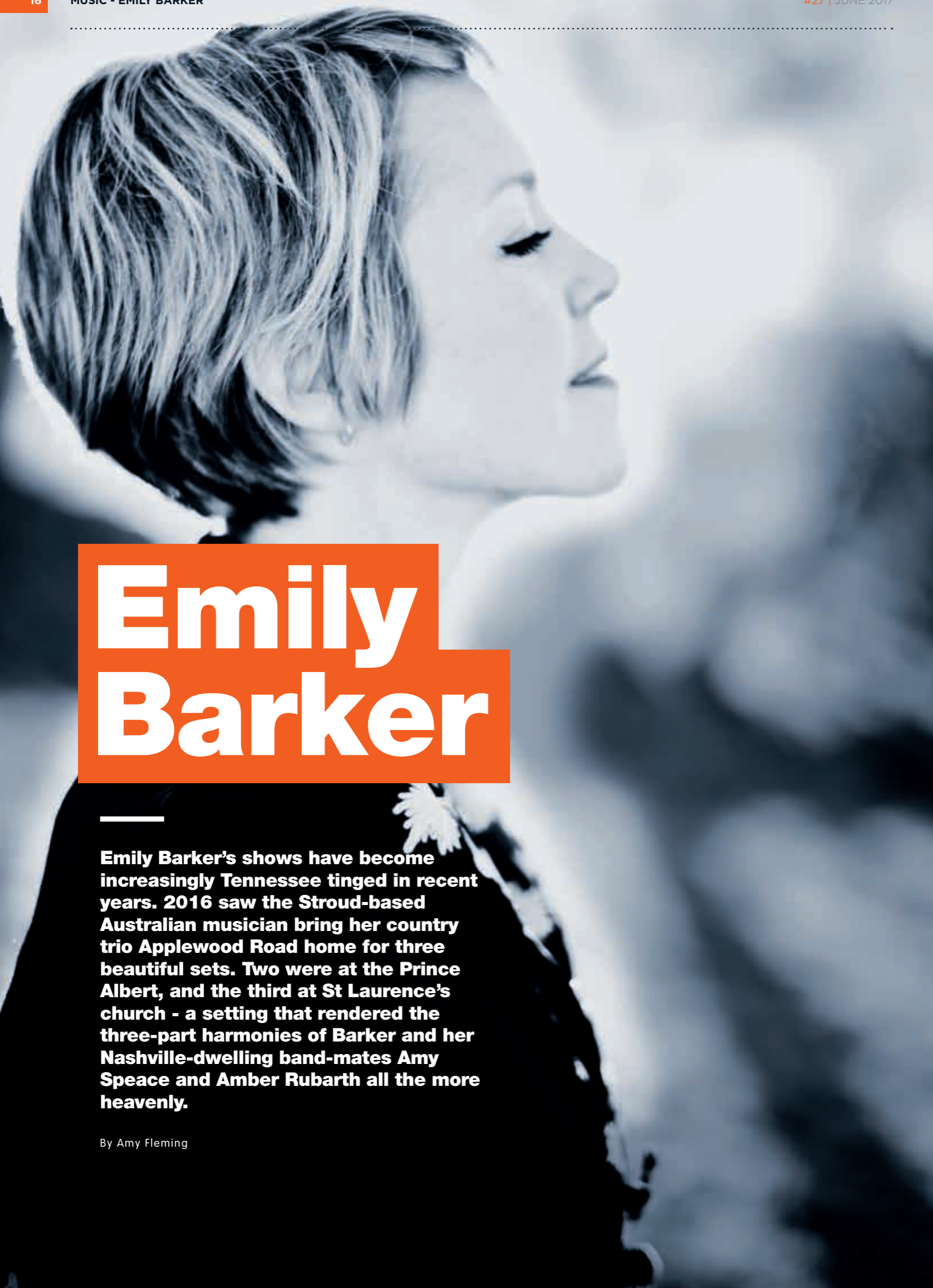






Stroud Subscription Rooms  
Box Office: 01453 760900  
[www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk](http://www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk)





# Emily Barker

**Emily Barker's shows have become increasingly Tennessee tinged in recent years. 2016 saw the Stroud-based Australian musician bring her country trio Applewood Road home for three beautiful sets. Two were at the Prince Albert, and the third at St Laurence's church - a setting that rendered the three-part harmonies of Barker and her Nashville-dwelling band-mates Amy Space and Amber Rubarth all the more heavenly.**

By Amy Fleming

If you caught her solo show at the Albert last October, you'll have heard her duet with the lovable folk-punk rocker Austin Lucas, who she'd prised away from Nashville for a European tour. And all the while, she was getting ready to release her Memphis soul album, *Sweet Kind of Blue*, which was recorded at the legendary Sam Phillips Recording Service - the vast studio Phillips designed following his success producing Elvis, Johnny Cash, Howlin' Wolf and many more. The album is finally out now, and Barker's new sound, complete with Al Greene's horn section, is already a hit with the critics.

Barker's first visit to a hallowed old American studio was across the state line from Tennessee, in Alabama. When visiting Nashville a few years ago, she recalls, "I drove down to Muscle Shoals and went to Fame studios... and it was just amazing. Aretha Franklin is one of my inspirations and she recorded there, and Etta James, so many legends and seeing this old equipment..." It was love at first sight.

As luck would have it, when considering producers for the new record, she was introduced to the Grammy-winning young Memphian sound engineer and producer Matt Ross-Spang. He cut his teeth at the late Sam Phillips' original shop-front studio, Sun, and had recently made his base at Sam Phillips Recording Service. "In America, we don't have ancient churches and castles like you do in Britain," says Ross-Spang, "but we have studios like this that to me are our version of those churches and castles. This place is just like walking into Phillips' brain."

And so last June, Barker headed to Phillips' Tennessee cathedral of sound, with little more than her beautiful 1937 Gibson acoustic guitar and a sheaf of new songs. Invited along for the ride, I arrive just as Barker pulls in for her first day of sessions. "I can't believe it's today - I'm so excited!" she says, smiling broadly under the warm, Southern sun. Sam Phillips' son Jerry, and granddaughter, Halley have swung by to welcome Barker. Unlike Sun, and Stax Records across town (Otis Redding, Booker T and the MGs and Isaac Hayes), this studio hasn't been made into a museum. The tapes have continued to roll

here since 1960, which makes the private tour all the more spine tingling. Upstairs there's a tiny bar room with spirographic wallpaper, an atomic light and Johnny Cash's cigarette burns on the Formica counter. "Nothing in here has changed," says Halley. "Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, uhuh, they'd all come and sit here and drink, same stools and

album from outlaw country singer Margo Price. When he is done arranging microphones and cables he declares: "Hot diggerty dang we just about ready."

Each take is counted in by drummer Steve Potts, who has played with Booker T and the MGs and Neil Young. "No one else drums like him," says Ross-Spang. "He's so laid back that it

the bassist, Dave Smith. And the road-trip song *Sunrise* ends in a spontaneous ten-minute jam, with Barker on mouthorgan.

Low lighting sets the mood for other tracks, and emotions flow accordingly. During a break from No. 5 *Hurricane* (which Couser describes thusly: "two words: Quentin. Tarantino.") Barker breathes: "I was getting



everything. Crazy huh?" The white furnishings and red shag carpet in Sam's old office still look brand new, and the sofa that sits outside it is off being restored by rock god and former upholsterer, Jack White.

Downstairs in Studio A, a group of Memphis' finest musicians (many of whom played on Cat Power's record, *The Greatest*) have assembled. The studio is largely as it was when the Yardbirds recorded *Train Kept A Rollin* there in the early '60s. There's the same old Hammond organ, Jerry Lee Lewis' session piano and the original cigarette machine (just 75 Cents a pack).

Ross-Spang is riding high after his success with *Something More than Free* by Jason Isbell (who hails from Muscle Shoals and is a former member of Drive By Truckers) and *Midwest Farmer's Daughter*, the breakthrough

makes the whole song sway in this beautiful way. You just can't teach that." Fittingly, Potts' count in is the first thing you hear on the finished album, having been kept on the title track.

Over the coming days, as the band works through Barker's 11 songs, the mutual respect in the room swells to bursting point. Guitarist Dave Couser tells Barker a few songs in: "your voice is like an iceberg," because every day he hears her do something new and surprising. By day four it feels like they've all known each other for years. When they've found their collective groove for the new song, *If We Forget to Dance*, Ross-Spang can't tear himself away from the studio floor. "This is some baby-making music," he says, and starts adding his own percussion, drumming the back of a guitar. At some point, Barker struts out of her vocal booth to put lipstick on

tingly again." To which Rick Steff, on keys responds, "I was tearing up there for a minute."

"All the session guys," Ross-Spang tells me when the record's finished, "it wasn't just a normal session for them. They've all been calling me and texting me about just how wonderful it was for them. A really great moment I think for all of us."

*A Sweet Kind of Blue* is out now, available on-line and from all good independent records stores. Visit [emilybarker.com](http://emilybarker.com) for further info and upcoming tour dates.

**Amy Fleming was a writer and editor at the Guardian for 12 years, and now writes from home in Stroud, also contributing to Intelligent Life, Vogue, the FT and the Telegraph.**



# MUSIC LISTINGS

## ALE HOUSE

### THURS 1ST

#### Steve Ferbrache & Rufus Fry

Half of The Achievers oil their cogs with a stripped back mix of blues, soul, roots and gospel. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 2ND

#### Choosy Pickers

Expert, multi-instrumental covers duo with a big band sound. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 8TH/29TH

#### The Human Jukebox

Legendary all request session from Aron and The Velvet Duke. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 10TH

#### Virginia Slims

Old school r'n'b, rock and soul with funky/psych/blues grooves. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 15TH

#### The Dave Ayre Jazz Trio

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

### FRI 16TH

#### The Bob Porter Project

A fine blend of mellow Alt Country and gritty Roots Rock on tap here...Often described as music with a 'growl & twang'. 'The Project' offer up a mix of originals and covers. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 22ND

#### Leon Daye

Acoustic singer-songwriter. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 23RD

#### The Hawds

The Hawds are a Stroud, UK-based band who weave together an accomplished mix of rock, funk, country and jazz. 8:30pm Free

## BLACK BOOK CAFÉ

### SAT 17TH

#### Tim Manning

Tim Manning (AKA Blind River Scare) - a singer/songwriter playing original Americana, Alt-Country, Folk & Roots tinged bitter-sweet songs and in genre covers. 2pm Free

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

## THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

### FRI 2ND

#### Daniel Billing Band

Original, exciting and alternative folk rock. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 8TH

#### Luke Philbrick

Original and traditional roots music drawing on Blues and Folk influences. Soulful vocals, raw delta blues guitar and almost tribal foot stomping beat! 8:30pm Free

### FRI 9TH

#### Mr Marko's Space Emporium

Think Barbarella meets 60s Star Trek in a club somewhere off the autobahn playing an eclectic mix of the Chemical Brothers, 70s and 80s synth legends such as Kraftwerk and variations on the work of Ron Grainer's theme for Doctor Who, written in the darkest, strangest and most delightful recesses of the Radiophonic Workshop. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 10TH

#### The Hawds

Stroud based band weaving together an accomplished mix of rock, funk, country and jazz. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 15TH

#### Open Mic Night

Monthly open mic night hosted by local Americana troubadour the Reverend Stretch. All welcome! 8pm Free

### FRI 16TH

#### Harmonica Nick and Friends

Jump blues show - get your dancing shoes on! 8:30pm Free

### FRI 23RD

#### The Dub Thieves

Rub a dub in da pub...8:30pm Free

### SAT 24TH

#### The Bob Porter Project

Mello, alternative country and gritty roots rock. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 29TH

#### Rodda's Hairy Craick

Irish sessions with Tim Potts and the gang. 8pm Free

### FRI 30TH

#### Wildwood Jack

Innovative acoustic folk and roots. 8:30pm Free

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

## THE GOLDEN FLEECE

### SAT 3RD

#### Caddick & Parkes

Fun, vintage piano and vocal duo playing the finest jazz standards, swing & Boogie-Woogie. 8pm Free

### SAT 10TH

#### Biff Bang Pow

A triumphant return for the Golden Fleece's favourite power-skiffle trio. 8pm Free

### SAT 17TH

#### Swing from Paris

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

### SAT 24TH

#### Matt Hopkins Trio

Swing trio led by guitarist Matt Hopkins. 8pm Free

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

## HAWKWOOD COLLEGE

### SUN 18TH

#### Sevenside Composers Alliance: Midsummer Music at Hawkwood

An afternoon and evening of music in this beautiful and peaceful Cotswold location overlooking the Severn Vale featuring Madeleine Mitchell (violin) and Geoffrey Poole (piano) playing music by Gloucestershire composers. Practical music workshops from 2pm (bring an instrument), violin and piano recital 6pm. Day tickets: £18/£15concs Concert tickets: £12/£9concs

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

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

### SAT 24TH

#### Stroud Symphony Orchestra

A Night of Rhapsody featuring Chabrier (Espana), Butterworth (A Shropshire Lad), Dvorak (Slavonic Rhapsody No 1), Delius (Brigg Fair), Saint Saens (Violin Concerto No 3 with soloist Olivia Doflein) and Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody). 7:30pm £12/£10concs from Subscription Rooms

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

## THE LITTLE GEORGE

### FRI 16TH

#### Shaun Mosely

Come down and enjoy an acoustic session, with Acoustic singer-songwriter Shaun Mosely performing an array of 70's Americana. Expect an array of surreal moments - and banjos. 8:30pm Free

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

## THE PRINCE ALBERT

### THURS 1ST

#### Open Mic

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

### SUN 4TH

#### Baroque Evening with Dave Ayre and Friends

Dave Ayre and his dashing band of delightfully talented modern day minstrels marvellously transform the Albert's little haven into a mirage of musical time hopping nirvana. Limited tickets (and they do sell out!) 8pm £12

### TUES 6TH

#### The Pure Conjecture

Fusing an arsenal of expensive chords with sly self-deprecation and unpredictable lyrical left-turns, the ten piece ensemble possess a charming individuality which is both at odds with and wholly impervious to current musical trends. There are not many groups (in the UK, at least) genuinely mining the same seam that gave us Solomon Burke's 'Don't Give Up On Me', and the Daptone label.8:30pm Free

### THURS 8TH

#### The Bonfire Radicals

Birmingham based Bonfire Radicals have emerged from the folk/world scene with a fresh approach to traditional tunes and a host of creative original material. They weave together raucous klezmer inspired woodwind with refined recorder lines, traditional Scottish fiddle with hard hitting bass, electric guitar and global percussive beats. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 10TH

#### Hidden Gardens And Sculpture of Rodborough

Evening BBQ, installation, live music (TBA soon) and more! See feature on p6-7. 6pm Free

### SUN 11TH

#### SGVC

Stroud and Gloucester Vinyl Connection returns to the Albert celebrating their love for wax...Come up and listen, purchase, swap and sell!! Free

### WEDS 14TH

#### Le Skeleton Band

French trio who enjoys taking musical genres to bits with various instruments and saucepans. A kind of swampy Gallic Waits-ishness that hovers between Jacques Brel and Alabama 3 with plenty of surreal moments - and banjos. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 15TH

#### The Underscore Orchestra

With members hailing from many corners of the globe, playing a blend of Balkan, Klezmer, Hot Jazz, Swing and Americana music, both original and traditional. Their performance evokes the old world and the new, the eerily haunting sounds from the east, with definite roots in the west. Influences are far and wide but range from New Orleans Jazz, to Eastern European, Greek, Turkish, Bulgarian, Roma and Klezmer Music, Manouche Swing, to Acoustic Metal. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 16TH

#### John and Maggie Carty

John Carty is one of the finest fiddle players in Irish traditional music. He will be joined on stage by his daughter, Maggie, herself accomplished banjo player and traditional singer. Their combined talents create an unflinching energy and excitement, naturals on stage and part of a living traditional in music that it is handed down through the generations. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 17TH

#### Adam Beattie

Scottish singer songwriter Adam Beattie released his fourth studio album 'The Road Not Taken' in May last year with a sell-out show at Hoxton Hall in London and a UK-wide tour. The album has received critical acclaim, describing the songs as "gently affecting", "intoxicating" and "carefully crafted", but always picking up on the album's "dark twist". Do not miss this performance in the intimate atmosphere of the Prince Albert... 8:30pm Free

### THURS 22ND

#### Carter Sampson

An Okie born, Oklahoma based singer-songwriter. Blessed by a musical legacy from a family that includes such talents as Roy Orbison, Carter's journey as a musician seems to have been predestined. Her empowering, relatable and appealing music has garnered her an incredibly diverse and loyal fan base. "Awesome singer, awesome songwriter. Highly fucking recommended" Ryan Adams. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 29TH

#### Jenny Lindfors

Irish born singer songwriter whose soulful music harks back to the Laurel Canyon sound of US records in the 1970's...8:30pm Free

### FRI 30TH

#### WhoCat

Groove and melody. The Belgian four piece make people sway and muse with

their six-track debut album 'Blueprints'. One of the main reasons is singer Sara Moonen with her agile alto voice. She, like an unpredictable feline - sometimes flattering, sometimes sulking, derives energy from mood changes. Whether she sings languorously or whether she explicitly seeks out suspense there is always that subtle strive for balance. 8:30pm Free

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

## RODBOROUGH PAVILION

### SAT 17TH

#### Rodborough Summer Social

The popular community fundraising event returns featuring live music from The Casual Six and El Rewind DJ's, a bar by The Prince Albert and food from Mamas Wood Fired Pizza. All proceeds from the event will be donated to participating Rodborough charities and not for profit community groups. Every ticket buyer will have the option of voting for which group they would like their ticket proceeds to be donated to. 7pm £15adv/£17.50otd

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

## ST LAURENCE CHURCH

### SUN 25TH

#### Dursley Male Voice Choir and the Cotswold Canal Singers

A Mid-Summer's Concert In aid of Cotswold Canals Trust's 'Stroudwater Navigation Connected' project Bar and refreshments available! £10 from Cotswold Canals Trust Visitor Centres at Wallbridge, Saul and Bonds Mill.

### FRI 30TH

#### Stroud Sacred Music Festival: The Raga Babas, Samswara, the Gospel Groove

The Raga Babas: Nicknamed the 'House Band' of the Festival, the Stroud based band play world fusion devotional music featuring sitar, tabla, acoustic and bass guitar, harmonium, violin, percussion, dholak, darbuka, trumpet and voice (9pm). Samswara: Be prepared for an engaging and dynamic performance of Indian classical music by tabla and sitar duo, Jon Sterckx and Ricky Romain. Jon and Ricky's music ranges from slow, meditative melodies to fast and highly detailed rhythmic interplay, the pair 'playing off' each other to the delight of their audiences (7:45pm). The Gospel Groove: A group of local people who love to sing inspirational songs together. They were formed as part of Stroud Sacred Music Festival 2016, under the guidance and direction of Jean Paul Wabotai, a charismatic teacher and performer of Gospel, African and inspirational songs, inspired by his own background in the Congo and more recently France and Spain (7pm). For tickets and further info visit [sacredmusicfestival.org.uk](http://sacredmusicfestival.org.uk)

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

## ST MARY'S CHURCH NORTH

### WOODCHESTER

### SAT 10TH

#### Capriol Chamber Orchestra

30th anniversary concert by local chamber orchestra performing Mozart's Overture to Così Fan Tutte and Violin

Concerto No 2 (ft. violinist Daniel Harding), Warlock's Capriol Suite and Mendelssohn's Symphony No 4 in A Major. 7:30pm

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

## STAR ANISE

### SAT 3RD

#### Stroud Calling

DJ's Will Mendoza & Tom Monobrow return in their 'Stroud Calling' guise with a summer party. Throwing down a vinyl selection of funk, soul, disco, hip-hop, reggae, breaks & beats galore. Expect an up-for-it friendly crowd. 10pm £5adv from Trading Post Records then on the door...

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

## STROUD BREWERY

### SAT 3RD

#### Luke Philbrick

Original roots music drawing on traditional blues and folk influences. Startlingly powerful vocals, raw delta blues style guitar and an almost tribal foot-stomping beat, combine to create a special atmosphere. 7:30pm Free

### SAT 10TH

#### Mr Love and Justice

Swindon-based acoustic guitar-driven folk/pop collective, fronted by singer-songwriter Steve Cox. Contemporary, politically and socially aware lyrical concerns presented in classic melodic song-writing style. Layered guitars and vocals evoking influences from Beatles, Floyd, XTC, Weller, Byrds et al. 7:30pm Free

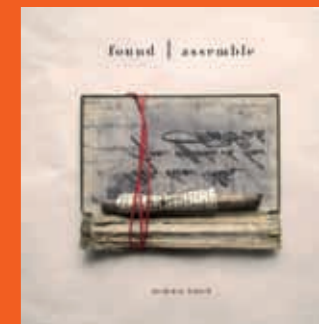
### SAT 17TH

#### Madi Stimpson Trio

A mix of gypsy, jazz, bluegrass and folk roots, but with a definite emphasis on the manouche sound pioneered and made famous by the great Django Reinhardt. 7:30pm Free

OUT NOW

ANDREW HEATH: FOUND. ASSEMBLE



Found . Assemble continues to explore Andrew's obsession for processing found sounds and field recordings and then setting them against quiet piano phrases and lower case electronics. The album also features Bill Howgego on bass clarinet and Stephane Marlot on cello and is available as a free download via [bandcamp.com](http://bandcamp.com).

[andrewheath.bandcamp.com](http://andrewheath.bandcamp.com)

### SAT 24TH

#### Jan Vaisey and Ian Harvey

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

### SAT 3RD

#### Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band

50th Anniversary Concert with your amazing local All You Need is The Beatles tribute band. 8pm £14adv/£10.50concs/ £16otd£12concs

### SUN 4TH

#### Orchestra of the Swan

Holst, Walton, Vaughan Williams, Elgar. An afternoon of sublime English orchestral music for strings featuring one the country's top soloists, David Curtis and David Le Page. 2pm (talk) 3pm (concert)

### SAT 10TH

#### Patsy Cline & Friends

Tribute Concert to Patsy Cline, Hank Williams and Jim Reeves with Sue Lowry, Marc Robinson and Lee Davidge; taking you back to the days of Honky Tonk and Country Music. 7:30pm £18/£17concs

### WEDS 14TH

#### Mr Twitchett's Live: The Vogwells

The Vogwells part of the 'Gloucestershire Traditions' project which has researched and published online folk songs collected in Gloucestershire and they are working on a new album to be released in 2017. 7:30pm Free entry - Donations for performer welcome.



**THURS 15TH****Your Musical Memories**

Relive your memories at these monthly afternoon concerts, enjoy classical music, songs from musicals and much more all played live with a community sing a long after wards. 2pm

£7 (including Tea & Biscuits)

**SUN 18TH****Lydbrook Band**

This Brass band will be playing an entertaining afternoon with popular music and solos, all ably directed by the band's principal conductor Ian Holmes. 3pm £10/£8concs/£5U16's

**WEDS 21ST****Mr Twitchett's Live: Wildwood Jack**

Inventive Acoustic Folk and Roots; Their melodic songs blend the acoustic guitar and ukulele with outstanding finger style playing drawing influences from folk, country and world music. 7:30pm Free entry - Donations for performer welcome.

**SUN 25TH****The Three Little Pigs: Children's Concert with Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra.**

This tail-twisting, treacherous musical based on Roald Dahl's work is guaranteed to make your youngsters squeal! Join in the fun of this family event. 3pm £10 (children under 16 Free)

**THURS 29TH****Across The Pond: Music from the UK and America**

The combined forces of over 80 musicians from Gloucestershire are set to entertain families with music from across the Atlantic. 7:30pm £10/£5concs

**FRI 30TH****SubLounge Session: Live DJ sets at The Subs**

The Subs welcomes DJs from all genres to take over the bar for the night from laid back funk to global beats and more. £3

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

**SVA****WEDS 7TH/14TH/21ST/28TH****Funk-in Sessions**

Come and let off some steam with a whole-lotta-funk and soul at Stroud's finest live music venue! Whether you're a seasoned veteran of the funk or you just feel like jamming for the hell of it, the funk-in-sessions guys will make you feel welcome. 8pm Free (John Street)

**FRI 2ND/9TH/16TH/23RD/30TH****John Street Social Club**

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

**THURS 8TH****Stroud Jazz Sessions**

Monthly jazz hub features a special guest each month. There will also be

a stonkingly energetic jazz jam for all players and singers, aficionados and improvers to participate in. All are welcome, to listen or perform. 8:30pm £3musicians/£5otd

**SAT 17TH****The Comet is Coming**

The soundtrack to an imagined apocalypse. In the aftermath of widespread sonic destruction what sounds remain? Who will lead the survivors to new sound worlds? Who will chart the new frontier? Featuring three intergalactic sonic agents Shabaka Hutchings (Sons of Kemet, Melt Yourself Down), Danalogue and Betamax (Soccer96) chart a path based on the encoded language of Sun Ra, Frank Zappa, Jimi Hendrix and the BBC Radiophonic Workshops from which the band's name emerged. It is after the end of the world, the stage is a spacecraft, the mic is an accelerator. Brace yourself for The Comet is Coming...8pm £10adv/£12otd (Goods Shed)

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

**ST GEORGES CHURCH  
NAILSWORTH****SAT 10TH****Stroud Choral Society**

Performing John Rutter's Mass of the Children, Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and music by Elgar and Eric Whitacre. The Choral Society will also be joined by the Minpins (their own children's choir) and the Regency Sinfonia. 7:30pm £18 Zone A/£12 Zone B (restricted view)

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

**THISTLEDOWN FARM****FRI 23RD-SUN 25TH****Tales of Witchcraft and Wonder**

Inkubus Sukkubus' have sought out a fascinating, historic - and haunted - location for 2017. It will be a weekend of wonders, with, on the Saturday night, a cornucopia of delights: Kevan and Chantelle, as Brigid's Flame, will be telling bardic tales and song, then after a feast, will be Kirsty and Anthony performing dark tales of the Forest and Welsh borders - then the band will be launching their new album Belas Knap in a wonderful acoustic set. 7:30pm

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

**THE VAULT NAILSWORTH****THURS 1ST****Shangai Shufflers**

Prohibition era Jazz, Blues and Swing. 2:30pm Free

**SUN 4TH****The Honeymoon Trio**

Three part harmonies on classic hits... from the 1920s & 30s! 2:30pm Free

**SUN 11TH****Los Gusanos**

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

**SUN 18TH****Steve Ferbrache**

Versatile guitarist and singer performs an intimate set of blues, jazz standards, folk and roots classics.2:30pm Free

**SUN 25TH****Lewis Clark Duo**

Bristol based live musician Lewis Clark performs with his pianist. Original compositions and little heard of folk, soul and blues gems. 2:30pm Free

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

**NIBLEY FESTIVAL****FRI 30TH JUNE - SAT 1ST JULY**

A friendly, non-profit making festival in a stunning Cotswold location. Great music, free entertainment for the kids, stalls, local beer, food from around the world - it's the recipe for a perfect day. Camp on Friday and Saturday to make a weekend of it. Headline acts this year include the Fratellis, Dub Pistols and Lucy Spraggen. Tickets sell out quickly - ensure you buy early to avoid disappointment!

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

**PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY****SAT 10TH****Moore, Moss and Rutter**

A trio of musicians who are reworking traditional native English tunes and songs into something far more contemporary. They aim to breathe life back into ancient material through complex arrangement, virtuosic musicianship, powerful aesthetic and an ear for detail. £12/£9concs/

£10friends/£8concs/£15otd

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

**UNDER THE EDGE ARTS  
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE****SAT 3RD****Peter Conway**

Peter Conway is a unique singer songwriter and independent recording artist with an unforgettable voice and song delivery. With two beautifully crafted albums 'Mother World' and 'Stay' released, this acclaimed singer songwriter has also already had eleven of his songs featured in nine original motion pictures, from Hollywood blockbusters and acclaimed documentaries, to award nominated British directorial debuts. 8pm £11.50/£9.50concs + children

**FRI 16TH****South Cotswolds Jazz Presents: Conjuncto Gringo**

An eight piece instrumental salsa band led by Andy Hague, one of Bristol's best known trumpeters, and reflects his love of Cuban and other Latin music. The band features some of Bristol's finest jazz soloists in tunes by Tito Puente, Mongo Santamaria, Afro Cuban All Stars, some latinised Stevie Wonder and a few originals. 8pm £12

**SAT 24TH****Keith James: The Music of Yusuf**

Keith James presents an honest and loving reflection of the timeless and insightful music of Yusuf - Cat Stevens. 8pm £14

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

**CROWN & SCEPTRE  
EVENTS JUNE****FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**Daniel Billing Band** *free entry*  
Original exciting alt folk rock. Live - from 8.30pm

**WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**Steak Night**  
Booking essential

**THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**Luke Philbrick** *free entry from 8.30pm*  
Luke from Solid Gone and Gloucester's NYC born king of blues, Damon T. unite for a night of blues n roots music with soulful vocals and a special atmosphere

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**Mr Marko's Space Emporium** *free entry*  
Everybody do the Robot! from 8.30pm

**SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**The Hawds** from the Yeast *free entry*  
The Mushroom Men of Stroud

**THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**Open Mic Night** Hosted by the Rev. Stretch  
All welcome from 8pm

**FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**Harmonica Nick & Friends** *free entry from 8.30pm*  
Jump Blues show - get your dancin shoes on!

**FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**The Dub Thieves**  
Rub-a-dub in da pub - from 8.30pm *free entry*

**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**The Bob Porter Project**  
Mellow Alt-country and gritty roots rock *free entry*

**MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**Meat-free Monday**  
Veggie and vegan delights with Erin Baker  
Booking essential

**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**The Curry Lounge**  
Chef Reverend Stretch cooking you another  
Ruby Murray - Booking essential

**THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>**

**Rodda's Hairy Craic** *free entry*  
Irish sessions from Tim Potts and the gang, from 8.00pm

**FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**Wildwood Jack** *free entry*  
Innovative acoustic folk & roots from 8.30pm

FOR BOOKINGS AND GENERAL INFO: 01453 762588

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Sunday 18 June 2017**

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**Madeleine Mitchell (violin)  
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2.00pm Music workshops (bring an instrument)  
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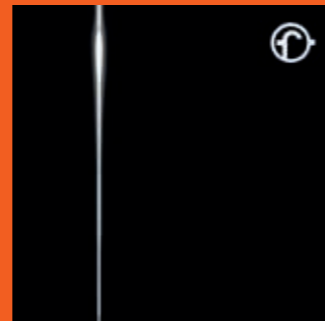
Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Road GL6 7QW

Day tickets: £18 (£15\* students & seniors)

Concert tickets: £12 (£9\* students & seniors)

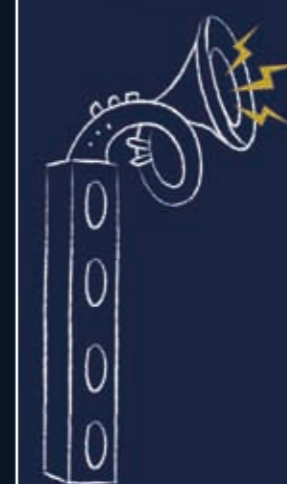
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# Stroud Sacred Music Festival

Now in its third year, Stroud Sacred Music Festival has established itself as a highlight of the summer season. Whether or not you are a person of faith, this feel-good event is an assault on the senses, a riotous carnival of colour, music, movement and song that brings people together, fostering a spirit of community.

By Raje Airey

Running from 30 June-1st July, the weekend is packed with family friendly events and activities, including daytime workshops and two evening concerts at St Laurence Parish Church.

Offering a soulful and eclectic musical mix from both mainstream and indigenous sacred traditions the 2017 Festival promises to be more vibrant than ever. This year's line ups include Stroud's own gospel choir - The Gospel Groove, Haziz Egyptian Dance, Tribal Rhythms Orchestra, sitar and tabla duo Samswara, and internationally renowned, Praying for the Rain, who offer a compelling blend of contemporary folk, Celtic and world music.

The Festival is the brainchild of the Rev. Simon Howell and festival co-director Girish Patel. Girish and Simon play music together in the local world fusion devotional dance band the Raga Babas. Now 14-strong Raga Babas are the house band for the Sacred Music Festival.

The idea for the Festival began back in the autumn of 2014 when Girish and others were invited to join a discussion group to give a 'spiritual' input to local planning documents. Girish comments: "I immediately threw the spanner in the works by asking the question, 'What do you mean by 'Spiritual'?' This opened up a debate, which culminated in us not even agreeing

about what is 'spiritual' and what is not. For me, this was the purpose of my question, for how can you define the indefinable?" A few weeks later Simon approached Girish and asked him if he would work with him to create a 'Sacred Music Festival'. Feeling he instinctively knew what Simon had in mind, Girish agreed and after a few months frantic planning the first Festival took place back in July 2015.

**"The main intention of the Sacred Music Festival is to encourage people from all backgrounds in a celebration of the diverse global population as an act of unity in peace."**

Girish Patel  
Co-director

I can still remember that night which was an absolute spine-tingling thrill of an evening that I shall never forget. I can still recall my shock and delight at the Rev. Howell not conforming to my ideas of how a vicar should behave as I noticed his signature Doc Martin's peeping out beneath his garb. With great passion he introduced an immense variety of musical acts

from different faith traditions. And as the melodies and rhythms, the songs and chants, the rhythm of the drum and the heartbeat of silence were all seamlessly woven together, I sensed that something special was taking place. The aisles of the church were full of people dancing with wild and gay abandon. The church was pulsating with life. This was no ordinary 'gig'. And that night the sheer delight and wonder of it all took me to a place inside myself that I experience as 'spiritual' or 'sacred'. A natural and legal 'high' free from side effects other than a heightened tendency for smiles and laughter and to feel more open and connected with others, a meeting from the heart rather than the head. Perhaps this is testament to the power of music to connect at a heart level, with Girish urging "I would love people to come along and just experience the music and sharing that together help us to connect where it really matters, which is with the heart." Thinking along similar lines Simon believes that music has the power to breakdown the walls and barriers we put up between us in the effort to keep ourselves 'safe' and protect our vested interests. He says "with music people dance and sing together and suddenly all those differences don't seem to matter anymore".

As Girish admits that first Festival

was a huge success: "We have not looked back since and the Festival, with its growing community, is growing from strength to strength." He adds: "The main intention of the Sacred Music Festival is to encourage people from all backgrounds in a celebration of the diverse global population as an act of unity in peace." And in a world that seems increasingly divided it seems especially important that we can join in peace. As one festivalgoer said last year: "What I value about it is the timing in the political context ... it's just so well placed in people's hearts." So once again may this year's Festival bring us together, to let our hearts and souls be touched, so that if music is indeed the food of love, play on...

Tickets for this year's festival is now on sale at the Subscription Rooms and at Girish's Samosa stall at Stroud Farmer's Market. For the full programme and further details visit [sacredmusicfestival.org.uk](http://sacredmusicfestival.org.uk)

Raje Airey is a psychotherapist and freelance writer who lives in Whiteshill. To relax she enjoys walking the hills of Stroud, abstract painting and dancing. Her latest book, 'Practical Kindness: Discover the Power of Compassion for Health and Happiness' (Anness Publishing) is published on July 5th.

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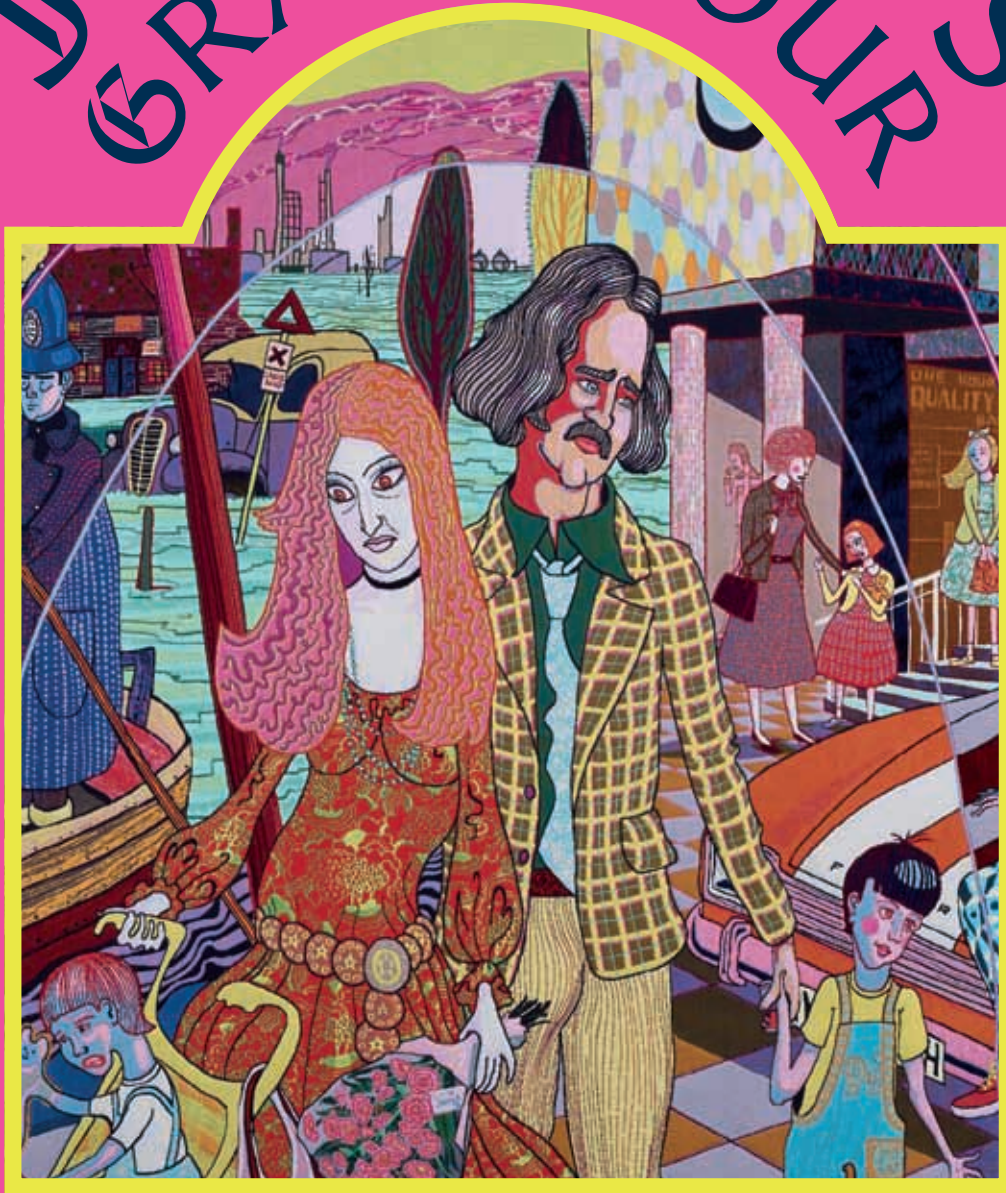




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# JULIE COPE'S GRAND COUR'S



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