

# GOOD ON PAPER

**ISSUE  
#30**

**INSIDE:**

**MESADORM**

**ZANDRA  
RHODES**

**RACHEL  
JOYCE**

+

**Steve Russell Studio | Stroud Theatre Festival | Becky Dick**

# OUTER FRINGE

## AT THE CROWN & SCEPTRE LIVE MUSIC AND MORE

### FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER

6.30PM MONOCHROME 7.30PM SUBDUCTION  
9.00PM SOUL DESTROYERS

### SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER

2.00PM STELLA THOMPSON  
3.00PM DR GRRR & the SURGERY  
4.00PM ARANKA'S CACKLE  
5.00PM WILL KILLEEN  
6.00PM DAN BILLINGS BAND  
7.00PM THE FORGETTING CURVE  
8.00PM THEE PULSATIONS

### SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER

2-6.00PM COUNTRY FAIR & PRIZE-GIVING  
7.30PM THE SHAGGY DOG RACONTEURS  
9.00PM THE VIRGINIA SLIMS

## EDITOR'S NOTE

WELCOME TO THE THIRTIETH 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...

Following last month's annual Stroud Fringe Special we return to our usual format and our 30th issue (!!) featuring a world renowned fashion designer, an award winning photography studio, a celebrated author, the next festival in Stroud's busy calendar and another Good On Paper event...

Just a few short weeks after our stage at this year's Stroud Fringe we proudly bring you Mesadorm's debut performance in Stroud with guests Dear Robot. This will also be one of the first gigs at Keith Allen, Lotte Lyster and Tom De Brandt's eagerly awaited new venue the Marshall Rooms on Nelson Street (we'll bring you more on this exciting venture next month). See page 4-5 for further info and [goodonpaper.info/events](http://goodonpaper.info/events) to purchase tickets.

And don't forget to visit our website for extra features and downloadable archived issues.

And follow us on facebook and twitter.

And have a good September.

Alex and Adam

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## Fieldfare Café at Thistledown Farm



Fieldfare Café is located on our family farm near Nympsfield, Stroud. Our food is prepared with a charcoal barbecue and wood-fired clay oven using local and foraged ingredients. Our meats are free range and we use Organic produce where possible, including our own veg. The café is fully licensed and we stock a range of locally-sourced alcohols. We have seating inside and out, inc our conservatory which houses our open kitchen and offers stunning views over

Woodchester Park. During the colder months the café is kept cosy with our woodburner. We have 5 acres for café guests to explore including our pond and stone circle, and dogs (on leads) are welcome inside and out.

We are open 9am - 4:30pm Weds - Sun and later over weekends for sourdough pizza nights (booking essential). Join our mailing list for details of our upcoming supper club and other events!



# Mesadorm

By Rupert Howe

**Singer Blythe Pepino had her first vision of Mesadorm some years back while partying with friends in Berlin. “We were all having a great time and at one point I thought I heard someone say, ‘Later we’re going to go to the Mesadorm...’,” she says. In her uplifted state she saw the whole party transported to some amazing, possibly magical, realm: The Mesadorm. “But when I woke up the next morning,” she laughs, “it turned out I’d imagined the whole thing!”**

Something about the word resonated, though. So when Pepino later found herself putting together a new musical project with a group of old friends, including producer Aaron Zahl, they agreed it should be named Mesadorm. With its unusual associations – a mesa is a table-top plateau common in desert landscapes, dorm a reference to sleep – it also seemed appropriate for a band whose music draws inspiration from disparate musical sources, alternative and folk, avant-garde and electronica. “I suppose, too,” adds Pepino, “it’s symbolic of something utopian.”

For the Stroud based Pepino, whose real name is May Gibbs, Mesadorm also represents a fresh start – one of many since she debuted on the Bristol scene a decade ago with the bands Pepino

and Bizali, the latter also alongside Zahl. Her powerful, emotionally charged voice had a magnetic pull even then and went on to be showcased by London-based, alt-electronica duo Vaults, even if Pepino found her first taste of crossover success bittersweet. Their single “One Last Night” appeared on the soundtrack for *Fifty Shades Of Grey* and a cover of Randy Crawford’s “One Day I’ll Fly Away” was picked up for John Lewis’s 2016 Christmas ad, but musically Vaults’s pop-orientated sound didn’t reflect the direction she wanted to be going. They’ve since parted company.

“It’s great to be free,” she says. “I tried to write for Vaults, but it never sounded right for them. So all these songs would come out and Aaron and I started working on a

few of them together. That’s how Mesadorm was born.”

Mesadorm has also reunited Zahl and Pepino with the musical network they first became part of in Bristol, including drummer Daisy Palmer and bassist David Johnston. “Me and Aaron used to go out together and Daisy and Dave used to go out together, so we were like this weird Bristol version of ABBA,” she says. “We did a really happy album, then we did a sad album because we all broke up!” Somehow, she says, they’ve all remained friends, despite rotating through numerous other projects – Palmer was a member of Goldfrapp’s touring band for a time and cellist Jo Silverston has worked with The Unthanks and Frank Turner. But once Mesadorm came together they were all eager to support Pepino as the main songwriter with Zahl taking care of production. “Us two are at the helm,” says Pepino, “but everyone feeds in ideas. It feels very much like a happy family.” “A weird, obnoxious family,” chips in Zahl, prompting both into fits of laughter.

Dysfunctional or not, the album they’ve recorded over the past few years in various locations, from small studios in London to a stint in the Scottish countryside near Oban, has a remarkable cohesion and ambition even while bearing the traces of many diverse inputs. *Heterogaster* opens with the slow-burning, atmospheric “Speak To Me” before expanding into the roiling “Yours But Not Yours” and heady, piano-led “Obsidian”. Throughout there are subtle echoes of peak period Kate Bush alongside modern outliers such as Zola Jesus and Danish singer and multi-instrumentalist Agnes Obel.



Unsurprisingly for a band with such an expansive sound, neither Pepino nor Zahl is keen to put a label on what they do. “I suppose we’re branching out from folk into what we’re calling ‘New Roots,’” says Pepino. “By which I mean rootsy music which has an electronic twist to it. Though it’s all so in-between it’s hard to define anything...”

Still, most of the album has its beginnings in songs Pepino has composed solo at the piano, then handed over to Zahl for electronic “treatments”. It’s a method which has allowed her to explore new lyrical depths, as on the intensely personal “Drink You”. “It’s dealing with my own demons so there’s a bit of darkness in there, but also

an incredible amount of love and passion. Hopefully that’s all coming through the music,” says Pepino. “A sense of this painful joy that’s trying to come into the light.”

Currently holed up at Zahl’s family home in the Herefordshire hills, the pair are making final arrangements for a tour which will see them visit Bristol, London – and Stroud’s newest venue The Marshall Rooms. After that, Pepino is, literally, packing her bag for the winter. “I’m going travelling,” she says. “Trekking across Spain and Portugal, maybe Morocco. Just walking with a backpack along the open road. I might do some writing along the way, but it’s really about reading and thinking and giving myself some space.”

As with Mesadorm themselves, it’s certain to make for an intriguing journey – whatever direction she decides to take.

Presented by Good On Paper Mesadorm will be performing at the Marshall Rooms on Saturday 23rd September with support from Dear Robot. Tickets cost just £8 in advance from [goodonpaper.info/events](http://goodonpaper.info/events) or £10 on the door. Follow the band via [facebook.com/mesadorm](https://www.facebook.com/mesadorm) and listen to tracks from their forthcoming debut album at [soundcloud.com/mesadorm](https://www.soundcloud.com/mesadorm)

Rupert Howe is a freelance writer based in Stroud whose work has appeared in *Q*, *Esquire* and numerous now-defunct magazines, including *The Face*



# MUSIC LISTINGS

## ALE HOUSE

### FRI 1ST

#### Tone Tanner & Gazza Tee

Two-man band kick-ass slide blues and alternative rock. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 9TH

#### The Reverend Stretch

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

### THURS 14TH

#### Dave Ayre Trio

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

### SAT 16TH

#### Thee Ones

Stroud Rhythm & Blues band - with clever story telling lyrics their sound is infectious and will move your body and mind in equal measure. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 22ND

#### Stroud Folk Weekend Sessions: Fran Wade and Kevin Brown

As well as being members of Phoenix, Grand Union and Flying Clouds Fran Wade and Kevin Brown have played on the ceilidh stages of all the major folk festivals in the country, including regular appearances at Sidmouth and Whitby...9pm Free

### SAT 23RD

#### Stroud Folk Weekend Sessions: The Five Valleys Session

A mix of Celtic and English tunes, with a peppering of French, Scandinavian, Americana and a bit of blues. 1pm Free

### SAT 23RD

#### Stroud Folk Weekend: Briga

A violinist, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist from Montreal. Her unique sound is described as bringing a Balkan/Quebecois mash-up of music, delivered with a Turbo Folk edge, wrapped up in heavy grooves that drive her wailing violin and sweet voice. 8:30pm Free

### SUN 24TH

#### Stroud Folk Weekend Sessions: Doug Watt, The Limbrick Light Orchestra

Double graduate musician, local folky, border morris box player, retired cricketer, not retired businessman and sometime singer of silly songs. Expect some Tchaikovsky, but not much (1pm). Norma Mills (Bees Knees, Ukestroud) will host this session. All styles welcome and there will be some music for part playing. Bring a tune to share! 3pm Free

### SAT 30TH

#### Memphis

Local soulful, Bluesy, country rock band, with something for everyone...8:30pm Free

## BLACK BOOK CAFÉ

### SAT 23RD

#### The Portraits

The Portraits return to Black Book Cafe part of the Stroud Folk Festival. The Anglo-Irish alt-folk duo have had a busy year and have recently completed work on their seventh studio album, Global Heartbeat2...30pm Free

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

## THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

### FRI 1ST

#### Stroud Outer Fringe: Day 1

The live music, beer and cider festival returns to the gardens of the Crown and Sceptre! Monochrome (6:30pm), Subduction: Pervayors of the finest hybrid-reggae-fusion in the land (7:30pm), The Soul Destroyers: Thirteen piece soul/pop/cheese/funk/groove/party band...(9pm)

### SAT 2ND

#### Stroud Outer Fringe: Day 2

Stella Thomson (2pm), Dr Grr and the Surgery (3pm), Arankas Cackle: Taking influence from real roots dub reggae, old skool 80's dancehall and proper horns crew jungle but with their combined passion revolving around two tone bands such as the specials and the beat (4pm), Will Killeen: Unique and highly acclaimed Irish acoustic blues guitarist, singer and songwriter (5pm), Daniel Billings Band: Original songs in a folk/roots style alongside percussionist Barry Mason, bassist Richard Bennett and guitarist Roi Geyari (6pm), The Forgetting Curve: A veritable mix of angular post-rock surf. (7pm) Thee Pulsations: Pulsating r'n'b with stax of soul...(8pm) Les Burnadettes: All girl, French punk outfit (10pm)

### SUN 3RD

#### Stroud Outer Fringe: Day 3

The final day of the Outer Fringe featuring the return of the popular annual Country Fair! All entries to be placed in the Marquee between 10.30am and 12.30pm - Marquee open to the public from 3pm, Prize giving and Charity Auction from 5pm! Followed by live music from The Shaggy Dog Raconteurs: Gloucestershire based Folk/Blues/Americana quartet with a dash of Bluegrass, Ragtime and Jazz. (7pm) The Virginia Slims: A vivacious brew of vintage funk, rare soul and deep psychedelic rock, with some of the greatest female vocals the Stroud district has ever heard! (8:30pm)

### THURS 14TH

#### Open Mic with The Reverend Stretch

Monthly open mic night hosted by local Americana troubadour the Reverend Stretch. Poetry, music, stand up - all welcome! 8pm Free

### FRI 15TH

#### Rattlesnake Voodoo

Born on a bayou near the Creature from the Back Lagoon and the Swamp Thing; Rattlesnake Voodoo conjure up the sounds of night and mix them with some raw, bad to the bone rock 'n' roll with great drumming. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 22ND

#### The Ragged Edge Soul Band

Good Time Soul Party Band! Upbeat music from a superb six piece band. Tight and bright, with a full rich sound. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 29TH

#### The Virginia Slims

Psychedelic Funk Explosion. 8:30pm Free

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

## THE GOLDEN FLEECE

### SAT 9TH

#### Los Gusanos

Fleece favourites return for the ever popular night of jazz and swing with bluesy/latin flavours. 9pm Free

### SAT 30TH

#### Matt Hopkins Trio

Jazz and Swing led by one of Gloucestershire's finest guitarists. 9:30pm Free

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

## THE IMPERIAL HOTEL

### SUN 24TH

#### Stroud Folk Weekend: Martin and Shan Graebe, Blondes With Beards, Rod Penlington and Robin Burton, Gwilym Davies, Ken Langsbury and Kate Dean, Discovery Martin and Shan Graebe:

Singing traditional songs, mostly from the south of England and, mostly, unaccompanied and in harmony. (1pm). Blondes With Beards: Four piece harmony group singing a mix of accompanied and a capella material encompassing folk, light country and blues with acoustic arrangements of some classic pop numbers, a bit of humour and some self-penned material (1:30pm). Rod Penlington and Robin Burton: Powerful sea shanties, traditional and contemporary ballads and humorous songs. (2pm). Gwilym Davies: An experienced singer of traditional songs including a large number of songs from the English traveller (gypsy) community which he has learnt first-hand (2pm). Ken Langsbury and Kate Dean: Singer who grew up surrounded by the songs and stories of the ordinary (and sometimes extraordinary!) people of Gloucestershire. He will be joined by his daughter, Kate Dean, a very fine singer in her own right (2:30pm). Discovery: Duo who's voices combine to create beautiful harmonies and sensitive interpretations of traditional and modern folk songs (4:30pm) Free

## THE MARSHALL ROOMS

### SAT 23RD

#### Mesadorm, Dear Robot

Good On Paper presents Mesadorm and guests Dear Robot at Stroud's brand new venue! See p4-5 for further info...7:30pm £8adv from goodonpaper.info/events or £10otd

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

## THE PRINCE ALBERT

### THURS 7TH

#### Le Ton Mité

A musical cooperative that revolves around the compositions of itinerant musician, instrument maker and fine artist McCloud Zicmuse; an American by birth residing in Brussels. Part jazz ensemble, part pop troubadour, Le Ton Mité makes music that is undefinable in terms of genre, but altogether humanist in form featuring arrangements of multiple voices, guitars, saxophones, clarinets and recorders. A sonic landscape of a lost land...8:30pm Free

### SAT 9TH

#### The Rosellys

A five piece Americana band from Bristol. Regular tours to America clearly influence their song writing and live performances with close comparisons made to artists such as Alison Krauss, Emmylou Harris, Gillian Welch and Dave Rawlings to name a few. 8:30pm Free

### SUN 10TH

#### Stroud and Gloucester Vinyl Connection

Neil Wilson and the SVGC gang are back for an evening of spinning vinyl. Bring your own and get the chance to play three tracks...Choose wisely! 6pm Free

### WEDS 13TH

#### Sullivan and Gold

Sullivan & Gold released their debut album 'For Foes' in 2013 to critical acclaim receiving a nomination for the 2014 Northern Ireland Music Prize. They have toured and played in many unusual venues/spaces; including Tipperary bookshops, a Derry thatched cottage, a Norwich cathedral and a Cumbrian mine and are back on the road this September to celebrate the release of 'Break Your Heart Slowly'. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 14TH

#### The Night Jar

Drawing influence from the lo-fi wooze of Grouper, the stark and poignant balladry of Diane Cluck and the deft compositions of Colleen, The Nightjar use close-harmonies, tight-interlocking guitars, deep bass and an intense lead vocal to paint fragile, haunting landscapes.8:30pm Free

### SAT 16TH

#### The Duckworths, John Mouse

The Duckworths delight in playing between opposing lyrical, thematic and musical extremes; light and dark, humour and horror, noise and silence. They have played to opera audiences, at the UK DMC turntable finals and were most requested band on Glastonbury festival radio. Support from Welsh eccentric John Mouse. 8:30pm Free

### TUES 19TH

#### Baroque Night

Local legendary double bassist Dave Ayre returns with his gang of exceptionally talented musicians for classical music in the pub. Expect a night of quality performances, immersive singing and more... 8pm £12adv

### THURS 21ST

#### Rainbow Girls

Back to the UK after a two year gap, Rainbow Girls is a collaboration of Californian songwriters, multi-instrumentalists and vocalists who've spent the last four years touring Europe and the US as a rock n' roll band, but have recently returned to their folkier roots. This new trio version of the band highlights their rich harmonies, ageless song writing, and soulful, bluesy sound at its rawest form. 8:30pm Free

### TUES 26TH

#### Tin Pan

The music of this groovy New York based band brings to mind Tom Waits and Ray Charles hanging out in New Orleans: a sultry party based in early jazz but with a liberal dose of Chess records, country twang and rock n' roll. Tin Pan's music is fun, danceable, accessible and passionate. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 28TH

#### The Lensmen

Dark and atmospheric Stroud based quintet likened to Bauhaus, Joy Division, The Sisters of Mercy and Nick Cave with momentary lapses into Mogwai, Nils Frahm, Tindersticks and Radio/Motor/Portis-head. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 30TH

#### Dark Victory

Brand new Stroud group featuring Mia Coke, Wil Vick, Rafael Dornelles and Jack Thomas who performed their first gig together as Dark Victory earlier this year at the Jazz Stroud Weekender. 8:30pm Free

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

## STAR ANISE

### SAT 30TH

#### Stroud Calling

DJ's Will Mendoza & Tom Monobrow return to Star Anise with an Indian Summer Party to mark the end of the summer season. Throwing down an all vinyl selection of funk, latin, disco, hip-hop, reggae and 57 varieties of breaks & beats. Expect an up-for-it, music lovin', friendly crowd. 10am-2pm £5adv from Trading Post Records/£7otd

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

## STROUD BREWERY

### SAT 2ND

#### Dark Island

Innovative arrangements of traditional and contemporary folk, blues/jazz and including songs dating from the fifteenth century up to today. Distinctive interpretations using shared lead vocals, strong sung harmonies and varied instrumental work. Accompanied by guest bass player, Jacque Harris.7:30pm Free

### SAT 9TH

#### Madi Stimpson Trio

Playing 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

### SAT 16TH

#### Bob Porter Project

Americana guitar band from Stroud, playing Alt Country & Roots Rock. Originals and covers from Bob Porter & the fabulous Pete Griffin on lead guitar. Steve Cooper on Bass underpins this classy trio of 'growl & twang! 7:30pm Free

### SAT 23RD

#### Wildwood Jack

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

### SAT 30TH

#### Ghost Trail

Acoustic duo from Bristol. Vocalist, Nicola Jayne, is an experienced singer-songwriter and guitar player, Ed, has a beautifully unique finger style technique. Playing a range of covers from the 1930's to the present day, plus some original material. 7:30pm Free

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

## STROUD FOLK WEEKEND

### FRI 22ND – SUN 24TH

Stroud Folk Weekend returns offering another series of concerts, pub sessions and sing arounds. The weekend kicks off on Friday night with a concert at Ruskin Mill by Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith, Saturday morning has workshops on musical accompaniment, care of your voice, clog dancing for beginners and West Country songs and dancing in the town streets throughout the day. On Saturday evening there is a concert from Balkan Turbo Folk with Briga from Montreal, Canada in the Ale House. On Sunday morning there will be Morris and Clog workshops in the Little Vic and in the afternoon there is a free Folk Club Concert featuring local bands and musicians in the Imperial Hotel. Throughout the weekend there will be sessions and sing-arounds open to all comers in the Little Vic and in the Ale House. Most events are free! However charges apply for concerts at Ruskin Mill and the Subscription Rooms and for some workshops. See individual venues and website for further info...

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

## SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

### FRI 8TH

#### The Live Aid Experience

Live rock band, incredible singers and dancers - this isn't a tribute act - this is simply paying tribute. 7:30pm £16 (Special offer: £26 for Live Aid and Total Eighties - see Sat 9th)

### SAT 9TH

#### Total Eighties

Celebrating all the favourite hits from Wham to Madonna and much more; all performed by a fantastic seven-piece band. £16 (Special offer: £26 for Live Aid AND Total Eighties - see Fri 8th)

### THURS 14TH

#### The Black Feathers

After a successful 3 month US tour, the Gloucestershire duo are back

with new songs and a new EP. 8pm £14adv/£16otd

### FRI 15TH

#### Whole Lotta Led

Longest running (21 years) tribute to Led Zeppelin touring and performing the Led Zeppelin IV album...8pm £15adv/£18otd

### SUN 17TH

#### Friary Guildford Band

London & Southern Counties Regional Champions make their debut at The Subscription Rooms. 3pm £10/£8concs/£5 U 16s

### THURS 21ST

#### Your Musical Memories

Relive your musical memories at these monthly afternoon concerts and hear your music live with host, Trevor T Smith. 2pm £7 (including tea & biscuits)

## OUT 15<sup>th</sup> SEPT INVENTIONS BY LEVERET



## OUT 15<sup>th</sup> SEPT INVENTIONS BY LEVERET

With their albums New Anything and In The Round and a long string of sell-out gigs, English instrumental trio Leveret have built a strong reputation as consummate musicians and captivating performers. Now they return with Inventions, a new album of original material. Recorded live at the renowned Real World Studios and accompanied by a hand-written tunebook, Inventions brings Leveret's trademark groove, energy and intuitive playing to bear on a set of new tunes composed by the three members of the trio - Andy Cutting, Sam Sweeney and Ruscombe resident Rob Harbron.

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

# CROWN & SCEPTRE EVENTS SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

THE OUTER FRINGE

Beer & Cider Festival & Country Fair  
From 6.30pm: Monochrome • Subduction •

SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

THE SOUL DESTROYERS

From 2.00pm: Stella Thomson • Dr Grr & the Surgery • Aranka's Cackle • Will Killeen • Daniel Billings Band • The Forgetting Curve • Thee Pulsations • Les BURNadettes •

SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

THE COUNTRY FAIR

All entries to be placed in the marquee between 10.30am and 12.30pm  
Marquee open to public from 3pm. Prize giving and charity auction from 5pm.  
From 7pm: The Shaggy Dog Raconteurs • The Virginia Slims •

WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>

Steak Night - Booking essential

THURS 14<sup>TH</sup>

Open Mic with the Rev. Stretch from 8pm

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>

Rattlesnake Voodoo - spellbinding Rock n Roll

FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

The Ragged Edge Soul Band - Good time party band

MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>

Meat free Monday - Booking essential

THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup>

The Curry Lounge - Booking essential

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>

The Virginia Slims incendiary psychedelic funk rock

FOR BOOKINGS AND GENERAL INFO: 01453 762588

WWW.CROWNANDSCEPTRESTROUD.COM

## THE GOLDEN FLEECE

SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

# LOS GUSANOS

Fleece favourites return for the ever popular night of jazz and swing with bluesy/latin flavours

SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

# MATT HOPKINS TRIO

Jazz and Swing led by one of Gloucestershire's finest guitarists

## REAL ALES LIVE MUSIC BEER GARDEN

GOLDEN FLEECE, NELSON ST, STROUD

**b** bristol  
ensemble

# Tea-time concerts

Join the professional musicians of Bristol Ensemble for an Autumn series of chamber music concerts

Christ Church, Nailsworth

Sunday 24 September at 3pm

A programme of delightful and inventive Piano Trios by Haydn and Schubert

Sunday 22 October at 3pm

Mozart's sublimely beautiful Clarinet Quintet is paired with Brahms' lively and passionate Hungarian Dances

TICKETS £10 on the door  
www.bristolensemble.com

## UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



## MILLS CAFÉ & BISTRO

Witheys Yard, 55 High Street, Stroud, GL5 1AS - 01453 752222

A warm welcome awaits all in our newly refurbished setting offering delicious cakes & fabulous coffee. Browse our lunch menu prepared on the day using fresh locally sourced produce.

### Our inspiration... The Mediterranean

Delight your taste buds with our wonderful selection of sharing plates, meat, fish and vegetarian. Something to please all tastes. Wash it all down with our fine selection of wines and cocktails...

NOW OPEN FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS FROM 6:30pm-10:30pm

#30 | SEPT 2017

with guest soprano Cheryl Roberts (BBC National Chorus of Wales). 7.30pm £10/£8concs

SUN 24<sup>TH</sup>

**Stroud Folk Weekend: Sarah McQuaid, Natalie Holmes**

Sarah McQuaid's voice has been likened to malt whiskey, melted chocolate and "honey poured into wine" (Minor 7th). Her new album Walking Into White (2015) is her most honest and adventurous work to date, with a depth and texture of soundscape that are reflected in her beautifully crafted live shows. With support from Bristol-based singer/songwriter Natalie Holmes. 8pm £12/£10concs

FRI 29<sup>TH</sup>

**Jive Dance**

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

SAT 30<sup>TH</sup>

**Tom Findlay, Situation Sounds**

Tom Findlay, one half of electronic duo Groove Armada, will be headlining an end of summer party to bring the closing of Ibiza season to Stroud. Achieving chart success with their singles I See You Baby and Grammy-nominated single Superstylin and having four albums having charted in the UK Albums top 50, Groove Armada have been rooted in dance music's seminal movements for over two decades. With support from Situation Sounds. 8.30pm £18

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

WEDS 6<sup>TH</sup>/13<sup>TH</sup>/20<sup>TH</sup>/27<sup>TH</sup>

**Funk-In Sessions**

Live Funk Jam with Will Vick and Alf Tramontin...FUNK Only...Nothing but the Funk!!! All are welcome to listen or perform! 8pm Free (John Street)

FRI 1<sup>ST</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup>/15<sup>TH</sup>/22<sup>ND</sup>/29<sup>TH</sup>

**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

SAT 9<sup>TH</sup>/23<sup>RD</sup>

**Club Night**

9pm £7adv/£8otd

THURS 14<sup>TH</sup>

**Jazz Stroud Sessions Presents: Wanderlust with Chris Cundy and Mike Adcocks.**

Monthly jazz hub features a special guest each session. This month's guests come in the shape of Wanderlust featuring Chris Cundy on sax and Mike Adcocks on piano. 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. 8pm

SAT 16<sup>TH</sup>

**The Breath**

The Breath, after their fantastic gig at the Goods Shed earlier in the year.

The Breath came to life in 2016 with a wonderfully understated and under-the-radar album 'Carry Your Kin', released on Peter Gabriel's Real World Records. Featuring previous members of the Cinematic Orchestra they mix Irish folk influences with mesmerizing guitar riffs, anthemic themes and powerful hooks. In turns hypnotic, lush, powerfully raw and raucously punchy, their songs entrance, uplift and break your heart as they conjure a kaleidoscope of sound that perfectly frames Connolly's raw songs and soul cleansing vocals. 8pm £9adv/£12otd (The Goods Shed)

sva.org.uk

CHRIST CHURCH NAILSWORTH

SUN 24<sup>TH</sup>

**Bristol Ensemble: Tea Time Concert**

The Bristol Ensemble returns for to Christ Church for their autumn series of chamber music concerts beginning with a programme of delightful and inventive piano trios by Haydn and Schubert. 3pm £10

bristolensemble.com

THE VAULT NAILSWORTH

SUN 3<sup>RD</sup>

**Matt Hopkins Trio**

Laid back Jazz and Swing from one of Gloucestershire's finest guitarist. 2.30pm Free

SUN 10<sup>TH</sup>

**Steve Ferbrache**

Acoustic guitar and vocal classics across folk, blues, rock and jazz. 2.30pm Free

SUN 17<sup>TH</sup>

**The Reverend Stretch**

Americana, country and blues covers on acoustic guitar. 2.30pm Free

SUN 24<sup>TH</sup>

**Weston & Harris**

Guitar and Harp duo performing traditional folk music from the British Isle. 2.30pm Free

thevaultnailsworth.co.uk

RUSKIN MILL HORSLEY

FRI 22<sup>ND</sup>

**Stroud Folk Weekend: Jimmy Aldridge and Sid Goldsmith**

Multi-instrumentalists Jimmy and Sid play traditional and original folksong of the British Isles. They tell stories of hardship, joy, struggle and celebration, political resistance and the decline of industry, held together with driving banjo and guitar arrangements and close vocal harmonies that will send a shiver down your spine! £8/£6concs

rmt.org

PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

FRI 29<sup>TH</sup>

**Habadekuk**

Habadekuk is Denmark's most exciting and innovative folk band often hailed as the Danish answer to Bellowhead. The sound comprises powerful horns,

toe-tapping fiddle and contagious rhythms and is guaranteed to get you on the dance floor. With a vibrant mix of folk, rock, salsa and big band jazz, the lively eight-man band catapults old folk melodies into the 21st century. £14/£11concs/£12friends/£9concs/£18otd

prema.org.uk

TETBURY GOODS SHED

FRI 8<sup>TH</sup>

**George Montague and His Notsobigband**

Playing piano and guitar, George is known for entertaining and rousing enthusiastic audiences in uplifting song with his versatile vocals. He enhances his phenomenal shows by featuring live-looping vocal harmonies and beatboxing; creating remarkable hooks to accompany his abiding melodies and producing dynamic performances 7.30pm £12

shed-arts.co.uk

WOTTON BLUES FESTIVAL

FRI 22<sup>ND</sup> - SUN 24<sup>TH</sup>

**Wotton Under Edge**

The second annual Wotton Blues Festival will be taking place in seven venues across Wotton Under Edge with live bands, buskers and workshops. A free event, run entirely by volunteers on a not-for-profit basis, Wotton Blues Festival brings you the best of blues music in a beautiful Cotswold town. This year's line-up includes Steve Browning Band, Route 61, The Patsy Gamble Blues Collective, The Charlton Blues Kings, Stuart Earl Trio, Blues Breakout, Mike Hoddinott Blues Allstars, Keith Thompson Band, The Achievers and many more...See website for tickets and further info.

wottonbluesfest.org



OUT  
29<sup>th</sup> SEPT

## UNFURNISHED ROOMS BY BLANCMANGE

Blancmange's new album was written and recorded by Stroud's Neil Arthur and co-produced by Bengé (Wrangler/John Foxx & The Maths and Gazelle Twin co-producer). It's been a fantastically creative period for both of them, releasing their debut album as a new electronic duo (Fader's First Light - in June 2017) and then the final sessions for Unfurnished Rooms followed immediately in the summer. For the new Blancmange record, all the songs were written by Arthur while Bengé added percussion and layers of analogue synth, with the pair then mixing the record together in the latter's Memetune studios in Cornwall. 'Don't Get Me Wrong' features John Grant on piano and backing vocals.

blancmange.co.uk

# Zandra Rhodes

**Zandra Rhodes, with her bright pink hair, theatrical make-up and statement art jewellery, has stamped her identity on the international world of fashion. Yet to call her a fashion designer would be selling her far shorter than her daring, dramatic and diverse career displays. "My work I see as living artworks," Zandra agrees, "when fashion went in a different direction to what I was doing I just applied my creativity in different ways, whilst being authentic and true to myself. I believe I think like an artist not a fashion designer and that gives me a freedom to turn my hand to anything really."**

By Lorna Davies

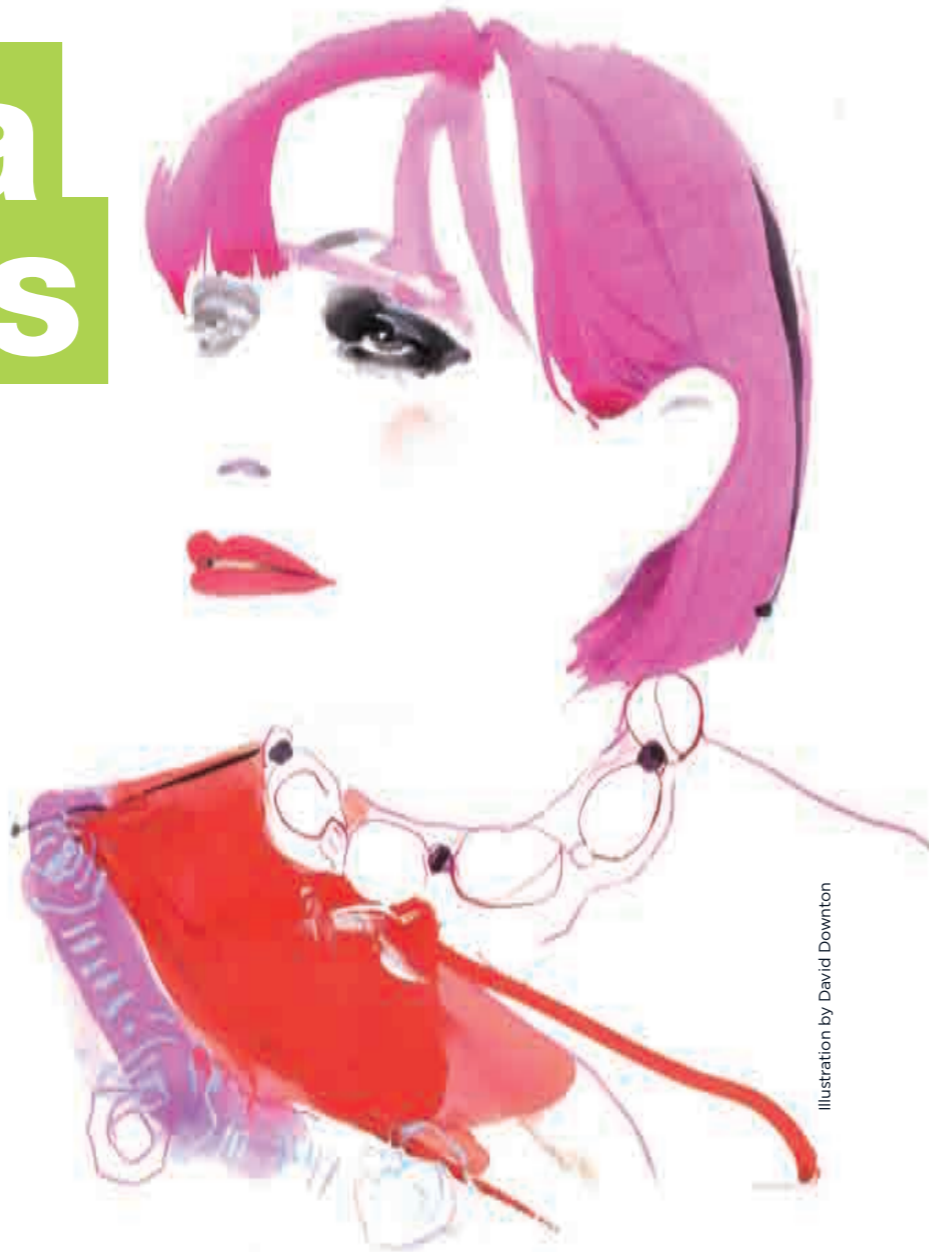


Illustration by David Downton

Born in Chatham in Kent in 1940, Zandra was introduced to the world of fashion by her mother, a fitter for the Paris fashion House of Worth and later a lecturer at Medway College of Art, where Zandra studied. She focused on printed textile design, making dresses from her own fabrics after her prints were considered too outrageous for stores. In 1967 she opened her first shop: The Fulham Road Clothes Shop with Sylvia Ayton. In 1969 she took her collection to New York where Diana Vreeland featured her garments in American Vogue, after which she started selling to high end US stores. Back in the UK, Zandra was given her own area in Fortnum and Mason, before founding her own store off Bond Street in 1975.

Her unique use of bold prints,

fiercely feminine patterns and theatrical use of colour has given her garments a timeless quality that makes them unmistakably a Rhodes creation. In 1977 she pioneered the pink and black jersey collection with holes and beaded safety pins that earned her the name of Princess of Punk.

She has designed for everyone, from royalty to rock stars including Diana, Princess of Wales, Jackie Onassis, Freddie Mercury and Debbie Harry. As well as fashion, Zandra has created jewellery, china, make-up and even opera sets and costumes. "I love great big theatrical productions (my shows were sometimes an hour long and directed by big names like Peter Greenaway) and so designing for opera let my creativity soar rather than being confined by the diktats

of fashion," she explains.

She set up the unmistakably Rhodes-style orange and pink Fashion and Textile Museum in London in 2003: "Fashion can feel very transient so I built the Fashion and Textiles Museum to

**"ARTS EDUCATION IS BEING HORRIFICALLY MALIGNED AND WITHOUT THAT I AND SO MANY PEOPLE I KNOW AND MEET WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE AND FLOURISH, SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMIND PEOPLE THAT ART ISN'T OPTIONAL, IT'S INTEGRAL."**

counterbalance that."

Some iconic pieces of this colourful career are now on display at Art Couture Painswick (ACP), a charity organisation which inspires

extraordinary wearable art and engages the community to create life-changing opportunities for inspiring artists.

"I'm a big fan of anything that promotes, supports, and nurtures creativity," Zandra tells me. "Arts

education is being horrifically maligned and without that I and so many people I know and meet would not be able to communicate and flourish, so it's important

to remind people that art isn't optional, it's integral."

Zandra, a trustee of ACP, is often focused on creating opportunities for others, such as a work placement in her London design studio for Robin Watkins Davies, a sixth form design student and winner of ACP's festival in 2016 (judged by the likes of Selina Blow and Savile Row designer Mary Wing-To). "I have students and work placements all the time as learning goes both ways," says Zandra. "What I do is quite rare and so it's important to pass these skills on, whilst also finding out about what the new generations are into. Doing my archive collection with the new eyes of my team let me see my work in a whole different light."

Each piece in Zandra and I has been carefully selected for its symbolic role in the development of the designers' successful career; her first design to be featured in Vogue, the headpiece she wore when she met the Queen at Buckingham palace and became a Dame in 2015 – a fabulous blue circular design with a diamond encrusted egg balanced on top. "[There are] so many memories over so many years! The most memorable, I think I'd have to single out my Egg hat by Piers Atkinson who is one of my protégés that I wore to my



Dameship ceremony. It was such a huge honour to become a Dame, a symbol that this country needs a diverse spectrum of talents to make it what it is. Such a proud moment to be able to wear a creation by someone I truly believe in. An egg is a great symbol isn't it," With so many memorable moments, I ask if it was tricky to choose? "Well it's a collaborative show about my personal pieces and accessories so that's easier than having to

try to be selective out of my 50 years of work," Zandra explains. "As a designer you thrive with collaboration, even as basic an idea personally that no outfit is not complete without shoes and in my case without lots of jewellery! A fashion show is on a whole other level, you are creating a moment of theatre to bring the layers of ideas behind a collection alive. Models, hair and make up artists, milliners, shoe designers, everyone

has their part in making that moment more than just a parade of dresses walking up and down. I have to give credit to my long term collaborators Andrew Logan, Piers Atkinson, Stephen Jones as they have all helped me bring the visions I have in my head to life, including my own image. Like in my prints, a repeat is what makes things memorable!"

In September last year, Zandra launched her first Archive Collection with matchesfashion.com, recreating some of her most iconic designs, including Princess Diana's cherry blossom dress and the white kaftan worn by Donna Summer on the cover of her 1977 album Once Upon a Time, which will be on display at ACP.

"I chose it as it's a very good example of the way I design, how I place the print on the body which then shapes the garment rather than the other way round."

Zandra lives in San Diego and is usually found at her Bermondsey atelier (next to the Fashion and Textiles Museum) when in the UK. "I try to do at least one visit out of London on my stays," says Zandra. "I recently went to the Port Elliot festival in Cornwall, I love the British countryside and the Cotswolds is absolutely gorgeous."

Zandra and I is at the Art Couture Gallery in Painswick until Sunday 17th September, visit [canvasforcreativity.com](http://canvasforcreativity.com) and [zandrarhodes.com](http://zandrarhodes.com) for further info.

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



# Steve Russell Studios

By Sarah Edmonds

**Steve Russell is a very busy man. In the past two weeks he's travelled to Chester, the Isle of Harris and Denmark. His bags are packed and waiting by the door – he's off to Uganda on a plane tonight....more of that later. Clearly time challenged, he is very patient as we chat and leaf through striking photography catalogues. What I glean is that he is quietly ambitious, extremely hard working and incredibly modest. I've also learnt that soon he'll be trekking to 12,000 feet in remote East Africa, hoping to catch a glimpse of the three horned chameleon.**

Russell is a multi award winning photographer (Hasselblad Masters Finalist 2016, Travel Photographer of the Year finalist 2015, shortlisted for Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015 to mention a few) who has become the photographer of choice for high profile artists and sculptors across the UK and beyond. He insists, "we are just here to facilitate the artist," which is typical of Russell, always putting the client first. He is clearly a perfectionist, working to produce the very best result for the artist, "we try to nurture trust and long term relationships."

If you live locally, you will have heard of Pangolin Editions on Chalford Industrial Estate. Established in 1984, it is one of the largest foundries in Europe, casting for some of the most celebrated sculptors in the UK and internationally. Pangolin have worked with an astonishing number of high profile artists such as Jonathan Kenworthy, Terence Coventry, Damien Hirst, Nick Bibby,

Jon Buck and Sarah Lucas, among many others, and Russell has captured much of their work with great depth and clarity.

He has recently moved his studios and office space to be at the heart of the action. Sculptures can come straight out of the foundry door and onto his 3.8 metre turntable which holds four tonnes in weight. Sculptures are notoriously challenging to capture with all their textures, angles and nuances – now Steve and his team can shoot them from every angle. He is clearly delighted with the new 3,500 square foot studio and gallery space which is open to the public five days a week. He is keen to welcome everyone to view his latest exhibition of personal work East African Coast and to have a chat with Rebekah and Christine, who run front of house, about the variety of services on offer to artists.

Far from solely focusing on high end clients, their services extend to web design, reproduction,

re-touching and post production, graphic design, catalogues, design and production of glossy books and video. They are also experienced in creating one off or limited edition prints from original artwork with their state of the art large format Epson printer and Ilford RIP software. Colour matching is rigorous and the resulting prints onto a variety of paper finishes (glossy, Hahnemuhle or canvas) are of superior quality. Panoramic prints are also available – with 44" of width to play with, the longest printed so far is ten metres – ideal for backdrops and exhibition stands.

Russell and his skilled partner, Ashley Hatton, specialise in photographing sculpture, fine art, portraiture, interiors and travel photography. If you are looking for a full design service, you can find it here. Steve is quick to tell me, "We see photography as an investment that will give back to the artist two fold. Although we've grown in recent years, our values

remain the same – authenticity, quality, promoting the artist and sharing our expertise. We've got so much experience working with very exacting artists – we have complete empathy with what they're trying to achieve. We've grown organically."

On a previous visit to the studio, I notice the highly covetable work of fine artist Peter Brown (memorable twitter handle: @Petethastreet1) as an example of subtle, light filled canvases being photographed with great care and attention. The neon, glossy and impasto work of artist Emma Sharland offers new challenges – mastered with great skill. One step further, and artwork can be reproduced and mounted, everything is possible.

Russell favours Hasselblad but insists that his £40,000 camera "is just my working tool, and it should be used." He doesn't feel the slightest bit nervous travelling with such valuable equipment. He is currently working closely with Canon UK in his pursuit of three dimensional photography,

"we want to be forerunners in this field," and is excited about the next era of 3D, "after thirty years in two dimensional, photography feels like it's starting over again. It's photography in virtual reality, breaking boundaries." He's not a purist either – surprisingly he rates i-phone photography, it's just another way to tell a story.

Russell is entirely self taught, "I don't know how to do anything else," and has been taking photographs since he was thirteen years old. He persuaded his father to build him a dark room and diligently honed his craft. He decided not to accept a place on a University photography course because there was nothing new they could teach him. His advice to amateurs who are passionate: "The 10,000 rule applies. In the words of Henri Cartier-Bresson, 'your first 10,000 photographs are your worst.' If you're still taking photographs at this point, you know you're getting somewhere."

Next stop: Uganda. Russell has



been travelling to this region for ten years, visiting and cataloguing the work and people at the Ruwenzori Sculpture Foundation, which inspired his book Katonda Wenge. Translated it means, 'Oh my God' – words spoken by a young girl on seeing herself on the camera screen for the first time. Taking portraits is a personal challenge, a skill he is keen to improve, "I've still

got a lot to learn." Portraits often reflect the relationship between the photographer and his subject and this is clear to see in these African faces – joy, struggle and mutual curiosity, captured by a gentle and empathetic photographer with great talent.

Steve's latest exhibition East African Coast will run until end of

November. Visit [steverussellstudios.com](http://steverussellstudios.com) for further info.

**Sarah Edmonds is an Italian graduate from University College London, where she also studied History of Art and a short course at Slade School of Fine Art. She's been a tour guide in Tuscany and now works in marketing for Pegasus Art in Thrupp - supplier of fine art materials @SarahWordBird**



## Exhibition Space:

# Taxtiles: Becky Dick

Taxtiles is a merge of two words "Textile & Taxidermy" Breaking the boundaries between textile and taxidermy. Experimenting with the techniques used in taxidermy to create bespoke luxury items for the home and office. Established by Becky Dick in 2014. Graduated in 2015 First Class Honours BA (Hons) Decorative Arts, specialised in 3D Textiles/ Embroidery and taxidermy.

Becky's studio is based in Stroud and she's also an associate member of Stroud Valley Artspace.

The techniques used in the textile taxidermy are from traditional taxidermy translated into fabric, using sustainable yarns, threads and fabric. Becky then developed the technique which she calls weave-binding. All sculptures are pose able and can interact with each other. Even the textile trophy heads are pose able with the ears. Every sculpture is bespoke and individual. They can vary in colour and personality which gives them character. None of the textile taxidermy has any part of an animal or bird inside it. The textile taxidermy is also referred to as "vegan taxidermy".

As well as textile sculpture, Becky has been doing traditional

taxidermy since 2014, trained by professional taxidermist David Keningale. Specialising in mammals and birds.

All taxidermy specimens and fur/feathers are ethically sourced and have been either road-kill, euthanised wild-life from the vets and RSPCA which couldn't be saved due to injuries and illness. No animals or bird was killed when making the pieces. They were already dead when acquired. Becky never kills any of her specimens for her taxidermy.

Becky also does free-hand embroidery and illustrates motifs inspired by British wild-life. They are created into canvassed wall-pieces or cushions. The cushions have different materials on the back and some have the real animal or faux fur incorporated into the products. Every product will state where the fur was sourced, all fur is ethically sourced.

Additionally there is a new range of European entomology. All butterflies and moths are historical dating pre 21st century. Some dating back to 1911...

For further info, news and examples of Becky's work visit [taxtiles.com](http://taxtiles.com) and follow her on [instagram.com/taxtilesdesign](https://www.instagram.com/taxtilesdesign)



## ART LISTINGS

### AMBERLEY INN

THURS 1ST SEPT – SUN 29TH OCT

**Rachel Markwick and Diane Young: Fish and Ships**

A vibrant combination of paint and collage, with a variety of Animals, Birds, Fish and of course Ships. It's all in the detail, with Diane Young including the luxurious touch of gold leaf in her paintings, and Rachel Markwick creating fascinating and intricate collages using postage stamps and postal material. Framed originals and prints will be on display in the Dining Room at the Amberley Inn. Open every day but please check opening hours with The Amberley Inn 01453 872565

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

### ART OF CLAY

FRI 1ST-SAT 30TH

**Clay Sinclair**

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

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

### EBWORTH CENTRE

SAT 16TH

**The Big Bash**

This month sees the launch of the first Big Bash at The Ebworth Centre. With a massive pile of wood, hammers and nails, families are invited to get creative and build their own wooden sculptures. No skill necessary, just the enthusiasm to build as big or as small as imaginations allow. There will be a festival-like atmosphere with delicious local food and drink, music and storytelling as well as a Play Trail through the atmospheric woodland. This is an amazing opportunity to experience The Ebworth Estate - a stunning setting on the Cotswold escarpment with views over native beech woods full of protected flora and fauna. The Big Bash offers plenty to keep the whole family entertained including sculpture making, a woodland play trail, face painting, mud kitchen, storytelling by local author, Christine O'Neill, reading her Glowworm Tale set in the Slad Valley, archery, delicious local food including Forest Hog Roast, pizza and Ice Cream, as well as tea and homemade cakes and a bar—a bit of something for everyone! 12pm £1

[nationaltrust.org.uk/features/the-ebworth-centre](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/features/the-ebworth-centre)

### ELVERS STUDIO

FRI 1ST – SAT 30TH

**Colin Heavingham**

The fifth exhibition of work by Colin Heavingham continuing to explore love and loss within the confines of abstraction and dream-like images. Also features handmade Faerie winged jewellery by Tristana

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

### GALLERY PANGOLIN

WEDS 16TH AUG – FRI 15TH SEPT

**The Summer of Love: Fifty Years On**

Looking back to that extraordinary summer with sculpture, prints and drawings created in 1967 and contemporary works relating to war, peace and love. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/ Sat 10am-1pm

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

### LANSDOWN HALL

TUES 18TH – SAT 30TH

**Millie Wood Swanepoel: WABI SABI – Nothing Lasts, Nothing is Finished and Nothing is Perfect**

This is Millie's personal experience of the feel of clay as it comes to life, pressed and teased into shape. A magical moment of abstract creations and expressions of ideas/ images inspired, fired and expressed in clay, fused glass, metal, wire and a combination of found objects.

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

### MALTHOUSE BAR AND KITCHEN

WEDS 9TH AUG – MON 18TH SEPT

**SIT select presents: Kerry Phippen – The Gentle Wild II**

Paintings of wild animals leap and run around the walls of the Malthouse. Kerry Phippen's desire is to capture the sense of the animal, their very nature and traits and of course, their beauty and this exhibition certainly does all that. These ink paintings on handmade Indian rag paper, combine her love for ink as a medium, fine papers and gorgeous wild creatures. There will also be new framed as well as unframed works on display ([sitsselect.org.uk](http://sitsselect.org.uk)). Sun-Mon 10am-4pm/Tues-Sat 10am-5pm

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

### MUSEUM IN THE PARK

SAT 2ND SEPT – SUN 1ST OCT

**Alison Vickery**

Alison is a local artist with a love of the beautiful countryside and natural forms around us. She is interested in capturing the fleeting moment, particularly the transforming effect of light on form and colour. She works in a wide range of media directly from

the subject outside or from sketches drawn in situ which are later worked on in her studio. This exhibition shows work from the last couple of years and is a mix of floral pieces and local views. Open Saturdays and Sundays 11am-5pm

SAT 9TH – SUN 24TH

**Stroud School of Art Show**

Come along for this rare chance to see work by talented artists, makers and designers who teach at Stroud School of Art. Tues-Fri 10am-5pm/Sat-Sun (and Bank Holidays) 11am-5pm

SAT 30TH SEPT-SUN 5TH NOV

**Anne Jackson: Certaine Wytches – Fear, Myth and Magic**

In Anne Jackson's current project, 'The Witchcraft Series', she presents a series of works exploring the history of witch-persecution in Europe, and the metaphors which the idea of 'witchcraft' evoke in modern culture, through the medium of knotted tapestry. Referencing sources from the earliest printed books warning against the evils of witches, to the repeal of the final Witchcraft Act in English law in 1957, the works explore the imagery and social attitudes that led to the trial and execution of thousands of people, mostly women, across Europe. Jackson's large and small-scale tapestries often depict evidence given in individual witch-trials, including that of young children encouraged to testify against their mothers. Whenever possible, she reproduces the original printed texts from witch-hunting pamphlets and trial accounts as part of the tapestry composition, seeing this as a kind of ventriloquism, giving a voice to individuals from the distant past. Anne Jackson has exhibited widely across Europe, the USA, and in Australia. Her work is held in public collections, including the Art Endowment of the City of Aalborg, Denmark, the Geffreyre Museum, London, and the Museum of Applied Art, Budapest, Hungary. Tues-Fri 10am-5pm/Sat-Sun (and Bank Holidays) 11am-5pm

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

### THE OLIVER VIVIAN GALLERY

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

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

The Oliver Vivian Gallery will be open every Saturday in September with a his current 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)

### STEVE RUSSELL STUDIOS

MON 3RD JUL – THURS 30TH NOV

**East African Coast**

A celebration of the opening of the new studios and gallery with a new collection of photographs. The remarkable photographs assembled

here were taken over the course of several trips to the coast of East Africa; a place of great beauty and vibrancy, redolent with the scent of spices and glowing with bright colours. All prints are mounted on aluminium and are available in an edition of 5.

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

### SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

MON 7TH AUG – SAT 21ST OCT

**Foto Forum**

Foto Forum is a small enthusiastic group of independent photographers based around Stroud in Gloucestershire. The members engage with each other to share images and experiences. Their joint exhibitions reflect an individuality of methods and perceptions. This 2017 exhibition illustrates a diversity of interpretation with each contributor conveying their own creative message. Visit [fotoforum.org.uk](http://fotoforum.org.uk) for further info.

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

### SVA

FRI 1ST – SAT 30TH

**Meanwhile Space: 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 5TH AUG – SUN 3RD SEPT

**Crazy Golf**

After two hugely successful years Crazy Golf is back running throughout August and into September featuring 18 holes designed by artists, designers and collaborative teams. Cafe and bar open daily 10am - 4pm. £3adults/£2children (under 15 years)

**Meanwhile Space: 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 by appointment [fungi@cscic.org](mailto:fungi@cscic.org)

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

### UPPER LOCK CAFÉ

WEDS 30TH AUG – MON 25TH SEPT

**Alison Vickery**

Alison Vickery studied graphic design and illustration in London in the early 80's and subsequently designed for a number of companies such as John Lewis, Waitrose, The National Trust and Tesco. In 2008 she moved to the Cotswolds with her family and has focused on her painting inspired by her garden, the beautiful countryside surrounding us and the character of



Stroud. She is particularly interested in colour and how it is affected by light, working instinctively she aims to capture the character and essence of her subject working in a wide range of media including acrylic inks, watercolour, collage and mixed media. Mon-Sat 9am-4pm/Sun 10am-3pm

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

#### ART COUTURE GALLERY PAINSWICK

SAT 19TH AUG – SUN 17TH SEPT

#### Zandra and I: Seminal Fashion Pieces From A Design Icon

Dame Zandra Rhodes is one of the new wave of British Fashion designers who put London at the forefront of the international Fashion scene in the 1970's and is considered an icon of British design. This unique exhibition will allow a rare opportunity to view iconic pieces from her personal collection. 10am-4pm

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

#### THE OLD PASSAGE ARLINGHAM

TUES 13TH JUN-SUN 26TH NOV

#### Passion

A New collection of artworks by thirty artists featuring Alice Adams, Catherine Aspray, Anne Bate-Williams, Chris Bingle, Susanna Birley, Carolyn Black, Georgina Bouzyk, Jilly Cobbe, Alexandra Collins, Debbie Cox, Krysia Drury, Angela Findlay, Karen Green, Sylvain Guenet, Pat Homewood, Jan Irvine, Valerie Jordan, Anna Knight, Elaine Knight, David Manzi-fe, Rachel Markwick, Annie McGill, Alison Merry, Linn O'Carroll, Arthur Penn, Kerry Phippen, Kel Portman, Vicki Portman, Chris Rose, Alisdair Shepherd, Chris Smith, Mark Stopforth and Melvyn Warren-Smith.

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

#### PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

MON 11TH SEPT – SAT 21ST OCT

#### NC Andrew Adams

Nigel Adams' paintings might be described as 'landscapes of the mind'. The artist does not seek to represent a particular location but instead tries to convey the feelings and impressions that nature and different natural habitats invoke. Using brush and palette knife with acrylic paint, Adams explores ways of suggesting different surfaces, textures and atmospheres. 10:30am-4pm

MON 11TH SEPT – SAT 21ST OCT

#### Kerry Day

Kerry's current body of work is about the plants with which she shares her home and studio. Their architectural shapes and contours seem to translate beautifully to printmaking. The wide range of leaf colour and pattern in these cacti, succulents and leafy plants

seems to positively invite layers of texture and tone within the forms. The prints are accomplished using a mixture of reduction lino print and mono print (using the rollers like paint brushes) to produce variable edition prints. 10:30am-4pm

MON 11TH SEPT – SAT 21ST OCT  
Martha Lightfoot

Stroud-based maker Martha Lightfoot is an artist, writer and creator of "things". She illustrates children's books, teaches art workshops and clubs and can often be located in her studio making paper-cut dioramas. Martha draws things that make her smile, often chronicling a moment she might forget lest she gets it down on paper. Martha has a joyful yet mindful approach to drawing and her output is prolific – she draws every day, often helping to remind herself to locate the positive in every situation and find the good things which are present throughout each day. 10:30am-4pm

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

#### NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

SAT 22ND JUL – SUN 17TH SEPT

#### Rory Young: Process – Form – Colour

In 2015 Cirencester based sculptor, Rory Young, installed seven new painted stone statues in the empty medieval niches in the nave screen at St Albans Cathedral. This project was one of the rare occasions in which polychrome statues have been restored to a medieval screen since the Reformation. The work selected for this exhibition shows how an artist moves from original sketches, through to testing ideas in 3D, and then follows the processes of trying different colours and finishes. The seven statues were developed over a period of five years; and the preparatory work, designs, sketches and both scaled and full-size maquettes are presented publicly at New Brewery Arts, Cirencester for the first time. Mon-Sat 9am-5pm/Sun (and Bank Holidays) 10am-4pm

FRI 15TH SEPT – SUN 5TH NOV

#### Jerwood Makers Open

Following a successful exhibition at Jerwood Space, Marcin Rusak, Juli Bolaños-Durman, Laura Youngson Coll, Jessica Harrison and Sam Bakewell are exhibiting new works as part of the Jerwood Visual Arts programme at New Brewery Arts. Five new commissions by these early-career applied artists brought about through the biennial Jerwood Makers Open. Each combines a high level of technical skill with imagination and intellectual adventure, constituting a fresh and exciting direction of each artist's work. Mon-Sat 9am-5pm/Sun (and Bank Holidays) 10am-4pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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KENDRICK STREET GALLERY  
[KENDRICKSTGALLERY.CO.UK](http://KENDRICKSTGALLERY.CO.UK)

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[LOOK-AGAIN.ORG](http://LOOK-AGAIN.ORG)

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

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

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

SIT SELECT  
[SITSELECT.ORG](http://SITSELECT.ORG)

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

STROUD COLLEGE  
[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)

NEW BREWERY ARTS  
[NEWBREWERYARTS.ORG.UK](http://NEWBREWERYARTS.ORG.UK)

PREMA ARTS CENTRE  
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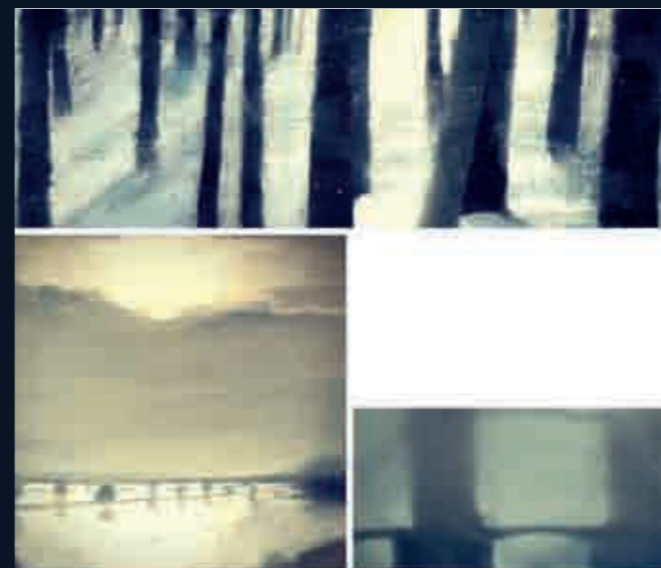
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Flying Dove, Jon Buck



# Jerwood Makers Open 2017

SAM BAKEWELL  
JULI BOLAÑOS-DURMAN  
JESSICA HARRISON  
MARCIN RUSAK  
LAURA YOUNGSON COLL

16 SEPTEMBER – 5 NOVEMBER 2017

NEW BREWERY ARTS  
BREWERY COURT  
CIRENCESTER GL7 1JH  
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# Rachel Joyce

By Nikki Owen

I met Rachel one Friday at the Star Anise cafe, and I'm going to admit now that I am a big fan. Huge. I'd read Rachel's first, bestselling novel, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, several years back when it first came out, and I was blown away. Here was a novel about real people. I knew Harold was made up, and yet he seemed so life like, so true. This is the talent of a good writer: to be able to create worlds that not only do you feel you can touch, but worlds that touch you. And in Rachel's latest book, *The Music Shop*, souls and hearts are most definitely touched, and not simply by words, but by melody and song, too.

The *Music Shop* is set in 1988 and centres on a man named Frank, who owns a music shop. It is jam-packed with records of every speed, size and genre. Classical, jazz, punk - as long as it's vinyl he sells it. Day after day Frank finds his customers the music they need. Then into his life walks Ilse Brauchmann. Ilse asks Frank to teach her about music. His instinct is to turn and run. And yet he is drawn to this strangely still, mysterious woman with her pea-green coat and her eyes as black as vinyl. But Ilse is not what she seems. And Frank has old wounds that threaten to re-open and a past he will never leave behind. It's a novel about learning how to listen, learning how to feel and it's something that Joyce does extremely well, but crucially, as

with her other books, it's the sense of community that proves to be both the catalyst and the saviour to people's lives. In fact, a local, Rachel actually did a lot of her research at *The Trading Post* in Stroud, chatting to the owner, Simon, and observing what happened in the shop.

Rachel herself is unassuming, long, flowing brown hair, petite frame, with a gentle manner and a kind, bright smile. And yet, considering the enormous success of her career to date (she's a Sunday Times best selling novelist, long listed for the Man Booker Prize and published in over 30 languages, plus is also an established writer in radio and has written over 20 original plays for Radio 4, dramatising both classic and new novels, and has written a period drama for BBC television) Rachel queries her success. "I have doubts all the time," she says when I ask her about how she felt when *The Music Shop* was about to come out. "You always have that worry of how it may go - it's an odd time." Certainly, we all have doubts, but for Rachel, it's today's world of social media - and how it affects people - that both concerns her and interests her. "The worry these days is that there are so many opportunities to remain alone, and if you are introverted, you could quite easily get lost - social media contributes to that." Rachel revealed that she not big on social media. "It's not good for me. I think you have to keep a little bit of yourself back. This constant

narrative - people commenting on themselves - it takes you outside yourself. I think it's important to keep dignified and happy - that's why community is important, real life. It's about taking your place in a real way and be with real people."

To that very end, community is at the heart of *The Music Shop* novel - community and, of course, music. So what, I asked Rachel, sparked the idea for the book, a book that, excitingly, is accompanied by its own Spotify playlist. "Fourteen years ago, I moved out of London. My husband, Paul, he couldn't sleep. He was in this music shop in Cheltenham, and Paul happened to tell the owner of his sleeping issue. And the owner went and found a CD to help - it was classical music, and it began a journey in my head: a man with gift for music. It stayed in my mind. I went back years later to the shop, but it had gone." The fact that the shop had disappeared proved poignant to Joyce's novel - the fictional Unity Street in *The Music Shop* is under threat from developers. Indeed, the theme of modernization - and what we do with the past - runs strong in the novel. Said Rachel, "We bought a record player few years ago. It's such a physical thing, that taking off the record and turning it over, it's magical. That's why the novel is set in 1988 - the year when vinyl is taken over by more modern CDs. To me, this meant everyone was going to throw away what they had, and it made me think: you have to be very careful about what you

chose to lose." What you chose to lose. Wow. Yes. For a second, after Rachel said that, I just sat in thought, thinking about her words. Make no mistake - Joyce has a knack of making you stop and think - whether it's spoken, written or set to music. It's amazing - no wonder she's so successful.

I finish the interview with Rachel telling me that her next novel will be based in a small hamlet, possibly in France, in a mountain landscape, post world war in a remote community. And as I listen to her, one thing becomes very clear: Rachel Joyce knows that to create a reality in the world of words, you can't just sing one tune - you have to create an entire symphony. Because you see, do that, and you have produced a fictional world that sings not only to the mind, but to the soul. And, at the end of the day, isn't that what we all want?



The *Music Shop* is out now via Penguin and available in all good independent book stores and on-line. Visit [penguin.co.uk/books/1096901/the-music-shop](http://penguin.co.uk/books/1096901/the-music-shop) for further info and to listen to the accompanying playlist.

Nikki Owen is an author and writer. Her third and final book in the *Project Trilogy - The Girl Who Ran* (Harper Collins), is out now. Follow her on twitter @nikkiwriter and nikkiowenauthor.com

Words. Words can fly off the page and create such magical worlds that, often, it's hard to believe they are not real. And yet, they sing to us, don't they? They sing to us, words on such a level that we start to step back, we start to think about life and love and the way in which we view each other. And in that context, I give you the wonderful writer of words that is, Rachel Joyce.

## LITERATURE LISTINGS

### ALE HOUSE

#### WEDS 6TH/13TH/20TH/27TH

##### Rick Vick: Writing Group

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

### HAWKWOOD COLLEGE

#### WEDS 27TH SEPT - WEDS 29TH NOV

##### Wild Writing with Kevan Manwaring

Are your words too tame? Do your ideas need liberating? Let them out of the cage, and allow them to prowl the page! This rule-breaking writing workshop is designed to encourage you to give voice to the feral fringes of your creativity. Bring outdoor clothing...7pm £75

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

### LANSDOWN HALL

#### SAT 23RD

##### Global Peace Party: Celebration of Humanity

A cabaret style event starring local choirs Stroud Song and Circle of Song; poetry by Jehanne Mehta, Gabriel Miller, Ric Vick, Adam Horowitz and Jo Woolley, with a short film by the youth theatre group Flies on the Wall. In the second half there will be stand-up comedy with graduates from Chris Head's comedy course: Peter Adams, John Dougherty, Aidan Dunsdon, Amy Godfrey and Kate Lewis plus musical interludes from the comic ukulele group, Paul Cosby, Maggi Atma and Tom. 7pm £7

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

### THE LITTLE VIC

#### SUN 24TH

##### Stroud Out Loud

Poetry, storytelling, song, stand-up, monologues, celebrating creative free speech with this entertaining bardic circle for all. Whatever your party piece come and share it! Arrive early for a slot (10 mins or less). 7:30pm Free

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

### NO 23

#### SUN 17TH

##### 23 Book Club with Nikki Owen

The book club is back! And the post summer break thrilling instalment is... *The Tobacconist* by Robert Seethaler. 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. 4pm Free

### STROUD SHORT STORIES

#### SAT 23RD

##### Submission Deadline: All You Need Is Love. Or Is It?

Love is in the air at Stroud Short Stories and they are currently open for submissions from Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire writers. Submissions close on Saturday 23 September for their 15th event taking place on Sunday 5th November at the SVA. The theme for the stories this time is 'All You Need Is Love. Or Is It?' Submissions are free as usual. Visit the website for further info and submission details.

[stroudshortstories.blogspot.co.uk](http://stroudshortstories.blogspot.co.uk)

## Stroud Authors Books

### Latest book releases by Stroud based authors...



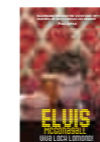
#### WHAT WAS RESCUED BY JANE BAILEY

Publisher: Lake Union Publishing

In the autumn of 1940, four children meet on a train. Behind them is London, under heavy aerial attack; ahead of them is a ship bound for the safe shores of Canada. Arthur has promised his mother not to let his little brother, Philip, out of his sight. Pippa and Dora are on their own: polar

opposites, brought together by the adventure of a lifetime. But disaster strikes mid-Atlantic, and in the chaos one of the children makes a choice that will determine the course of their lives forever. As the years pass and the survivors become adults—forging their futures and falling in love—they are still haunted by the events of that night at sea. It's not just what was lost that darkens their lives: what was rescued casts a long shadow, too. One of them has a terrible secret that they thought sank with the ship. But a secret is just a truth waiting to be revealed, and this secret could shatter everything.

[jane-bailey.co.uk](http://jane-bailey.co.uk)



#### VIVA LOCK LOMOND! BY ELVIS MCGONAGALL

Publisher: Burning Eye Books

Viva Loch Lomond! collects the greatest hits of stand-up poet, comedian and broadcaster Elvis McGonagall in one volume for the first

### SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

#### MON 18TH SEPT

##### Creative Writing with Kevan Manwaring

A curious beginner, secret scribbler or need inspiration? Then this is the course for you...7pm £75 (ten week course)

#### SAT 23RD

##### Global Peace Party: The Challenge of Peace

A conversation café type event hosted by Trish Dickinson with keynote speakers Jo Berry (co-founder of Bridges of Peace charity) and Restorative Gloucestershire. In the afternoon, there is a film by Peter Willcox, captain of Rainbow Warrior, the Greenpeace ship, followed by world renowned ecocide lawyer and author Polly Higgins who will be talking about a new initiative. 9.30pm-4.30pm £15/£10concs

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

### SVA

#### FRI 1ST-SAT 30TH

##### Resound Radio

Radio listening with a difference... An open ended radio station based here in the town centre giving a voice to artists and non-artists alike. It's an umbrella, home and online space for podcasts spanning the unusual, artistic, topical and interestingly mundane. It's an evolving catalogue of ideas and collections, observations and interests.

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

### PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

#### SAT 30TH

##### Poetry Writing with Graham Hartill

Published poet Graham Hartill takes you through the process of writing poetry, helping you to put everyday experiences onto paper. Suitable for complete beginners and more experienced poets alike, today's workshop will refresh your senses and help you find the best way to express yourself through prose. Discover your own creative language as you explore a variety of poetry-writing techniques before putting your newfound skills to the test. 10am-4pm £38/£35concs/£36friends/£33concs

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

### NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

#### FRI 22ND SEPT - FRI 20TH OCT

##### Bookbinding with Emily Northern

During the course of this five week class you will be making five different books, building each week on what was learnt the previous week...10am-1pm £140

#### TUES 26TH

##### Writers in the Brewery

Writers in the Brewery is 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. 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. Guest speaker tba soon! 7pm £4

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

time. Witty, satirical but not afraid to be plain daft, Elvis McGonagall's work takes aim at our septic isle of zero-hours contracts, food banks and cup-cakery. From Scottish independence to the "war on terror" via turbo-capitalist greed; from Blair and Bush to Dave and Boris via the death of Thatcher; from William Wallace's taste for cheese to the Queen's love of gangsta rap VIA BREXIT AND TRUMPERY, Elvis kicks against the injustices of austerity Britain but still finds time to wax lyrical about the joys of whisky, Greek islands and life in a godforsaken rural idyll. Viva Loch Lomond! lays bare the workings of his befuddled mind as he scribbled these poems from the dubious comfort of his revolting armchair at the Graceland Caravan Park. [elvismcgonagall.co.uk](http://elvismcgonagall.co.uk)



#### MISSING BY DMYTRO BOJANIVSKYJ

Publisher: Create Space Independent Publishing

Hen is eleven and on the run. Something bad happened to Mum at Easter and now she's gone, she's missing. That's when things go wrong, you see: when something important's missing. Dad knows what's happened, or he's got a good idea, and that's why he and Hen are now running, so that they don't go missing, too. Missing joins Hen and Dad just as they can run no further and, though they don't know it, danger is catching up... It's about hiding in museums and on building sites, in ditches and on canals, hoping that the hideous rasping breathing you can hear will walk on by. It's about making friends when you don't know who you can trust. It's about looking behind the everyday world and seeing what goes on beneath. It's about running and not getting caught. [twitter.com/AurigaHen](https://twitter.com/AurigaHen)

# Stroud Theatre Festival

**Ah, so you've heard of Stroud Theatre Festival but you'd like to know a little more? Or you've been before and you want to know what's going to be happening this year? Or perhaps you've never heard of this fantastic weekend of theatre but you're a bit bored waiting for your mates in the pub and well, this article seemed like a way to pass 15 minutes or so...**

By Sarah Phaedre Watson

Stroud Theatre Festival runs 29th September - 1st October and is the labour-of-love of John Bassett, actor, writer, director and general theatre person. Now in its 5th year, the festival features 20 shows over 3 days, in 6 venues, with performers descending on our little town from all over the UK.

The programme is up online and it's worth checking out (once you've finished this article of course) as there's a startling array of talent and performances on offer. From puppetry and street theatre, to stand up, children's shows, nihilistic poets and an invitation to join one of the World's most progressive cultural and spiritual movements, the Church of Phil, led by Phil, a charismatic former child star who owns a caravan park in Wales - I kid you not.

I took it upon myself to have a chat with some of the people who'll be involved this year and I made a start by arranging to meet with the Gloucester Female Creatives. This

seemed like a great place to get going, after all I am definitely female, I also live in Gloucestershire, and some of my best friends are creatives, we were bound to have so much in common.

It turns out that the parallels that I can draw between myself and these talented women stop at where my house is and my gender. You see, they are seriously talented.

Gemma Bolwell (actress and director, Foulisfair Theatre), Chloe Lees (spoken word artist), Liv Birch (actress, just completed a-levels), Sarah Griffiths (actress, recently moved from the United States), kindly gave me some of their time to chat.

Gloucestershire Female Creatives, is less than 6 months old and the collective was formed to enable women to pool their resources, share their knowledge and experience, and support one another to create opportunities for the group's members. They meet regularly, already boasting nearly

100 members, and although the group is exclusively female, the focus isn't on exclusion, it's founded on the recognition that something unique can happen when members of one gender work together.

As each woman seated around the table metaphorically steps forward to discuss the performances that they will be taking in part in, it's as if a virtual spotlight has appeared above them. Their off-stage presence is so enchanting that I'm reaching for my phone minutes after the interview has begun to book tickets.

Their performance will include five short pieces including works from poets Uta Baldauf and Chloe Jacquet, an invitation to create your own 'Mother Bunting' with Sarah Dixon and of course 'Daughters 2' and Chloe Lees's performance 'Unsung and Untold'.

Chloe describes 'Unsung and Untold' as "live storytelling cabaret" enthused with "magical realism", rooted in a fairy tale which has evolved to take place in the modern-world. As she describes the piece in more detail I begin to wonder whether Rapunzel might have been a very different tale if she'd had mobile phone reception up there in her tower. I'm already drawn in by Chloe's humour and obvious story-telling ability. She's a genius.

We move on to discuss Daughters 2, a natural progression from Foulisfair Theatre's

presentation 'Daughters' which offered "an eclectic, bold and fragmented protest against the assumptions of sugar and spice" that we associate with girls and young women. The new ensemble, many of whose members are entrenched in motherhood, will be presenting "a matured and nuanced tribute to this very female condition; an exploration and celebration of a never-ending relay of daughters past, present and future, walking through our living-rooms like ghosts, bleeding on sheets, twisting towards the light."

I ask if the performances are just for women, and I'm met with a generous response to let's face it, a stupid question. For the record the works are "for everyone, because men have women in their lives, men have daughters, or sisters, or they can identify themselves within some of the scenes that are explored in the piece". See? That's what I'm here for, to ask the stupid questions so you don't have to.

Fast forward to my chat with Isabel Lyster in her studio nestled in the eaves of the Stroud Valleys Artspace. The sun shines through the windowed ceiling and, as we sip coffee and discuss her background. She's constantly on the go; opening boxes of treasures to illustrate her points, pausing to explain the importance of a puppet, or to laugh at the giant green Shrek hands that are carefully stored away in see-through storage boxes.

Isabel (Bella) Lyster is a performance maker, puppetry specialist and visual artist. She studied puppetry at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London, and is now regularly commissioned to work with theatre companies or to perform with her puppets all over the world.

She'll be performing 'The Skeleton Woman', an ancient inuit story about transformation, a haunting exploration of the themes of life, death and rebirth. She offers to show me a scene, and begins to scramble onto the back of chairs to lift down props and suitcases, nimbly picking out puppets from deep in boxes around the room. Within minutes the cramped alcove has been transformed into intimate theatre space and Bella fallen into the character of the old fisherman who narrates the gruesome but funny story. She deftly switches to bring the story to life in silhouettes cleverly displayed on a screen

carefully cut into the top of a beautiful battered old suitcase.

I'm captivated; there are several times during the performance when I forget that we're in the top of a building buried in the heart of Stroud, I'm lost in the story and so, it appears to me, is Bella. I hold my breathe so she'll forget I'm there, carry on with the show, but my short preview ends too soon. I'll have to wait until the festival to hear what happens next - I can't even bear to look it up online, it'd be such a shame not to hear the tale told by Bella and the old man. I marvelled at the tools and treasures in her creative space, the ease at which she slipped into the characters in the play, and the equally skilled way she quickly bewitched me with her impromptu performance. Magical.

And these are just a small handful of the performances that you can expect to see, there's still that performance of the Church of Phil (which also includes puppetry,

a live healing, a human sacrifice, and even a raffle) as well as all kinds of engaging stories, humorous performances and thought-provoking dialogues.

Isabel Lyster will be performing 'The Skeleton Woman' in the George Room at the Subscription Rooms on Sat 30th Sept at 12pm and 6pm and Sunday 1st Oct at 1:30pm and 4:30pm ([isabellyster.com](http://isabellyster.com)). Gloucestershire Female Creatives will also be performing in the George Room on Friday 29th Sept at 8pm and Saturday 30th Sept at 3pm. Church of Phil Recruitment Seminar by Fire Donkey Productions will take place at the Old Town Hall on Friday 29th at 6:30pm and Saturday 30th at 4:30pm ([firedonkeyweb.wordpress.com](http://firedonkeyweb.wordpress.com)).

Tickets for festival performances are £7 (£5 concessions) or you can buy a 'Stroudie Special' which allows you to see six shows for the

price of five, and can be booked via the Subscription Rooms booking office on 01453 760900, online via [stroudtheatrefestival.co.uk](http://stroudtheatrefestival.co.uk) (where you can also check out the full programme) or in person at Stroud Tourist Information Centre and the Stroud Valleys Project Ecoshop.

If you'd like to hear more about Isabel Lyster, her background and the Skeleton Performance or The Gloucestershire Female Creatives you can listen in on the interviews by visiting [soundcloud.com/good-on-paper-stroud](http://soundcloud.com/good-on-paper-stroud)

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



Isabele Lyster by Adam Hinks

## THEATRE/ DANCE LISTINGS

### GIFFORDS CIRCUS

#### THURS 21ST-SUN 24TH

##### Any Port In A Storm

It's 2017 and Gifford's Circus is visiting the Spanish court of the 17th Century. A thrilling, candle-lit, international gymnastic show with dancing horses, a live band and of course the king of mis-rule Tweedy the clown. A Gifford's storm is brewing. Fennells Farm, Stroud (Thurs 21st-Sun 24th), Stratton Meadows, Cirencester (Thurs 7-Mon 18th). Visit website for tickets and further info!

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

### LANDSDOWN HALL

#### SUN 24TH

##### Global Peace Party: Day of Dance for Peace

Different dances throughout the day ft. Nia (10am), Butoh (11:30am), Dances of Universal Peace (1:35pm), Kundlini Clubbing including gong bath and cacao ceremony with kundalini yoga and kundalini dance (3:30pm) and Earthbeats with Cliona Lewis (6:30pm).

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

### STROUD THEATRE FESTIVAL

#### FRI 29TH SEPT - SUN 1ST OCT

Stroud's Theatre Festival returns for its fifth year offering twenty companies, six venues, more than sixty performances from local and national performers including street theatre, children's theatre, workshops and more. Visit the website and pick up the free programme available now for full schedule! £7/£5concs/Stroudie Special - six shows for the price of five

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

### TETBURY GOODS SHED

#### SUN 17TH

##### Squashbox Theatre: Curious Creatures

Welcome to the Curious Creatures wildlife park, established by Jeremiah Johnson: world-renowned explorer, zoologist and animal collector. Nobody knows more about animals than him. Unfortunately, Jeremiah Johnson is currently lost somewhere in the jungles of Africa, so he has handed the running of the park over to his inexperienced nephew Craig... and things don't quite go as planned. Using puppets, comedy, slapstick and live music - plus lots of amazing natural history facts - Squashbox Theatre will uncover the mysteries of the animal kingdom. 2pm £6

[shed-arts.co.uk](http://shed-arts.co.uk)

## COMEDY LISTINGS

### LANDSDOWN HALL

#### SAT 23RD

##### Global Peace Party: A Celebration Of Humanity

A cabaret style event with the second half featuring graduates from Chris Head's comedy course including Peter Adams, John Dougherty, Aidan Dunsdon, Amy Godfrey and Kate Lewis plus musical interludes from the comic ukulele group, Paul Cosby, Maggi Atma and Tom. 7pm £7

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

### THE MALTHOUSE BAR AND KITCHEN

#### THURS 14TH

##### CrazyBird Comedy Club: MC Geoff Whiting, Mark Palmer, Richard Lindsay and Ryan McDonnell

The CrazyBird Comedy Club and the Malthouse Bar & Kitchen have teamed up to bring you a night of fantastic comedy and tantalizing food! Delicious food from the Malthouse menu will be served between 5-7.30pm before it gives way to four professional comedians from the UK & International comedy circuit. MC for the evening will be fans favourite, the inimitable Geoff Whiting. First on the bill is Belfast boy

Ryan McDonnell interjecting sharp wit and Irish charm in his observation of everyday life... Seeing you through the middle section is Kiwi comic Richard Lindsay with his popular quirky gags and offbeat persona, his act is sure to add a touch of uniqueness to the line-up. Headlining the evening will be the stunning Mark Palmer. Cheeky South African Mark makes it funny, entertaining and will make you say more than once - that is so true! He is first rate comedy therapy who has been performing and honing his skills for over 11 years becoming one of South Africa's most sought after comedians and he is now based in the UK. 5pm-7.30pm (food) 8pm (comedy) £12.50adv from seetickets.com and Trading Post/£14tdt

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

### TETBURY GOODS SHED

#### SAT 2ND

##### Comedy Night at the Goods Shed

The first comedy night at the Goods Shed, featuring Tetbury old school - Matt Roseblade on MC, Avening's-finest Gavin Pond, Stasia Buckle, Richard Jay and Nick Page. Together they promise to provide a Shed load of laughs... 7:30pm £10

[shed-arts.co.uk](http://shed-arts.co.uk)



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

Live Music | Theatre | Comedy | Dance | Classes  
Workshops | Exhibitions | Meeting Rooms

## What's on in September:

**Fri 8th 7:30pm**

The Live Aid Experience

**Sat 9th 7:30pm**

Total 80's

**Thurs 14th 8pm**

The Black Feathers

**Fri 15th 8pm**

Whole Lotta Led

**Sun 17th 3pm**

Friary Guildford Band

**Thurs 21st 2pm**

Your Musical Memories

**Thurs 21st 8pm**

Neville Staples

**Fri 22nd 8pm**

The Marley Experience

**Sat 23rd 7:30pm**

Caerphilly Male Voice  
Choir

**Sun 24th 8pm**

Sarah McQuaid

**Sat 30th 8:30pm**

Tom Findlay

Sign up to our E-newsletter via our website to stay up to date with new shows and to receive our brochure via email. To book tickets call our box Office on **01453 760900** or visit our website [www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk](http://www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk)

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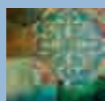
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# IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO APPLY!

Late Applicant Information, Advice & Guidance Sessions

Thursday 24 August - Friday 29 September

Sessions run 9am-4pm at the SGS Filton, SGS WISE, SGS Stroud and SGS Berkeley Green sites  
(Excluding Weekends and Bank Holidays)

SGS College still has availability in the following course areas commencing September:

- Access to University
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- Full time vocational courses in Animal Sciences, Art & Design, Business, Construction, Early Years, Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Health & Social Care, IT, Media, Performing Arts, Public Services, Sport or Travel
- HND and Foundation Degree University Level programmes
- Part time Leisure or Professional Development adult courses

TO FIND OUT MORE

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[www.sgscol.ac.uk](http://www.sgscol.ac.uk) | [info@sgscol.ac.uk](mailto:info@sgscol.ac.uk)

