

# GOOD ON PAPER

**ISSUE  
#38**

**Inside:**

**Giffords  
Circus**

**Jazz  
Stroud**

**Select Trail:  
Mila Harris-Mussi**

+

John and Astrid Furnival | Near Future | Site Festival: Open Studios | Stroud Shakespeare Festival

# What's on **May**



## **Wayne Hemmingway** Thu 3 May | 8pm | Talks

With a career spanning four decades in the design industry, Wayne Hemmingway has a fair few stories to tell about his rags-to-Red or Dead tale.



## **The Big Bad Wolf Kids Concert** Sun 13 May | 3pm | Community

Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra join forces with young singers and narrator Lydia Kenny, in the fourth year of their successful children's concerts.



## **Jive Dance** Fri 4 May | 8pm | Dance

Our monthly Jive Dances have a great atmosphere on a great dance floor. Dance the night away to top swing and jive music



## **Woody pines** Thu 24 May | 7.30pm | Music

Drawing liberally from the lost back alley anthems and scratchy old 78's of American roots music, whether country blues, jugband, hokum or hillbilly.



## **Makers Family Fair** Sat 5 May | 10.30am - 3.30pm | Fair

An exciting range of local makers and small businesses. Discover clothing, art, furniture, delicious treats and more!



## **The Importance of Being Earnest** Fri 25 May | 7.30pm | Theatre

One of the most cherished plays around the world, Split Second Productions present Oscar Wilde's hilarious classic – performed by two men. Playing every part.



## **Show of Hands Duo Tour** Wed 9 May | 7.30pm | Music

Dovetailing old songs with new, this is an unmissable celebration of Steve Knightley and Phil Beer's enduring impact on roots, acoustic and folk music.



## **The JP Brass Allstars – Part of Stroud Jazz** Sat 26 May | 8pm | Music

Big band classics, laced with a healthy dose of Swing, Funk and a smattering of Blues will get you on your feet, so dust off the dancing shoes and give your soul a treat.



## **London Calling** Fri 11 May | 8pm | Music

The top UK Clash tribute band bring their sold-out UK tour to Stroud.



## **Subtrax presents: Sugar Hill Gang** with STROUD BLOCK PARTY Sun 27 May | 8pm | Clubnight

The American hip hop group, known for bringing the genre its first mainstream success with the smash hit Rapper's Delight in 1979.



## **Mind Body Spirit Show** Sat 12 May | 10am – 4pm | Fair

Gain new insights into your well-being, your life and the world around you. Learn how to keep your body healthy and your mind positive and clear of clutter.



## **Keepy Uppy** Mon 28 May | 11am & 2pm | Family

**FAMILY**

Keepy Uppy is a play for the 2018 world cup year, for football fans, non-football fans, children and families.

# Editor's Note

**Welcome to the thirty eighth 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...**

Well it seems Stroud's Festival season has truly started! Turn the pages do discover what's in store at this year's Jazz Stroud, Site Festival Open Studios, Select Festival and newcomer Stroud Shakespeare Festival...You will also find listings for the Prince Albert Beer and Music Festival and Nailsworth Festival!

Elsewhere we delve into some of Stroud's most cherished musicians, artists and performers including Neil Arthur from Blancmange's new project Near Future, a preview of influential artists John and Astrid Furnival's forthcoming exhibition and we also catch up with Nell Gifford from Gifford's Circus prior to their 2018 production 'My Beautiful Circus'.

We are also extremely happy to announce that in July 2018 Good On Paper will be launching a brand new monthly magazine for children! Earwig Magazine will be available for free in venues and primary schools across the Stroud District providing listings for children's workshops, courses, events and attractions - feature comic strips from published children's authors and illustrators, quizzes, facts, walks and a make it section from local crafts people. Follow @EarwigMagazine on facebook, twitter and Instagram for further news and updates!

Right better sign off. Got two magazines to do now...

Alex and Adam

**FRONT COVER:** Emilie Sandy **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Mike Flynn, Simon Woolley, Paul Harper, Rebecca Mills, Sarah Dixon, Lorna Davies and Matt Shinn **CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHY:** Emilie Sandy and James Styler **CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATION:** Mark Levy

**NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:** Daniel Sparkes, Paul Grellier, One Love Weekend on Nelson St., Grasscourt, The Achievers, Situationism Records, Stuart Butler

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# Jazz Stroud

By Mike Flynn

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**I first discovered jazz in Stroud.  
It was in the second-hand record  
section of the original Trading Post...**

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There were two LPs that caught my eye; one by guitarist Mike Stern called *Time In Place*, and a gatefold Miles Davis album, *You're Under Arrest*, from his gritty 1980s funk-edged phase. Around age 17, I was also passed a cassette of the first album by Bristol saxophonist Andy Sheppard, which also helped fuel my curiosity. Having taken up the bass guitar age 12, I soon progressed from Level 42 to Weather Report and Stanley Clarke. In my early twenties I played my first jazz gigs in Stroud at the Golden Fleece where I met a guitarist who I went on to play with in Oxford, also moving to the city in the late 1990s. My love of jazz and bass instantly connected me to Oxford's student jazz scene where a brilliant young undergraduate saxophonist by the name of Soweto Kinch was tearing it up at the weekly jam nights; we played a few gigs too at the time. A couple of years later I got a job in Brighton writing for a fledgling music website in the heady early days of the Internet and the dotcom boom, which connected me with the wider music industry and would eventually necessitate a move to London just to keep pace with all that was going on.

**The general public can handle more challenging music than a lot of industry people think is the case - they can handle improvisation. In fact, I think people crave it.**

**Ivo Neame**

The dotcom bubble burst and I was thrown into the world of freelancing but my record company contacts saved me and I had work straight away. My passion for writing about music was also developing and led me to start contributing a few reviews for *Jazzwise* magazine and also become the jazz editor at *Time Out* in London. *Time Out* really was the glue that held many small and developing scenes together in the capital through its extensive live listings. I'm proud to have played a part in nurturing a new generation of jazz talent that has led on to much of what is happening today. Ten years on and *Time Out* is now a free sheet and sadly a shadow of its former self, but I moved on and now edit *Jazzwise*. I've immersed myself in the London jazz scene as listener and participant, writing about music but also playing jazz at many of the key venues such as Ronnie Scott's, Pizza Express Jazz Club and 606 Club with some of the best musicians around.

Yet, it's been on my regular return visits to Stroud to see family and friends that I've often thought, 'wouldn't it be great to bring a slice of the London scene here?' To share the amazing home-grown talents

that frequent the many big city live music spaces, and get a lot more people to hear just how brilliantly energising and imaginative British jazz musicians are. Well now Jazz Stroud is happening and that hope has become a reality. Stroud has been nurturing a love of jazz via the SVA and the irrepressible enthusiasm of Neil Walker and his team. They've put together a festival that truly reflects the youthful energy that's fuelling the current surge of interest in jazz, as well as a programme that showcases some of the UK's finest jazz musicians. It's also a programme that links Stroud's long-held love of dance grooves, with female saxophonist Nubya Garcia topping the bill on Saturday. Garcia's infectious stage presence and powerful sax tone are a clarion call to the head and the hips, effortlessly combining the worlds of spiritual jazz and Afrobeat with heady jazz improvisation. She's also one of the leading lights of a new wave of female instrumentalists who are shaking up jazz's male dominated history, and Jazz Stroud's programme also includes several female-led bands including neo-jazz-soul influenced singers Aisling Iris Quartet and Ruth Royall, saxophonist Kim Cypher and groups such as Feelgood Experiment, Bahla, We Are Leif and Caravela. The current scene's openness to electro grooves and beats can also be heard via fizzing Cuban jazztronica troupe Ariwo, the sample cut ups of Anchorsong, wild layered jazz-dance of Mermaid Chunky or the mashed-up soundscapes of trumpet/drums duo Eyebrow.

The piano-led Sunday night headliners Ivo Neame Quartet, possess a distinctly English melodic sensibility, which is hooked to a wider European outlook as well as unfettered, high-intensity improvisations. Neame has a new album entitled *Moksha* out on Edition Records and he explained how his music is developed: "I try and absorb ideas from all kinds of places, people, books, films and art in general. Sometimes there will be specific references to things I have been experiencing, other times there is an indirect reference. One tune called 'Pala' is a response to a book by Aldous Huxley called *Island*, which is a story about a utopian island where everything works really well and people get along with each other. A far cry from our world unfortunately but hopefully there is a sense of a parallel reality in the tune. A poem called 'Vegetarians' by Roger McGough inspired another tune. I set the words of the poem to music to try and use the natural rhythm of the poetry to provide a melody."

Neame's Quartet includes three superb players who all come from different backgrounds but combine with fire and finesse in the band. "The band features George Crowley, Tom Farmer and James Maddren," says Neame. "I picked these players because they bring incredible expertise and spirit to whatever

musical situation they find themselves in. I know I can put virtually anything in front of them and they will be able to make musical sense of it very quickly; sometimes it feels James knows the tune before he's seen the chart or heard it! We started playing at the



beginning of 2017. We did one or two rehearsals, a few gigs then went into the studio."

It is true that jazz seems to be hitting a new stride with younger people really embracing the music and major record labels now signing UK artists for the first time since the early 2000s. Ivo points out that the public are often short-changed by the usual cultural gatekeepers when it comes to how jazz is presented: "I think the media are deciding to be positive about jazz, which is good. There is a real problem with respect between the media and the general public and it's an obvious thing to say but audiences must be respected. The general public can handle more challenging music than a lot of industry people think is the case - they can handle improvisation. In fact, I think people crave it. We live in a world where everything is becoming more and more robotic and automated and people want a release from that and the chance to experience something human and real. Jazz is a form of music that can provide that - it's the main thing going for it!"

It's when musicians and audiences really connect through those unique moments of spontaneous creativity, which makes jazz so special. It's hugely gratifying to see such a creative place such as Stroud embracing this deeply artistic music through a festival which will see jazz thrive in all its forms.

Jazz Stroud runs from Friday 25th until Sunday 27th May across various venues in the centre of Stroud including the Brunel Good's Shed, SVA John Street, the Marshall Rooms, the Ale House and the Imperial Hotel. Visit [jazzstroud.org](http://jazzstroud.org) for further information including tickets and the full programme.

Mike Flynn is an award-winning music journalist and editor of *Jazzwise* magazine. Alongside writing and editing *Jazzwise* - Mike is also a bass player of many years experience and writes and produces his own music - he will be appearing with Aisling Iris Quartet at the festival. For more info visit [mikeflynnmusic.co.uk](http://mikeflynnmusic.co.uk)



# Near Future

By Simon Wolley

**Field recordings, cut-up lyrics, dark beats born of the early hours - these are just some of the things you'll find on Near Future's debut LP released at the end of this month.**

Images by James Styler

A collaboration between electronic artist, Jez Bernholz (who also performs live as part of Gazelle Twin), and long-time musician and Stroud resident, Neil Arthur, *Ideal Home* is an exercise in melodic minimalism far removed from Neil's chart-focused beginnings as part of Blancmange. I caught up with Neil at the end of Blancmange's recent tour to find out how *Near Future* and the LP came about...

#### How long have you lived in Stroud?

About 11 years, after being London-based for the best part of three-and-a-half decades, and now I can't imagine living anywhere else. I work mostly on a laptop and occasionally my phone, so I can work anywhere - the kitchen table or a quiet corner. I don't always need to go into a recording studio - it's all about the ideas, not the equipment.

#### That's a big difference to how you started out with Blancmange, isn't it?

Actually, no. Back then, synths were hugely expensive so we cobbled sounds together using tape loops instead. *Near Future* was approached very much in the same way using looped sounds, but obviously in the digital realm. The big difference is now we have much more freedom and anything goes - I love what Jez brings to the party, and I can react to it. It's great to be able to collaborate - it takes the pressure off a little.

#### How did you meet Jez?

I went to see Gazelle Twin perform a couple of years ago, Jez and I got chatting afterwards, got along and I ended up inviting him to play on Blancmange's 'Commuter 23' album tour. We realised we both had a shared love of field recordings and bands like Neu! and Can, so we decided to have a go at exchanging sound files. That led to the *Ideal Home* single released in 2016, and we just carried on working together. Then we got invited to perform at Sheffield's Sensoria festival and obviously needed a set, so worked up eight songs and that eventually led to the *Ideal Home* LP. It's been an intensive journey!

#### Where did *Near Future* come from?

Whether it's Blancmange, Fader or *Near Future*, I'm not really into nostalgia. I don't like to be stuck in a period of time, I always want to be just ahead. There were a couple of names being bandied about for our collaboration, but *Near Future* just seemed to suit both our mind-sets, so it stuck.

#### How do you work together?

We get together every so often, but mainly it's through emails, lots of conversations and sending each other sounds. As an example, with *Field This*, Jez had an idea for a loop, and we each added tiny bits to it over a period of time, then we rearranged it to work with the lyrics.

#### Field recordings feature quite prominently on the *Ideal Home* LP; were some recorded in and around Stroud?

Yes, quite a few. Dawn for instance, started out as a cacophony of bird song I recorded on my iPhone while standing outside my kitchen door in the early hours - it's not a loop on the finished track, by the way, it's a continuous recording. When I listened back to it later, I could hear a low murmur in the background - possibly some piece of machinery in a factory. I enhanced it and sent it to Jez, and he came back with this quite sinister-sounding loop and lyrics. That's one of my favourite pieces on the album.

It's not always obvious what some of the sounds are - we were roasting some carrots in the oven, and when they came out, they started squeaking, possibly due to the change in temperature. I grabbed my phone to record the sound, and that ended up being mixed with other kitchen noises lining the *Field This* and *Overwhelmed* tracks. The field recordings help to link the tracks together, too - we wanted to make it work as one piece.

#### With titles like *Ideal Home* and *Kites Over Waitrose*, is the album a comment on modern living?

Kind of. *Ideal Home* is about aspects of consumerism, while *Kites...* was inspired by the panic buying runs on the supermarkets that have happened recently.

#### Are you planning on doing any more shows as *Near Future*?

There's talk of doing a few festivals and possibly some dates to showcase the LP. We performed the track, *Bulk Erase* together before Blancmange's recent shows in Manchester and Liverpool, and that was good fun. There's no computers, it's all done with loops so you really have to be on it - the songs could last for days if you're not careful!



*Ideal Home* is out on May 25th via Blanc Check Records. Signed copies of the LP and CD are available from [nearfuture.fmstor.es](http://nearfuture.fmstor.es). Follow the band on [facebook.com/futureisnear](https://www.facebook.com/futureisnear) for news and updates and visit [nearfuture.bandcamp.com](http://nearfuture.bandcamp.com) to listen to tracks from the album.

Simon Woolley is a Stroud-based editor and journalist [simon@fireproofmedia.co.uk](mailto:simon@fireproofmedia.co.uk)

# Music Listings

## ALE HOUSE

### FRI 4TH

#### The Howds

A Stroud band who weave together an accomplished mix of rock, funk, country and jazz. 8:30pm Free

### WEDS 9TH

#### The Hopeless and Maria Nowhere Presents: 50th Anniversary of John Wesley Harding

A night of musical collaboration to celebrate 50 years of Bob Dylan's legendary album. The Hopeless and Maria Nowhere will perform all of the songs from the album and will also be joined on some pieces by special guest's incl. David McEvoy (guitar), James Dick (vocals) from The Red Propellers, and local poet Jeff Cloves. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 11TH

#### Trevor 'Babajack' Steger

An established Blues musician, renowned for his unique playing style and exciting performances. He has recently decided to develop his solo career to delve into the Roots Blues music that has always been his passion. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 17TH

#### Dave Ayre Trio

Double bass wizard Dave Ayre and his trio returns to the Ale House for another jazz evening with special guest...8:30pm Free

### SAT 19TH

#### Keegan McEnroe

A Texas based singer-songwriter. Weaving threads from old country, old blues and folk together with his own unique voice and perspective, McEnroe creates an original tapestry of American roots music, earthy and lyric driven. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 25TH

#### Jazz Stroud: Andy Nowak Trio

Since 2005, the A.N.T have been captivating audiences with their enthralling combination of powerful themes, subtle interplay and raw beauty. The combination of truly original compositions and striking reworking's of well-known material is fast becoming a hallmark of this highly empathic and musically adventurous trio. 8pm Free

### SAT 26TH

#### Jazz Stroud: Los Serpientes

A mutual adoration for Jazz legends Oscar Peterson and Erroll Garner have driven this virtuosic trio to form a deep musical bond through their shared love of the medium. Expect hard swinging Jazz and Blues with hints of Latin-inspired grooves. 8pm Free

### SUN 27TH

#### Jazz Stroud: Dave Ayre Trio

With special guest Dave Newton. 2pm Free

### SUN 27TH

#### Jazz Stroud: Indra's Web

Bristol/Stroud based trio travelling through world folk, jazz and swing. Features soulful stylings of Tom Parry (guitar/vocal), aided by jazz monsters Pasquale Votino (bass), and Rowan Porteous (trumpet). 7:30pm Free

## THE CORNER HOUSE

### SAT 12TH

#### Late Night @ the Corner House

Classic soul, funk and hip hop all on vinyl from Dubbu (aka Neil Wilson - Stroud Block Party). 10pm Free (booking essential to eat in the restaurant beforehand!)

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

## THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

### FRI 4TH

#### The Bob Porter Project

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

### THURS 10TH

#### Robb Johnson

One of the last genuinely political songwriters...8:30pm Free

### FRI 11TH

#### Harmonica Nick and Friends

A versatile bunch of seasoned musicians dedicated to improvisation in the blues/latin/funk modes. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 17TH

#### Open Mic Night

Hosted by Stroud's own Americana troubadour the Rev. Stretch...All welcome! 8pm Free

### FRI 18TH

#### Royal Wedding Punk Night: The Loan Sharks, The Forgetting Curve, The Meekers

The Loan Sharks: South West's pop-punk kings, mix energy and intelligent melodies creating grown-up songs for all ages. The Forgetting Curve: Angriily angular tunes with surreal lyrics mixed up with quirkily timed instrumentals! The Meekers: The West Country's own energy fueled explosion of garage rock and good times. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 19TH

#### Crooked Stylus

Grooves of many flavours: punk-dub, deviant disco, psyche-funk, deep shed and joyful noise! All curated and carefully selected by resident stylus-placer, Darius Akashic..8:30pm Free

### FRI 25TH

#### Dub Thieves

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

[crownandsceptrestroud.com](https://www.crownandsceptrestroud.com)

## HAWKWOOD COLLEGE

### MON 7TH

#### May Day Festival

A fun day out for all the family celebrating Hawkwood College's 70th anniversary! As well as live music (this year featuring the Dodo Street Band), bbq food, bar, ice-cream and children's activities (including face painting, storytelling and maypole

dancing) the college will be offering some free taster workshops and stalls from local suppliers and tutors from the Hawkwood programme. 10am-5pm Free (£3 for parking)

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

## IMPERIAL HOTEL

### SAT 26TH

#### Jazz Stroud: SJS presents - Kim Cypher

Saxophonist, vocalist and composer influenced by great players such as Gerald Albright, Maceo Parker, Pee Wee Ellis, Andy Sheppard, Dean Fraser, Courtney Pine and Grover Washington. 6:30pm Tickets from [jazzstroud.org](http://jazzstroud.org)

### SUN 27TH

#### Jazz Stroud: SJS presents - Jenny Darren & Muddy Manninen

Established and accomplished artists in their own right the duo come together to play contemporary jazz, Latin and Soul. 6pm Free

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

## KITSCH COFFEE AND WINE BAR

### SAT 5TH

#### Café Del Kitsch

Balearic vibes are back with Matt Blythe and the first Cafe del Kitsch this year! 3pm Free

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

## LANSDOWN HALL

### SAT 26TH

#### Kundalini Clubbing

Cacao Ceremony, Kundalini Yoga set and transformational Kundalini Dance session. Free dance session with top dance tunes from our awesome DJ Tigger. Ending the evening with a relaxing Gong Bath. 7pm £20 (from [kundaliniclubbing.com](http://kundaliniclubbing.com))

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

## LITTLE VIC

### SUN 13TH

#### Barney's Live Music with Steve Page

Monthly music club at the Little Vic (at the Queen Vic) - the brainchild of a group of likeminded individuals keen to provide a monthly venue for all types of music, from folk to country, blues, pop and beyond. This month's guest is Steve Page...Floor spots available if you fancy joining in! 7:30pm Free (suggested donation £4)

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

## THE MARSHALL ROOMS

### FRIDAY 4TH

#### Chinese Burn, Pizzatramp

Stroud disco punks play the MR for the first time with Welsh skate punk trio Pizzatramp for a bank holiday punk extravaganza...£8

### SAT 5TH

#### Dutty Moonshine

Shh! don't tell anyone, but Molly's Bar of WOMAD has got a secret...For one night only Molly's Bar will be hosting Molly's Speakeasy! She will delight the senses with live entertainment

from the UK's top electro swing DJ, Dutty Moonshine and Bristol band the Rin Tins. The Marshall Rooms will be transformed into a magical 1930's prohibition bar with a contemporary twist. Dress code: Dress to excess! Feathers and Beads, Flappers and Dappers, Cabaret and Cabarave, Toffs, Spivs and Chaps in Tweed. No costume? Smart attire will suffice. Prohibition cocktails will be served and more. A spiffing time to be had. 9pm (carriages at 2am) £12adv/£15otd

### THURS 10TH

#### Rory McLeod

Rory McLeod - ex-circus clown and fire eater. A one man soul band, poet and storyteller, singing his own unique upbeat dance stories. A modern travelling troubadour using tap shoes, acappella, harmonica, guitar, trombone, spoons, finger cymbals, bandorea, djembe and various percussion instruments! 7pm £6

### FRIDAY 11TH

#### John Fairhurst, Granfallon

John Fairhurst is right at the forefront of the exciting new wave of British Blues and Rock. Acoustic Guitar Magazine USA recently identified Fairhurst as one of the Top 3 Resonator guitar players worldwide - the only European on the list. Granfallon use the electronic elements of Casio keyboards, vintage drum machines, and Omnichords (an electronic autoharp) and weave them in and out of acoustic guitars and found samples to create beautifully cracked soundscapes with compelling storytelling elements. 8pm £6

### SATURDAY 12TH

#### Tropical Tea Party

Tropical Tea Party returns to the Marshall Rooms following their NYE bash to transform the venue once again into a tropical paradise and rinse the feel good summer riddims all night long! Ft. K.O.G & Franz Von (frontmen of K.O.G & The Zongo Brigade) - an unstoppable force of African fusion, blending their African roots with funk, hip hop, dub, global grooves and tropical bass! Bristol carnival killers Tun Up ! ft. Dub Boy , Rukus and MC Jonesy Wales and finally DJ Hiphoppopotamus , known for his infectious fun fusions of latin, reggae, afro, and funk flavours with hip hop, house, breaks, drum and bass and Jungle. 9pm £10/£12 from [goo.gl/swvaep](http://goo.gl/swvaep)

### FRIDAY 18TH

#### Let's Go Nutz! Ft. Benji Webbe

As if Benji Webbe lead singer from reggae/metal legends Skindred wasn't enough, DJ Nutzie will once again be back behind the decks for the now regular alternative music night and that there DJ Scoundrel will be bringing up the rear, to complete the gruesome twosome which rocked out Bristol for so many years...10pm £8

### FRI 25TH

#### Jazz Stroud: Swordfishtrombone

The chanteuse from Moscow Drug Club with a fantastic line up of Bristol All Star musicians for a project exploring the world of Tom Waits...10pm Tickets from [jazzstroud.org](http://jazzstroud.org)

### SAT 26TH

#### Jazz Stroud: Ruth Royall

Ruth's nu soul/jazz sound is layered with electronic influences and beats that stem from an upbringing in Bristol

and captures all that's good about the city's celebrated and rich musical legacy. Fluctuating from dark and delicate to a strangely uplifting mood, Royall encompasses Billie Holiday, Etta James and Sade together with more recent personal obsessions like Submotion Orchestra, Zero 7, Jamie Woon and Nikka Costa. 10pm Tickets from [jazzstroud.org](http://jazzstroud.org)

**SUN 27TH****Stroud Jazz: Situation Sounds**

Situation Sounds will be bringing you a unique selection of boogie edits & slices of funk filled pie, topped off with a dash of disco to help you shake off those dusty dancing shoes & bring them back onto the floor!

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

**THE MUSEUM IN THE PARK****SAT 12TH****Sounds for A Small Space: Emily Hall, Misha Law, David Sheppard, Andrew Heath, Phonsonic**

Mandel: A creative partnership between award winning composer Emily Hall and violinist, viola player and singer Misha Law. Drawn together by a common aesthetic, they meet weekly to practice mindful free improvisation mostly on violin and viola then work together to develop this material into pieces of music. Andrew Heath: Ambient, piano based, lower-case music. Quiet and intimate, it explores sounds from both acoustic and electronic sources, along with processed field recordings and gathered, 'found' sounds. Phonsonic: Multimedia artist Phonsonic (Alexander Caminada) combines his blend of original video with acoustic instruments and electronic music. 7:30pm £3.50otd

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

**THE PRINCE ALBERT****TUES 1ST MAY****O'Reilly & The Old Soul Orchestra, Martin Callingham**

The Santa Cruz, California-based quartet's perform at the Albert as part of their Spring Tour with new album *Stereoscope*, homing in on their signature cosmic roots aesthetic and soulfully world-weary vocals. Support from Martin Callingham playing like the soundtrack to the last day of your childhood holidays it is in parts upbeat, elsewhere heart-breaking, and beguiling from beginning to end. 8:30pm Free

**WEDS 2ND****Sam Brookes, Christof van der Ven**

Bristol based songsmith and former Sunday Times 'Breaking Act' Sam Brookes is still one of the UK alt-folk's best kept secrets. With over 5 million plays on Spotify, it is fair to say that those who know his music, love his music...and those who don't, are about to. Support from Dutch singer songwriter Christof van der Ven. 8:30pm £10

**THURS 3RD****Prince Albert Beer and Music Festival: Chavo**

A percussion heavy, mandolin infused, vintage keys indie band with pounding bass lines, 4-floor dance rhythms and harmonic discord...8:30pm Free

**FRI 4TH****Prince Albert Beer and Music Festival: Professor Nohair and the Wiglifters**

A fast fingered jazz and boogie

woogie piano trio featuring Simon Palmer on piano/organ, Andre St Claire Dyer on drums and Tom Allen on double bass. 8pm Free

**SAT 5TH****Prince Albert Beer and Music Festival: Regular Mexican**

Local artist Bryan Panks revives his band from the Glastonbury Stage! 8pm Free

**SUN 6TH****Prince Albert Beer and Music Festival: Reggae Roast**

Caribbean Food + Corner Pocket Soul Funk, Rare Groove, Jazz, Soul, Reggae. Guest DJ's Jason Starr and Rob Anthony. 1pm Free

**MON 7TH****Prince Albert Beer and Festival: Dave Ayre's Jazz Gazzam**

Some of the Finest Musicians gather from around the country to play the music they love best!

**TUES 8TH****Baroque Evening**

Dave Ayre and his band of fabulous musicians from across the UK are back at the Albert for another Baroque Night. Some of the loveliest pieces of Baroque music feature a 'ground bass' - a recurring melody in the bass part, providing a structure around which the composers lay different musical textures and ideas. You are invited to come and hear some great 400-year-old music featuring some of the best basslines ever written! 8pm £12adv from the Albert, Trading Post and ticketweb

**THURS 10TH****Dan Everett**

Drawing on the autumnal folk sounds of Joni Mitchell and Nick Drake, Everett mixes in elements of Americana and even AM-radio power pop for a light, easy listen that still has a stark immediacy. 8pm Free

**SAT 12TH****Jenny Darren**

About to appear on a popular British talent show - come and see what this lovely lady is all about live! 8pm Free

**SUN 13TH****Young Waters**

Young Waters' twisted neo-folk is a tapestry of emotionally powerful vocals, stirring harmonies, lyrical strings and finely mastered acoustic guitar. 8pm Free

**THURS 17TH****Marcus Corbett and Nitin Gaikwad**

Marcus Corbett is a singer, acoustic guitarist and composer based between the UK and Pune, Maharashtra, India. He has been studying Indian classical music and working with musicians in India for over 10 years including table player Nitin Gaikwad. 8pm Free

**SAT 19TH****Rum Buffalo**

Forged from the streets of London, Rum Buffalo fuse authentic old time swing with stomping hip hop rhythms. Frantic and rich melodies, the most regal of renegades, this vaudevillian troop will put on a show you will never forget...8pm Free

**SUN 20TH****Mik Artistik**

The unique three piece from Leeds have a growing national reputation

and are proving to be one of the most interesting, unpredictable, and exciting acts on the circuit. Mik's lyrical dexterity and the band combine to make people laugh, cry, and throw themselves about. They should be on the national health and are a tonic in these troubled times. 8pm £TBC - available via [ticketweb](http://ticketweb) soon...

**SAT 26TH****Mongrel State**

Mongrel by Name, Mongrel by Nature - Rock, Western and a host of other styles are put through the wringer - with honkytonk pianos and four part harmonies sitting side-by-side with New Orleans grooves, electric guitars and even the odd inflection of a synth, all underpinned by taut, inventive song writing. 8pm Free

**SUN 27TH****Silken Same**

Galway duo Mossy Nolan and Colm McGowan. Theirs is a sound that artfully combines the bygone and the new, drawing on Irish and Balkan influences; songs that on the face of it will seem instantly familiar, but that supplant the traditional with fresh melodic and conceptual ideas. 7:30pm Free

**THURS 31ST****True Strays**

Rhythm and blues fuelled, good time vintage roots rock and roll play to promote their new 6 track EP titled 'Where The Wild Things Hide and Hunt'. After a great summer, playing at Greenman, Boomtown, Shambala and Fieldview and many others, the band now release their first EP! 8pm

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

**STAR ANISE****SAT 5TH****Stroud Sessions**

Following a triumphant opening event, the Stroud Sessions return with a stellar line up of disco and house DJs on a fantastic sound system. London/Stroud resident Concept 13 opens proceedings before Marcel Lune takes things up a gear. Monobrow brings the disco and headliner Nige Deane of Disco Sucks brings us home. 9pm £5adv from Sound Records/£7otd

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

**ST LAURENCE CHURCH****SAT 5TH****Stroud Sacred Music Festival Presents: Community Drum Circle with Katie Harris**

A fun, energising and connecting event using rhythm as a way to connect, communicate and build community. Everyone welcome, no experience necessary. All drums and percussion provided! 11:30am suggested donation £3-£5adult/£1child

**SAT 26TH****Stroud Sacred Music Festival Presents: Susie Ro Prater, Omer Makessa**

Susie Ro Prater: Album launch! Susie tours internationally with her harmony singing workshops and beautiful songs on guitar, connecting with the global light family, and ancient traditions of the world, and weaving what she learns into a stream of free-flowing music to awaken the heart. Omer Makessa: A master percussionist, experienced performer, singer and songwriter from Martinique in the Caribbean. 7:30pm £9adv from Eventbrite/£12otd

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

**STROUD BREWERY****SAT 5TH****Danadra**

From solid blues roots and world music influences, up tempo rhythms and melodies are complimented with melancholic, soulful numbers to give a vibrant and inspiring set. 7:30pm Free

**SAT 12TH****Molly-Anne**

A young and upcoming musician from Gloucestershire, with a soulful, country inspired sound fused with elements of indie folk. Her first gig at Stroud Brewery and performing as part of a duo. 7:30pm Free

**SAT 19TH****Dead Dog Cider**

Pru and Mark play a lively mix of English, Celtic and American Song - all powered by Pru's mighty Bodhran! 7:30pm Free

**SAT 26TH****Tristan Watson and Patsy Gamble Trio**

Two of the area's favourite Jazz musicians playing a collection of standards, Latin numbers and bluesy jazz in an intimate and stripped down setting. They will be joined by the fabulous double bassist James Agg. 7:30pm Free

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

**SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS****FRI 4TH****Jive Dance**

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

**WEDS 9TH****Show of Hands, Geoff Lakeman**

Show of Hands weave story and melody to create a spellbinding display of consummate musicianship. Multi-award-winning, and with five sell-out Royal Albert Hall shows under their belts, the original duo format makes a rare return to more intimate settings. Plus special guest Geoff Lakeman. Charity event: Stroud Court Community Trust Fundraiser. 7:30pm £23.50

**FRI 11TH****London Calling, Borrowed Time**

Top UK Clash tribute band bring their sold-out UK tour to The Sub Rooms celebrating the 40th anniversary of the release of the Give 'Em Enough Rope...Support from Borrowed Time. £13.50adv/£16otd

**SUN 13TH****The Big Bad Wolf Kids Concert with Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra**

Little Red Riding Hood, retold by Roald Dahl with music by Paul Patterson, will make your children howl with laughter - at the Big Bad Wolf! Musical director Glyn Oxley will invite youngsters to try their hand at conducting and to join orchestral players on stage to get a close-up experience of classical instruments. Join in the fun of this family event. 3pm £11.50

**THURS 24TH****Woody Pines**

If you're wondering where the music of Nashville troubadour Woody Pines comes from, look to the streets! As a professional busker, Woody first



# CROWN AND SCEPTRE MAY EVENTS

<b>WEDNESDAY 2ND</b>	Up the Workers Steak Night - Booking essential
<b>FRIDAY 4TH</b>	The Bob Porter Project - Free Entry
<b>THURSDAY 10TH</b>	Robb Johnson - "one of the last genuinely political songwriters" From 8.30pm - Free Entry
<b>FRIDAY 11TH</b>	Harmonica Nick & Friends - Free Entry
<b>SATURDAY 12TH</b>	1970s Bernie Inn Night! Prawn Cocktail, Steak Chips & Peas & Black Forset Gateau - Booking essential
<b>MONDAY 14TH</b>	Meat free Monday Extra for National Vegetarian Week With Erin Baker - Booking essential
<b>THURSDAY 17TH</b>	Open Mic hosted by the Reverend Stretch - All welcome from 8pm
<b>FRIDAY 18TH</b>	Royal Wedding Punk Night with The Loan Sharks, Forgetting Curve and The Meekers
<b>SATURDAY 19TH</b>	Crooked Stylus DJ Night with Darius - Free Entry Late Licence
<b>FRIDAY 25TH</b>	Dub Thieves - Rub a Dub in da Pub - Free Entry
<b>SATURDAY 26TH</b>	Custard Mustard Pop-up kitchen with Gil Bennett - Pre-order and Booking essential
<b>MONDAY 28TH</b>	Meat free Monday - Pad Thai Noodle Bar from 4pm
<b>WEDNESDAY 30TH</b>	The Curry Lounge - Booking essential

FOR BOOKINGS AND GENERAL INFO: 01453 762588

[WWW.CROWNANDSCEPTRESTROUD.COM](http://WWW.CROWNANDSCEPTRESTROUD.COM)

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL CAMPING

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[edinburghfestivalcamping.com/jobs](http://edinburghfestivalcamping.com/jobs)

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Centre for Science & Art  
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GL5 1BB

**b**ristol  
ensemble

## Tea-time concert

Christ Church, Nailsworth  
Sunday 13 May at 3pm

**Mozart** Piano Concerto No.12, K.414  
**Beethoven arr. Lachner**  
Piano Concerto No.2 Op.19  
**Maddalena Laura Sirmen**  
String Quartet No.6 in E

The professional musicians of the Bristol Ensemble are joined by pianist Viv McLean to perform chamber versions of piano concertos by Beethoven and Mozart. The ensemble performs the String Quartet in E by the trailblazing Venetian composer and violinist Maddalena Laura Sirmen.

**TICKETS** £10 on the door  
[www.bristolensemble.com](http://www.bristolensemble.com)

cut his teeth, drawing liberally from the lost back alley anthems and scratchy old 78's of American roots music, whether country blues, jugband, hokum or hillbilly. 7:30pm £15.50adv/£13.50concs/£17.50otd/£15.50concs

**SAT 26TH****Jazz Stroud: The JP AllStars**

A collection of musicians drawn from some of the finest brass based bands in the south of the UK, they are a combination unlike any other you'll see. Big band classics, laced with a healthy dose of Swing, Funk and a smattering of Blues will get you on your feet, so dust off the dancing shoes and give your soul a treat. 7:30pm tickets from jazzstroud.org

**SUN 27TH****Subtrax Presents: The Sugarhill Gang**

Legendary American hip hop group, known for bringing the genre its first mainstream success with the smash hit 'Rapper's Delight' in 1979...It still remains one of the best known, most quoted and most loved hip hop tracks in history, opening the door for every hip hop act we know and love today... With support from Stroud Block Party! 8pm £26.50

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

**SVA****FRI 4TH/11TH/18TH/25TH****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

**WEDS 2ND/9TH/16TH/23RD/30TH****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)

**THURS 10TH****Stroud Jazz Sessions with Hannah Lockerman and Pete Cabara**

Stroud Jazz Sessions is delighted to host Hannah Lockerman on vocals Pete Cabara on bass. Their opening performance will be followed by our usual energetic-frenetic jam. All welcome, singers, players, listeners. Stroud Jazz Sessions is a hub for all interested in jazz. £5otd (John Street)

**FRI 11TH****Mesadorm, Dear Robot**

Celebrating the release of their eagerly awaited debut album Heterogaster A collaborative project between Blythe Pepino (Vaults), Aaron Zahl, Daisy Palmer (Paloma Faith, Goldfrapp, MIKA), Jo Silverston (The Unthanks, Red Clay Halo, Frank Turner) and David Johnston (ZunZun Egui, Phil King, Chairfight!) bringing together a stunning array of musical concepts and timbres sitting somewhere between the domestic observation of Suzanne Vega and the powerful, elemental other-worldliness of Bjork... Plus support from Stroud based atmospheric indie pop band Dear Robot. 8pm £8adv/£10otd (Goods Shed)

**SAT 12TH****At the Pictures: Three Cane Whale**

In a show that The Guardian describes as 'Impressively original', this multi-

instrumental acoustic trio - ft. Alex Vann (Spira, Rock of Eye), Paul Bradley (Organelles, Athea) and Pete Judge (Get The Blessing, Dakhla) - present their magnificent film project, which involves the band performing live to 12 specially-commissioned short films made by 13 filmmakers and visual artists in response to 3CW tunes of their choice - including cutting-edge animations, lo-fi shadow-puppetry, alfresco contemporary dance, and slowly shifting landscapes. 8pm £8adv/£10otd (Goods Shed)

**FRI 25TH****Jazz Stroud: Ariwo, Anchorsong, Mermaid Chunky**

Ariwo: Cuban/Iranian four-piece focused on intersection between electronic and ancestral music. The band brings together Iranian electronic composer Pouya Ehsaei and three of London's most influential Cuban musicians. Anchorsong: Aka Masaaki Yoshida has become globally recognised for his unique live shows creating electronic music completely live using a sampler (MPC2500) and a keyboard, right in front of the audience...Mermaid Chunky: This unique outfit's performances are made up of tailor made art film projections accompanied by soundscapes of drum machines, synthesisers, saxophone, recorder, windup toys, robotic cats and floating lyrical phrases. 7:30pm tickets from jazzstroud.org (Goods Shed)

**FRI 25TH****Jazz Stroud: China Bowls**

With an infectious neo-soul jazz vibe and experimental hip-hop influences China Bowls has played across the UK, from Colston Hall to Glastonbury, Boomtown and Bestival. She's a storyteller in her own right and delivers both extensive solo sets and dynamic full band performances. 11pm tickets from jazzstroud.org (John Street)

**SAT 26TH****Nubya Garcia, Feelgood Experiment, Dakhla, Aisling Iris Quartet, Caravela**

Nubya Garcia: Headlining the Goods Shed on Saturday night, London-based saxophonist and composer, Nubya is one of the leading forces behind the resurgence of jazz-influenced sounds in the UK. Her compositions glow with "Afro-futurist touches, chill Baduizm and self-assurance", performed by a band comprised of London's finest musical talent. Feelgood Experiment: Returning to Jazz Stroud for the third time with their sumptuous blend of jazz, soul and R&B. 7:30pm (tickets from jazzstroud.org) Dakhla: Weave glittering brass threads into intricate musical tapestries like no other band... Ft. Matt Brown from Modulus III and Pete Judge from Get the Blessing. (3pm Free). Aisling Iris Quartet: Hailing from Cork, Ireland, singer-songwriter Aisling relocated to London over ten years ago, and has since become an integral part of the UK music scene. (2pm Free). Caravela: With feet planted firmly in the traditions of Afro-Brazilian music, Caravela's heart is full of the soaring creativity and fervour that comes with improvised jazz. Weaving melodies around vibrant South American and West African-inspired rhythms, their music is sensitive and full of passion, energy and life. (Free) (Goods Shed)

**SAT 26TH****Footshooter Presents: Sawa-Manga, Brother Portrait & Footshooter, Eyebrow**

Footshooter Presents: Originally hailing from Stroud, Footshooter is the production moniker used by London-

based musician Barney Whittaker. His style explores grooves and rhythms spanning UK dance music with the melodic vibrations of jazz and soul and for tonight he has invited some of his favourite artists, poets, and vocalists from the London scene to join him at the SVA... (11pm-3am tickets from jazzstroud.org) Eyebrow: A trumpet and drums duo based in Bristol. Its music evolves out of improvisations which are reassembled into structured pieces with an unexpectedly cinematic sweep, like journeys through slowly-changing landscapes. (5pm Free) (John Street)

**SUN 27TH****Ivo Neame Quartet, We Are Leif, Modulus III, Strayhorn Quartet, Bahla**

Ivo Neame Quartet: Neame's music is a living, breathing contradiction - complex yet accessible, considered yet spontaneous, traditional yet forward-thinking. His new album, Moksha, is driven by multi-layered textures and grooves, brilliantly fluid lines brought together by his own exploratory voice and a band made up of London's finest jazz musicians. We Are Leif: Comprised of four established improvising musicians from Bristol & Bath, We Are Leif deftly span the balance of jazz sensibilities with the groove and sound world more associated with Nu-Soul, R'n'B and Down Tempo genres. (7:30pm Tickets from jazzstroud.org). Modulus III: Seven synthesizers, a cello and a drum kit this is one of Bristol's most exciting acts. All the music is completely improvised and takes the listener on a journey like no other... (3.30pm Free). Strayhorn Quartet: Hard-hitting groove-driven jazz quintet, featuring leading jazz musicians from around the West of England. (2pm Free). Bahla: Formed by Venezuelan pianist Joseph Costi and English guitarist Tal Janes, London based group Bahla break new ground with their mix of cinematic jazz entangled with Jewish folklore. (12.30pm Free) (Goods Shed)

**SUN 27TH****Slam The Poet x Oli Haylett, Hippo, Komodo**

Slam The Poet and Oli Haylett: An infusion of rhythmically orientated lyricism and textural loops to investigate a crisis of intimacy. Their collaboration looks into our close, loving relationships for the harmonies and tensions of modern life. (10:30-1am tickets from jazzstroud.org) Hippo: Big beat rhythmic mayhem - a future jazz trio buried in a nest of beefy electronics and bouncing rhythms. Saxophones, synthesisers and drums go in, hippo comes out. (4pm Free) Komodo: The producing duo Sam Judd and Rory Thomas-Lawton create music with blended elements of dub, reggae and world music with the heavy floor kicks and booming sub bass of underground electro. (2pm Free) (John Street)

sva.org.uk

**BRIMSCOMBE SOCIAL CENTRE****SAT 19TH****Jazz Friday Big Band**

Hot curry and hot music with J.F. Big Band, who will be playing their eclectic mix of Swing, Funk and Latin and including classic vocals from 'The Great American Songbook'. £10adv only (including curry and a pud! All money raised will be going towards Christian Aid) from Scroll Eaters in Brunel Mall in the centre of Stroud or call 01453 882627

**CHRIST CHURCH NAILSWORTH****SUN 13TH****Bristol Ensemble: Tea Time Concerts**

The professional musicians of the Bristol Ensemble are joined by pianist Viv McLean as soloist to perform chamber versions of piano concertos by Beethoven and Mozart. The ensemble performs the String Quartet in E by the trailblazing Venetian composer and violinist Maddalena Laura Sirmen. 3pm £10otd

bristolensemble.com

**RUSKIN MILL****FRI 4TH****Ninebarrow, Luke Daniels**

Ninebarrow: A multi-award winning folk duo, who are impressing audiences across the country with their captivating take on the folk tradition. Luke Daniels: A remarkable talent for writing songs that reflect traditional repertoires with sincerity and authenticity, underpinned by his warm vocals, multi-instrumental skills and innovative spirit. 8pm £12/£10concs

**TUES 22ND****Nailsworth Festival: Boldwood**

Boldwood explores the repertoire of dance tunes from 17th and 18th century English collections. The band specialises in bringing to life neglected gems in concert or on the dance floor. Their unique sound is a result of lush, almost orchestral arrangements, combined with energetic, imaginative, spontaneous playing. 7:30pm £12

rmt.org

**THE VAULT NAILSWORTH****SUN 6TH****Reverend Stretch**

Alt country and Americana from the darker side of American folk ... gritty acoustic tones tell tales of hobos, railroads and imbibing liquor. 2:30pm Free

**SUN 20TH****Lewis and Dav**

The finest Acoustic Jazz and Funk in the Southwest. 2:30pm Free

thevaultnailsworth.co.uk

**ST MARY'S CHURCH PAINSWICK****SAT 12TH****Painswick Music Society Presents: Dame Sarah Connolly and Joseph Middleton**

Dame Sarah Connolly is recognized internationally as one of the great mezzo sopranos of our time, celebrated both for her 'luxury chocolate-liqueur voice and her thrilling theatrical intensity on stage'. Programme will include First Performance of a Song Cycle by Sally Beamish set to poetry by Laurie Lee plus songs by Vaughan Williams, Gurney, Parry, Howells, Holst, Britten, Tippett and more...£20/£5concs

painswickmusicoc.co.uk

# Literature/Spoken Word Listings

## ALE HOUSE

**WEDS 2ND/9TH/16TH/23RD/30TH**

**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

**MON 14TH**

**Piranha Poetry ft. Chloe Jacquet**

Open mic night for poets hosted by Gary Death (Glastonbury Poetry and Words Compare 2009). This month it will be headlined by Chloe Jacquet. Based in Gloucestershire and with a multicultural background, Chloe is a multi-slam winning poet and current Oxford Hammer & Tongue slam champion. She reached the semi-finals of the National Slam Finals at the Royal Albert Hall earlier this year. With a preference for straight talking and a penchant for rhymes and opinions, Chloe's poetry is both entertaining and accessible. Her work deals with a wide variety of subjects, ranging from workplace discrimination to the pressures placed on modern men, via her short term relationship with a biscuit. 7:30pm Free

## HAWKWOOD COLLEGE

**SAT 19TH**

**Writing the New Story with Jay Ramsay**

What are the stories we need to tell? What are the stories we need to drop? We're living at a time of deep transition and that also means we need to find a new story, both personally and collectively. As part of the 'Poetic Edges' series you will be exploring what that means today for you and in your writing with a series of exercises designed to spark your imagination, your memory, and your intuitive sense of direction within meaning, purpose and value. Sharing your work and receiving supportive critique will ensure we will touch on our creative "edges" and progress in our craft. Suitable for all levels of experience. £70 (incl. lunch and refreshments)

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

## MUSEUM IN THE PARK

**SAT 5TH**

**Poetry Workshop with Hannah Lowe and Philip Rush**

Philip Rush: A series of short, focused reading and writing exercises. (10:30am-12:30pm) Hannah Lowe: Hannah's workshop will involve the practice of close reading in order to generate new work. Participants will be invited to pay particular attention to the use of image, sound and lineation in reading published poems and writing their own. The workshop will also focus on the 'performance' of poetry, discussing how to prepare for readings, including overcoming our nerves and making our poems sing... (1:30 - 4:30pm) Suitable for those new

to poetry as well as for experienced writers. Bring your own packed lunch, drinks will be provided! £30 (Tickets also include entry to an evening reading - see listing below)

**SAT 5TH**

**Poetry Reading with Hannah Lowe, Marina Bielenky, Marcus Blackett and Steve Wheeler**

To mark the tenth edition of the Stroud Poets pamphlets, guest poet Hannah Lowe will read alongside the three Stroud poets in Number Ten. Hannah's first poetry collection Chick (Bloodaxe, 2013) won the Michael Murphy Memorial Award for Best First Collection and was short-listed for the Forward, Aldeburgh and Seamus Heaney Best First Collection Prizes. Her poems combine craft with clear honesty, and are perfect for the strong voice which Hannah brings to them. Marina Bielenky's poetry meditates upon the small details which make up a life, while Marcus Blackett enjoys developing form into a vehicle for surprising thoughts, memories and arguments. Steve Wheeler's poems command their material and mix elegy with celebration. 7:30pm £30td (pamphlets also available to purchase)

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

## STROUD DISTRICT

**FRI 18TH**

**Stroud Radical History: Alternative Heritage Walk**

Two years ago an Alien landed in Nailsworth, unnoticed by the Stroud Valleys folk. Since its arrival after fifty years rooted on Planet Essex, this strange being has immersed itself in the Gloucestershire soil, attempting to make sense of its move here "for a change, and it ticked more boxes than anywhere else". See how a creature has struggled with the unfamiliar; intensively exploring its new homeland on foot, or by bicycle, guided by its OS Maps, Gloucestershire Pevsners, and Wikipedia. Join a naive explorer for a circular walk, as this being shares with you its Outsider Views on the Stroud Valleys heritage, as it attempts to blend-in with its new people. Meet at 9:30 at Cossack Square, Nailsworth, opposite the Britannia, a hundred yards south from the Nailsworth bus station. 9:08 Number 63 Forest Green bus from Stroud Merrywalks. No need to book, just turn up. Allow five hours.

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

## SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

**WEDS 9TH**

**Scriptwriting Course with John Bassett**

This eight week course provides and introduction to script writing for anyone who has ever fancied writing a play, radio or television script. Each week will feature practical exercises as well as formal teaching. At the end of the eight weeks participants will complete a 10 minute script which will have a reading

by professional actors. John Bassett runs Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company and Stroud theatre Festival. He has been a professional writer for nearly 30 years and has experience in writing for a range of venues and styles. 7pm £8 per week or £60 for full course. Email [info@spanielworks.co.uk](mailto:info@spanielworks.co.uk) for further info and to book a space.

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

## SVA

**THURS 5TH**

**Stroud Artists Books**

A group of practising artists and other creative individuals with an interest in Artist Books. An inclusive group, one which embraces all abilities and interests Stroud Artists Books meet at SVA Johns Street on the first Thursday of each month. It is involved in Open Studio Events, Artist Book Fairs and Workshops. You are very welcome to come and see what they are all about! 11am Free (John Street)

**SUN 20TH**

**Stroud Short Stories**

An evening of live lit with ten stories

written and read by the cream of Gloucestershire's writers. This will be the 16th SSS event, and it always sells out - so watch out for tickets going on sale! 7:30pm £8adv only

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

## NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

**THURS 31ST**

**Beginners Illustration with Imogen Harvey-Lewis**

Take a new perspective on drawing in this full day workshop and extend it into illustration. Led by the highly experienced graphic artist and teacher, Imogen Harvey-Lewis, this intensive session aims to expand upon simple low tech drawing techniques and explore a range of visual communications. Learn the nuts and bolts of monochrome media and how to develop a simple idea into story. Play with techniques to express a multitude of meanings and feel able to nurture your ideas in the safe and experienced hands of a jollying illustrator. No intensive drawing experience necessary. 10am-4pm £80

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

**HAWKWOOD**  
centre for future thinking

**May Day Festival**  
**2018**

**Bank Holiday Monday 7 May**  
10am - 5pm  
Free entry • Parking £3

**Celebrating 70 Years**

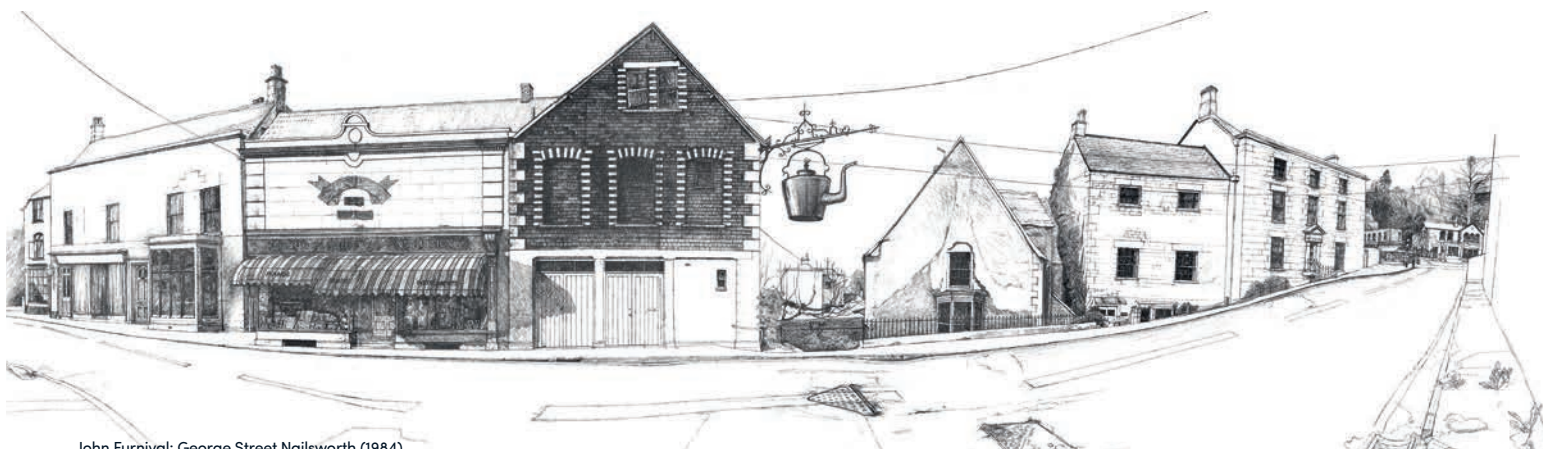
Live Music - Featuring The Dodo Street Band  
Free Taster Workshops • Children's Activities  
Bar • Cafe • Home-Made Food • Ice-Cream  
BBQ • Maypole • Tours of Gardens & Farm

[www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk](http://www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk)  
Painswick Old Road, Stroud. GL6 7QW  
01453 759034

# John & Astrid Furnival

By Paul Harper

**John and Astrid Furnival came to the Stroud Valleys in 1960. Apart from a period when they based themselves in France and a year long residency in New Mexico, they have lived in and around Nailsworth ever since. So it is fitting that a new exhibition surveying their work, made together and separately over their lifetime, will have its inaugural showing here, split between The Museum in the Park and Ruskin Mill. The Museum show will feature John's drawings, prints and collages, but will have a primary focus on his collaborations with Astrid. Ruskin Mill is showing some of John's remarkable large-scale panoramic drawings.**



John Furnival: George Street Nailsworth (1984)

John came of age at a particularly vivid moment in the history of art. He had studied at the Royal College of Art, where he was a contemporary of David Hockney, Ron Kitaj, Joe Tilson and Peter Blake. Informed by Dada and Surrealism, immersed in contemporary influences such as Pop Art and Beat poetry, the Fluxus and Mail Art movements, he forged a distinctive path. A striking characteristic of John's work is its visual quality, indeed, whilst he is associated with Concrete Poetry, he prefers to call his work visual poetry. Where he uses words, he seems to be constantly undermining their specific meanings. Words appear as random lists, swirling spirals, clouds, teetering towers, formal patterns - sentences dissolve and fragment, resisting resolution into literal sense. Drawn, carved, etched, embossed and constructed, they are almost abstract forms. Their meaning is visual not literary, poetic not concrete. Conversely, his large panoramic landscape and architectural drawings can seem to read like sentences, unfolding as we scan the image from left to right trying to take in the whole scene - Furnival

is taken with Paul Klee's description of 'taking a line for a walk' - that is how he makes these drawings and that is how we read them, the eye follows the line, catching on fine details, like arresting phrases. In their exactitude they transcend mere representation. They are exercises in profound looking, and at the same time, in their deep attentiveness to the visible world, they have an enigmatic, surrealistic quality.

Collaboration is another distinguishing element in his and Astrid's life and work. John has worked closely with various artists, writers and publishers including Ian Hamilton Finlay and his friends Dom Silvester Houédard and Jonathan Williams. John and Astrid began making work collaboratively in the 70's. Astrid was making knitted works, including sweaters and quilts. She pioneered the use of natural dyes that she extracted from plants grown in her garden or collected in the fields around Gloucestershire. Together, they designed text-based knitted objects. As well as John's word formations, Astrid was drawn to the works of avant-garde writers such as Joyce and Beckett. The technical and conceptual

quality of this work led to many others in the art world inviting her to knit their words, notably artists Tom Phillips and Ron King and the poet Adrian Mitchell. In another collaboration, John and Astrid founded Satie's Faction, a group that celebrates and promotes the life and work of the Franco-Scottish composer, Erik Satie.



John and Astrid originally came to Gloucestershire so that John could teach, at Cheltenham and Stroud Schools of Art, and later at Corsham, but, as well as paid work, they found,

if not a community then at least a critical mass of fellow artists and writers living around the Stroud valleys. At an exhibition of his work in the Gloucester Museum and Art Gallery, he met Dom Silvester Houédard, a Benedictine monk at the nearby Prinknash Abbey. An influential figure within the international art world of the 60's and 70's, known in particular for his concrete and kinetic poetry, Houédard became a long standing friend and collaborator. Together, they founded the Openings press, which experimented with new forms of visual poetry. As well as Houédard, there was a striking concentration of poets and artists who were experimenting with words and language living around the Stroud valleys at that time. John collaborated, for instance with poets Thomas A Clark and Michael Horowitz and the artist Kenelm Cox, all of whom lived in the area. These associations, as well as his work with Ian Hamilton Finlay, Tom Phillips and other international artists connected to Concrete Poetry has led to John being regarded by some as a member of that movement - a reductive designation that he resists.

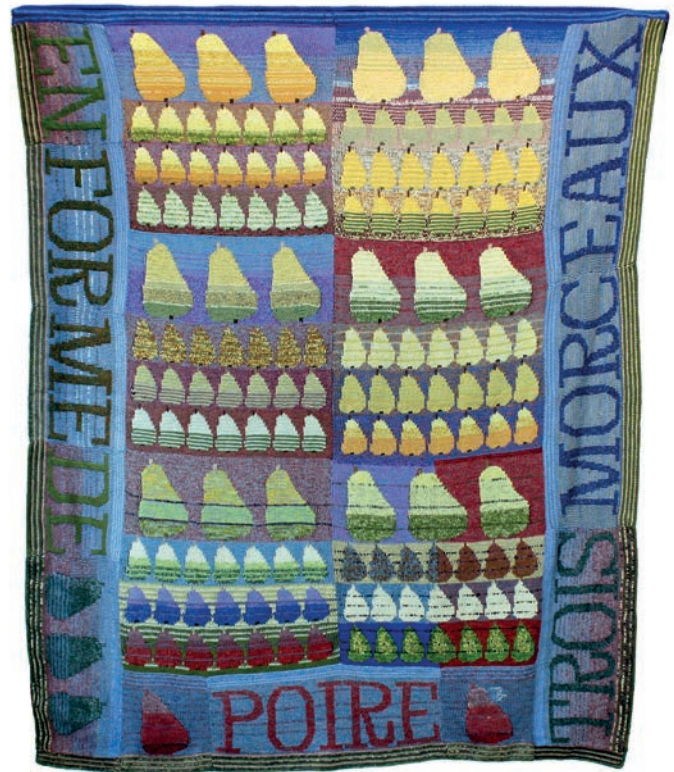
One of the pleasures of writing for Good on Paper is that it gives me the opportunity to meet the subjects that I'm writing about. To meet John and Astrid in their home is to encounter an exemplary continuity between art and life. John has recently suffered a stroke, which has circumscribed the scope of his working methods, but each day he sits at a kitchen table (made by their son) and he takes up a pen. He draws whatever is in front of him. He makes art. John is an entertaining storyteller, a raconteur, erudite, wryly humorous. He talks of music and literature, and he talks of friends and collaborators. They are surrounded by artworks made by themselves and their friends and associates. It is on the walls, but also propped up on the mantelpiece, leant against the furniture, stacked on the tables – outside unused experiments are filling gaps in the studio walls. Art is special, but it is the stuff of life, not a rarified thing occupying a separate domain. This sense of coherence is compounded when Bernard shows me family photographs, many of which he has collated into books, where they sit alongside images of work. These intimate images place the work in direct relationship to the richness of an everyday life suffused with creativity and with family and friends. One of the books shows a photograph of David Hockney, a close friend, drawing at a table in their Woodchester cottage,

where he was a frequent visitor, surrounded by the detritus of a recent eaten breakfast. On the same page we see the drawing, and the painting that it eventually let to. This juxtaposition between the intimate and domestic and the remote world of high art is exquisite.

Naturally, these exhibitions have been curated by a friend who has known John and Astrid for many years. Bernard Moxham's knowledge and dedication to his subjects means that the exhibitions will not just showcase a lifetime's work, but will celebrate the wonderfully rich and productive lives of these artists.

John and Astrid's first exhibition 'A Cotswold Celebration' opens at Ruskin Mill Gallery, Nailsworth ([rmt.org](http://rmt.org)) on the 19th May and continues until the 17th June. The second exhibition 'Lost for Words' opens at the Museum in the Park ([museuminthepark.org.uk](http://museuminthepark.org.uk)) on the 26th May running until the 24th June. Visit [johnfurnival.com](http://johnfurnival.com) for more info and further examples of John and Astrid's work.

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



Astrid Furnival: Trois Morceaux En Forme de Poire (1975)



John Furnival: Manhattan (1971)

## Select Trail:

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# MILA HARRIS-MUSSI

By Rebecca Mills



**For two weekends in May, Stroud will introduce the public to its myriad creative inhabitants through the Select Trail Open Studios. From 5-6th and 12-13th, over one hundred creatives will open their doors to give us insight into their creative spaces, tools, techniques and latest works. The trail comes as part of the month long Select Festival, presented annually by acclaimed SIT select to celebrate artists regionally, nationally and internationally. One artist taking part this year is Mila Harris-Mussi, a Stroud based textile designer and maker, who talks to me ahead of the trail about her creative background and what to expect of her work throughout the event.**

I meet with Mila at her new studio, a large, blank canvas of open rooms tucked around the back of Merretts Mills Industrial Estate. Her move back to Stroud is a recent one: "I studied textile design, specialising in knitted textiles, at Chelsea Collage of Arts in London", she explains. "I graduated a couple years back and felt determined to keep making my own work, so I applied for an award at the craft-based studio Cockpit Arts funded by the Haberdasher's Guild and Framework Knitter Guild. I was lucky enough to win, and that funded my own studio in London for a year, which was really amazing. When that finished a few months ago, I wanted the space to continue making large-scale work, so coming back to Stroud felt like the right move."

Mila's work, which is knit based, incorporating casting with resins, innovative yarns and dyeing techniques, is largely about experimentation, and the journey of making is central to her creative process. "When I start a body of work, I usually get fixed on one technique, material or dye and just see what happens as my experimenting evolves over time," Mila reveals. Her sense of experimentation and innovation is evident in the range of projects she has been involved in: a collaboration with dancer Kara Coffey explored the

interaction between knitted textiles and the body, investigating how unforeseen forms come to life when Mila's fabrics are hung, stretched and pulled against the human form. Her project "structured pleats" saw large knitted fabrics hung as sculptures - twisted and contorted - seemingly on the verge of delightful animation.

Mila's initial inspiration often comes from the material itself. "I want to find out what the material is capable of; what I can do with it in terms of its structure, how complicated the technique can be. I also work a lot with colour, and inspiration for that can come from anything I see. It's exciting to recreate a colour I've found

inspiring. Lately I've been using more natural dyes, and now I'm out of the city I'd like forage or grow my own, which I've never done before. It'd be great to create my own natural colour pallet."

For the Select Trail, Mila is collaborating with two other designers; Mimi Kerpel,

a woven textile designer currently focusing on works with paper, and Daisy Gray, a fine artist recently exploring work with ceramics. "I've known both Mimi and Daisy a long time," Mila tells me, "though we work with different materials, we've all



been investigating the different uses of natural dye so it seemed natural for us to work together for the trail. It's challenging to see how my processes impact their materials, and feels important for me to work with other people like this."

"We're going to be showing an 'installation of objects',", Mila reveals as I explore the work being prepared for the trail. Gathered on a table, swatches of fabric sampling her dyeing techniques are gathered next to woven baskets and ceramic bowls etched and imprinted with deep indigo dye. Further shards of ceramics are trussed up in materials of deep and vibrant natural hues, next to dyed woven structures evocative of intricate Chinese lanterns. Outside, Mila's experiments with shibori are hung in various stages of completion. The whole hints at an intriguing and innovative collection.

This will be Mila's first time involved in the trail. "Now that I've moved back here it's great opportunity to show people what I do and meet other creatives and designers. I think it's good to show my work and explain to people what I do, and the trail is really important for Stroud."

In addition to Mila and her collaborators, the public can see inside the studios of renowned artists such as Matthew Harris and Tom Knowles Jackson, as well as discovering

something or someone they've never heard of before. Another highlight is an exhibition, entitled 'My Nature', running at the Museum in the Park on Sat 5th and Sun 6th May as part of the Select Festival, where guest artists from France, Thailand, Taiwan and Great Britain will explore textiles, consumerism and the environment using print, stitch, weave and natural dye techniques. This year the trail has new curator, Emma Neuberg who has worked with Director Lizzi Walton to bring together an international group of artists to stimulate new conversations across the trail and beyond.

Information on the trail, including maps, artists profiles, and practical details for planning your visit can be found at [selecttrail.org](http://selecttrail.org). For the full programme of the Select Festival visit [sitselect.org](http://sitselect.org)

Further examples of Mila's work can be explored at [milaharrismissi.co.uk](http://milaharrismissi.co.uk).

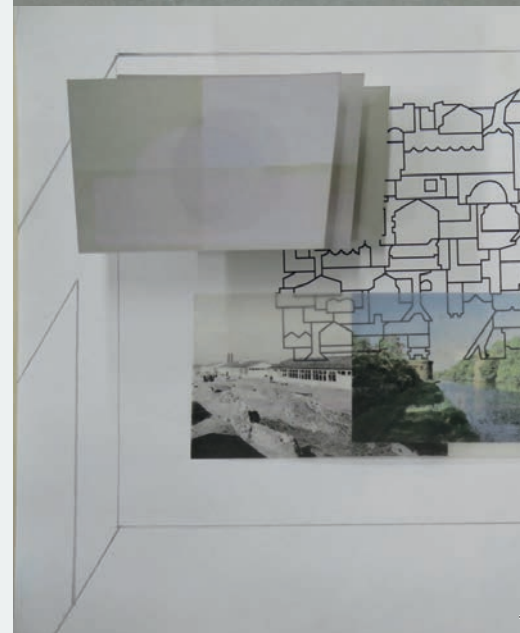
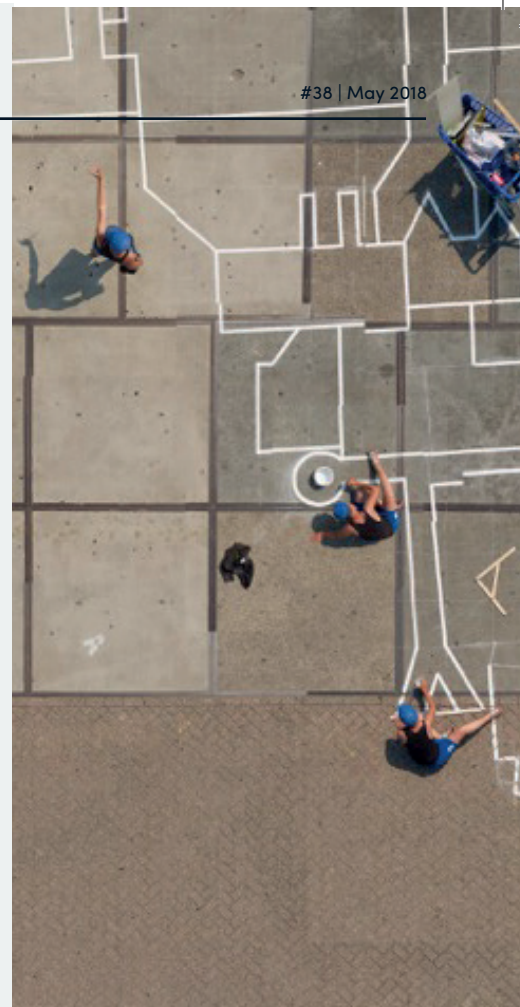
.....  
**Rebecca Mills was born in Stroud and has lived in the nearby valleys all her life. Following a BA Hons in English Literature, she worked locally as an editor and English tutor. Outside the day job, she spends her time traveling, reading, free-lance writing and occasionally taking some snaps: [instagram opportunisticforger](https://www.instagram.com/opportunisticforger)**

# Site Festival Open Studios:

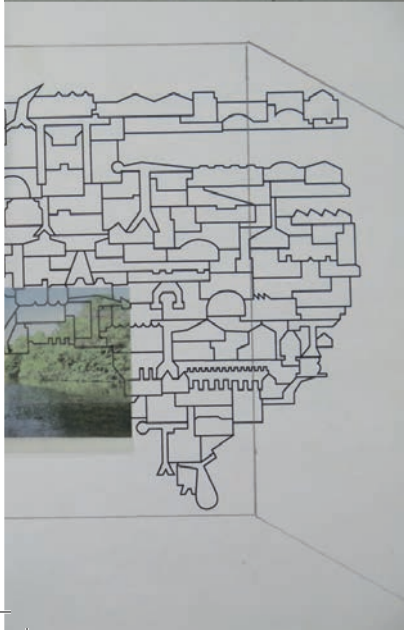
# Valerie van Leersum and Tara Downs

By Sarah Dixon

Site Festival organised by the Stroud Valley Artspace (SVA) mutates every year, and is back for 2018 with an eclectic and international mix of delights. Through Resound Radio, there will be a lot of sound coming out of the SVA nerve centre, from artist dialogues to soundscapes with the incongruous clunk of Dutch shipping history in the distance...







The traditional Open Studios continues too, with artists all over the valleys opening up their spaces for conversation, inspiration and discovery. And the SVA gallery itself will become an Open Studio, encouraging us to focus on the role of artists and the importance of unclaimed, drifting, post-industrial spaces as a breeding ground for creativity.

SVA was set up in 1996, and continues to play a central role in shaping Stroud's cultural scene by holding and accessing spaces in which artists can create. Co-founder Jo Leahy has always been fascinated by artist-run spaces. An early inspiration occurred in the industrial docklands of Amsterdam in 1998, when she met Bert Hogervorst and Peti Buchel, authors of *Turning Tide: The Users Role in the Redevelopment of Harbour Buildings in North-West Europe*.

20 years on, SVA is bringing Valerie van Leersum from Amsterdam's dockyard-turned-creative hub NDSM to develop new work in the SVA gallery space, alongside the Miniature Museum's Tara Downs, who divides her time between Stroud and Amsterdam and is creating podcasts and soundscapes for the Festival.

**Places in Drift**

Valerie Van Leersum will be in residence from 4th -14th May. Her show will be partly built up out of work that already exists, work made for the exhibition and work that will be made during the residency. The final show will be an interactive installation with an overall theme about places in transition, drifting with the stream of time.

**Radio Droogdok**

Artist Tara Downs (Miniature Museums) is making an audio exchange between Stroud and Amsterdam for Site Festival 2018. Radio Droogdok will be making and transmitting podcasts from NDSM and ADM - both former shipyards in Amsterdam - as well as Landbouwbelaag in Maastricht. Tara will interview artists as well as philosophers, anthropologists and visionaries about urban places in transition. Listeners can tune in to the podcasts transmitted through Resound Radio online.

Van Leersum's studio is at the former NDSM shipyard in Amsterdam, now the largest cultural breeding ground in Europe. A place that tries to maintain independence within the advancing city. Since 2002 van Leersum has been developing a body of work here around the concept of 'Home'. She uses all kinds of media including objects, text, audio, collages and photography, moving between 'factual' history and subjective experience. Growing up, she says, "Moving to different places and between different social classes at

a young age made a big impression. It made me think about identity in relationship to the ground where you were born or where your roots are. Adjusting to places and contexts, made me feel a kind of in-between everybody and everything. A feeling that I like as well as dislike."

"At this moment my home is where my family (two kids and my husband) is, I guess. But for a long time I was kind of searching for home. If you move your home, are you the same person? If the identity of a place changes, what does this mean for the people living there? What happens in the in-between moments? Are we in these moments, autonomic, free from identity and therefore most connected to each other?"

Van Leersum is collaborating

[Leahy] and Neil Walker (co-director of SVA) were researching artist led spaces like Spike Island in Bristol - the story is in the podcast." These movements, according to Downs, "come out of an environment where there is time and space to share ideas and live and work together: all forms and manifestations come out."

In her residency, Downs explains she will be exploring the "chaos of liminal creative space - just allowing things to happen." She will be "using oral histories, using sound and collecting stories - learning the poetry and sculpture of sound - the podcasts go together as a piece as a form of archiving - we are creating a contemporary archive."

Valerie reflects this too: "My work is quite narrative. It moves between



with Stroud's Tara Downs, and they will be co-creating soundscapes, conversations and archives of stories from Stroud and Amsterdam. "Tara and I are both interested in areas that used to be industrial, abandoned and taken over by creative people. We are both connected to those places as my studio is in a formal Shipyard building (NDSM) and Tara lives partly at the docklands of the ADM. Both places are under a lot of pressure from the city and are in transition all the time. This drifting identity interests me the most. The land as silent witness of this process."

Downs and van Leersum met when Downs was researching her MA dissertation in Museum Studies. They found they shared interests not only in transitional environments but also in storytelling and archiving. "Valerie has a strong storytelling element, uses archiving in her work - I loved the way that she worked with her projects" says Downs. "We started to explore ways of working together - the idea of exchange led to development funding from the Arts Council and we began to reflect on the places we live."

Downs spent time in the early 80s as an anthropologist in Amsterdam, "immersed in incredibly creative places, with creative collectives in squats like castles. Around the same time, Jo

'factual' history on the one hand, and the subjectively experienced on the other, between documentary and the imagined. I like to see it as a way to start a conversation."

Audiences can join in the conversation at SVA John Street, Sat and Sun 11am-6pm and Weds - Fri 11am-3pm. The preview takes place on Friday 4th May from 6-9pm. There will also be an artist's talk on Saturday 12th May at 4.30pm in the gallery. For further examples of van Leersum's work visit [valerievanleersum.nl](http://valerievanleersum.nl). To listen to the Radio Droogdok podcast visit [resoundradio.org.uk/radio-droogdok-page](http://resoundradio.org.uk/radio-droogdok-page)

The Site Festival Open Studios takes place on the weekend of the 5th - 6th and 12th -13th May featuring 86 artists at the SVA and 41 studios across the Stroud District. Visit [sitefestival.org.uk/openstudios](http://sitefestival.org.uk/openstudios) for further info including a downloadable version of the free programme.

Sarah Dixon is an artist and digital consultant in Stroud. She has not yet been to Amsterdam but may drift there some day... [sarahdixonfineart.co.uk](http://sarahdixonfineart.co.uk)

# Arts Listings

## ATELIER

**SAT 26TH**

### Stroud Repair Cafe

Every Repair cafe at Atelier will support all sorts of textile repairs. Alongside each month the Cafe will support different skills that will be announced beforehand. The Repair Cafe is free but donations are always welcome to support running the event. The Stroud Repair Cafe is co-hosted by Transition Stroud and Atelier. 11am-2pm Free

**WEDS 30TH**

### Textile Muse: Facilitated by Patricia Brien

Patricia Brien is hosting the informal study group on the last Wednesday in the month. Are you needing some inspiration with your latest textile or sewing project? Think that your knowledge of art & design could be expanded upon, updated or tweaked? 7:30pm Free

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

## ART OF CLAY

### 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 - Fri 11am-5pm/ Sat 10am-5pm

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

## BLUE DOOR STUDIOS

### Oliver Vivian: How Does It Feel?

An ongoing exhibition of expressive abstract paintings in oils on canvas, evoking the elemental forces of the natural world.

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

## DUFFLE VINTAGE

As well as stocking the coolest vintage furniture and clothing Patrick's shop acts as a revolving gallery for local artists creating a unique and unconventional exhibition space. Currently showing works by Melvyn Warren-Smith, Dan Rawlings, Steven Hubbard, Zoe Heath and many more...

## GALLERY PANGOLIN

**MON 19TH MAR - FRI 18TH MAY**

### Marino Marini: A Sculptor's Prints

The Gallery's annual exhibition of sculptors' prints is this year dedicated to the work of Marino Marini... Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-1pm

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

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRINT MAKING COOPERATIVE

**SAT 5TH - SUN 6TH/SAT 12TH - SUN 13TH**

### Select Trail

Exhibitions, prints to buy and demonstrations! 10am-5pm

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

## LANSDOWN GALLERY

**TUES 8TH - SAT 26TH**

### South West Textile Group: Ebb and Flow

See Select Festival listings...

**SAT 12TH**

### Collectives Fair

See Select Festival listings...

**TUES 29TH MAY - SAT 9TH JUNE**

### Sue Hiley Harris

See Select Festival listings...

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

## THE MALTHEUSE BAR & KITCHEN

**TUES 24TH APR - SAT 30TH JUNE**

### Georgina Bouzyk: Flora and Fauna

See Select Festival listings...

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

## MUSEUM IN THE PARK

**SAT 21ST APR - SAT 19TH MAY**

### Hannah Waldron: Primary Traveller

See Select Festival listings...

**SAT 5TH - SUN 6TH**

### My Nature

See Select Festival listings...

**THURS 17TH - SUN 20TH**

### Independence Trust: Medicine Heads

Independence Trust Stroud presents an exhibition of artworks which explore different aspects of mental health. Created by people who have had personal experiences of mental ill health, this exhibition aims to widen awareness and encourage understanding. It coincides with Mental Health Awareness Week. Evening opening and sale of artworks on Friday 18 May 6pm to 8pm, all welcome.

**SAT 26TH MAY - SUN 24TH JUNE**

### John and Astrid Furnival: Lost For Words

John Furnival was a student at the Royal College in the 1950s alongside David Hockney. Best known as a 'visual poet' with work in the Tate, he has since lived with his textile artist wife Astrid in Nailsworth and Woodchester. This exhibition shows drawings, prints and collages from over 50 years, with a focus on his collaborations with Astrid, that resulted in her producing many text-based knitted garments using natural dyes. Curated by Bernard Moxham and accompanied by a publication with essay by Stephen Bann, the programme includes tours of the exhibition and workshops.

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

## PEGASUS

**SAT 5TH - SUN 6TH/SAT 12TH - SUN 13TH**

### Select Trail: Pegasus Open Studios

10% off art materials - shop only for all four days! Free artist demonstrations all four days - no need to book, just drop in...Pose for a Pegasus Portrait: have your portrait painted by professional artist Max Hale for the bargain price of £50 - one hour sitting (call to book). Shop Open Sat 9am-6pm and Sun 11am-4pm/Studios open 11am-6pm

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

## THE PINK CABBAGE

**SAT 5TH - MON 7TH**

### Jane Flint and Andrew Flint: Joint Exhibition

See Select Festival listings...

**SAT 12TH - SUN 20TH**

### Caitlin FJ Sell: In Addition...

This is Caitlin's third exhibition in Stroud. These paintings are a collection of abstract cityscapes, seascapes and landscapes alongside some whose subject matter is more elusive and up to the eye of the individual...

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

## SELECT FESTIVAL

**SAT 21ST APR - SAT 19TH MAY**

### Hannah Waldron: Primary Traveller

Hannah began weaving in 2010 after an encounter with the weavings of Gunta Stözl and Anni Albers at the Bauhaus archive in Berlin. In the learning of her craft, Hannah has often felt it is the process of stories, of place, travelling and narratives that take in all the senses. She now specialises in designing and creating research-led printed and woven textiles that have an emphasis on storytelling. 'Primary Traveller' is a nomadic modular structure that will house a new body of weavings specially created for the Festival. Venue: The Museum in the Park. Tues-Fri 10am-4pm/Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

**SAT 21ST APR - JUNE**

### Mixed Sculpture Exhibition

Ten Artists exhibiting work in the delightful setting of Miserden Nursery with the herbaceous borders and surrounding countryside giving added drama. Venue: Miserden Nursery. Tues-Sun 10am-5pm

**TUES 24TH APR - SAT 30TH JUNE**

### Georgina Bouzyk: Flora and Fauna

A solo exhibition of oil paintings exploring the flora and fauna of the countryside surrounding Stroud by Georgina Bouzyk. Georgina's paintings explore the fragile yet powerful aspects of nature; Studying the innate shapes and colours that make up the landscape to create a sense of place. Venue: The Malthouse Bar and Kitchen. Sun-Mon 10am-4pm/Tues - Sat 10am-5pm

**SAT 28TH APR - SAT 5TH MAY**

### Three By 3: A Homage to Vivaldi

Three textile artists (Pauline Cullimore, Janet Grist and Sylvia Hammond) who met whilst studying City and Guilds textile courses come together with new works. Their works are rooted in the traditions of patchwork and quilting and reflect the origins and varied possibilities with in this art form in this collaborative exhibition. Venue: The Subscription Rooms. 10am -4pm

**SAT 5TH - SUN 6TH**

### My Nature

Guest artists curated by Emma Neuberg. My Nature is an exciting exhibition of experimental textiles from International guest artists. Each artist explores textiles, consumerism and the environment using print, stitch, weave and natural dye techniques. Pop Up demonstrations will take place throughout the day. Venue: Museum in the Park

**SAT 5TH - MON 7TH**

### Jane Flint and Andrew Flint: Joint Exhibition

Jane Flint's ceramic animal figures inspired by antique toys create a narrative and sit well beside Andrew's figurative sculptures. Included in the exhibition are limited edition prints. Venue: The Pink Cabbage. 10:30am-6pm Private view Fri 5th

**TUES 8TH - SAT 26TH**

### South West Textile Group: Ebb and Flow

New works include embroidery, felt, quilting and weave. Meet the Artists on Sat 5th. Venue: Lansdown Hall

**SAT 12TH**

### Collectives Fair

A curated showcase with exhibitors, local and across the UK, selling a range of handmade works from textiles, ceramics, jewellery, leather, designer knitwear and clothing alongside vintage textiles and rare ethnic artefacts. Demonstrations taking place throughout the day. Venue: Lansdown Hall. 10am-4:30pm

**TUES 29TH MAY - SAT 9TH JUNE**

### Sue Hiley Harris

Woven sculpture based on regular geometric form with a structural regularity, is shown alongside expressive landscape drawings. Sue's paintings and drawings bring a sense of energy and freedom to the constrained discipline of the woven pieces. Venue: Lansdown Hall. Meet the Artist Mon 28th May 5-7pm. Linked workshop on Sun 3rd June in the Select Studio, Centre for Science and Art, Lansdown.

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

## SELECT TRAIL

**SAT 5TH - SUN 6TH/SAT 12TH - SUN 13TH**

### Celebrating the Visual Arts: Making Places

Two weekends of Open Studios and artist led exhibitions in venues across the Five Valleys to Tetbury. Leading

# Marino Marini

A Sculptor's Prints  
Until 18th May



## GALLERY PANGOLIN

CHALFORD - GLOS - GL6 8NT 01453 889765  
gallery@pangolin-editions.com www.gallery-pangolin.com  
Spettacolo 1963

sitselect.org

select festival 2018  
passionate about the visual arts  
21 April - 28 May

select trail 2018  
5-6 + 12-13 May

selecttrail.org

## The Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers (RE) Anniversary Exhibition

at Chapel Arts, Cheltenham  
25th April - 12th May



The Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers (RE) is one of the world's premier printmaking organisations.

The RE Rebels exhibition celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of their founder.

Both Chapel Arts, and the RE at their home at the Bankside Gallery, will show the combined 51 works concurrently between 25th April and 12th May.



Wed - Sat 10 am - 4 pm | [www.thechapelarts.com](http://www.thechapelarts.com)

t. 01242 580077 | e. [info@thechapelarts.com](mailto:info@thechapelarts.com)  
Knapp Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3QQ.



## Crafts in the Cotswolds

August Summer School  
Westonbirt Workshops

Workshops & Courses Bookable Online  
Shop • Café • Gallery • Accommodation

[newbreweryarts.org.uk](http://newbreweryarts.org.uk)  
01285 657 181

national guest artists join local artists and makers to bring an exciting range of original handcrafted and visual art work. Pegasus Art studios have a pop up cafe and 10% off all art materials bought direct from the shop. Gloucestershire Print Co operative will be demonstrating printing techniques over the two weekends.

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

#### SITE FESTIVAL OPEN STUDIOS

##### 5TH-6TH/12TH-13TH

Open Studios returns for its 22nd year featuring 86 artists across the district including the likes of Joe Magee, Zoe Heath, Adam White, Lorraine Robbins, Gemma Kay Waggett, Ann-Margreth Bohl, Emily Joy, Sean Heather, Melvyn Warren-Smith, Rod Nelson, Rachel McDonnell and Colin Mattingley. The SVA hope they can make this one even more enticing and exciting to hundreds of new and regular visitors. You will be able to pick up an Open Studios Directory in Stroud so you can plan ahead. Open Studios is a great way to meet artists, find out more about the ideas behind their work and the techniques they use. Don't forget, you can also buy art works directly from artists too! SVA has been hosting Open Studios since 1997 with a handful of artists and it has now expanded into one the best rurally based Open Studios events in the UK. 11am-6pm

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

#### STEVE RUSSELL STUDIOS

##### Studio Tours/Visual Demonstration

Specialist fine art photographers with 30 years' experience working with artists and galleries. Now exploring new techniques in high definition photogrammetry, Steve Russell Studios can offer artists beautiful, precise representations of their works in interactive 3D. Studio tours by appointment (contact [rebekah@steverussellstudios.com](mailto:rebekah@steverussellstudios.com)) including a visual demonstration of the process of capturing sculpture in detailed 3D and virtual reality. Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

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

#### ST MARY'S MILL CHALFORD

##### SAT 5TH - SUN 6TH/ SAT 12TH - SUN 13TH

##### Art at St Mary's Mill

A selection of prints, drawings and 3D work by artist Tonia Maddison in the extraordinary 1820 Mill in Chalford. Also, see the large waterwheel and Tangye steam engine. Parking in lay-by on A419 or near the Round House at Chalford. In partnership with Stroudwater Textile Trust.

[stroud-textile.org.uk](http://stroud-textile.org.uk)

#### SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

##### SAT 28TH APR - SAT 5TH MAY

##### Three By 3: A Homage to Vivaldi

See Select Festival listings...

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

#### SVA

##### Resound Radio presents Radio Droogdok

Radio Droogdok (Tara Downs) will be making an audio exchange with Stroud and Amsterdam for Resound Radio. Podcasts will be transmitted from NDSM and ADM both former shipyards in Amsterdam as well as Landbouwbelaang in Maastricht. Podcasts will also be made especially for 'Places In Drift' a collaborative project with Valerie Van Leersum, an artist from NDSM in Amsterdam, who will be SVA's resident artist in the gallery for the Site Festival Open Studios. (John Street)

##### SAT 14TH APR - SUN 13TH MAY

##### Signed up

The once proud tradition of signwriting that originated on ancient gravestones and in medieval heraldry has been in decline since its glory days in Victorian Britain. For over thirty years, evidence of the trade has all but disappeared from urban landscapes as every town high street becomes wrapped in predicable plastic. All is not lost however! A new and dedicated generation of sign writers and illustrators are helping to revive the craft into a relevant art form by paying homage to traditional skills with an awareness of current tastes and modern graphic design so the purpose of the Stroud 'Signed up' initiative is to give individuals a chance to promote their various styles and skills...10am-5pm (John Street)

##### FRI 4TH - SUN 13TH

##### Valerie Van Leersum: Places in Drift

Valerie Van Leersum, an artist from NDSM in Amsterdam, will be the resident artist for the Site Festival Open Studios. In 2007 Valerie Van Leersum built her studio at the former NDSM shipyard in Amsterdam. Inspired by the ideas of artist Constant Nieuwenhuys, this yard has been turned into the largest cultural breeding ground in Europe and is a place that now tries to maintain its independence within the advancing city. Under the theme of 'Places in Drift', Valerie Van Leersum will show work that is based on both the industrial and natural transitions of the NDSM wharf and Stroud. Valerie will work with Tara Downs and Radio Droogdok, who will be transmitting podcasts from NDSM in Amsterdam to the gallery at SVA in Stroud. Fri 4th 6-8pm/Sat-Sun 11am-6pm/Weds-Fri 11am-3pm (John Street)

##### SAT 19TH

##### John and Astrid Furnival: Lost for Words Taster

John Furnival was a student at the Royal College in the 1950s alongside David Hockney and he calls himself a 'drawer'. Best known as a 'visual poet' with work in the Tate, he has since lived with his textile artist wife Astrid in Nailsworth and Woodchester. The main exhibition will open at the Museum in the Park on 26th May and will show drawings, prints and collages from over 50 years, but with a focus on his collaborations with Astrid. Get a taste of the show with Clive Adams, former student of John's, and Jill Adams,

workshops coordinator. 10am-3pm/ Short talks: 11am and 2pm (John Street)

##### FRI 25TH MAY - SAT 16TH JUNE

##### Oliver Marsden

In his luminous, abstract paintings, drawings, and prints, Oliver Marsden transforms light, colour, sound, vibrations, water, and other sensations and natural phenomena into pigment and line on canvas or paper, exploring and celebrating the process of perception. He works in series, concentrating on a single perceptual phenomenon. In his 'Fade' series (begun 2004) of acrylic-on-canvas paintings, Marsden captures the resonance of light in the eye and mind, and the harmony between different colours, through subtly graded hues that fade into each other across the picture plane. Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am-3pm (John Street)

##### FRI 25TH MAY - SAT 16TH JUNE

##### Dan Sparkes

Sparkes inhabits the space between reality and illusion, between popular culture and scientific investigation, and creates a landscape where everything is spliced, butchered and dissected. His treatment of each subject, be it a desolate landscape, a stranger's face or a panting animal, is linear; each must have a layer stripped away and another created, and each must have its own complex interior exposed. It is, as Sparkes has said himself, "a fraudulent science". To an extent he also plays with the idea of our disconnection with nature through, for example, portraying animal butchery as an idealistic cartoon scenario. In a world so preoccupied with superficial banality, Sparkes' work, although initially appearing tongue-in-cheek, brings with it a more robust message of the conflict between the natural and mechanical worlds. Fridays and Saturdays 10am-3pm (John Street)

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

#### RUSKIN MILL HORSLEY

##### UNTIL TUES 15TH

##### Rob Poole, John Cooper, Eppie Short, Chris Rose: Wood Related

An exhibition featuring wood as both a medium and a tool as well as an inspiration. Four local artists and craftsmen combine to present an exhibition of wood-inspired pieces ranging from turned wooden bowls to fine prints and engravings. 10am-4pm

##### SAT 19TH MAY - SUN 17TH JUNE

##### John Furnival

Best known as a 'visual poet' with work in the Tate's collection, John's drawings celebrating life in the Cotswolds will be exhibited at Ruskin Mill with more work concurrently at Stroud's Museum in the Park. Preview plus meet the artist Sat 19th May 2-4pm

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

#### PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

##### TUES 1ST MAY - FRI 8TH JUNE

##### Rosalind Wise

The large, opulent paintings of Ros

Wise are bursting with colour, energy and vitality. Her primary inspiration is the natural world. Her early work involved a detailed study of individual plants but more recently her paintings have become less botanical, now focusing on the majesty of blooms and plants in their natural setting or planted location. Ros' work is a celebration of colour, texture and form found in garden borders - friends' little green havens as well as the fabulous gardens at Great Dixter.

##### TUES 1ST MAY - FRI 8TH

##### June Jayne Emerson

Textiles artist Jayne Emerson studied at Loughborough College of Art before completing her Masters at Central St. Martins. Since then her work has taken a wide-ranging path that has allowed her to express her creativity from craft through to couture. For the past eighteen years Jayne has created innovative fabric samples that explore the boundaries of modern embroidery, patchwork, fabric manipulation and needle felting. Her samples have sold to a wide range of clients that include Chanel, Calvin Klein, Nina Ricci, and Louis Vuitton.

##### TUES 1ST MAY - FRI 8TH JUNE

##### Eve Coy

Prema resident artist Eve Coy can be located at all times of the day and night, busily creating characters, stories and glorious illustrations from her studio within our arts centre. Eve joined Prema in September 2015 whilst completing her MA in children's book illustration in Cambridge. The MA resulted in three book commissions - the prospect of which Eve describes as both exciting and overwhelming in equal measure! Looking After William is the first of these three books and has recently been published by Anderson Press.

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

#### UNDER THE EDGE ARTS

##### FRI 25TH - MON 28TH

##### Wotton Sculpture Show

The first ever Wotton Sculpture Show! Featuring works by Cameron Ford, Chris Burns-Cox and more tba...Entries are now invited - 20% commission on sales but NFS entries are welcome.

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

#### NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

##### SAT 17TH MAR - SUN 20TH MAY

##### Lucienne Day: Living Design

This exhibition celebrates the life and work of one of most influential designers of the post-war generation, Lucienne Day. Lucienne Day: Living Design tells the story of Lucienne Day's design career, unfolding in a sequence of photographs drawn from the archives of the Robin and Lucienne Day Foundation. Mon-Sat 9am-5pm/Sun 10am-4pm

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

# Steve Russell Studios



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# Giffords Circus

Dazzling acrobat displays, glittering sequins, majestic horses, calamitous clowns – it’s difficult to describe Giffords Circus in one sentence, such is the show’s amalgamation of theatrical and circus artistry and more than a light dusting of magic. One thing I am certain of, opening on Friday 4th May at Fennells Farm in Stroud, this year’s show is set to be as enthralling, joyful and jaw-dropping as ever.

By Lorna Davies

Photography by Emilie Sandy



“We don’t fit into any group. We’re a weirdo amongst theatre people, we’re a weirdo amongst circus people, we don’t really fit in anywhere and I guess that is what works for us. Someone said to me recently, circus is the magic word, and it definitely is,” Giffords founder Nell Gifford tells me as she sits in Josephs on Union Street, her blonde hair covered in dye.

It is early April when we meet at the hair salon, and Nell is in the midst of rehearsals for the inimitable, beautiful, bohemian celebration that is Giffords Circus. “I’m sorry, I’m so tired,” she apologises throughout our chat, rubbing her head as she spins back and forth on the leather chair.

I’m not surprised.

A riot of live music, horses, chickens, comedy, acrobatics and theatre, Giffords is a 1930s-style touring village-green circus, launched 18 years ago by Nell and her then-husband Toti. This year, Nell is leading a show including new additions of third generation Italian circus performers, The Curatola Brothers, with their hand-to-hand acrobatic act; Diana Vediashkina and her troupe of dachshunds; Lisandra Austin and her aerial silk act; and the Portuguese Dias

Family, a family of eight creating gymnastic and balancing acts. Alongside these new acts, many fan favourites will be returning to the tent including Nell herself with her stunning equestrienne act; Tweedy the Clown; Nancy Trotter Landry who originally joined the circus at the age of 19; Dany Reyes, with his juggling routines; expert horseman Dany Cesar; and Alfredo and the highly acclaimed Pozo the Strongman.

2018 marks 250 years since the circus was invented in London by Philip Astley, an 18th-century trick rider (although, as Nell points out, it’s difficult to pin point a date, as circus itself is an alchemy of many art forms). To mark the milestone, Giffords new show, My Beautiful Circus, celebrates circus itself. “It’s about seeing it through a child’s eye and thinking about what makes it really special and beautiful,” Nell explains.

Growing up in a creative household “full of books” in North Oxford (one of Nell’s four siblings is famed pottery designer Emma Bridgewater) – “I was brought up with an arts background. My mum was really into home making, kind of homemade fun, and that is what is in the circus,” she says – Nell’s

first circus memory is of the Moscow State Circus when she was a young teen. “I fell in love with all the colour and the movement and the music.”

She studied English at Oxford University, before travelling the world working for several circuses, including as a popcorn vendor at the Chinese State Circus and acting as ring-mistress for Santus Circus in France. It was this international experience that made Nell view British circus in a new light. “It is interesting because it is an English invention in a sense, but we ended up as a country not putting any value on circuses. People say, ‘oh they’re commercial’ and everything, but I really think it’s great that there is a travelling form of theatre that exists without having to be organised by a committee and have funding from the government. It’s a folk art, and should really be celebrated. I think they have been judged really harshly and driven to the very fringes. I have always wanted to celebrate the circus.”

The shows are themed each year, the inspiration for which can come from everywhere and anywhere, Nell says. From War and Peace to Treasure Island, references and influences have been broad and

far-reaching, but topical? That’s something she is keen to keep away from. “I hate anything in the show that references anything contemporary, Brexit or anything. It’s just like get in that tent and just forget about the year, everything, total escapism”

Giffords Circus began in 2000, with a small show at Hay-on-Wye Literature Festival. “I had been working in the circus for quite a few years and I wrote a book about it [Josser: The Secret Life of a Circus Girl]. They asked me to talk about the book, so I brought a circus along, and the rest is history,” she remembers.

Toti, who runs a landscaping business, found the wagon in a hedge in Cheltenham, did it up, and that was the first of the now famous maroon and gold velvet-lined circus wagons that tour around the country each summer, from May until September. There were around 20 performers in the first show. “My brother in law came along and he had a motorbike and rode that round the ring. My other brother in law Joe is an Irish folk musician, really good guitar and vocalist, he came along, so we’ve always had horses and live music.” The circus

now has a cult following, and has since entertained more than 650,000 people.

Her advice to her younger self would be to “be more organised.”- “I had to learn a lot of business skills along the way, which has been a steep learning curve. People don’t really realise that.” If you follow Giffords on Instagram (you should, its excellent wanderlust), you’ll see that along with the beauty, fun and glamour, there’s an awful lot of hard work involved. “Yeah, I mean it is,” Nell agrees. “It’s a lot of people and a lot of concentration. I think people enjoy seeing the process, it’s fun to see something being made. This area seems to really celebrate that actually.”

All the animals are trained by the team, sets are painted in the barns on the farm, the costumes are handmade and are so real looking that they once had complaints about using a “small bear” in the show. It was in fact, just a very good costume.

Since 2012, the show has been directed by comedy director Cal McCrystal, whose credits include Paddington and One Man Two Guvnors.

Horses are central to the show, with everything from the overall theme to the colour scheme designed with the four-legged friends in mind. It is truly astounding what these majestic animals can do in what is a relatively small space. “It can take 10 years to train a horse to that level,” Nell explains. There’s Full House and High Card, shire horses, along with two little Eriskay ponies, Max and Percy, and not forgetting the dogs and chickens.

The circus moved from Bourton-on-the-Water to Fennells Farm in Stroud, in 2014. “It’s just so nice and friendly round here,” Nell smiles. “I grew up not far from here, so it definitely feels like home.” Nell spends “a lot of time on Swifts Hill walking down to the Woolpack” and rates The Marshall Rooms. “I just think there’s so much optimism in Stroud, people are determined to go at life in a really positive way, it’s a really good-humoured place,” she adds.

The tour ends in September, and I ask if Nell has time for a holiday. “Hopefully I’ll have a break if I can afford it. I haven’t had a holiday to be fair since 2014. I have had cancer twice, I’ve been having treatment on and off for three years, so you can’t really travel.”

Nell has been open about her treatment for breast cancer, updating Giffords fans on her blog. It is refreshing, I say, hearing someone talk openly about it. “Thank you. You’d be surprised, a few people have said, ‘oh stop talking about



your cancer’ I just think the more we talk about it, the better. It’s different for everybody of course, but it is not always the end of the world, cancer, it isn’t.”

On top of all the above, Nell also has eight-year-old twins Cecil and Red. “They enjoy the circus, they get involved in practise and everything. My daughter is good at organising,” she says. Would she encourage them to follow in her theatrical footsteps? “It often happens that you want to put your own ideas onto your children, that you yourself might have wanted to be or do, and I don’t really see much wrong with that, but obviously it’s their life and they’ve got to find their own path. The circus is a great place to get a grounding in a creative life, meeting all different kinds of people of all different nationalities.”

The first few shows take place in Stroud, before the show goes on tour to Sudeley Castle, Daylesford, Blenheim Palace, Oxford University, Chiswick House, Windsor Park, Stonor Park in Henley-on-Thames, Barrington, Frampton-on-Severn, Minchinhampton, Marlborough and

Stratton Meadows in Cirencester, before returning to Fennells Farm. “The first few shows are previews in a way because it’s a local audience. By the end of the first weekend you’ll have done the show nine times in three days, we do a lot of fine tuning then. In fact, it all happens then. You rehearse and rehearse, then it all kind of locks together when you’ve got the audience,” Nell explains. “On the last night everything runs like clockwork, but the first night has this energy and innocence I think. It takes until the halfway point then you know the show you’ve got.”

She says she can’t pick a favourite location – “I love them all” – but does name Minchinhampton Common and “the London shows” as particular highlights. Her teaser for this year is that it will “be beautiful. There’s red velvet, there’s a new band in black tie, it is going to be really lovely.”

I can’t wait.

My Beautiful Circus launches in Stroud at Fennells Farm from the 4th to the 14th May. You can also catch

them at Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe (17th – 21st May), Daylesford Organic Farm, Kingham (24th May – 4th June), Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire (7th – 11th June), Oxford University Parks, Oxford (14th – 25th June), Chiswick House & Gardens, London (28th June – 9th July), Windsor Great Park (12th – 16th July), Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames (19th – 23rd July), Barrington, Burford (26th July – 6th Aug), Frampton on Severn, Village Green (9th – 13th Aug), Minchinhampton Common (16th – 28th Aug), Marlborough Common (31st Aug – 10th Sept) and Stratton Meadows, Cirencester (13th – 24th Sept). The tour returns to Fennell Farm for the last shows from 27th – 30th Sept.

For further info and to purchase tickets across the tour visit [giffordscircus.com](http://giffordscircus.com)

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

# Stroud Shakespeare Festival

By Matt Shinn

**Friends, Stroudies, countrymen,  
lend me your ears: the Bard is coming  
to town this summer...**

Stroud Shakespeare Festival is a brand new open-air theatre extravaganza in the beautiful surroundings of the Museum in the Park, situated (fittingly enough) in Stratford Park. Over the course of three days, there will be a wide range of events to suit theatre-goers of all ages: not just performances of plays, but also workshops, live music, and opportunities to find out more about Shakespeare's work.

Festival Director Alan Mandel Butler works at SGS College as part of Five Valleys Productions, a company that gives students a taste of the realities of the theatre industry. For him "Shakespeare can sometimes be presented in a very dry way within the school curriculum: it's very much about how the plays are analysed. Whereas for me the real joy of Shakespeare is being able to live it, breathe it and see it. That's what it was designed for."

There are other Shakespeare festivals out there, of course. But part of what will make Stroud's different is the fact that the events are focused on a particular location, rather than being spread out around a town.

Then there's the way that Stroud Shakespeare Festival combines many different art forms. "Stroud and South Gloucestershire have so much wonderful art – not just performance art, but visual art too," says Alan. "There's so much happening, we wanted to bring that all into one location. It's not just

about putting on Shakespeare plays: it's about connecting with people who do performance poetry, with musicians, and with artists who are creating unique pieces specifically for the festival. It's playing to Stroud's strengths: the fact that for a small town, we have so much creative talent here." Art installations will include a Sonnet Tree: a full-size tree, with descriptions of how to write a sonnet, and the invitation to have a go yourself – writing couplets on luggage tags that you can tie to the tree.

As well as having ticketed performances of Shakespeare's plays, there will be a lot at the festival that's free: people can come along and be a part of it, even if they don't know anything about Shakespeare. And that includes kids: a major focus of the festival is on younger audiences who may have no connection with Shakespeare as yet – primary school children, and teenagers too. It's no accident that the festival takes place during half-term.

What Alan Mandel Butler is aiming for is something between a literary festival and music festivals such as Latitude or End of the Road, which have their big stage spaces, but then also have lots of little experiential things that happen around the edges. Another example he gives is Secret Cinema, which provides an immersive film experience, combining screenings with interactive performances in purpose-built sets. "As soon as you

step into the festival there will be loads of different things, with everything you see being linked in some way. But that's just as it was for the theatre-goers of Shakespeare's time. It was an all-round experience: you went to see and be seen, you went to hear music and watch some dancing, or look at the beautifully painted canopy of the Globe. And just as it was in Shakespeare's day, this is for everyone: it's not pricey, it's not elitist."

Full performances will include Romeo and Juliet and Twelfth Night, while other productions are inspired by Shakespeare plays in a variety of ways, some of them quite unexpected. "One of the things that has excited me about the submissions that we've had – and that wasn't in the remit – is how many of the shows are about championing the women in Shakespeare, celebrating the female roles in the plays. Amazing female characters like Lady Macbeth and Desdemona: people are taking scenes or characters as their own inspiration. We also have improvised Shakespeare, which I'll be very interested in seeing."

The long-term vision is for Stroud Shakespeare to match the town's other wonderful festivals. "We don't want to step on anyone's toes," says Alan, "but we want to form part of the season of festivals that there is in Stroud, including the Stroud Film Festival and Stroud Fringe (which is supporting us). We're throwing Shakespeare into the mix. Though there are some

great Shakespeare-related events around Gloucestershire (open-air performances at Berkeley Castle, for example), there isn't a Shakespeare festival in this area. But we're not just putting on traditional Shakespeare, we're trying to bring in a new audience, trying to bring something interesting and different to the plays. That's not to discount traditional Shakespeare: we have some wonderful traditional performances, but engaging with something new is really what we want to do. As time goes on, we want to be a place where people can try out something different."

Though the main performance spaces are now all spoken-for, Five Valleys Productions, the team who are putting the event together, are still open to proposals from emerging and established theatre performers, writing companies, dance companies and artists who produce work for children and families. They're also looking for volunteers to work in various roles, such as stewarding.

Stroud Shakespeare Festival will take place at the Museum in the Park, Stratford Park from 31 May to 2 June 2018. For a detailed listing or to contact Five Valleys Productions, visit [stroudshakespearefestival.weebly.com](http://stroudshakespearefestival.weebly.com)

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Matt Shinn runs Whole New Chapter Ltd, a Stroud-based editorial and design agency. [wholenewchapter.co.uk](http://wholenewchapter.co.uk)





# Theatre Listings

## COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE

FRI 4TH

### Baroque Theatre Company: Twist

Twist is a stylish comedy thriller directed by award-winning Adam Morley. Presented with echoes of 'Pulp Fiction', it will be edgy, slick and cool. Tarantino meets British farce in the rip-roaring comedy thriller that will have you guessing until the shocking end! This will be the first time the play has been toured professionally in the UK. 7:30pm £12

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

## STROUD SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

31ST MAY – 2ND JUNE

A brand new open-air theatre festival for Stroud and South Gloucestershire, set in the beautiful surroundings of the Museum in the Park just outside the town centre. Over the course of 3 days the festival will present a diverse programme of theatrical events to suit theatre goers of all ages, including headline theatre performances, workshops, live music and opportunities for all to get involved in the theatre of the great William Shakespeare...

[stroudshakespearefestival.weebly.com](http://stroudshakespearefestival.weebly.com)

## SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

FRI 25TH

### Split Second Productions: The Importance of Being Earnest

One of the most cherished plays around the world, Split Second Productions present Oscar Wilde's hilarious classic – performed by two men. Playing every part. Prepare to take a different turn with Wilde's much-loved Algernon, Jack, Gwendolen and Cecily, as town and country clash in a brilliant and wildly funny story of romance, identity, perambulators and capacious handbags. 7:30pm £20.50/£15.50concs

MON 28TH

### Tutti Frutti Presents: Keepey Uppy

Keepey Uppy is a play for the 2018 world cup year, for football fans, non-football fans, children and families. With few words and bold physicality, fab footie moves, flicks, sidesteps and original live music. Join tutti frutti as they celebrate the joy of the beautiful game and ignite children's imagination with visual and physical storytelling. 11am and 4pm £9adv/£6concs/£25family of four

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

## NAILSWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

THURS 24TH

### Nailsworth Festival: An Evening with Sir Richard Eyre

The theatre and film director, Sir Richard Eyre, will talk about working with actors and show clips from several of his films, including his most recent film of King Lear with Anthony Hopkins. He has been the recipient of numerous directing awards. Many will recall his stage musical, Guys and Dolls, and film, Notes on a Scandal, amongst others. He was Director of the UK's National Theatre between 1988 and 1997. 7:30pm £10

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

## NAILSWORTH TOWN HALL

FRI 25TH

### Nailsworth Festival: LipService Theatre – Withering Looks

2018 is the 200th anniversary year of Emily Bronte's birth. LipService Touring Theatre takes a look at the lives of the Bronte sisters.....well, two of them as Anne's just popped out for a cup of sugar. Peopled with some of the greatest characters from the Bronte canon, and some, quite frankly that LipService have made up, Withering Looks is an irreverent and hilarious theatre event to savour. Winners of a Manchester Evening News Theatre award and Critics award for Comedy at the Edinburgh Festival. 7:30pm £12

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

## BERKELEY CASTLE

TUES 1ST – SUN 20TH

### Split Second Productions: The Importance of Being Earnest

After the sell-out success of 'A Christmas Carol' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', Split Second Productions return to Berkeley Castle with one of the greatest comedies ever written. It's going to be Wilde! 7:30pm £20adults/£15under 18's

[berkeley-castle.com](http://berkeley-castle.com)

## BARN THEATRE CIRENCESTER

FRI 18TH MAY – SUN 17TH JUN

One Minute

A child goes missing, vanishes into thin air, leaving a tender, fragmentary play about the inarticulacy of grief. One Minute follows several connected characters through their struggles with Daisy Schultz's disappearance: the two policemen investigating the disappearance; Daisy's mother Anne; and Marie Louise, a woman who glimpsed Daisy after she had been separated from her mother. Robert is new to the police force, and his enthusiasm for the case is keener than that of his cynical colleague Gary. Mary Louise begins a strange friendship with a woman who knows Gary from the café where she works. Anne's life has stopped: she wants to know when 'missing' becomes 'presumed dead'. One Minute is a disquieting portrait of the lives that are united in the single moment it takes for a child to disappear. Check website for times and ticket details...

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

# Comedy Listings

## THE MARSHALL ROOMS

SUN 13TH

### CrazyBird Comedy Club: Hal Cruttenden, Alf, Susan Murray, MC Geoff Whiting

The iconic Marshall Rooms in Stroud is the venue for The CrazyBird Comedy Club's next outing! Legendary resident MC Geoff Whiting who has been missing in action for the last three shows will be back with a vengeance to host the show and ease you into the night. First on the bill is Birmingham born Susan Murray who has emerged as one of the best female stand-ups in the UK and recently starred in Stephen K Amos' 'Idiots Guide' for Radio 4. Keeping you royally entertained in the middle section is a comedian with a very fast growing reputation, the supremely talented 'Alf' who made it through to the final of the prestigious 'So You Think You're Funny' competition in Edinburgh. Headlining the night is TV star Hal Cruttenden one of the one of the top comedians working in the UK today. Already this year he has appeared on 'Rob Brydon's Annually

Retentive' for BBC3 and has just finished writing and performing in 'The Omid Djalili Show' due to be aired on BBC1 towards the end of the year. He has recently performed on Live At The Apollo as well as Mock The Week...7pm £15 from Trading Post or email [crazybirdcomedy@gmail.com](mailto:crazybirdcomedy@gmail.com).

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

## CHRIST CHURCH NAILSWORTH

WEDS 23RD

### Nailsworth Festival: Comedy Night with Tony Vino, Fran Garrity and Andy Kind

Building on the success of last year the 2018 Festival offers a three comedian line up! The show will be compered by Andy Kind, opened by Fran Garrity and headlined by Tony Vino, with all three having considerable experience on the comedy circuit. Andy's stand-up style can best be described as "the joyful rant of a post 30 chaos vacuum". Fran Garrity has an assured delivery of finely crafted materials: "Fran never fails to deliver, he is dependable with a sharp dry delivery. He came up with one of the best lines of the night which brought the house down" – Nibbles with Giggles. Headliner Tony Vino has been touring the comedy scene since early 2005. Well aware of social and political issues he mixes friendly well thought out observational humour with audience interaction and quick witted responses: "uplifting style, great delivery and consistently funny throughout" – Sam Walker, BBC Manchester. 7:30pm £8

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

SUN 15TH APRIL - 24TH JUNE

## EGYPTIAN BELLY DANCE

CLASSES

with HAZELKAYES

Sundays

6.30-8 pm

£45 – 5 Classes

£80 – 10 Classes

Come & have fun dancing

Stroud Yoga Space  
Traditional Egyptian Dance

For further information & dates please contact Hazel:

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