

# GOOD ON PAPER

**ISSUE  
#41**

**Inside:**

**Stroud  
Block Party**

**Alex  
Merry**

**Penny  
Parkes**

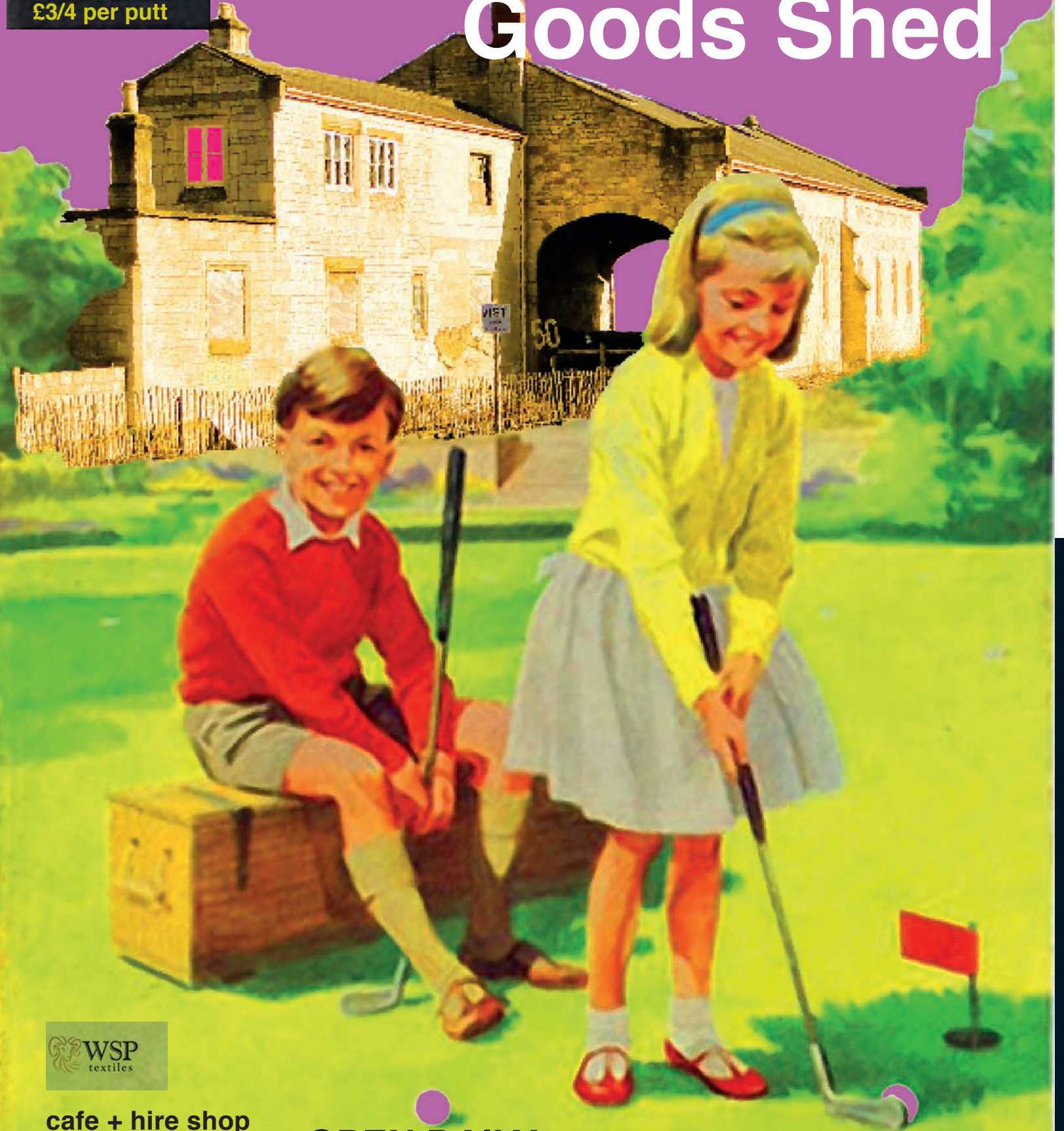
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Discover the Artists | Simon McCorry | The Outer Fringe | Chris Head

**8b**

£3/4 per putt

# Crazy Golf at the Goods Shed



 WSP  
textiles

cafe + hire shop



**OPEN DAILY**

**4th Aug - 2nd Sept 10am - 4pm**

**Opening party: Friday 3rd August 6-8pm**

# Editor's Note

**Welcome to the forty first 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...**

For the past three years our August issue has taken shape as a bumper Stroud Fringe Special with a guide to the various stages (including our own!) and the artists performing over the bank holiday weekend.

This year the Stroud Fringe team are taking a well-earned break, charging their batteries and planning their return in 2019 however luckily enough for us Stroud dwellers there is still plenty going on as event organisers across the Stroud District step up to fill the temporary gap!

Stroud Block Party move indoors across two venues to bring you hip-hop legends (and legends in the making), Crazy Golf returns to the SVA Goods Shed, the Crown and Sceptre once again assembles the Gurt Yurt in their garden for the annual Outer Fringe and Laurence Kapoor (organiser of the Food Street at the Fringe) has just opened up a brand new bar and street food kitchen in the old JRoof.

You may also wish to grab your tent and embark to some of the other festivals taking place just around the corner including the Didmarton Bluegrass Festival, Frocester's annual Beer Festival and the Phoenix Festival in Cirencester...

If you have children don't forget to pick up our brand new sister title Earwig! Visit [earwigmagazine.co.uk](http://earwigmagazine.co.uk) for further info.

### Alex and Adam

**FRONT COVER:** Alex Merry **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Christopher Taylor, Lucy White, Sean Roe, Sarah Edmonds, Matt Shinn and Nikki Owen **CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHY:** James Kriszyk, Tammy Lynn Photography and Katie Jane Watson

**NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:** Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen, Stroud Theatre Festival, Elisa Lodato, Ery Burns, the Mighty John Street Ska Orchestra and much more!!

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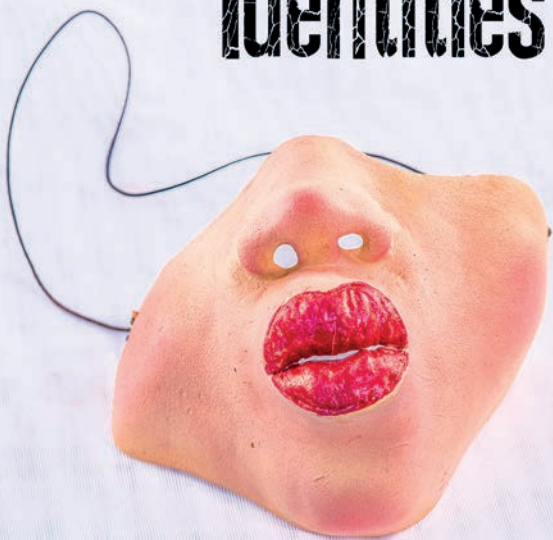
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## Fractured Identities



31ST JULY - 11TH AUGUST 2018

10AM - 4PM

LANSDOWN GALLERY, LANSDOWN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GL5 1BB



## The Importance of being Earnest



National Trust

### 'The Importance of being Earnest' by The Pantaloons

Friday 10 August, 7pm at Newark Park  
The Pantaloons are bringing their hilarious version of this Oscar Wilde classic to the Newark lawn.

Tickets are available to purchase online:  
Adult £13.50, Child £8.



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# STROUD BLOCK PARTY

By Christopher Taylor

**If you have a penchant for hip-hop then you've no doubt heard of Stroud Block Party and have probably experienced one of their now legendary events. I met with Neil Wilson, Will Cookson and Tom Berry who founded the collective back in 2014 to find out how it all started, the highs and lows and what the future holds...**

**How did Stroud Block Party start?**

**Neil:** We're two sets of DJ's, Tom and Will as Stroud Calling and myself Dubbu. We play a similar type of music, off vinyl, genres like Funk, Hip Hop, Soul and Reggae, we played a few gigs together and then the idea came about putting on a stage. I planned to do a stage at the Fringe Festival and then Tom and Will wanted to do the Fringe Festival as well and we pooled our resources and did something together. We wanted to do something completely different, something new for Stroud. We wanted to come up with a new fresh idea...

**Tom:** We've all been massively influenced by the music of New York. We wanted that spirit of New York, bring it to the five valleys of Stroud. Make something quite unique.

**Will:** We liked the idea of mixing up the urban and rural by bringing an inner city vibe to a small town in the countryside. The Fringe was the perfect setting.

**So out of that idea and spirit what was the reaction to the first year and what do you take from it for future events?**

**T:** We were terrified nobody would come. The first day we opened up there was literally a handful of people there, but by the third night we had over a thousand people out on the streets. Then we knew we were on to something. The act that really set it off was Boca 45, who played on the Friday night, and then DJ Shepdog on the Saturday night. It just absolutely kicked off!

**N:** When it came to the actual

organising the construction of the block party, we didn't really know what it was going to look like, what it was going to be. We had a lot of help from Lottie Lyster at The Prince Albert and Julie Howe from the Fringe Festival.

**W:** We really thought about the aesthetic and the way we promoted the party but then it just took on a life of its own as it was adopted by the wider community.

**T:** Everybody just came together on the day, we didn't have lights and then somebody showed up with those, somebody showed up with some décor to put all round the stage...

**N:** Also, the biggest thing, was the actual location: It's never been used for a party before, the majority of people didn't even know where it was! We told people it's a loading bay of a shopping centre, and they we're still no clearer where it was. It was a case of listen for the music and you'll find us. Build it and they will come.

**You've had some pretty impressive acts play your stage over the years, can you tell us about how those shows went?**

**T:** The highlight for me was the second year, we had DJ Shepdog come back, and he came with Rodney P, who is one of the originators of UK Hip Hop. Around 1,500 people turned up and the whole place was just rammed.

**W:** Seeing an artist like Rodney P live off that crowd was really special!

**N:** One of the favourite bits for block party for me is the meeting we have each year where we just talk about artists who we want and then build a wish list. So the first year we had a few names and we were very tentative about how to approach them. Now that we are established, we've got the reputation behind us, we know people are going to turn up, so we can open the book with more confidence to contact people from that wish list. To prove that we've approached Grandmaster Flash, Sugar Hill Gang, DJ Format, and they've heard of Stroud Block Party!

**Your success has brought the crowds and the acts, as this gets bigger how do you address putting on bigger shows?**

**T:** We've always taken health and safety really seriously and we've always worked very closely with both security and the Council to make it safe, like you say we've really been the victims of our own success. People have just wanted to get in. We moved the venue in the third year to a much larger site and even that hit capacity. What we are looking for now is a site that can hold a large party. That's meant we had to rethink exactly the sort of site we can hold it in. We're working closely with the council to try and find a site for next year. The appetite in Stroud is there, it's just making sure it's a safe event.

**Tell Good On Paper about some of the events you have coming up....**

**N:** Children Of Zeus is a really interesting booking, they've been slowly building on the scene. Their audience has grown massively over the past 12 to 18 months. They come with a really good reputation for a live show and the quality of music is just amazing.

**T:** Interesting because they are young hip hop act, but very soulful. For me their forerunners for acts like Soul II Soul. We are putting them on with Mr Thing, who's probably one of the world's greatest DJ's and a former member of the Scratch Perverts – putting them together will be a really great combination.

**You've also snagged the legendary Grandmaster Flash – how did that happen?**

**N:** Well we were quite lucky. He was in the country touring and he happened to be free on that night. And we were delighted when he confirmed he could play the Subscription Rooms. Have to also say a big shout out to Joe Dymond and the rest of the team at the Sub Rooms for helping it happen!

**What do you think the future of the Stroud Block Party holds?**

**N:** That's a tough one. We really need the backing of Stroud District Council to understand what we are trying to do. And to work with us actively to find a solution for what the people want. I think you need to understand what we're trying to do.

**W:** We want to promote the area for the vibrant and exciting place it can be.

**T:** Also to inspire a younger generation of people into this culture, a lot of young people aren't exposed to the origins of Hip Hop culture and we want to provide an opportunity for them to experience this first hand.

**W:** And maybe it inspires their life down the line to go and create something themselves...

Mr Thing and Children Of Zeus takes place at The Marshall Rooms ([themarshallrooms.co.uk](http://themarshallrooms.co.uk)) on Saturday 25th August, tickets cost £16 (plus booking fee). Grandmaster Flash at the Subscription Rooms ([subscriptionrooms.org.uk](http://subscriptionrooms.org.uk)) will be held on Sunday 26th with tickets costing £26 (incl. booking fee). Follow Stroud Block Party on [facebook.com/stroudblockparty](https://www.facebook.com/stroudblockparty) and [instagram.com/stroudblockparty](https://www.instagram.com/stroudblockparty) for further news and updates.

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**Christopher Taylor is a creative producer in the advertising and marketing industry, also specialising in film and music presenting for TV and Radio. - [weareaudiophiles.com](http://weareaudiophiles.com)**



Image by Tammy Lynn Photography



Children of Zeus



Grandmaster Flash

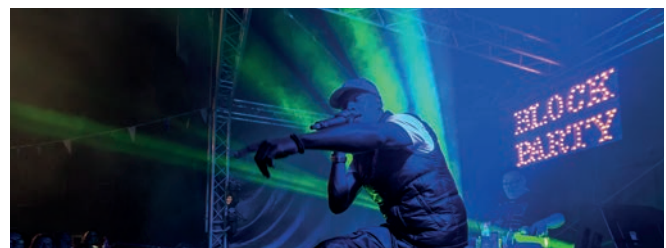


Image by Tammy Lynn Photography



# The Outer Fringe

By Lucy White

**Sipping cold lemonade on the terrace of the Crown and Sceptre on a hot summer morning, Rodda bubbles over with enthusiasm as he talks me through the stellar line up for the Outer Fringe -the annual summer extravaganza up at this well-loved community pub.**

In his nine years as landlord, Rodda Thomas has been a champion of local entertainment, with a year-round programme of live music events. For many years the Outer Fringe event at the Crown and Sceptre has run alongside the Stroud Fringe, which Rodda played a key role in organising in years gone by. This year however with the main Stroud Fringe Festival taking a well-deserved break the Outer Fringe will be on hand with a packed line-up more than enough to keep all comers heartily entertained, fed and 'watered' this August.

To warm up for two full weekends of festivities, on Thursday 23rd August local MC Gavin Pond will be hosting 'Probably the Best Comedy Night Ever' at the pub.

Bank Holiday Weekend then kicks off in lively style with three bands playing through the evening on Friday 24th, headlined by local soul, funk and blues rock band Hipkiss. Friday also

sees the grand opening of the annual Beer Festival, with 30 different ales and ciders available throughout the weekend.

Saturday's programme will be headlined by London dwelling folk rockers the Treetop Flyers who are on the cusp of releasing their new album, alongside performances from The Meekers, with performances from local bands such as Dry Seamen, The Lost Submarines, The Scrutineers and newcomers Plush Replica.

Sunday will be a day of surf-punk vibes headlined by The Lone Sharks, with performances from The Meekers, Forgetting Curve, I, The Lion, Mr Markos Outer Space Emporium, 3 Litre Capri and The Bob Porter Project.

There will also be a Barbecue Competition sponsored by Webber Barbecues. Contestants will produce a range of classic barbecue dishes at intervals throughout the day, topping it off with full creative license to serve up their own signature 'show-stopper' barbecue dish. There will be a barbecue demonstration from pro grillers Shane McBagley of Bison Kitchen and the Crown and Sceptre cooks will be serving up the goods for spectators.

Bank Holiday Monday (August 27th) tops off the weekend with an all-day Open Mic. All are welcome to bring their talents to the stage and rock out in front of a nicely warmed up audience of Bank Holiday revellers. Erin Baker of the Natural Cookery School will be offering her hugely popular Vegetarian Pad Thai throughout Monday, and of course Katie's kitchen will be open all weekend serving Outer Fringe special menus to fuel the fun and frolics.

The following weekend kicks off with Silent Movie Night on Thursday,

featuring live musical accompaniment from The Harding Players. This event will be ticketed at £5 a head and will show golden oldie faves from Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.

Friday 31st brings more live bands, headlined by Crown and Sceptre regulars The Soul Destroyers - a fantastic fourteen piece band in real Blues Brothers style. Alongside them will be performances from The Pulsations (full on rock and roll with a nod to The Rolling Stones) and others to be confirmed.

Saturday 1st of August will be a (hopefully) sun-soaked celebration of Caribbean reggae culture. There will be four live reggae bands (Frankly Skankly, Subduction, The Dub Thieves, Arankas Cackle) as well as the DJ Jerksauceproject sound-system bringing the vibes all day long. To really get into the flavour of Reggae Sun Splash there will be mouthwatering Caribbean food on offer all day with carnival faves such as Jerk Chicken and Curry Goat on the menu.

Sunday September 2nd will feature a Great British Cake-Off competition, so bring along your meltingly moist Vicky Sponge or surprise the judges with a unique creation. Chalford Silver Band and the Boss Morris dancers will bring a summer fete atmosphere to the Vintage Afternoon Tea Party from 12. Everyone is invited to tuck into entries from the cake competition and help raise funds for the library at Cecily Court in Minchinhampton.

Make sure to stick around for the Dog Show at 3pm, which is sponsored by Clockhouse Vets and always a highlight of the Outer Fringe. Last year saw 74 dogs competing in rounds such as the obstacle course and best party

trick to win fabulous doggy prizes and rosettes.

As well as throwing a brilliant party for the town, each year the Outer Fringe supports a different charity. This year the event will raise money for The Halo Trust ([halotrust.org](http://halotrust.org)) who are teaching children in Syria to stay clear of dangerous landmines, a charity that was close to Princess Diana's heart during her lifetime. Remember to share the good vibes of the weekend.

The Crown and Sceptre have fantastic community support for their events. Rodda and his son Ruan, the staff and the many willing locals who volunteer to prepare and run the event each year look forward to give you a warm welcome! Their one request is that you please don't try and park close to the pub. It only takes a couple of cars to block the road for local access, so Rodda implores you to be considerate of the community by parking a little further afield.

Frankly, with such a marvellously packed programme of musical and culinary delights for all ages and appetites, it's going to be pretty tough to top the Outer Fringe for a summer weekend to remember. I'll be there with bells on that's for sure.

Visit [crownandsceptrestroud.com](http://crownandsceptrestroud.com) and see the music listings for further info.

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 Lucy White is a freelance writer and creative based in Nailsworth, mostly to be found in the woods or by the river when not at her desk. Specialising in web content for creatives, local businesses and entrepreneurs at [glowingphrases.com](http://glowingphrases.com), [instagram @ lucyrosek](https://www.instagram.com/lucyrosek)

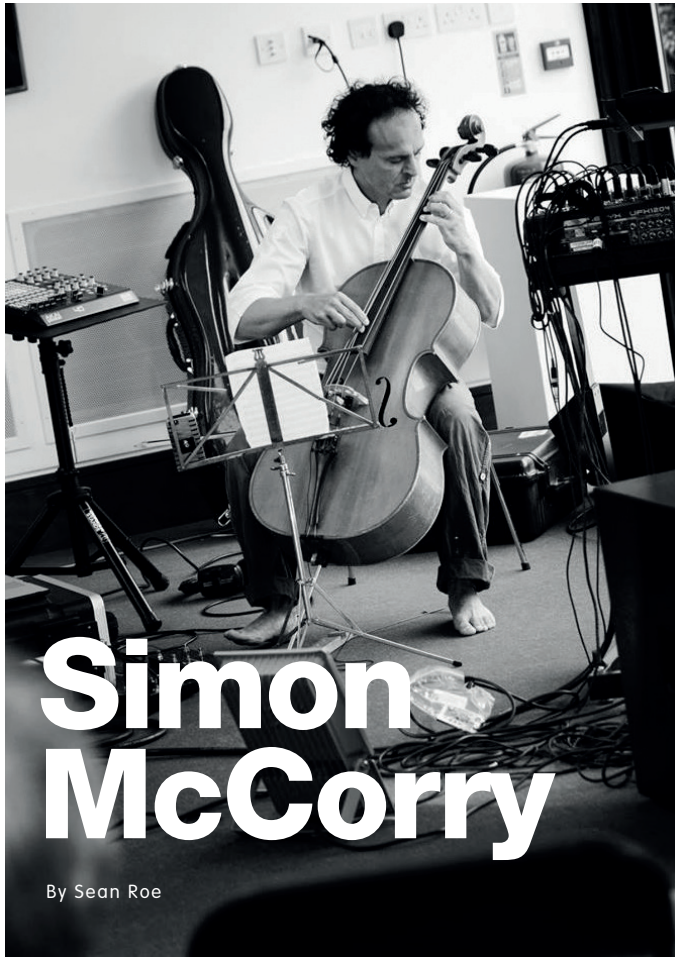


Image by Alexander Caminada

**All though having lived in Stroud for many a moon cellist and composer Simon McCorry's debut local performance only took place last year at the Good On Paper stage at the Stroud Fringe Festival followed by performing live with the Stroud Fringe Choir and another solo show back in June at the new series of Sounds for A Small Space events at the Museum in the Park. I caught up with Simon at his studio at the Centre for Science and Art to talk about his unique approach to music making and the release of his new album Song Lines...**

**When did you develop an interest in music and what instrument did you play when you started out?**

At the age of 7 I was more interested in recording. My sister was given a shoe box tape recorder for Christmas and I thought the idea of being able to record the sounds around and about me very cool, so when at school the class was asked who could play the recorder I thought that was what they meant! Anyway, I got recorder lessons which was fun and a couple of years later every kid got the chance at another instrument. I wanted to

play the trumpet, we lived in a small one bedroom flat so my mum said no way and I got cello lessons instead. I found the cello to be a way to explore and articulate feelings I couldn't in any other way and enjoyed the mind space it gave me. I was lucky to be in a London state school at a time when a lot of resources went into music, so I went through the London School's Symphony Orchestra and Centre for Young Musicians. I've also played bass guitar, guitar and melodica.

**How do you go about writing your music? It feels like there is a fair**

**amount of improvisation, when performing live are pieces you've rehearsed very different from one performance to the next?**

Actually four of the tracks on my last release *Blue* are quite carefully constructed. The basis is six unsynchronised patterns that can be a phrase, a single note or texture with silence. The main melody line is written, but in performance breathes to interact with chance meetings in the underlying loops. I work hard to create an ambiguity of key (or tonal home) and time, which takes some thought. These pieces are played from written music and should be able to be performed by others. I try to familiarise myself totally with the music so I can perform it as if it has just been freshly discovered.

**Outside of your solo projects, both recorded and live performance, do you have to undertake other work to survive and thrive as a musician?**

For about 17 years my main work has been writing music and creating sound design for theatre which has taught me lots, especially exploring playing and making music I wouldn't think I would. I've written tangos, waltzes, jigs, faux baroque, drum and bass, hip hop versions of nursery rhymes, brass band music as well as rearranging existing music. It's silly stuff in one way, but has opened up my personal musical landscape and how to juxtapose moods and textures. I also write and record library music and that has become an important part of my income. My favourite work has been in contemporary dance and in a sense I owe my journey back to myself and my recent refocusing on my solo work to that, especially to choreographer/dancer Julia Cheng and her company House of Absolute.

**There seems to be a number of approaches you take to explore your musical ideas, on the one hand there are quite dense soundscapes, but then there are also some pieces that are very melodic. Could you say something about the processes involved in creating your music?**

I have a few musical ideas/techniques that I have developed over the years and these expand into different pieces. One idea is using loops that don't meet. The idea came from watching nettle leaves twitch on a rainy day. In my feeling they were communicating with each other, in my head I understood that water was building up on leaves in the tree above and when the weight was too much the water was released dropping it on the nettle. I started working with pieces using loops of different prime number beat lengths. These work well for theatre underscores as they are not obviously predictable and don't force an actor into a rhythm. The music holds a space without being dominating and without staying the same.

**When did you come to Stroud and what drew you towards the town?**

I arrived in Stroud about 15 years ago. It was the heart that drew me. My wife Louise was already living and working in Stroud. I had been living in Watford after previously living in London and had been thinking of living somewhere quieter for some time and never quite had the nerve to move from what I was used to. I'm generally a solitary person and need head space. The first few years here I walked and walked without a map getting lost. I love the tight wooded valleys and how when you are above a certain level it looks flat and the valleys disappear. Stroud is also a kind place for artists, different ways of being and difference in general. I doubt there are many places in rural Britain that are.

**You have a new album due out later this month - please tell us about it!**

Yes *Song Lines*. It will be released at the end of July on Naviar Records. The material has different roots but through reworking and rerecording has taken on a narrative. In the Autumn I was working on a dance piece called *Orlando Warrior*. It occurred to me how nudging a melody micro tonally and rhythmically in different directions, changing the emphasis and intention it would sound as if it was from another continent or musical tradition. In some ways that should not be surprising. Music carries the strata of human migrations, even the instruments we use show that. Hence the title *Song Lines*...



*Song Lines* will be released via Naviar Records ([naviarrecords.com](http://naviarrecords.com)) on the 28th July. Simon's previous releases including *Blue* are available now on Spotify, Bandcamp, iTunes and Amazon. For further info and updates visit [simonmccorry.com](http://simonmccorry.com)

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Sean Roe is based in Stroud and runs Stroud's new independent record shop Sound Records Stroud with Tom Monobrow ([facebook.com/soundrecordsstroud](https://facebook.com/soundrecordsstroud)). He is also an artist and musician and member of synth post-punk duo Junk Props.

# Music Listings

## ALE HOUSE

### FRI 3RD

#### Los Gusanos

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. With Los Gusanos, expect hard swinging Jazz and Blues with hints of Latin-inspired grooves. A collective based across Bristol and London, It was formed by established Soul, Jazz and Blues musicians who work together in various projects and come together to play in top form. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 11TH

#### Southside

Southern rock and Americana. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 18TH

#### Jimbo & Griff

Veterans of blues, ragtime, folk and good times, Jim Reynolds returns to the Ale House with partner in crime Dave Griffiths. Expect an evening of outstanding vocals, guitar, bass and mandolin. Jim's stunning guitar playing delivers blues, ragtime, old fashioned ballads and some wonderful instrumentals. An exceptionally talented singer/songwriter Jim ranks among the greatest. Dave's mandolin and bass add intricate and atmospheric support with extraordinary empathy. In his own right his soloing on both instruments is show stopping. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 24TH

#### Liam Ward Band

Get your mojo working with the epic harp-driven sounds of vintage American dance music: Chicago blues, west coast swing and funky, soulful roots music. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 25TH

#### Lewis & Dav

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

### SAT 25TH

#### Albino Tarantino

Stroud based Latin Blues band. Think Buena Vista Social Club being beaten up by Tom Waits while Ry Cooder watches...8:30pm Free

### SUN 26TH

#### Lewis Clarke & The Essentials

Acoustic based with roots in folk and blues. Bristol based live musician Lewis Clarke and his band performing original compositions and little heard of folk, soul and blues gems. 8:30pm Free

## THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

### FRI 3RD

#### Meekon Man and the Cry Babies

Playing garage rockabilly tunes that their fathers taught them, this band will remind you that the best place to enjoy live music is in your local pub...8:30pm Free

### FRI 10TH

#### Chinese Burn

Stroud's punk rockers will play a typically noisy electric guitar type set toward the end of the night but will also attempt to play an acoustic set of songs early evening - we're not making this up! 8:30pm Free

### THURS 16TH

#### Open Mic

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

### FRI 17TH

#### Luke Philbric and Damon T.

Original roots music drawing on traditional blues and folk influences. Startlingly powerful vocals, raw delta blues styled guitar and an almost tribal foot-stomping beat combine to create a special atmosphere. Songs are distinctive and original relating to subjects such as slavery, losing one's religion, death, woman-hood and raising ghosts to help write songs! 8:30pm Free

### FRI 24TH

#### The Outer Fringe: Day 1

Beer Festival opens at 6pm! Live Music starts at 6.30pm... Hipkiss: Soul, funk, blues rock fronted by saxophonist Patsy Gamble and guitarist Muddy Manninen. (9:30pm) Free

### SAT 25TH

#### The Outer Fringe: Day 2

Beer Festival opens at Noon...Live Music starts at 1pm! Dave Purple: Seasoned blues harp player, vocalist and guitarist (2:15pm), The Scrutineers: Local indie/pop/alternative duo (3:30pm), Plush Replica: A cosmic blend of psychedelic rock and modern electronic dance music (4:45pm), The Lost Submarines: Debut gig by the Stroud dwelling foursome (6pm), The Dry Seamen: These lickspittles landlubbers are the urban shipwreck waiting to happen...(7:30pm), Treetop Flyers: London based folk rockers "like witnessing some stoned gods at the Fillmore East in '69." (9:30pm) 12pm Free

### SUN 26TH

#### The Outer Fringe: Day 3

Beer Festival opens at Noon, live Music from 1pm! 3 litre Capri (1pm), Mr Markos Outer Space Emporium: Soundscapes, big beats, big bass and 80's synths in a sci-fi stylee. (2:15pm) Bob Porter Project: A fine blend of Americana, roots, rock and blues...(3:30pm) I, The Lion: Post-punk trio from Cheltenham (4:45pm), Forgetting Curve: post-stoner, surf rock power trio (6pm) 7.30 The Meekers: The West Country's own energy fueled explosion of garage rock and good times. (7:30pm). The Lone Sharks: South West's pop-punk kings (9:30pm) 12pm Free

### MON 27TH

#### The Outer Fringe: Day 4

Stroud's Big Open Mic hosted by the Very Reverend Stretch! 2pm (Beer Festival opens at 12pm) Free

### THURS 30TH

#### The Outer Fringe: Day 5

Silent Movie Night screening Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin films with live accompaniment from the Harcourt Players! 8pm £5adv from the pub and Trading Post

### FRI 31ST

#### The Outer Fringe: Day 6

Thee Pulsations: Pulsating Psychedelic

Blues Explosion Retro Rock (7:30pm), The Soul Destroyers: thirteen piece soul/pop/cheese/funk/groove party band! (9:30pm) Free

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

## LITTLE VIC

### SUN 12TH

#### Barney's Live Music ft. Mike Silver

Monthly music club at the Little Vic (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 Mike Silver - folk musician with nearly fifty years' experience and 18 albums to his credit. Floor spots available if you fancy joining in! 7:30pm Free (suggested donation £4)

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

## THE MARSHALL ROOMS

### WEDS 1ST

#### Speed-Master Records Presents: Xadium, Tristan Gorman

Xadium: Alternative hardcore band formed after numerous exhilarating jam sessions in the bands' hometown of Malmesbury and in their college practice room. It was there that their energetic and brutally grooving brand of alternative and post-hardcore punk rock was born, sealing their position as one of the leading guitar bands in the South West underground scene...Tristan Gorman: Tristan performs acoustic renditions of songs from his punk rock band, Sunset Sunday, alongside some staple covers. He has also been a part of many other projects since 2014, including post-grunge band, Osmium Blacksmiths, and his latest project, All Smiles In Wonderland, who take more of a post-hardcore approach. Sunset Sunday are currently on hiatus after a hefty tour supporting their latest album, Not Just A Phase, including an appearance at Glastonbury Festival 2018. £7adv

### FRI 3RD

#### Dirty Bourbon River Show

Defly melds sounds that range from hard-edged blues to Lisztian piano driven ballads to New Orleans brass into a result that is truly a blast of new energy into the musical landscape. Dirty Bourbon grabs hold of audiences, fascinated by their eccentricity and dexterity coupled with their ability to harken back to by-gone eras in music. Since forming in early 2009, the Dirty Bourbon River Show has released 10 studio albums and played over 1000 live shows, fast earning them a stellar reputation for their tight, multi-faceted sound and high-energy performances. 8pm £10adv

### FRI 3RD

#### JK Rollers

After the Dirty Bourbon River Show settle in for some great music brought to you by the MR's resident DJ bros JK Rollers. Jake and Jasper have a delightful eclectic taste in music and are always open to a few suggestions. Dance, ragga, house and pop - but always the best of each genre. 11pm-3am £6

### FRI 10TH

#### JK Rollers

Jasper and Jake are back on it...10pm-3am £6

### SAT 11TH

#### Midlife Crisis

Four of Stroud's oldest DJ's. Bean (Greys

Zone). Sam Taylor (Zone). Blakey (Maltings Zone Riga), Jamie Rainbow (Mumbo Jumbo Fantasia Zone). Playing house music uplifting classics and broken beats..10pm-3am £6 in advance

### FRI 17TH

#### JK Rollers

Sounds for dancing played by the JK Rollers machine, sometimes with special guests but they are pretty fab by themselves. Old skool, happy and lots of disco. 10pm-3am £6

### SAT 18TH

#### Jack Tyson Charles Band

Jack Tyson Charles has spent the last 5 years channelling the musical history and energy of his London hometown to cultivate his own unique brand of 'Epic Soul'. Armed with a seriously enviable backing band, Jack's musical journey has culminated in the 'Restoration EP', where the vintage sounds of his influences blend with his own inimitable vocal style to create a glorious modern soul sound.

### FRI 24TH

#### Imperial Leisure

From their humble beginnings in London as party band born out of school friendships, Imperial Leisure go from strength to strength, forever evolving their style but sticking true to their reputation for delivering fun and high energy live performances. Taking influences from all around, the music is a fun-loving throwback to the ska-2-tone era combined with more recent punkrock-hiphop sounds. 8pm £12adv

### SAT 25TH

#### Stroud Block Party: Children of Zeus, Mr Thing

The guys that brought you the Block Party events at Stroud Fringe have a very special evening at the MR! First up Mr Thing has been non-stop perfecting his art since 1987 and is now one of the world's leading DJs. Touring the world with an understanding of records and music that is second to none, he always creates flawless and exciting sets mixing some of the rarest records with some of the best loved records ever heard. Children of Zeus are two of Manchester's most respected artists Konny Kon and Tyler Daley. Konny Kon is a DJ, MC and beatmaker best known as one third of Broke 'N' English alongside fellow Mancunians DRS and Strategy. Tyler Daley, also known as Hoodman went from being a respected MC and actor to one of the most in demand soul singers of recent times, lending his vocals and writing credits to music from Goldie, LSB, Soul II Soul's Caron Wheeler, Lenzman, Buggy Malone, and more. 9pm until 3am £16adv from Trading Post and Eventbrite

### FRI 31ST

#### JK Rollers

Closing down the month the JK Rollers skank it up and schmooze it down. Anything goes as long as it's round and groovey. 10pm-2am £6

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

## MUSEUM IN THE PARK

### SAT 11TH

#### Sounds for A Small Space: Kevin Buckland, James Dick, Phonosonic

Sounds for a Small Space is a regular music event with artists performing live work with an emphasis on accessible and engaging new music that fringes on the experimental. Kevin Buckland: Composer, electronic



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musician, improviser, field-recorder, photographer and solo Bassist - though usually not all at the same time. His music has featured at installations and exhibitions around the UK; including the 2016 Lightworks event in Grimsby, the recent Sounding Images exhibition at the Barber Institute of Fine Art in Birmingham, and last year's highly successful Token Victory exhibition at IKLECTIK in London. James Dick: Vocalist and lyricist for the Red Propellers and Junk Props. Phononic: Multimedia artist Phononic (Alexander Caminada) combines his blend of original video with live instruments and electronic music. 7:30pm

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

## THE PRINCE ALBERT

### THURS 2ND/23RD/30TH

#### Open Mic and Decks

For the summer the Albert are adding Open Decks to the mix - and Open Mic will be changing in the autumn. But for now if you fancy a sing, to read some words or just to bash out a riff then come to Stroud's longest running OM. Originals rather than covers preferred! They believe in you...8:30pm Free

### SAT 4TH

#### Vinyl Night: DJ Phil G and Midge

Phil Gallagher (DJ Phil G) ran the chilled Sunday Vine-L Record Party sessions in The Vine, Cheltenham from 2013 for three years. His musical interests are wide-ranging, and he plays an open-minded mix of records from many eras. The Albert are also lucky to have Scott Graff (DJ Midge), a veteran of the decks coming out to treat you to his favourite spins! 7:30pm Free

### SUN 5TH

#### Reggae Roast

An array of food from Jamaica Inn and sounds from lover's rock to rub-a-dub stylee will fill the yard over the afternoon. Come for a friendly skank and get some grub and life will be great. 1pm Free

### MON 6TH

#### Trongate Rum Riots

Yup - music on a Monday that's not Baroque? WTF. Well the Albert's good friend in the North Tam Balloch who knows what's what asked them to host this lot on their way to the Netherlands... the pub said yes. Originally a sea shanty band the band has evolved over the past seven years to incorporate the many genres its troupe of musicians bring on board. Their style ranges from sweaty punk to dirty folk, with the occasional bluesy lick and Balkan riff, and is equally as visceral in its plugged-in form as it is in its stripped-back acoustic set. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 9TH

#### Brooke Sharkey

With a vocal style that switches effortlessly between lithely melodic and fiery, set against a deeply atmospheric musical backdrop, comparisons with the likes of Kate Bush, Ane Brun and Cat Power are inevitable. 'Wandering Heart' is the title track of her new album. This album is a selection of songs written about the last 3 years of her life traveling, playing shows, busking and tells stories of people, places and delves into alternative ways of living and loving and their struggles. 8:30pm Free

### FRI 10TH

#### That Dog Was A Band Now

Alt-folk music by a band of clown-schooled troubadours from Canada,

Sweden, and the USA. Having met at clown school in California, back in 2013, That Dog Was A Band Now has earned quite a reputation for putting on a show. They sound great and are a perfect band for a rare Friday Albert gig...8:30pm Free

### SAT 11TH

#### Kate Stapley

Kate has been writing poignant yet playful songs and playing them to rooms full of people, sometimes loudly, sometimes quietly for 8 years. When the Albert asked her to play she asked how many of her own tracks could she get away with and we said ALL originals cos' the covers are not what the pub is about! When someone writes this good they need to be heard! 8:30pm Free

### WEDS 15TH

#### Ben Catley

Western Australia's Ben Catley will be bringing his high energy, feel-good coastal roots music to festivals around Australia, New Zealand, Asia and UK throughout 2018. Expect frantic guitar playing, grooving footstomping and a huge energy that rivals that of a full band. Dripping in sweat and shouting into his acoustic guitar, Ben is a captivating performer with some serious feel-good vibes and interesting guitar tricks. 8:30pm Free

### THURS 16TH

#### Ministry of Swing

Conceived and nurtured in the Stroud Valleys the Ministry Of Swing is the final authority in bebop, ballads and swing jazz. Their unique style is in part due to their varied musical influences; gypsy, classical and folk styles weave their way into a 30's swing and modern bop sound which is exhilarating and compelling. The players are ravishingly skilful, invariably leaving their audiences in as much astonishment as if they had been elevated by an ecstatic transport of some divine frenzy...8:30pm Free

### FRI 17TH

#### Jack Tyson Charles

Jack plays an evening of some of his own compositions and some popular tunes (this is not a covers night!) on the piano. Jack is doing a two night residency in Stroud with the first laid back night up here before he explodes on the town at The Marshall Rooms with his band Saturday. Jack Tyson Charles has spent the last 5 years channelling the musical history and energy of his London hometown to cultivate his own unique brand of 'Epic Soul'. 8:30pm Free

### SAT 18TH

#### The Chromatones

Cotswolds-based studio band The Chromatones have been friends and musical collaborators for over 40 years, during which time they have worked with many artists individually and sometimes collectively, including Arizona Smoke Review, Kevin Brown, Johnny Coppin, Matt Clifford (Rolling Stones), Decameron and Andy Fairweather Low. Tonight will be their debut as a live working unit, performing original songs from their new album "Michelangelo" together with some interesting jazz, rock, funk, folk and swamp interpretations. 8:30pm Free

### WEDS 29TH

#### PA Line

An award-winning band from Buffalo, N.Y. Their unique style of harmony-packed/funky Americana-Rock has previously been described as Mumford & Sons meets Rusted Root. After a massive 2017, opening up for some big acts such as Floodwood, Rusted Root, & Rumpke Mountain Boys, they are hitting the road in 2018 to support their

upcoming full-length release. No show is the same and they will be sure to have you up on your feet. 8pm Free

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

## THE OUTER FRINGE

### FR 24TH - SUN 26TH AUG / SAT 1ST - SUN 2ND SEPT

This year the Outer Fringe at the Crown and Sceptre will be on over two weekends at the end of the summer all in the big tent in the Garden where there will be all manner of events taking place!! See Crown and Sceptre listings for further info...

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

## STROUD BREWERY

### THURS 9TH

#### Five Valleys Session

Local musicians meet at Stroud Brewery on first Thursday of the month to play traditional folk tunes, mostly from Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, France with a smattering of Danish and North American tunes. Everyone welcome, to listen or to play. 8pm Free

### THURS 16TH

#### Bagelites

Every second Thursday of the month, local musicians gather to play folk and gypsy style traditional tunes. Come along and enjoy the atmosphere. 8pm Free

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

## SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

### FRI 24TH

#### Gary Clail Sound System

Emerging from Bristol's early post-punk scene, back in the eighties one-time roofer Gary Clail began to make musical waves with his white-boy toasting over the dub splendours of the On-U Sound reggae stable as a warm-up at their live shows. With his strong Bristol burr and ragamuffin stage presence, Gary has remained a force of nature ever since. He has a polemical street passion that remains undiminished and his socially conscious pronouncements of dissent are both unsettling and yet sometimes extremely funny. 9pm £12

### SAT 26TH

#### Stroud Block Party: Grandmaster Flash

Emerging from the South Bronx in the early 1970s, Grandmaster Flash is inarguably one of Hip Hop's original innovators. In the earliest days of the genre, he manipulated music by placing his fingers on the vinyl, perfected beat looping, and discovered many of the most iconic beats still commonly sampled today. Today, he's the voice of an entire generation of 1970s hip hop pioneers. From his electric live shows, to his production role on Neflix' The Get Down, Grandmaster Flash is at once a historian, a storyteller, and a cultural force...9pm £26

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

## VA

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

#### 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

### THURS 2ND

#### Albino Tarantino

Live session/practice from Albino Tarantino with latin vinyl in the spaces. 8pm Free

### THURS 14TH

#### Stroud Jazz Sessions with Adrian Gibson

Stroud Jazz Sessions offer an audaciously warm welcome to Adrian Gibson their special guest trumpeter. Come to the splendid SVA for his set at 8:30pm followed by the usual energetic-frenetic jam open to all to play, sing or listen. 8pm £5otd/£3musicians

### SAT 4TH

#### DJ Cerveau

DJ Cerveau has been a resident and popular DJ in the south west scene including The Palm City, Milk & Honey and Influence. Playing house, garage, hiphop, funky, dancehall, reggae...8pm £6adv/£8otd

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

## TETBURY GOODS SHED

### SAT 18TH

#### Le Swing

Back by Popular Demand - Le Swing bring to The Goods Shed their unique blend of female jazz vocal, acoustic and electric guitars, double bass and occasional trumpet to perform an evening of French chanson and American songbook classics, delivered in their own gypsy jazz-inspired style. 7:30pm £10.50

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

## FROCESTER BEER FESTIVAL

### FRI 24TH - SAT 25TH AUG

A cricket field, beer, cider, wine, music and lots more...For over thirty years the Frocester Beer Festival has been serving the local community and recently the world! It is a fantastic event which attracts nearly six thousand people over two days on the August bank holiday. The ethos of the festival is for you to enjoy a fine selection of ales, whilst raising much needed money for local charities.

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

## DIDMARTON BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

### FRI 31ST AUG - SUN 2ND SEPT

One of the UK's premier Bluegrass, Americana and Old-Time music events, held every summer at Kemble Airfield in greenest Gloucestershire. Now in its 30th year, Didmorton 2018 is hosting another awesome line-up of International and UK artists.

[didmorton-bluegrass.co.uk](http://didmorton-bluegrass.co.uk)

## PHOENIX FESTIVAL CIRENCESTER

### SAT 25TH - SUN 26TH AUG

Two-day festival featuring eclectic music from the Cotswolds and the wider area, with a host of stalls, traders, artists, food and drink and charities hosting stalls at the event. The action packed event will also feature children's activities and performance arts.

[phoenix-festival.co.uk](http://phoenix-festival.co.uk)

# CROWN AND SCEPTRE AUGUST EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 1ST	STEAK NIGHT	Booking essential
FRIDAY 3RD	MEKON MAN & THE CRYBABIES	Rockabilly!
FRIDAY 10TH	CHINESE BURN X 2	The Jekyll and Hyde sets!
THURSDAY 16TH	OPEN MIC	Hosted by the Reverend Stretch
FRIDAY 17TH	LUKE PHILBRICK & DAMON T	The Blues
THURSDAY 23RD	COMEDY NIGHT	Hosted by Gavin Pond
FRIDAY 24TH	THE OUTER FRINGE & BEER FESTIVAL	Beer Fest open at 6pm Fri & 1pm Sat
SATURDAY 25TH	OVER TWO WEEKENDS!	LIVE MUSIC all afternoon all weekend
SUNDAY 26TH	See our full page ad on the back cover for more details	
MONDAY 27TH	Erin's Pad Thai noodle bar from 3 - 7pm	BIG open mic from 2-8.30pm
WEDNESDAY 29TH	THE CURRY LOUNGE	Booking Essential
THURSDAY 30TH	SILENT MOVIE NIGHT	By the Harcourt Players Tickets £5
FRIDAY 31ST	LIVE MUSIC FROM 7.30PM	Beer Festival
SATURDAY 1ST SEPT	REGGAE SUNSPASH!	Jamaican Food and Reggae all day
SUNDAY 2ND SEPT	Silver Band - Boss Morris - Tea Party - Dog Show	From noon - dogs to be registered from 2.30pm

For bookings and general info: 01453 762588  
crownandsceptrestroud.com

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# Alex Merry

By Sarah Edmonds



Image by Katie Jane Watson

**I meet Alex early doors, the morning after England beat Colombia in a penalty shoot out, "Stroud came alive at about 12 o'clock, there were so many revellers I hardly got any sleep," says Alex, rubbing her eyes, smiling. It doesn't take us long to get down to it, sipping coffees and marvelling at the whirlwind journey she's been on in the past year, working with superbrand Gucci creating incredible illustrations. I am endlessly surprised (and strangely proud) of the number of truly awesome creatives that live and work in the Stroud valleys – per capita, we must be one of the most artistic towns in the UK, nurturing more talent than in 15th century Florence at the time of Da Vinci!**

Alex was brought up in Stroud, one of three artist siblings and remembers Mills Cafe (where we're sitting right now) and Mother Nature from the early eighties. Her mother is a self taught artist, and her father was the local vicar, "Our house was a safe place for all kinds of people to come and talk to my dad – we grew up as part of a rich and loving community." Returning to Stroud has offered Alex the chance to pursue her creative ambitions without the crippling rent of London living. After studying Illustration at UWE she worked in Stroud for Damien Hirst, before following him to London where he opened another studio. She spent seven years as an assistant, painting photo realist work, before returning to Stroud to work for Darbyshire framers. Here she built a large team of local artists who collaborated on another high profile project overseen by Merry. It had been a busy ride and the time felt right to step back from the corporate art world and explore her own creative voice.

Stroud is a place she calls home and where she's gathered her band (or more specifically 'side') of all female Morris dancers called 'Boss Morris'

who perform locally and at festivals including Port Eliot Festival. Alex initiated the group but insists that this lively bunch of 'strong women' are a force to be reckoned with, organising practice meets and events as a team. She's been folk dancing for around ten years, and is totally passionate about the art "it takes you out of yourself, the rhythm, the music. The movement is

**"Instagram is central to any artists work nowadays. Receiving the conference call from Gucci head office in Florence was mind blowing!"**

kind of trance-like and spiritual – it's a joyful, collective experience. It really connects me to my Englishness." She's



even danced on stage with Belle & Sebastian at the Albert Hall...seriously.

We take an interesting tangent in our conversation as Alex enlightens me about the origins of Morris dancing, "what most people see or know about Morris dancing is the Victorian version – the bells, the white hankerchiefs and sticks....when in fact, it dates back to early 1500's when sides of athletic men known as 'Moresques' wore highly embellished, gold costumes and danced in palaces." It's true that the earliest mention of 'Moorish dancing' was 1448 with mention of sword dancing in a court setting and 'spangled Spanish dancers' performing 'an energetic dance' before King Henry VII. "I think Morris dancing exemplifies England today – a melting pot of different cultures. In Elizabethan times, Italy and England were closely connected – many of the dance sequences are thought to be Italian."

Alex has long been fascinated with folk art – it's more than a genre, it's a way of life. It represents community based art and real skills learnt over centuries, for no materialistic gain. Folk art is more decorative, characterised

by a naive style and a world away from the mass produced art world that she inhabited for so long. She cites varied influences such as artist and illustrator Kit Williams (best known for his 1979 book *Masquerade*, a pictorial storybook or 'treasure map' leading to a buried golden hare), the Surrealist painter Leonora Carrington OBE and founder of the Women's Liberation Movement in Mexico in the 70's and the book illustrator Mervyn Peake and his 'Book of Nonsense' poetry. She has an eclectic taste that influences her own illustrations.

Out of nowhere, Alex received an email from Alessandro Michele, the new creative director of Gucci asking her to illustrate a new range of monogrammed accessories. He found her paintings on Instagram via her brother James Merry, an embroiderer and mask maker who lives in Iceland and works for Bjork. "Instagram is central to any artists work nowadays. Receiving the conference call from Gucci head office in Florence was mind blowing!" Michele has been credited with moving the fashion house in a new, exciting direction. To quote a recent *Vogue* article, "Night and day

I am trying to cause a little revolution inside the company. Fashion is about creating emotion." His team have found fresh energy by collaborating with many relatively unknown artists as a way of promoting creativity without constraint.

Gucci have given Alex total creative freedom which has been a blessing, "I have remained very focused, determined not to be distracted by other artists. My style and methods are developing. If you look closely at my work you will see that not only the strong Gucci symbology is there, but my own too." In researching the brand identity, which dates back to the 20's, she drew upon the rich colour schemes of their catwalk shows, the interlinking G's, twisted serpents, evil eye, bumblebee and their signature green and red stripe. Alex employs an inherently English catalogue of references: crop circles, tarot cards, charts with their sun, moons and stars and mythological Druid creatures. Fans often compare her careful colour palette to those of Matisse, but she insists this was not a conscious inspiration.

Deadlines have determined a fast

turn around and multiple designs – some of which resulted in printed postcards for a Harrods product launch, others have been transformed into giant murals for 'Gucci street art' internationally. Other muralists include Ignasi Monreal, Unskilled Worker, Angelica Hicks – keep your eyes peeled for entire walls of eye catching artwork in cities all over the world! Or follow #gucciwall on Instagram. It's clear that Alex is on her merry way, and is up for the ride wherever it takes her! The quality of her art speaks for itself and she deserves every success.

If you'd like to commission a portrait by Alex (while you still can!), get in touch through her website: [alexmerryart.com](http://alexmerryart.com). For an A4 portrait in oil, prices start at £950. She takes human and pet commissions. Follow her on Instagram and facebook @alexmerryart

Sarah Edmonds, aka Word Bird, enjoys creative copywriting in the Stroud Valleys and marketing fine art materials and workshops for Pegasus Art. @SarahWordBird @PegasusArtShop

Exhibition  
Space:

# Discover the Artists



The Stroud Valleys and its surrounding area supports an exceptionally wide range of creative talent. Nailsworth Rotary Club recognises this and over the last weekend in August will be celebrating it by organising an exhibition and sale of original artwork, donated by over 120 known and up-and-coming artists from the art community. The event builds on the very successful Spot the Artist Charity Art Sale which has been run by the Rotary Club of St Ives for several years.

The public will be invited to view the exhibition and try to recognise their favourite artists

including the likes of Alison Cockcroft, Nicola Grellier, Saffron Knight, Peter Randall-Page, Deborah Roberts, Mark Stopforth and many more! Once the sale starts, all works will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

The collection includes a wide range of genres and media – landscape, still life, nature, abstract, street art, seascapes, watercolours, oil, acrylic, woodblock prints, linocut prints, screenprints, collage, mixed media, pastels, pen and ink and photography. Works are approximately A5-sized with signature and artist's details on the back. Each piece costs £40, the artist is not revealed

until the purchaser turns the work over – so it's a discovery!

The exhibition and sale takes place at the Subscription Rooms on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th August. The sale will be held from 2pm on the Saturday with proceeds going to Rotary Charities and the local arts community.

Visit [facebook.com/DiscovertheArtists](https://www.facebook.com/DiscovertheArtists) and [instagram/Discovertheartists\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/Discovertheartists_uk) for examples of contributing artists work and [nailsworthrotaryclub.co.uk](https://www.nailsworthrotaryclub.co.uk) for further info



# Arts Listings

## 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)

## ATELIER

**THURS 16TH – FRI 17TH/ THURS 23RD–FRI 24TH/ THURS 30TH – FRI 31ST**

### Creative Carers Summer Program

A shared studio space for creatives with childcare support, for children primary school age. The morning sessions will be making activities led by a local artists; Viviana Rossi-Caffell will be making mobiles on the 16th. Parents/carers stay and make. There is wifi, desk space, sewing machines and refreshments. All creatives welcome, all carers welcome, spaces are limited! Book via Atelier website. 16th/17th/23rd/24th/30th 10am–4pm/31st 10am–1pm

**FRI 31ST**

### Mother's Who Make

A space for all mothers at any stage in their practice. Mothers Who Make is a valuable space to share ideas, meet other creatives and make connections. 2–4pm £5

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

## 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 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, Susan Kester, Haruko Boot, Nick Purcell, Jo Caslin and Emily Seffar plus Lazy Dog Box guitars and Revelray custom guitars by Gordon Simpson. Mon –Sat 10am–6:30pm/Sun 10am–6pm

## ELVERS STUDIO

**MON 2ND – TUES 31ST**

### The Phantom Ship

A collection of pastel and water colours featuring 'The Remains' plus Pop art colourful acrylic necklaces and cosmic/celestial range of jewellery by Tristana.

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

## GALLERY PANGOLIN

**MON 13TH AUG – FRI 14TH SEPT**

### Sunny Side Up

Celebrating summer with sculpture and works on paper by all of the gallery artists, including two newly-issued coloured prints from the Terence Coventry Estate which are exclusive to Gallery Pangolin. Mon–Fri 10am–6pm/

Sat 10am–1pm

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

## LANSDOWN GALLERY

**TUES 31ST JULY – SAT 11TH AUG**

### Fractured Identities – A Photographic Exhibition by Jo Sutherst

The endless electronic messages and stimulus we receive from social media and other visual sources cause us to analyse and judge ourselves extensively through the eyes of others. The self is eroded and broken down. As a result, we find ourselves changing who we appear to be to meet the expectations of others. In Fractured Identities, photographer Jo Sutherst uses performance and self-portraiture to explore the ways in which social media affects the ways in which we present ourselves. Using a series of often comical props and cosmetics designed to enhance appearance, Sutherst explores the world of the media generated selfie. 10am–4pm

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

## MUSEUM IN THE PARK

**SAT 7TH JULY – SUN 5TH AUG**

### Yasemin Wigglesworth: A4

Yasemin is a local papercut artist who creates unique pieces of work. From a small home-based studio in Stroud, she cuts her own original designs from paper using a scalpel. Each piece is unique and entire, cut from a single sheet of paper. Nature and The Arts & Crafts Movement are her main sources of inspiration. This colourful collection demonstrates how a single piece of A4 sized paper can be transformed. Works are for sale and

proceeds will be donated by the artist to Duchenne UK. Tues–Fri 10am–5pm/ Sat–Sun 11am–4pm

**SAT 4TH AUG – SUN 2ND SEPT**

### Hannah Dyson: Landscape and Fairytale

Hannah Dyson studied Illustration at Brighton University and then the Royal College of Art. Since working as a freelance illustrator her clients have included The Idler, The Guardian, The Independent and BBC Publishing. She has lived in Stroud for the last eight years and has fallen in love with the rolling hills and mysterious valleys which surround the town. She's currently an artist in residence at Prema Arts Centre in Uley. Using ink, brushes and Rotring pens Hannah draws her elements and textures, then assembles, cuts and colours via a graphic, multi-layered digital image. She has a passion for paper collaging and drawing with shapes. Her inspirations include the work of Maurice Sendak, Edward Gorey, Richard Scarry and Tove Jansson. She is also fascinated by fairytales and folk legends, and her images sometimes hint at darker, other-worldly goings on the deep woods beyond the sun-dappled fields. Tues–Fri 10am–5pm/ Sat–Sun 11am–4pm

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

## STAR ANISE ARTS CAFÉ

**MON 30TH JULY – SAT 25TH AUG**

### Peter Gill: Forgotten

Local photographer Peter Gill, shares his contemplative and reflective approach to photography with an exhibition of explorations of forgotten and abandoned Gloucestershire. All taken within 10 miles of Stroud. There is



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*My Pretty Chicken Jon Buck*

## MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON



Private View: 18th August 2018  
Exhibition runs until 9th November

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## EXHIBITION

Creative Coterie at  
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Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August (pm)  
to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August.  
10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

The Great Oak Hall, Westonbirt Arboretum near  
Tetbury, GL8 8QS  
ree entry to exhibition after Arboretum admission

beauty in the lost, forgotten, decayed and abandoned. Mon-Fri 8am-5pm/Sat 8:30am-4pm/Sun 10am-2pm

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

#### STEVE RUSSELL GALLERY

**MON 20TH AUG – FRI 9TH NOV**  
**Mountains of the Moon: A Photographic Exploration of the Rwenzori Mountains – from Savannah to Snow-cap**

Steve Russell Gallery presents a collection of exquisite photographs, including some unique photofines, documenting what ancient mathematician and geographer Claudius Ptolemy termed the 'Mountains of the Moon' and their diverse and magnificent flora and fauna. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, other times by appointment. Private View Saturday 18th Aug – contact the gallery for an invitation!

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

#### SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

**FRI 24TH – SAT 25TH**

**Discover the Artists**

Nailsworth Rotary invites you to come and buy mystery artworks! Talented artists from Stroud and beyond have generously donated anonymous A5-sized original pieces to be sold in aid of charity. See them displayed in the George Room then come and buy your favourites for only £40 each on Saturday 25th August from 2pm and discover whose work you've bought...

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

#### SVA

**SAT 4TH – SAT 25TH**

**Stroud Summer Show**

A coming together of all of Stroud's many and varied artists and makers in one gallery space. The ambition is to tile the walls of the gallery with art. From floor to ceiling and back again, every spare patch of white should be covered. Open Weds and Sat 10am-5pm/Private view Fri 3rd 6-9pm (John Street Gallery)

**FRI 3RD AUG – MON 3RD SEPT**

**Crazy Golf**

The annual Crazy Golf returns! This year the 18 holes will be designed by the kids. The final selected designs can be seen in action for the whole month of August until the first weekend of September. 10am - 4pm. £3children (under 15yrs)/£4adults Opening event Fri 3rd 6-8pm (Goods Shed)

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

#### THE VAULT NAILSWORTH

**WEDS 4TH JULY – SUN 19TH AUG**

**Deborah Roberts Photographic Exhibition**

Images celebrating Cotswold grassland landscapes and their conservation in the Stroud Valleys.

Wed-Sat 12pm-11pm Sundays 12pm-7pm

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

#### RUSKIN MILL

**FRI 10TH – THURS 30TH**

**Sanctuary: A Place of Refuge, Safety, Peace**

Frances Clark-Stone's new collection of paintings includes responses to places which are dear and familiar to many. Open daily 10am-4pm

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

#### THE OLD PASSAGE ARLINGHAM

**JUNE 12TH – NOV 26TH**

**Between the Seeing and Dreaming**

A new exhibition ft. works by Anne Bate-Williams, Chris Bingle, Frances Clark Stone, Alex Collins, Sabine Crittall, Sally Ellwood, Angela Findlay, Sylvain Guenot, Pat Homewood, Sophia Hughes, Liz Lancashire, Rachel Markwick, Peter Maynard, Rachel McDonnell, Anthea Millier, Cathy Mills, Valerie Olsen, Kerry Phippen, Teresa Poole, Kel Portman, Vicki Portman, Deborah Roberts, Alisdair Shepherd, Chris Smith, Angie Spencer, Mel Steiner, Peter Sumner and Melvyn Warren-Smith. Open daily from 11am-2:30pm and 6:30-9:30pm (closed from 3pm Sundays and all day Monday)

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

#### PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

**TUES 26TH JUNE – SAT 4TH AUG**

**Andy Rose**

Wiltshire-based photographer Andy Rose has been truly bitten by the travel bug! In his exhibition Andy offers glimpses of his travels across Europe, India and the Arctic. His journey throughout life has been as varied as the locations he visits each year. Tues-Sat 9am-4pm

**TUES 26TH JUNE – SAT 4TH AUG**

**Owen Davey**

Owen Davey is an award-winning illustrator who lives and works in Leicester. Inspired by mid-century design, he uses a palette of warm, muted colours to create illustration and environments that are simultaneously contemporary and nostalgic. He has worked with clients from across the globe and is behind the Flying Eye best-sellers Mad About Monkeys and Smart About Sharks. Tues-Sat 9am-4pm

**TUES 26TH JUNE – SAT 4TH AUG**

**Vanessa Conyers**

Dorset-based ceramic artist Vanessa Conyers is renowned for her luxurious ceramics that deftly blend constructed earthenware clay with graphic textile prints, traditional enamel decals and shimmering metallic lustre. She graduated from Bath Spa University in 2004 and now exhibits in galleries across the UK and farther afield. Tues-Sat 9am-4pm

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

#### COTSWOLD SCULPTURE PARK SOMERFORD KEYNES

**SUN 1ST APR – SUN 30TH SEPT**

**Elemental**

The Cotswold Sculpture Park is home to "Elemental", a collection of exciting sculptures displayed outdoors. Open until the 30th September this years featured artists include Adrian Bates, Amy Vans, Andrew Lee, Bailey Curtis, Christine Baxter, Daniel Cordell, Doug Cormack, Fiona Campbell, Glenis Deverux, Gordon Senior, Jeanette Therrien, Jeremy Mousdale, Julie Grose, Katie Green, Katie Netley, Liane Lang, Martin Elphick, Mel Fraser, Michie Herbert, Nicola Godden, Paul Tuppeny, Renee Kilburn, Richard Baronio, Ros Burgin, Roz Read, Ruth Brenner, Sophie Marsham, Stathis Dimitriadis, Stuart Anderson, Tanya Russell, Wendy Stafford and William Harling. Open 10:30am-5pm (closed Tues and Weds)

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

#### CORINIUM MUSEUM

**THURS 2ND – SEPT 1ST**

**Cotswold Artists: Colour and Line**

Four artist friends who live and work in the Cotswolds, who are inspired by the landscape and buildings of the area.

Each has their own unique approach to painting and the methods they employ are many and varied. Ft. works by Daphne Malfiggiani, Valerie Jordan, Christine Smith and Ann Cracknell.

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

#### NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

**SAT 11TH AUG – SUN 21ST OCT**

**Banner: 100 Years of Protest**

This exhibition brings together two collections of banners separated by some 100 years and produced in two different continents: Suffrage banners from The Women's Library collection and contemporary banners from the Protest Banner Lending Library, a contemporary project by American based artist Aram Han Sifuentes. Each banner in the exhibition has been made by hand to express a political position in a succinct form.

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

#### WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM

**THURS 2ND – MON 13TH**

**Creative Coterie at Westonbirt Arboretum**

An exhibition at the Great Oak Hall ft. paintings, glassworks, picture frames and much more...10am-4pm Free entry with Arboretum admission

[forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt)



### YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION 2018

The **STROUD CAMERA CLUB** Young Photographer Competition 2018 is now open for entries and the closing deadline is midnight on 31st August 2018

All images entered must have been taken after 1st January 2018 and must be digital. We regret we are unable to accept prints

There are two age categories for entries: Under 14 years, and 14 to 18 years  
1st prize in each age group is a £150 photographic voucher donated by **Renishaw**  
2nd prize in each age group is a £75 photographic voucher donated by **Sigma Freight Systems**  
3rd prize in each age group is a £50 photographic voucher donated by **London Camera Exchange**

The **Richard Pearse Memorial Prize** of £100, donated by **Stroud News & Journal**, is an additional special award to the entrant submitting the photograph which, in the opinion of his family, would most have been enjoyed by the founder of the competition, Richard Pearse 1953 - 2017

The competition will be judged this year by **Martin Fry** FRPS APAGB EFAP AV-AFIAP BPE3

Finalists will be invited to the Awards Evening to be held on Wednesday 26th September 2018 at the Renishaw Innovation Centre.

Prizes will be presented by **Sabet Choudhury** from BBC Television's "Points West" and "Inside Out"

For details of how to enter and for full terms and conditions please visit  
[www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk/competition/](http://www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk/competition/)

Sponsored By





# Chris Head

**‘When I said I wanted to be a comedian, everyone laughed. Well, they’re not laughing now.’ These days if you want to follow Bob Monkhouse into a career in comedy, there are all kinds of people who can help you take your first steps. Budding stand-ups are particularly well-served, with everything from evening classes to university courses, teaching you how to milk the laughs and ride the heckles.**

By Matt Shinn

And who better to have in your corner than comedy connoisseur Chris Head? Stroud-based Chris works with comedians to develop and refine their stand-up acts, whether they’re new to the lonely stage and the microphone, or are among the biggest names in the laughter game.

Stroudies may know Chris from the stand-up courses he’s run here, teaching stand-up techniques such as misdirection, joke writing, and the development of a stand-up persona. “It’s interesting teaching stand-up in a small town like Stroud,” he says, “when I normally do it in London. There you have a high degree of anonymity: in Stroud you really don’t. I like to encourage my students to be quite revealing in their stand-up, but in a small town it makes it trickier to use the kinds of confessional material, about your relationship for example, that you might in a big city.”

Chris has also been instrumental in bringing comedy acts to Stroud, including as part of the Stroud Fringe Festival. But comics who are new to Stroud sometimes misread the town: “they sometimes think it’s like Cheltenham and other places in the Cotswolds – they tell jokes about Land Rovers and green wellies, and wonder why they’re not getting

laughs. Of course, for the comedians who understand Stroud a bit better, things like Green politics and Steiner education make much more effective comedy targets!” And increasingly, Chris has been working as a comedy director. It’s something that has developed naturally out of his courses for beginners: where those usually involve teaching in small groups, comedy directing tends to be more involved, providing ongoing, one-to-one support to people who are a bit further down the comedy career path. “That’s one way that comedy directing, as a thing, has evolved,” says Chris: “comedy courses lead to professional comedians coming on the scene who understand the value of working with someone else on their act – a second pair of eyes, a sounding board, a source of suggestions and advice.”

Another reason why comedy directing has become ‘a thing’ is the fact that stand-up comedians have become much more ambitious in what they want to do, particularly when their shows last an hour or more (as they do at the Edinburgh Fringe, for example). “Suddenly stand-up has some of the ambition of theatre, with narrative and emotional content, changes of pace, and use of music or projection.”

Chris encourages stand-ups to

explore a range of different registers: “I love it when you can make people laugh consistently, but also talk about things that are quite profound.” One of the things that Chris talks about in his new book (the first ever to be dedicated to the art of the comedy director) is all the different levels that a stand-up can hit: “a great comedian such as Bill Hicks can move effortlessly from the basest nob gag up through emotional stuff, to a transcendent, spiritual message. I think it’s amazing that the stand-up form can do that.”

Chris’s publication fits into a bigger trend, with many big-name comedians now working with directors to hone their acts. Contributors to the book include Gloucestershire-based actor and theatre director Simon McBurney, who worked with comedian Lenny Henry on his show *So Much Things to Say*. Often, says Chris, established comedians will work with directors when they want to try something different: “in Lenny Henry’s case, he had a desire to talk more truthfully about the politics of race, for example, rather than continuing with the more knockabout humour that he’d been known for.”

Finally, for Chris, stand-up directing involves a particularly intense form of collaboration, with the director helping

to co-create the material that the comedian uses. Yet often the director has to keep out of the limelight: the very term ‘stand-up’ seems to emphasise the isolation and bravery of the comedian, alone on a stage, apparently just being themselves. “You have to be happy to stay in the shadows, as a stand-up director. Nobody knows what you did, and many people wouldn’t think you’d done anything. They’ll say ‘that person just came on stage and started saying stuff – what did you do?’”



A Director’s Guide to the Art of Stand-up, by Chris Head, is published by Methuen. Good on Paper readers can get a discount code by emailing [chris@chrishead.com](mailto:chris@chrishead.com). For further info including

forthcoming courses visit [chrishead.com](http://chrishead.com)

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



# Penny Parkes

By Nikki Owen

**Community is the glue of society. It's the glue of Stroud, that ability to look out for each other, to care - it's what keeps us together when times get tough. Because, the more we build on our community, the happier we feel and the more settled life becomes.**

So what, then, has this got to do with fiction, and romantic comedy fiction at that? Step forward local author, Penny Parkes. An award-winning romantic novelist, before turning to writing, Penny studied International Management in Bath and Germany, working with the BBC, then setting up an independent Film Location Agency, but its books that are her first love. After taking a gamble and switching careers to become a full time novelist, in 2016 it all paid off when Penny won the coveted Romantic Novelist Association's top prize for Romantic Comedy of the Year, sitting alongside previous big-hitting, household-name winners such as Jojo Moyes and Joanna Trollope.

With one so successful, you might assume that Penny's attitude to life is somewhat higher, somewhat above all else, but you could not be more wrong. Penny Parkes, you see, is one of the most grounded, most considerate and most down-right friendly (global bestselling) authors you'll ever meet.

I was first introduced to Penny at a friend's birthday party. It was about three years ago and I was new to Stroud and, wanting to make me feel welcome, Penny came up to me with the biggest, warmest smile to say hi. Voluminous flowing hair, a fresh, happy face with freckles, and eyes that shone in a way only they can when a person's found their way in life, I soon came to realise that she is one big bubble of fun. We began chatting, and by chatting I mean laughing, Penny throwing her arms around and making me feel so welcome that I recall coming away that evening feeling I'd made a friend for life. And that's Penny all over, that bubbly yet thoughtful and, at times, quite deep and reflective quality, a quality that translates straight into her novels.

And they're some novels. Penny is

responsible for writing the bestselling Larkford series of books (published by Simon and Schuster). The latest, *Best Practice*, is just out now and is already set to top the audio charts following in the success of her previous two novels, *Out of Practice* (2016) and *Practice Makes Perfect* (2017). The popular series follows the fictional village of Larkford and centres on a GP surgery filled with doctors and their complex (love) lives, with the latest instalment, *Best Practice*, seeing the return of all the much-loved characters of the series so far, plus a crucial new addition or two.

On the surface, Penny's books seem familiar. Their covers have that accessible, frothy pink candy bounce to them, and certainly they are sunny and uplifting and downright fun, yet, what makes Penny's books stand out from so many others is that, un-peel the outer layer of her writing and what you'll find underneath is something else altogether more profound, thought-provoking and rewarding.

"I'm a mum, wife, daughter and author," Penny says, "but just occasionally it's important to stop and ask why am I doing all this. As my readership has grown, I've found myself coming back and asking why I do what I do, and increasingly, I keep finding parallels between my writing and home life."

By parallels, she is referring to the characters in her books, characters that, for Penny, have actually been a growing influence on her life.

"Normally," Penny says, "real life influences fiction, but with my books, I've found it's the other way around."

Two characters in particular have had a special influence on Penny's life. The first is Dr. Alice Walker, who joined the Larkford medical practice team, along with her medical detection dog, Coco, in the second book in the series.

Alice's motto is that anything in life worth having, is worth taking a risk for and jumping in with both feet.

The second influential character is the formidable octogenarian, Elsie Townsend, and as Penny talks about her, you realise quickly that it's this figure especially who's had the biggest effect on Penny and the way she now views life. "Elsie Townsend," Penny says, "oh wow, I wish I'd had one of those in my life back when I was growing up, someone who can say to you that yes, bad things do happen, but there is community and support and advice to help you come out the other side. That's what Elsie is to me and now, now I think, with my books, with the creation of Elsie, maybe I should be the one to pass it down, to pass her wisdom and advice on to others."

That passing it down, that highlighting the importance of achieving a strong sense of community is an ethos that, with her *Best Practice* novel, Penny has put into action. The novel sees the introduction of a new character, air ambulance service pilot, Chris Virtue, and not only does Chris provide new and in-depth plot lines to the Larkford series, he also brings with him something else: a spotlight on the Great Western Air Ambulance service. "The Great Western air ambulance is a charity and we assume it will just be there," Penny says when she talks about why she's included the charity in her book, a charity which she now actively fundraises for. "I thought about the notion that we just expect it to be there, that service. I thought about what that service really means to the community."

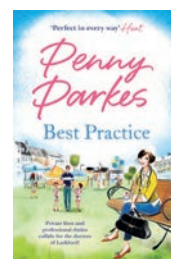
As well as supporting the Great Western Air Ambulance, Penny continues to write and has plans for the future. "I've just handed in *Private Practice*," Penny says of her next book. "It's out next summer, and there's

also a grand plan with my editor." I'm eager to hear more about the plans, but Penny can't say too much yet, only that she's looking at going even more in-depth, looking at the darker side of writing and comedy. And, of course, of community.

I end my chat with Penny by catching up on her family ("My children are my first readers!") and talking about what the Stroud author gang, which includes the prolific writer, Katie Fforde, means to her ("There's always someone on the end of the phone when things get tough - I couldn't write without them.")

We say good bye and, done, I sit back and smile. Because that's the effect Penny has on you. Whether it's through one of her bestselling books or via talking about air ambulance services or heck, even nattering about what to have for tea that night, Penny Parkes has that rare knack of making you feel as if everything in life will be alright. And as you read or listen, you begin to feel happier. And you find life feels more settled. Except this time, it's not fiction.

*Best Practice* published by Simon & Schuster ([simonandschuster.co.uk](http://simonandschuster.co.uk)) is out now. Follow Penny on [facebook.com/PennyParkesWrites](https://www.facebook.com/PennyParkesWrites) and [twitter.com/cotswoldpenny](https://twitter.com/cotswoldpenny) for news and updates.



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

# Literature/Spoken Word Listings

## ALE HOUSE

SUN 19TH

### A Night of Bards

Celebrating the birthday launch of Silver Branch: bardic poems by Kevan Manwaring, a glittering bardic showcase of poetry, storytelling and song featuring Earthwards (Jehanne & Rob Mehta with Will Mercer), Richard Austin, Jeff Cloves, Chantelle Smith, Wayland the Skald, Kirsty Hartsiotis, Anthony Nanson, Fiona Eadie, Robin Collins, Madeleine Harwood (3rd Bard of Hawkwood), Simon Andrews, Marko Gallaidhe, Kirsten Bolwig and Peter Please. Hosted by the author, who will be performing a selection from the new book. All are welcome. Come and be entertained! 7pm Free

## ATELIER

THURS 16TH

### Hand-Lettering 101 with Rose and Willow

You will start with exercises to practice making shapes and basic lettering. You'll then practice writing the alphabet, words and phrases with plenty of help and guidance on hand. By the end of the workshop you'll be well on your way to developing your own unique lettering style and master some of most popular. The workshop

will also touch on calligraphy, flourishes and brush-lettering. All materials are included in the ticket price, including a Hand Lettering Guide Sheet, some sheets of beautiful paper to practice on, a pencil, fine liners and templates to take home to continue with your new skill. 7pm £40

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

## MUSEUM IN THE PARK

TUES 17TH JULY – SUN 2ND SEPT

### Collections Display: Comic Book Cabinet

Don't miss the Museum's mini display of marvellous comics from their Collections! This display coincides with the Summer Reading Challenge organised by libraries across the country. This year the theme is 'Mischief Makers', inspired by the iconic Beano, which celebrates 80 years in 2018. Show your Reading Challenge passport to claim a special sticker when you visit! Free

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

## PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

TUES 26TH JUNE – SAT 4TH AUG

### Owen Davey

Owen Davey is an award-winning illustrator who lives and works in

Leicester. Inspired by mid-century design, he uses a palette of warm, muted colours to create illustration and environments that are simultaneously contemporary and nostalgic. He has worked with clients from across the globe and is behind the Flying Eye best-sellers Mad About Monkeys and Smart About Sharks.

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

## TETBURY GOODS SHED

FRI 31ST

### Yellow Lighted Bookshop Presents: An Evening with Patrick Gale

An evening with author Patrick Gale in which he will be talking about and read from his latest book Take Nothing With You. 1970s Weston-Super-Mare and ten-year-old oddball Eustace, an only child, has life transformed by his mother's quixotic decision to sign him up for cello lessons. Music-making brings release for a boy who is discovering he is an emotional volcano. He laps up lessons from his young teacher, not noticing how her brand of glamour is casting a damaging spell over his frustrated and controlling mother. When he is enrolled in holiday courses in the Scottish borders, lessons in love, rejection and humility are added to daily practice. Drawing in part on his own boyhood, Patrick Gale's new

novel explores a collision between childish hero worship and extremely messy adult love lives. Copies will be available to purchase on the evening which Patrick will sign and dedicate. 7:30pm £10

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

## NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

WEDS 1ST – FRI 3RD

### Calligraphy with Gaynor Goffe

Content will include learning a script, letter spacing and its use in lay-out and design of brief texts. More experienced calligraphers can learn/fine-tune scripts and/or experiment with script variations with led exercises and projects, and use in short texts, scripts to select from will include, italic, foundational hand, uncial, Roman capitals, italic capitals, copperplate amongst others. This 3 day calligraphy course is suitable for all levels – beginner to advanced – as much of the tuition is on an individual basis, with frequent group demonstrations. It is also suitable as a basic introduction to calligraphy for letter carvers. 10am-4pm £255

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

**Issue 2**  
of Earwig Magazine

**OUT NOW!**

August 2018

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

Tasty brains, good for me, doobie, doo, ba bop, yeah

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**THIS MONTH!**  
Ruff!  
By Rebecca Ashdown & Tara Burke  
Myths Near You  
By Hannah Dixon  
Tweedy  
An interview by Chris from Able and Johnson

**ALSO...**  
• Colour Me In  
By Jenny Bennett  
• How To...  
Make Pesto Bread with Salt Baked  
• Mr Bobblington  
Amazing Facts  
• Wild Mystery Detective  
By Wild Things  
• Competition!  
Win A Family Ticket to Giffords Circuit

**ISSUE 02**  
AUG 2018

# Theatre/Dance/Comedy/ Film Listings

## GIFFORDS CIRCUS

THURS 16TH – TUES 28TH

### My Beautiful Circus

The year 2018 is the 250th anniversary of the birth of circus. To celebrate this particularly English invention, Giffords Circus, the nation's most glamorous troupe, are throwing a summer-long party. In a gorgeous array of 1930's inspired sequinned dresses, tail coats and top hats the Giffords Circus company – talented musicians, Cuban acrobats, Italian gymnasts, Russian dachshunds, the girl with saucer eyes Nancy Trotter Landry and her talking turkey, Nell with the wonderful miniature ponies – is celebrating the golden age of circus. Directed by Cal McCrystal and featuring mischief-maker Tweedy the clown, the good times are going to roll. Gershwin, Cole Porter, Henry Hall, Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed provide the soundtrack to sultry nights under the canvas and the addictive fun of a circus company in full swing. Check website for times and to book tickets. (Minchinhampton Common)

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

## MUSEUM IN THE PARK

SUN 19TH

### IK Productions: The Three Musketeers

Join D'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos and Aramis as they travel the length and breadth of France saving the day, rescuing people in distress and generally being heroes. This hilarious comedy adaptation takes the audience on a whistle-stop tour around France, and still has time for a quick trip across the Channel. With swash-buckling physical comedy, fast-paced action and quick wit, IKP's production promises to entertain all ages. 5pm £12/£10concs/£8children

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

## RODBOROUGH COMMUNITY HALL

SAT 18TH

### Mikron Theatre Company: Get Well Soon

70 years of the NHS! All is not well at St Monica's Hospital. They're on life support; facing bugs, bed-blockers and a battle to save A & E. With tunes, transfusions and titters, join Mikron as they make a surgical strike on the state of our NHS...!pm (free – donations welcome!)

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

## RANDWICK VILLAGE HALL

SAT 18TH

### Mikron Theatre Company: Revolting Women

Fight for the vote. London. 1918. Sylvia Pankhurst meets Lettie Turner and they push together to Parliament, to bend the ear of the Cabinet. Full of political satire, song and more suffrage societies than you can shake a stick at! 7:30pm £13/£11concs from 01453 758138

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

## PAINSWICK ROCOCO GARDEN

SUN 26TH – MON 27TH

### IK Productions: The Three Musketeers

Come on a whistle-stop tour of France with three daring heroes who busy themselves saving the day as they travel the length and breadth of the country. IKP return with a hilarious comedy adaptation of the classic novel. Expect plenty of swashbuckling, sword-fights and subterfuge in this fast-paced and quick-witted performance. Suitable for all ages, under 3's are free. 3:30pm Tickets include access to the Garden and are on sale from everymantheatre.org.uk

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

## KINGSHILL HOUSE DURSLEY

SAT 11TH

### Downpour Theatre Company: The Witches

Kingshill House is excited to welcome Downpour Theatre Company who will be performing their Production of Roald Dahl's The Witches in Kingshill House gardens. A faithful adaption, bringing to life, a classic from one of Britain's most celebrated children's authors. Can one young boy and his Grandmother defeat the Grand High Witch's plan to turn every child in England into a mouse? A fun and magically way to spend a summer afternoon, as we journey from the mountains of Norway to a seafront hotel in Bournemouth, and meet a host of crazy characters, puppets, magic, frogs, mice and cackling witches along the way. Matinee 12pm/Evening 5:30pm £9adults/£7children

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

## NEWARK PARK OZLEWORTH

FRI 10TH

### The Pantaloons: The Importance of Being Earnest

A summer evening of outdoor theatre in the glorious grounds of Newark Park. Oscar Wilde's comic masterpiece gets The Pantaloons treatment in this anarchic take on the classic comedy of manners. Everybody loves Ernest. The only trouble is, he doesn't exist. Or does he? Bring a picnic and rug to make the most of this summer evening treat. 7pm £13.50adults/£8children

[nationaltrust.org.uk/newark-park](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/newark-park)

## BARN THEATRE CIRENCESTER

SAT 7TH JULY – SAT 4TH AUG

### The Rise and Fall of Little Voice

Olivier award winner for Best Comedy 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice' tells the heart-warming story of a reclusive Northern girl-next-door whose remarkable ability to impersonate the great singers of old brings her into the spotlight. Pushed by a foul-mouthed, hard-drinking mother and her equally unappealing talent agent boyfriend, timid 'Little Voice' will need to conquer more than just stage-fright if she is to find her own voice in the world. Named as one of the top 50 plays of all time and called a "A northern showbiz fairy-tale, a backstreet Cinderella story, with a built-in kick" by The Guardian. Directed by Award Winner Michael Strassen and featuring a full professional cast, Little

Voice has something for everyone. See website for times and ticket details.

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

## Comedy Listings

### THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

THURS 23RD

### Probably the Best Comedy Night in the World...

An evening of comedy hosted by Gavin Pond – line TBA...8pm Free

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

### SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

SAT 25TH

### Roy 'Chubby' Brown

He's back naughtier than ever. His choice of language and politically incorrect jokes are delivered with a cheeky grin and perfect comedy timing. His trademark flying helmet, goggles and coat of many patches, make him instantly recognisable as the man who put the "F" in Alice, in his version of "that" song. 7:30pm £25.50

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

## Film Listings

### CROWN AND SCEPTRE

THURS 30TH

### Silent Movie Night

Silent Movie Night screening Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin films with live accompaniment from the Harcourt Players! 8pm £5adv from the pub and Trading Post

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

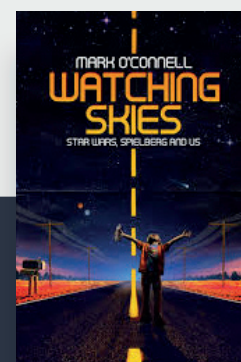
### THE PRINCE ALBERT

SAT 25TH

### Weinik

The Prince Albert and Mary Holditch present Weinik – a night exploring Palestinian culture through food film and funk. The event will start with a screening of Award winning docu-comedy The Wanted 18 followed by Palestinian dinner and Middle Eastern disco until late. Funds raised will go to selection of charities supporting the humanitarian needs of Palestinian's and independent journalism about the conflict. 8pm

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



## OUT NOW

### WATCHING SKIES By Mark O'Connell

Mark O'Connell didn't want to be Luke Skywalker, He wanted to be one of the mop-haired kids on the Star Wars toy commercials. And he would have done it had his parents had better pine furniture and a condo in California. Star Wars, Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, E.T. The Extra Terrestrial, Raiders of the Lost Ark and Superman didn't just change cinema – they made lasting highways into our childhoods, toy boxes and video stores like never before. In *Watching Skies*, O'Connell pilots a gilded X-Wing flight through that shared universe of bedroom remakes of *Return of the Jedi*, close encounters with Christopher Reeve, sticker album swaps, the trauma of losing an entire Stars Wars figure collection and honeymooning on Amity Island. From the author of *Catching Bullets – Memoirs of a Bond Fan*, *Watching Skies* is a timely hologram from all our memory systems. It is about how George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, a shark, two motherships, some gremlins, ghostbusters and a man of steel jumper a whole generation to hyperspace. \*action figures sold separately. Available now from Stroud based book publisher the History Press

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

Nikky & Sophia. Lewes, East Sussex.

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# STROUD FRINGE

OUTER  
SPACE



AT THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

FRIDAY 24th AUGUST - SUNDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

**BEER FESTIVAL • SILENT CINEMA  
BOSS MORRIS DANCERS • DOG SHOW  
REGGAE SUN SPLASH • BRASS BAND  
LIVE MUSIC & HOT FOOD ALL WEEKEND**

**AUGUST, FRIDAY 24TH:** TIGER 110's - HIPKISS

**SATURDAY 25TH:** DAVE PURPLE - THE SCRUTINEERS - PLUSH REPLICAS  
THE LOST SUBMARINES - DRY SEAMEN - TREE TOP FLYERS!

**SUNDAY 26TH:** BBQ COMPETITION - 3 LITRE CAPRI

MR MARKO'S OUTER SPACE EMPORIUM - BOB PORTER PROJECT  
I, THE LION - FORGETTING CURVE - THE MEEKERS - THE LONE SHARKS

**MONDAY 27TH:** STROUD'S BIG OPEN MIC HOSTED by the REV STRETCH  
MEAT FREE MONDAYS PAD THAI NOODLE BAR

**THURSDAY 30TH:** SILENT CINEMA NIGHT by the HARCOURT PLAYERS (£5)

**FRIDAY 31ST:** THEE PULSATIONS - SOUL DESTROYERS

**SEPTEMBER, SATURDAY 1ST:** REGGAE SUN SPLASH - JERK SAUCE PROJECT  
ARANKA'S CACKLE - DUB THIEVES - SUBDUCTION - FRANKLY SKANKY

**SUNDAY 2ND:** CAKE OFF - CHALFORD SILVER BAND - BOSS MORRIS  
DOG SHOW - TEA PARTY

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