

GOOD ON PAPER



**ISSUE
#34**

INSIDE:

**NELSON ST.
GOP PARTY**

**STROUD
WASSAIL**

**ADAM
HOROVITZ**

+

Cheltenham Illustration Awards | Bellow | Rebecca MacMillan | Katie Jane Watson



Museum in the Park
Award-Winning Festival and Events

Cathedral of Cloth: Life and Times at Ebley Mill

Saturday 3rd February – Sunday 4th March

In 2018 Ebley Mill celebrates the building of the Long Block at Ebley 200 years ago. The story of the mill reaches back to the early 1400s; it was owned by a fashionable man about town before Samuel Marling made it into the powerhouse of the Stroud Valley. The finest cloth for Victorian gentlemen was made there, but also material for 1960s dolly birds and racing car drivers. This fascinating exhibition reveals the stories of the famous people and the ordinary workers connected to the mill and includes many rarely seen items.

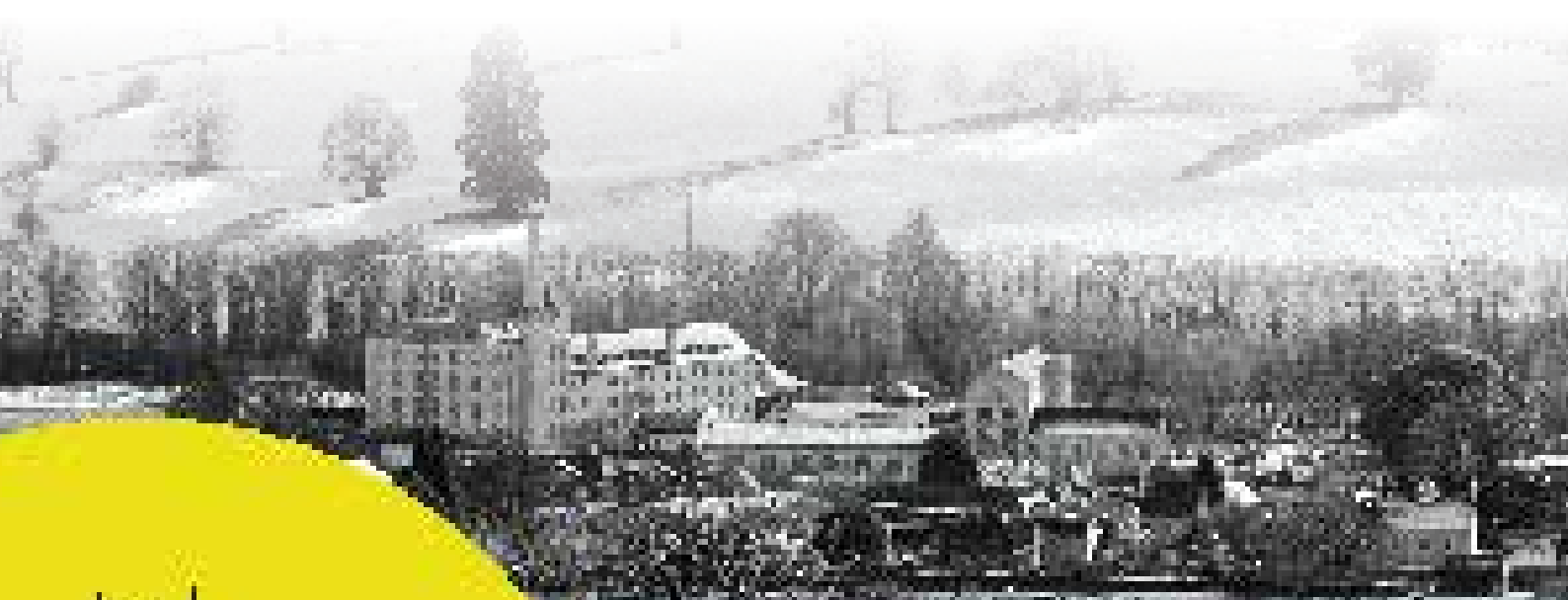


**Delivering accessibility
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and all accessibility facilities.**



LOTTERY FUND

Supported by the Heritage
Lottery Fund



Admission free, open Tuesday to Sunday
www.museuminthepark.org.uk

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

A New Year begins and brings with it our annual Good On Paper Party!

This time we will be taking over the Marshall Rooms and Black Book Cafe on Nelson Street with ticket holders getting a wrist band enabling you to move freely between the two venues to see the likes of Mesadorm, Near Future, Impromptu Shakespeare, Little Metropolis, Jonny Fluffypunk and much much more...Tickets cost just £13 and are available now from goodonpaper.info/events

As for the rest of the year we hope to introduce new sections to the magazine, announce more Good On Paper events and continue to provide you with a definitive monthly guide to events and festivals in Stroud - the place which just keeps giving...

Happy New Year to ye all!

Alex and Adam

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elcombestoves.co.uk

CHRIS MATTOS TAX

chrismattostax.co.uk

Fieldfare Café at Thistledown Farm



We're now open for lunch Wednesday to Sunday!

Our café is set in 75 acres of beautiful meadow and woodland overlooking Woodchester Park. We serve lunch from our wood-fired clay oven & charcoal BBQ Weds to Sun and brunch Sat & Sun. We use local, free range and Organic produce. Fine teas, coffees & delicious homemade cakes served 9am to 4:30pm. Why not come up for a

wintery walk and enjoy a hot drink with stunning views beside our woodburner!

Join our mailing list for details of events such as vegan tapas nights, storytelling sessions and foraging mornings. We stock delicious sourdough bread, our own preserves, Organic milk and more.

thistledown.org.uk 01453 860420 thistledown, tinkley lane, nympsfield, GL10 3UH

Nelson St.

G O P P A R T Y

Our annual Good On Paper party returns for a mini-festival of live music, DJ's, spoken word, comedy, poetry, theatre, a film screening, food stalls and pop-up record shops celebrating the magazine, the Stroud arts scene and an attempt to stave off them January blues!

This time we will be taking over the Marshall Rooms and Black Book Cafe on Nelson Street, with ticket holders getting a wrist band enabling you to move between the two venues...



The Marshall Rooms

Mesadorm

A collaborative project between Blythe Pepino (Vaults), Aaron Zahl, Daisy Palmer (Rae Morris, Goldfrapp, Lillian Boute), Jo Silverston (The Unthanks, Emily Barker and the Red Clay Halo, Frank Turner) and David Johnston (ZunZun Egui, Phil King, Chairfight!) bringing together a stunning array of musical concepts and timbres sitting somewhere between the domestic observation of Suzanne Vega and the powerful, elemental other-worldliness of Bjork... (10-11:15PM) [facebook.com/mesadorm](#) | [soundcloud.com/mesadorm](#)

Near Future

A new project featuring Neil Arthur, the Stroud dwelling front man of the legendary synthpop band Blancmange and Brighton based musician, sculptor, film-maker and co-founder of the Anti Ghost Moon Ray art collective that also spawned Gazelle Twin - Jez Bernholz... (9-9:30PM) [facebook.com/futureisnear](#) | [nearfuture.bandcamp.com](#)

Stroud Fringe Choir

A choir with a band philosophy put together by award winning composer Emily Hall. All the music is created by members of the choir - which currently features 18 members including the likes of Emily Barker, Blythe Pepino, Stephano Marlot, Misha Law and Melanie Golding - who all come from Stroud's rich musical community. (8-8:30PM) [facebook.com/StroudFringeChoir](#)

Grasscourt

Debut show of a brand new Stroud based band formed by well-known local author and illustrator Tom Percival and Matthew Lacey from defunct off kilter indie Bristolians OLO Worms. (7-7:30PM) [facebook.com/grasscourtband](#) | [soundcloud.com/grasscourt](#)

Good On Paper @ Stroud Fringe

2017 Film screening of performances and interviews with artists from the Good On Paper stage at the last Stroud Fringe ft. Manu Delago, Douglas Dare, Adam Betts, Modulus III and the Stroud Fringe Choir. (5:30-6:30PM)

DJ SETS:

Pavinly

Purveyor of fine vinyl with a hearse full of 45's from jump blues to northern soul with lots of oddball rock n roll in between. (1:30-2:10AM) [facebook.com/pavinly](#)

Dubbu

Stroud Block Party and Stroud and Gloucester Vinyl Connection's Neil Wilson dropping the heaviest funk, soul, hip-hop and reggae... (12:50-1:30AM) [facebook.com/DubbuNeil](#)

Stroud Calling

Neighbourhood DJ's Will Mendoza and Tom Monobrow; self-confessed music obsessives with a passion for sharing music from the past, present and future finding a common thread through Soul, Reggae, Hip Hop, Funk, Latin, Afro, Disco, Electronica and more... (12:10-12:50AM) [facebook.com/StroudCalling2010](#)

Junkroom Records

Artist, musician and GOP scribe Sean Roe covering everything from seventies rock, afro beat, jazz, experimental, electronica and much more... (11:30PM-12:10AM) [facebook.com/junkroomrecords](#)

Black Book Café

Impromptu Shakespeare

Bursting with love, poetry, comedy, tragedy, soliloquies, power struggles, mistaken identity and the supernatural, Impromptu Shakespeare (Ft. Stroud based actor, comedian and singer Rebecca MacMillan) buckle on the Bard's britches to bring you an entirely new and unique 'Shakespeare' play, based on audience suggestions... (10-11PM) [impromptushakespeare.com](#) | [facebook.com/impromptushakes](#)

Jonny Fluffypunk

A seasoned performance poet who offers a unique blend of poems, songlets, surreal banter, off-kilter observation, bitter autobiography and a simply most wonderful moustache... (9-9:30PM) [jonnyfluffypunk.co.uk](#)

Little Metropolis

Evocative poetry set to original music, exploring the peculiarities of growing up in a small town by poet Adam Horovitz and musician Josef Reeve. (8-8:30PM) [facebook.com/littlemetropolisalbum](#) | [littlemetropolis.bandcamp.com](#)

Dennis Gould

Legendary poet, activist, letterpress printer and one of Stroud's most cherished characters who is also

a regular at Glastonbury Festival working on the Glastonbury Free Press. (7-7:30PM)

Paper Jungle Presents: The Skeleton Woman

An ancient Inuit story about transformation, brought to life through beautiful puppetry, shadows and live storytelling by Isabel Lyster ft. a live soundtrack by Low Chimes' Rob Pemberton... (6-6:30PM)

POP-UP RECORD SHOPS:

Junkroom Records

New, second-hand and hard to find vinyl covering everything from seventies rock, afro beat, jazz, experimental, electronica and obscure Italian soundtracks. (from 5pm) [facebook.com/junkroomrecords](#)

Monobrow's Vinyltopia

Tom from Stroud Calling and Stroud Block Party sourcing the best quality vinyl - the records you'd want to find in great condition! (From 5pm) [facebook.com/MonobrowVinyltopia](#)

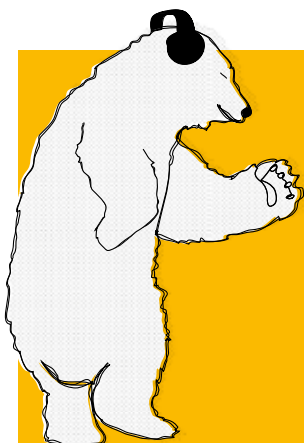
FOOD:

Salt Bakehouse

Winner of numerous awards SALT Bakehouse is an artisan bakery providing quality baked stuff, locally sourced /foraged for local people. Tonight they'll be serving an abundance of delicious pizzas so no need to cook dinner before you come out... (from 5pm) [saltbakehouse.co.uk](#)

Mr Bobbington's Pop & Shake

Fresh organic popcorn with organic flavours to add and shake... (from 5pm) [facebook.com/MrBobbingtonPop](#)



Saturday 6th Jan 18

Doors open at 5pm for food and drinks!

Tickets cost just £13 and are available from our website [goodonpaper.info/events](#)

The event also acts as a fundraiser with all proceeds going back into the magazine and its ongoing future! Wristbands will be available to pick up at the Marshall Rooms on the night...



The Cheltenham Illustration Awards

At The Museum In The Park

By Sarah Edmonds

The power of ‘the image’ in our every day society and the digital age is unavoidable. Every cultural reference is now being documented on our i-Phones, Instagram or through other screens and devices. We are becoming an image obsessed society, able to decipher sophisticated visual messages with ease. Illustration has a major part to play in this cultural shift and is one of the fastest growing and most creative disciplines to be a part of today.

This exhibition (which re-opens at the Museum in the Park from the 1st-28th January) showcases the winning entrants of the annual Cheltenham Illustration Awards, devised ten years ago by Kieren Phelps, with a generous donation of £10,000 from local businessman David Elyan. Phelps, a practicing illustrator since 1982, set up the BA Illustration course at the University of Gloucestershire in 2005 and was looking to create a showcase for the students work. It has since grown to become a global event, with over one thousand entrants from more than twenty countries worldwide, students, emerging artists and established illustrators. The international selection of commended artists reflects the diversity and excellence of

today’s global illustration scene. “We have had a great response this year and the quality of the entries keeps going up. I am really pleased that we have found such a welcome at the Museum – the exhibition is in a professionally run gallery, in a great location, attracting many visitors.”

The exhibition is also accompanied by an extensive supporting programme of events exploring themes of migration and displacement and promoting illustration as a means of communicating beyond words. “Drawing stories and using a visual narrative to communicate” is the précis of illustration on the university website, and each piece in this exhibition certainly does just that. Highly regarded, professional and established

illustrators are also invited to submit entries in the spirit of support and collaboration. This year work by Eleni Kalorkoti, Karrie Fransman, Kristyna Baczynski and Sarah McIntyre have been selected and published.

Each year a theme is set, this year the poignant 'Tales through others' eyes' is a call to empathy in our divided world. It invites the artist and the viewer to imagine the world through the eyes of another - an immigrant, a refugee, a poor black teenager from Cleveland, a frail and elderly woman, to consider the realities of visual impairment, our relationship with technology, isolation... and beyond. Andrew Morrison, University of Gloucestershire Illustration Senior Lecturer wrote the initial brief (here is a synopsis) "A single experience can lead to many different responses - no two people see the world alike. To see the world through the eyes of others requires that we set out on a journey of imagination and empathy; to see clearly we might have to forget our own prejudices and preconceptions."

This year, sixty highly commended works have been selected for inclusion in the coveted, hardback exhibition catalogue published by the Pittville Press, the BA Illustration imprint. Copies are sent to every winner and it's available to buy as the exhibition tours other venues in the UK including the London Book Fair, Olympia in April. It offers a deeper look at each work and the often moving story behind it. It's a visual feast of colour and craft.

For me, stand out submissions include, 'The Wedding Anniversary' by Hazel Patricia Mason from the University of Cumbria, a monochrome print depicting a frail and desperate old woman, agonising at the memory of youth. The composition is stunning, the subject matter achingly sad. 'Crushing' by Sophie Burrows from the Cambridge School of Art is a sequential, cartoon style story of two strangers brought together on a busy tube journey (hence the title Crushing), again it's monochrome with the female protagonist drawn in red ink - it has a particular style reminiscent of a vintage comic strip. It's moving and tender. There's detail to enjoy, expressions to read!

Others illustrate simple, innocent messages like 'South Facing' by Ryan Mason Bevan, who won the Emerging and Established Artist Award, reads,

'Some people see a windowsill, I see a garden sill,' with one colourful windowsill spilling with plants, that stands out in an otherwise dreary tower block. Composition, colour, simplicity are a successful combination here. A more classical book illustration comes from Bojana Dimitrovski with 'The Boy Who Sold Wisdom' an illustration from a Gujarati story from the book of Indian Folk Tales, published by Sodobnost International Publishing House in Slovenia. It's a story about a young orphan who propels his family out of poverty to greener pastures. It's a wonderful, colourful masterpiece!

I come away inspired, appreciating not only the subject matter, but also the technical skills involved 'how did they do that?' and pleased to review such an international group of artists from Australia, Iran, Finland, China, Russia and the Philippine Islands... proud that Gloucestershire hosts such a truly global event. Three cheers to that.

The full colour, hardback annual catalogue is available to buy in the shop for £10 where you can also pick up a copy of *The Boat Story*, an Arts Council England funded project designed to challenge our perceptions on immigration via an illustrated children's story book, illustrated by Stephanie Morris. Running alongside the Cheltenham Illustration Award exhibition in the Museums second gallery space is *My Name Is Aurelia* - a visual response to a memoir left to Dolores Phelps by her late mother, who was one of 4,000 children evacuated from Bilbao by the ship *Habana* to Southampton in 1937. Dolores' images are an interpretation of her mother's memories of living in Bilbao during the Spanish Civil War - air raids, starvation and the terrible voyage to the UK.

cheltenham-illustration-awards.com | museuminthepark.org

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



Exhibition Space:

Katie Jane Watson

Katie Jane Watson is a Stroud based photographer specialising in portraits, children's photography and interior design often collaborating with other artists and designers to create unique works for different subject matters.

She comes up with quirky concepts and collaborates with stylists and designers who help create the 'playground' for kids' photoshoots. She also works with writer and stylist Lisa Moses to produce complete interior features ready for print "I am rather obsessed with colour and design so always curious to see people's houses and how they choose to live."

A few years ago Katie launched the Stroud Silhouette Company with papercut artist Yasemin Wigglesworth creating unique silhouette portraits using a life-size screen with papercut border. The borders are cut by hand, using a scalpel, from black paper, participants then stand behind the screen whilst Katie captures the image from the other side. The screens were made specifically for special events and will be used again in the future...

Katie also shot and edited the GOP TV series of interview shorts with Stroud based artists and works as a creative picture editor and shoot producer and recently worked on Joe Magee's soon to be released short film No Sherbert which features Keith Allen and Sean Gleeson.

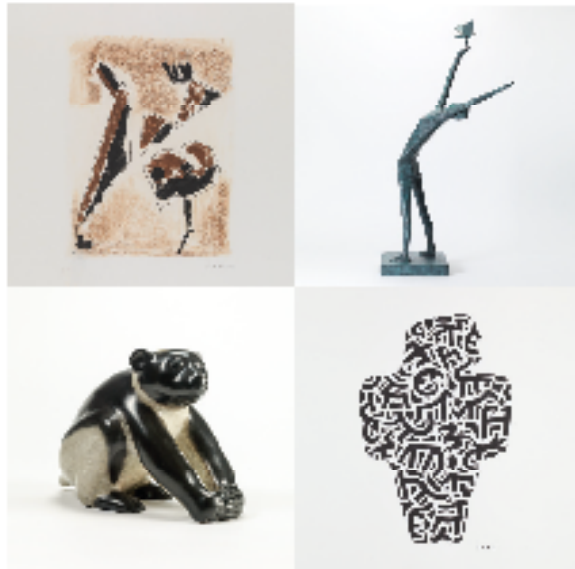
"I ENJOY MEETING INTERESTING PEOPLE AND AM LUCKY TO LIVE IN A TOWN FILLED WITH CREATIVE TALENT. I LOVE TO PHOTOGRAPH PEOPLE 'WHERE THEY BELONG' INCLUDING ARTISTS AND MAKERS IN THEIR STUDIOS."

For further examples of Katie's work visit katiejanewatson.com



Fast Forward

A glimpse of what's to come in 2018
13th January - 2nd March



GALLERY PANGOLIN

CHALFORD - 01454 - 0145 8917 01453 897744
gallery@pangolin-editions.com www.gallery-pangolin.com
Images clockwise from top left: Caroline Lawrence with Marco Marzulli
Mark Robinson, Bill Turner, Corvids, Man made Movers, Ian Beck, Inaï Arboreward



Methods of Making 6 January - 11 March 2018

An exploration of contemporary
furniture design and the artists behind it.

Sebastian Cox - David Gates
Nicola Henshaw - Ben Huggins
Gareth Neal - Jim Partridge & Liz Wainman
Edward Teasdale - Jay Watson

Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
Sun (February & March) 10am-4pm



Organised in partnership with
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Steve Russell Studios Open Day



Saturday 24th February

11am - 4pm

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ART LISTINGS

AMBERLEY INN

JAN – FEB

Photographic Exhibition by Deborah Roberts

Images from the Stroud Valleys by local photographer Deborah Roberts.

theamberleyinn.co.uk

ART OF CLAY

CLAY SINCLAIR

Provocative post-pop paintings on Perspex by local/international artist Clay Sinclair situated at 48 High Street. Plus prints for those on a budget and People's Republic of Stroud tat for those joining the revolution. Open Mon – Fri 11am-5pm/Sat 10am-5pm

claysinclair.com

BISLEY HOUSE

WEDS 1ST NOV – WEDS 31ST JAN

Donnelly Sisters: Artist in Residence

This interchanging exhibition at Bisley House by Stroud based arts agency the Donnelly Sisters currently features the work of Dan Hillier, Ashley Amery, Anna Marrow, Lorraine Robbins, Robert Bloomfield, Debbie Smith, Dan Sparkes, Soozy Roberts, Jess Orr, Andrew Wood, James Green, Abigail Fallis and James Kriszyk. Tues-Sat 12pm-1pm/Sun 12pm-6pm (donnellysisters.co.uk)

bisleyhousecafe.co.uk

ELVERS STUDIO

MON 4TH DEC – MON 29TH JAN

Colin Heavingham

Colin Heavingham exhibits 'A Stranger In A Cold Town', also including the painting 'The Sorceress In The Mirror (Ipswich Harbour)'. The gallery also houses handmade Christmas cards, gifts & jewellery by Tristana.

facebook.com/Elversstudio

GALLERY PANGOLIN

MON 15TH JAN – FRI 2ND MAR

Fast Forward

A glimpse of what's coming up in 2018, featuring works by Jon Buck, Marino Marini, Anita Mandl, Peter Randall-Page and Terence Coventry amongst others. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-1pm (closed Sundays and Bank Holidays)

gallery-pangolin.com

MALTHOUSE BAR AND KITCHEN

TUES 9TH JAN – SUN 25TH FEB

SITSelect Presents: New Paintings on Canvas by Pete Hoida

Pete Hoida (petehoida.co.uk) completed his studies at Goldsmiths, moving to Stroud in 1974 where he paints full-time. Exhibited widely in the UK; his paintings are in private and corporate collections in the UK and abroad. These large abstract paintings convey Pete Hoida's energy

and passion for his art. (sitselect.org) Sun-Mon 10am-4pm/Tues-Thurs 10am-5pm/Fri-Sat 10am-5pm

stroudmalthouse.com

MUSEUM IN THE PARK

MON 1ST – SUN 28TH

Cheltenham Illustration Awards 2017: Tales Through Others' Eyes

The Cheltenham Illustration Awards competition has been running for 10 years and attracts entries from across the world. Organised by the University of Gloucestershire, the Awards exhibition travels to venues such as London Book Fair and other galleries and universities, and is accompanied by a full colour hardback Annual. The theme this year is 'Tales through Others' Eyes', inviting us to imagine the world from a different perspective and reminding us that there are millions of lives beyond our own. Come and immerse yourself in this new collection of visual stories! Mon-Fri 10am-5pm/Sat-Sun (and Bank Holidays) 11am-5pm

MON 1ST – SUN 28TH

Dolores Phelps: La Nina Aurelia

This MPhil/PhD illustration research project is a visual response to a memoir left to Dolores Phelps by her late mother, who was one of the

★★★★★ 'thought-provoking' ★★★★★ 'fascinating' ★★★★★ 'amazing' ★★★★★★ 'a must-see'

Ideas about truth and reality

A NEW YEAR MULTI-MEDIA EXHIBITION

Sat 20th - Sun 28th January 2018

Private View Friday 19th January 6.30-8.30pm

More than a dozen creative minds share their response to a call for work exploring ideas around truth and reality... guiding, painting, poetry, performance, sound, projection, installation, printwork, drawing and photography.

What do Truth and Reality mean to you? Come and wonder!

Featuring works by Ruth Bowers, Marcus Blackett, Bill Jones, Tonia Maddison, Dennis Gould, Fergus Ryan, Stuart Butler, Emily Seffar, Will Sheer, Robert Daghish, Rachel McDonnell, Janine Davies, Deborah Roberts, Jay Ramsay, Jehanne Mehta, Jeff Cloves and Dave Crane.

Live performances of '7Up...Down...Whatever!' by Marcus Blackett will take place on Sat 20th and Fri 26th at 6pm. Free but please pre-book your place. Experiential truth on a beanbag guided by Janine Davies, by arrangement only.

Exhibition opens Fri-Sun 11am-8pm/Mon-Thurs 12:30-6:30pm or by arrangement

★★★★★ *Just some of the enthusiastic comments not yet made by the critics.'*

Venue: 18A Kendrick Street GL5 1AA – (the loft above Made in Stroud - access via two flights of stairs)

Contact Melissa Foks further info and performance bookings: foksfam@aol.com / 07767787641

4,000 children evacuated from Bilbao by the ship Habana to Southampton in May 1937. Dolores' images are an interpretation of her mother's memories of living in Bilbao during the Spanish Civil War - air raids, starvation, then the terrible voyage and starting life in the UK. Her work is also shaped by extensive research into the collective experiences and memoirs of other Basque refugee children who had to flee their homes and families. Opening times vary, please call ahead to check before making a special visit. Tel: 01453 763394

museuminthepark.org.uk

STEVE RUSSELL STUDIOS

NOV 20TH - DATE TBC

Steve Russell: Two In the Bush

A new show collects a varied and colourful assortment of African birds. Steve's images, captured over the course of many trips to Eastern Africa, celebrate the beauty and nature of birds with great wit and precision. All prints are mounted on aluminium and are available in an edition of 5.

steverussellstudios.com

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

TUES 30TH JAN - FRI 9TH FEB

Remembrance of Things Passed

Photography Exhibition by a collective of six photographers

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

Meanwhile Space: UP This Way

UP This Way is an outlet within Merrywalks highlighting the work of furniture and accessory makers within the broader Stroud area. Open Fri-Sat 9am-6pm or by appointment 01453 297260

Meanwhile Space: Fungusloci

Artist and permaculture practitioner Dominic Thomas has designed and built a sustainable urban micro-farm in which oyster mushrooms are cultivated on spent coffee grounds from local cafes. Fungusloci is a project of Sustainable Creativity CIC with the help of Stroud District Food Grants taking place at Unit 23, Merrywalks. Open by appointment fungi@cscic.org

sva.org.uk

UPPER LOCK CAFÉ

FRI 1ST DEC - WEDS 31ST JAN

Alison Vickery

Alison Vickery studied graphic design and illustration in London in the early

80's and subsequently designed for a number of companies such as John Lewis, Waitrose, The National Trust and Tesco. In 2008 she moved to the Cotswolds with her family and has focused on her painting inspired by her garden, the beautiful countryside surrounding us and the character of Stroud. Alison is particularly interested in colour and how it is affected by light, working instinctively she aims to capture the character and essence of her subject. She works in a wide range of media including acrylic inks, watercolour, collage and mixed media. Mon-Sat 9am-4pm/Sun 10am-3pm

upperlockcafe.co.uk

18A KENDRICK STREET

SAT 20TH - SUN 28TH

Ideas About Truth and Reality

A mixed media show of the work of more than a dozen creative minds exploring what Truth & Reality means to them ft. works by Ruth Bowers, Marcus Blackett, Bill Jones, Tonia Maddison, Dennis Gould, Fergus Ryan, Stuart Butler, Emily Seffar, Will Sheer, Robert Daghish, Rachel McDonnell, Janine Davies, Deborah Roberts, Jay Ramsay, Jehanne Mehta, Jeff Cloves, Dave Crane and more...What does it mean to you? Come and wonder, sit on a beanbag, chat, drink tea/coffee... Private view Fri 19th 6:30-8:30/Fri-Sun

11am-8pm/Mon-Thurs 12:30-6:30pm or by arrangement: foksfam@aol.com 07767787641 (venue is above Made in Stroud)

THE OLD PASSAGE ARLINGHAM

TUES 28TH NOV - APRIL

Found

A new exhibition curated by Kel Portman showing a variety of approaches, media and techniques; painting, photography, collage, jewellery and printmaking. The work creatively explores the theme through objects and places, as well as real and imagined events. Ft works by Alice Adams, Anne Bate Williams, Chris Bingle, Carolyn Black, Alexander Caminada, Valerie Coffin Price, Alexandra Collins, Debbie Cox, Sabine Crittall, Lucy Guenet, Sylvain Guenet, Patricia Homewood, Valerie Jordan, Susan Kester, Sara Kirby, Penel Kirk, Tonia Maddison, Barbara Manzi-fe, Rachel McDonnell, Linn O'Carroll, John Playfoot, Teresa Poole, Kel Portman, Vicki Portman, Christine Smith, Angie Spencer, Nik Taylor and Melyvn Warren-Smith.

theoldpassage.com

CORINIUM MUSEUM

CIRENCESTER

THURS 30TH NOV - SUN 7TH JAN

Anita Saunders: Animal Magnetism

Anita Saunders is a figurative artist, printmaker and illustrator taking inspiration from the stunning rural setting of the Cotswolds in the UK. Growing up surrounded by the natural beauty of the Cotswolds; the people, animals and plants of her childhood delighted and fascinated her. This exhibition shares Anita's love and admiration for the natural world, expressed through a variety of media: paintings, textiles and print making. Beautiful artworks and furnishings for the country home.

coriniummuseum.org

NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

SAT 6TH JAN - SUN 11TH MAR

Methods of Making

Methods of Making brings together designers working in Britain and explores different materials, concepts and making processes used in contemporary furniture. Artists Edward Teasdale, Jim Partridge & Liz Walmsley, Gareth Neal, Sebastian Cox, David Gates, Jay Watson, Ben Huggins, Nicola Henshaw. Mon-Sat 9am-5pm/Sun 10am-4pm

newbreweryarts.org.uk

FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOPS AND COURSES VISIT:

ATELIER
ATELIERSTROUD.CO.UK

CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ART
ROOMHIRESTROUD.CO.UK

CREATIVE NETWORK
CREATIVENETWORK.ORG.UK

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRINTMAKING COOPERATIVE
GPCHQ.CO.UK

HAWKWOOD COLLEGE
HAWKWOODCOLLEGE.CO.UK

KENDRICK STREET GALLERY
KENDRICKSTGALLERY.CO.UK

LET'S TRY ARTS
LETSTRYARTS.COM

PEGASUS ART
PEGASUSART.CO.UK

RUSKIN MILL
RMT.ORG

THE SCULPTURE STUDIO
THESCULPTURESTUDIO.CO.UK

SIT SELECT
SITSELECT.ORG

SOUTH WEST ART WORKSHOPS
SWARTWORKSHOPS.CO.UK

STROUD COLLEGE
SGSCOL.AC.UK

STROUD VALLEY ARTSPACE
SVA.ORG.UK

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS
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VICTORIA WORKS STUDIO
VICTORIAWORKSSTUDIOS.CO.UK

NEW BREWERY ARTS
NEWBREWERARTS.ORG.UK

PREMA ARTS CENTRE
PREMA.ORG.UK

Bellow

By Rebecca Mills

From gigs at the Prince Albert, Goods Shed and the SVA to the Stroud Fringe Festival and Jazz Stroud, our town has long fostered a vibrant music scene renowned for attracting a national network of artists and performers. Recently, local musicians Rob Pemberton and Jack Page have added to the scene through Bellow, a promotions company whose high calibre, monthly gigs will further establish Stroud as a destination for world class music.

While Bellow is a new venture, its formation has been an organic process, evolving first and foremost through Rob and Jack's extensive experience of the music industry as touring musicians. "One of the main things we want to do through Bellow is provide bands and musicians with what we consider to be an ideal gig, having too often been in situations that are poorly paid, promoted or catered for," Rob explains. "Years of touring nationally has also introduced us to an amazing network of artists, promoters, gig-goers, labels and venues. Through Bellow we hope to strengthen and utilise these bonds whilst further cementing Stroud as a desirable location to see and perform world class music."

Their close connection to Stroud and its venues, particularly Lottie and the Prince Albert, has also been influential to Bellow's beginnings. "To us, the high standard of gigs held at the Albert are the main reason that Stroud is on the musical map. In the early days of the band (both musicians are part of local band Low Chimes) that was really

instrumental in forming our musical network, and through those gigs, we got to see why people loved playing the venue so much - we saw that people were treated like family and really looked after. It set the standard of hospitality that we aspire to continue."

In recent years Rob and

"THOUGH STROUD IS WELL KNOWN, THERE ARE STILL NICHES OF THE INDUSTRY THAT AREN'T AWARE OF IT AS A FANTASTIC LOCATION FOR GIGGING MUSICIANS, AND WE'D LOVE TO CHANGE THAT."

Jack have been extending their understanding of other areas of the music industry, getting involved at events like the Stroud Fringe Festival and Jazz Stroud; learning the ropes of booking and promoting gigs, and for Jack, enhancing his skills as a sound engineer. "We're lucky enough to have locals Pete Roe and Emily

Wood, two incredible musicians in their own right with a wealth of knowledge of the industry, alongside us on the Bellow team. It's all helped us understand as a company what putting on a great gig entails." Rob says.

Bellow aim to bring a new act to Stroud roughly once a month, but the small team are still taking it gig by gig, exploring the market and remaining curious about the future. "We've seen through events like the Fringe how many people are willing to come out and experience live music," muses Jack. "It's now a learning curve for us to work out how to get crowds to come down regularly; that's the main challenge. Though Stroud is well known, there are still niches of the industry that aren't aware of it as a fantastic location for gigging musicians, and we'd love to change that."

So far Bellow have already hosted a series of exceptional evenings, beginning with the launch

a custom-made lighting show by local lighting designer Craig Lewis. The night allowed us to explore production techniques that we hope in future will elevate Bellow gigs above the norm."

Throughout November, performances from 70s-inspired Syd Arthur at Stroud's brand new venue the Marshall Rooms and singer songwriter Jono McCleery from Ninja Tunes were also a resounding success, allowing Bellow to enter the New Year excited about what's to come.

Several gigs are already lined up for 2018, with This Is The Kit playing the Goods Shed on Saturday 13th January in celebration of their new album 'Moonshine Freeze' and the great American songwriter Willy Mason playing on Friday 9th February. "Both these acts are left of the mainstream in a most inspiring way - with major followings and huge backing, but with a truly authentic style, and probably many amazing stories to tell! These musicians have performed in so many places around the world - they shouldn't be underestimated and we regard it as a real honour that they're coming to play here."

Tickets for This Is the Kit and Willy Mason are available now from bellowpresents.com. Follow Bellow at [facebook.com/bellowpresents](https://www.facebook.com/bellowpresents) for news and updates.

Rebecca Mills was born in Stroud and has lived in the nearby valleys all her life. Following a BA Hons in English Literature, she worked locally as an editor and English tutor. She now spends her time travelling, reading, freelance writing and instagramming her miniature dachshund: mini_moose_esq

MUSIC LISTINGS

ALE HOUSE

FRI 5TH

The Achievers

Rhythm & Blues, Jump-Blues, Gospel & Roots. 8:30pm Free

FRI 12TH

The Human Jukebox

Ever popular duo return for their unique request only show. 8:30pm Free

SAT 20TH

The Usual Suspects

Four piece covers band playing songs from the 60s to today. From the Beatles, Kinks, Jam, U2 Simple Minds, Rag and Bone man, Stereophonics and many many more. 8:30pm Free

THURS 25TH

Dave Ayre Trio plus Guests

Local bass playing legend returns to the Ale house for another evening of top Jazz plus special guests...8:30pm Free

FRI 26TH

The Day Jobs

Seamless two-part harmonies and superb guitar accompaniment - covering some of the best songs for the last 60 years. 8:30pm Free

BLACK BOOK CAFÉ

SAT 6TH

Good On Paper Nelson St. Party

The annual Good On Paper party returns this time across two venues ft. Little Metropolis (poet Adam Horowitz and musician Josef Reeve) and more at the Black Book Café. 5pm £13adv from goodonpaper.info/events

blackbookcafe.com

THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

FRI 5TH

Howlin Matt

Flamin hot, foot stompin' blues guitar. 8:30pm Free

FRI 12TH

Luke Philbrick & 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

SAT 13TH

Dart Fest 2018

The 13th annual Dartfest - celebrating the 40th Birthday of its founder James Dart! Including musical entertainment from his very own post-stoner, surf rock power trio The Forgetting Curve and bloody shoe-gazing, sonic twenty-something's Only Cologne, and Valentina - off-kilter, post-prog rock, skidding round musical hairpins with sex, death, science and guitar pedals! A charity fundraiser with all proceeds and donations given to Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. 7.30pm free

THURS 18TH

Open Mic

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

FRI 19TH

Hipkiss

Featuring acclaimed saxophonist and vocalist Patsy Gamble and Muddy Manninen (ex Wishbone Ash) on guitar. The band perform a mixture of original material and covers in a unique rock, blues, funk style with Muddy and Patsy's special guitar and saxophone chemistry taking centre stage. 8:30pm Free

FRI 26TH

Thee Pulsations

Landlords Birthday Party with Pulsating Psychedelic Blues Explosion Retro Rock from Thee Pulsations... 8:30pm Free

crownandsceptrestroud.com

THE MARSHALL ROOMS

THURS 4TH

Noise:

The Noise: launch party is set to be the biggest club night in Stroud yet. Eclectic live performances will transition into the best of underground electronic music courtesy of Stroud's top DJs and MCs, who will be carrying you, and over 300 other Stroudies into the early hours. Ft. Principle Sinner, Noremac X DJ Knight, J-Kob,

Komodo, Always High, Alex and Aless, Jimmyhighlife with Judge and friends plus guest MC's and more TBA...This is going to be one to remember. 7:30pm £6adv/£7otd

FRI 5TH

The Hucklebuck, Belle Day

The Hucklebuck are a five piece band playing straight ahead blues, with original interpretations of traditional electric styles, from early jump blues to later Texas and Chicago material, all played with real authenticity and swing. With support from Bristol based band Belle Day fronted by Belinda Lee making the very best Soul, RnB and Blues music. 8:30pm £6dv

SAT 6TH

Good On Paper Nelson St. Party

The annual Good On Paper party returns this time across two venues ft. music and more at the Marshall Rooms including live sets by Mesadorm, Near Future, Stroud Fringe Choir and Grasscourt plus DJ sets from Pavinyl, Dubbu, Stroud Calling and Junkroom Records. 5pm £13adv from goodonpaper.info/events

THURS 25TH

Voca Loca Doo Da Burns Night Special

Keith Allen's regular Voca Loca Doo Daa night is designed to encourage local talent and to provide a forum for ideas and opinions to be expressed and tonight it returns for a Burns Night Special...Get in touch if you want to perform - keith@themarshallrooms.co.uk - anything goes...

SAT 27TH

The Stroud Sessions

A brand new night celebrating the very best local DJ talent. Hosted by Monobrow (Stroud Calling, Stroud Block Party), The Stroud Sessions provides a platform for local DJs to showcase what they do and play together - anyone can put a mix up at the facebook site and if people like it you could get a set! For this inaugural event Monobrow is joined by SPW playing a selection of contemporary African sounds and DJ Darius of Crooked Stylus. Expect to dance...10pm £6adv

themarshallrooms.co.uk

THE PRINCE ALBERT

SAT 6TH

The Virtual Kelvins

A combination of chilled soul, funk and dance. 8:30pm Free

TUES 9TH

Dave Ayre's 20th Baroque Night

Dave and his marvellous band of musicians from across the UK are bringing their harpsichords, violins, lute songs and Baroque masterpieces to the Prince Albert for the twentieth time tonight. They will be celebrating with some glorious 400-year-old music to see in the New Year in style. Come and be charmed, delighted and moved by the music of Handel, Purcell, Dowland, Ravenscroft and others. 8pm £12adults/£3 twelve-eighteen adv from the Albert and the Subscription

Rooms

THURS 11TH

Open Mic

First open mic night of the year! Test out your tunes, don't be shy - play sing and shout that's what it's all about...8:30pm Free

FRI 12TH

Stroud Wassail

The Stroud Wassailers' Road Show meet up at The Prince Albert...9pm Free

SAT 13TH

George Montague

Ingenious singer songwriter multi-instrumentalist George Montague is an exceptional musician with immense energy, and countless contagious original songs. He enhances his phenomenal live shows by featuring live-looping vocal harmonies and beatboxing, creating remarkable hooks to accompany his abiding melodies producing dynamic performances, solo or with his notsobigband. 8:30pm Free

THURS 18TH

Aerialists

File under World, or file under Celtic? Aerialists fits best with the beautifully contradictory term prog-trad, melding their ferociously creative harmonic sensibilities with a deep love for folk traditions. The quintet draws from the wells of Nordic and Gaelic music, adding expansive post-rock textures and meticulously sculptured arrangements to create captivating, genre-defying new music. 8:30pm Free

FRI 26TH

Brickwork Lizards

Stopping off in Stroud as part of their UK album launch tour, promoting material from their new release 'Haneen'. In Arabic, Haneen describes a feeling of nostalgic yearning, and bygone times and places haunt every song on this remarkable album. The band's radical re-imaginings of traditional material from courtly dances of the Ottoman Sultans to ancient English hanging songs evoke centuries of history, and showcase a band adept at crossing borders and taking bold musical risks. 8:30pm Free

WEDS 31ST

Nine Below Zero Duo

Returning to their blues roots Nine Below Zero are performing a series of acoustic concerts as a duo. The duo released their first album in 2015 and have been touring the UK in support of it ever since, most recently returning from a successful trip to the Scottish Highlands. They've played in all sorts of places ranging from the intimate environs of St Pancras Old Church to the northerly splendour of Inverness but the shows never fail to bring the fans closer to the band and the musical influences that formed them. 8:30pm £10adv from Ticketweb

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

STROUD BREWERY**SAT 6TH****Dark Island**

This local duo create distinctive musical arrangements using strong sung harmonies, guitar, saxophone and whistle. Singing a wide range of material including original songs, traditional and contemporary folk, blues/jazz, and a few covers. 7:30pm Free

SAT 13TH**Bob Porter Project**

An Americana band from Stroud delivering a fine blend of mellow Alt Country and gritty Roots Rock. Often described as music with a 'growl & twang'. 7:30pm Free

SAT 20TH**Steve Ferbrache**

Steve is a local musician who plays cover versions of classic songs from the 50s-00s, as well as wide variety of music from stomping blues to classic folk/country/rock covers. 7:30pm Free

SAT 27TH**Steve Page**

This is music with an old-time feel that reaches back to the America of Woody Guthrie, Robert Johnson and the Carter Family. Steve performs his shows playing a combination of guitar, slide guitar, banjo, harmonica and button accordion. 7:30pm Free

stroudbrewery.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS**SAT 6TH****Ceilidh: Hekety**

Currently celebrating their 20th anniversary year, Hekety play music inspired by the English tradition, some ancient, some modern, all expertly crafted and arranged to please dancer's feet and listener's ears alike. Rich Arrowsmith (melodeon), Jess Arrowsmith (fiddle), Jo Veal (clarinet) and Gav Davenport (guitar & cittern) weave lilting melody, rich harmony and driving chords underpinned by Nigel Holmes, one of the best bass players in the business. Caller Baz Parkes 8pm £11adv/£10concs/£12otd/£11concs/£5 U16s

SAT 13TH**Stroud Wassail Revels**

Yes, it's the third annual Stroud Wassail Revels. It's a variety show. Expect drama, ceilidh dancing, music, storytelling and comedy. But also expect the unexpected. Last time it featured CanCan girls and a sheep opera. Who knows what there will be this time? It's an evening when the world is turned upside down. It's also quite possibly the most fun you can have in January. 7pm £11adv/£12.50otd

THURS 25TH**Blue Rose Code, Hattie Briggs**

Blue Rose Code is the highly acclaimed Edinburgh born Ross Wilson who has been nominated for the prestigious Scottish Album Of The Year Awards and embarked on

numerous tours including a sell-out Celtic Connections show. "Imagine John Martyn meets a young Van Morrison shipwrecked with a crate of Chet Baker records" - Time Out. With support from popular rising singer songwriter and Fender Undiscovered Artist of the Year 2017, Hattie Briggs. 8pm £14

FRI 26TH**Jive Dance**

Great atmosphere on a great dance floor with top swing and jive music. 8pm £8

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA**FRI 5TH/12TH/19TH/26TH****John Street Social Club**

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

SAT 6TH**Uplifter plus Special guests**

Highly popular DJ and live musician Uplifter returns to Stroud for the official public release of his 'Stroud' vinyl including a film screening of the music video! Expect a night of ska, Dub and live percussion together with special guests the Mighty John Street Ska Orchestra, Solomento and Komodo. 9pm £7adv/£8otd (Goods Shed)

TUES 9TH/16TH/23RD/30TH**Introduction to Flamenco Rhythms Workshop**

An introduction to flamenco rhythms for dancers, guitarists, percussionists, or anyone interested in flamenco music. 8pm £5 (John Street)

WEDS 10TH/17TH/24TH/31ST**Funk-In Sessions**

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

THURS 11TH**Stroud Jazz Sessions ft. Lee Jones**

Lee Jones is a jazz-rock guitarist and composer, combining influences from modern jazz, fusion, blues, fingerstyle and rock styles. All welcome, singers, players, listeners. Stroud Jazz Sessions is a hub for all interested in jazz. 8pm £5otd (John Street)

SAT 13TH**Bellow Presents: This Is The Kit**

This Is The Kit play the Brunel Goods Shed ahead of their biggest headline show to date at the O2 Shepherds Bush Empire. The band will be returning to Stroud after many years out on the road, in the studio and all up in your radio-waves with their sensational fourth album, 'Moonshine Freeze'. This is one not to be missed! 8pm £16adv (Goods Shed)

sva.org.uk

CHRIST CHURCH NAILSWORTH**SUN 21ST****Bristol Ensemble: Tea Time Concerts**

Schubert's celebrated masterpiece, the Octet for wind and strings, enjoys enduring popularity for its sumptuous melodies and harmonic twists and turns. Commissioned by a famous clarinettist of the day in 1824, it is considered to be one of the greatest chamber works ever composed. 3pm £10otd

bristolensemble.com

THE VAULT NAILSWORTH**SUN 7TH****The Reverend Stretch**

Acoustic Americana, country, folk and blues. 2:30pm Free

SUN 14TH**The Honeymoon Trio**

Songs and tunes from the golden era of the 1930's, combining the great American song book with a touch of pre-war continental Europe. 2:30pm Free

SUN 21ST**Steve Ferbrache**

Acoustic classics - rock, pop, folk, blues and soul. Requests welcomed! 2:30pm Free

SUN 28TH**Jim Reynolds**

Legendary Bristol finger-style

guitarist and singer. Blues, ragtime & ballads. 2:30pm Free

thevaultnailsworth.co.uk

TETBURY GOODS SHED**SAT 27TH****The Wood Demons, Heather Bristow**

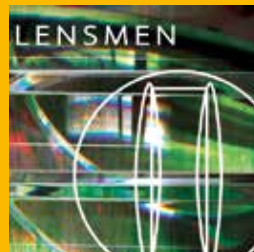
London and Gloucestershire based band the Wood Demons are known for their eclectic approach encompassing rock, progressive, and other musical influences. With support from Tetbury-based Heather Bristow - a respected folk/country artist who currently performs with Americana trio Iron & Oak. 7:30pm £15

shed-arts.co.uk

UNDER THE EDGE ARTS**WOTTON UNDER EDGE****SAT 28TH****Spikedrivers**

From the early blues of Robert Johnson, John Lee Hooker and Big Bill Broonzy they have added their own blend of north African and Native American rhythms, gospel harmonies, sixties blues and rock guitar. They've been compared to The Band, Led Zeppelin, Ry Cooder, JJ Cale, Fleetwood Mac and even Pink Floyd. It all adds up to simply the Spikedrivers. 8pm £11.50/£9.50concs

utea.org.uk



OUT NOW

Scared of Swimming By Lensmen

Scared of Swimming is the debut EP by Stroud based post-punk/new wave group Lensmen recorded using a heady mix of studio and mobile recording techniques. The resulting EP brings to the fore the poetic roots of Alun Hughes' lyrics which pursue and confront some of the bitter truths that affect and infect our daily lives. Lensmen's oeuvre is not an easy ride, they want you to listen, absorb and form an opinion. With a musical core that consists of Gavin McClafferty on Bass, Jason Wilkinson on drums Richard Pead on guitar and Daniel Fisher on keyboards they seek to clear out complacency maintaining the tradition of Agit Prop...

lensmen.bandcamp.com

CROWN & SCEPTRE EVENTS IN JANUARY

WEDNESDAY 3RD

Steak Night - Booking Essential

FRIDAY 5TH

HOWLIN MATT LIVE - Flamin hot, foot-stomping
Blues Guitar

FRIDAY 12TH

LUKE PHILBRICK & DAMON T LIVE - original roots music
drawing on traditional blues and folk influences

SATURDAY 13TH

DART FEST 2018 -
The 13th Annual Dartfest, celebrating the 40th
birthday of its founder James Dart. Including musical
entertainment from his very own post-stoner surf rock
power trio The Forgetting Curve, bloody shoe-gazing
sonic twenty-something's Only Cologne and Valentina -
off kilter, post prog rock, skidding round musical
hairpins with sex, death, science and guitar pedals!
CHARITY FUND RAISER - All donations and proceeds to
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.
Free entry...Late Licence...From 7.30pm

THURSDAY 18TH

Open Mic Night hosted by the Rev. Stretch - from 8pm

FRIDAY 19TH

HIPKISS LIVE - fronted by acclaimed British saxophonist
Patsy Gamble with ex Wishbone Ash Muddy Manninen
on guitar - The band perform a mix of original material
and covers in a unique rock, blues, funk style with Muddy
and Patsy's special guitar & saxophone chemistry taking
centre stage

FRIDAY 26TH

THEE PULSATIONS LIVE - Landlord's Birthday Party
with Pulsating Psychedelic Blues Explosion Retro Rock
from 8.30pm - Free entry

WEDNESDAY 31ST

The Curry lounge - Booking Essential

FOR BOOKINGS AND GENERAL INFO: 01453 762588

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Sunday 18 February at 3pm

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Mendelssohn together with Lili
Boulangier's *D'un Matin de Printemps*

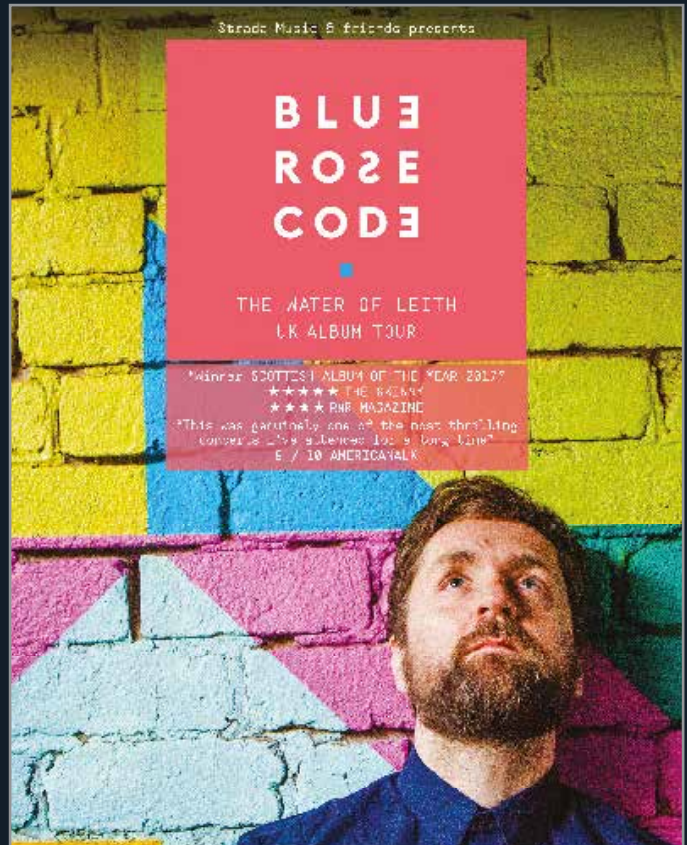
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Stroud Wassail

By Robin Burton

It's wassailing time and soon the streets of Stroud will be filled with dancers, mummers and singers wearing fabulous costumes and bringing forth fabulous beasts... Waes Hael! Good luck and good health to you all!

Originally "Waes Hael" was simply a greeting coming from two Anglo Saxon words meaning "be whole" or "be healthy". The response is usually to say "Drinc Hael" or "drink healthily" and is sometimes used as a toast (it may be where we get the toast "to your health" from). Over time, the words have become conjoined to different forms such as "Wassail", "Waysail", "Wassel" or "Wassle".

In olden times, during winter, there was little work for the agricultural poor to do. Money and food were in short supply and life could be pretty dull so people would go "wassailing". This meant visiting wealthier neighbours and wishing them "Waes Hael". It meant offering them entertainment such as a song or a play and in exchange they expected money, food or drink. This was, effectively, a form of begging and to avoid being recognised by neighbours wassailers would often go in disguise (in fact, in some parts of the country, wassailing is called "guising"). The disguise could involve costumes and masks and in its most basic form wassailers would turn their coats inside out and blacken their faces with soot. Today you will often see wassailers and Morris dancers with black faces and outlandish costumes echoing this tradition.

Wassailers, if they did not get what they wanted, might not have reacted too well sometimes refusing to leave or even commit some act of minor vandalism. You can get some sense of this in the traditional carol "We wish you a merry Christmas" when the wassailers sing "Oh, bring us some figgy pudding...We won't go till we get some, so bring it right here."

In the 19th century folklorists started to take an interest. Two basic forms had developed. The first, and best known by the general public, was the apple orchard wassail. This involves going into the orchards to bless the trees; reciting of rhymes, hanging toast onto the trees, pouring cider into the roots and blasting shotguns into the branches. Sometimes this custom is referred to as "bud blowing". No traditional versions of this type are known in Gloucestershire.

The second type was the house to house visiting wassail; the type that was widespread in Gloucestershire. Wassailers would wish householders health and success for the coming year and sing them a song with verses chosen to suit the householder. So we see wishes for a "good crap (crop) of corn", a "good flock o' ship (sheep)" or a "jolly fat pig (pig)".

Wassailers often carried a

"wassail bowl" which was used to collect money or to drink from, but most often was decorated with greenery for pure decoration. They would also take around a "broad"; a mock bull carried on a stick, made with cow's horns attached to a face made out of a board and some sacking to cover the bearer.

Enthusiasts got together in 2014 and secured Heritage Lottery Funding for a project which collected together songs and tunes from Gloucestershire onto a web site. This included 17 wassail songs from various parts of the county with one being specific to Stroud. The song collector, Gwilym Davies, also had a recording, from 1979 of a man who described groups going around the town around 1914 with a decorated wassail bowl. He also sang a snatch of a Wassail song.

The decision was made to re-start a wassailing tradition in Stroud. From modest beginnings, with a dozen people meeting at the Museum in the Park, the event has grown. In 2017 there were several hundred participants with multiple events in the town and beyond.

The Stroud Wassail has a number of elements. From early December, through to the second week of January, the Stroud Wassailers visit pubs, hotels, private parties and other venues throughout the area. They perform songs and a new play which features many local personalities.

Then, on the second Saturday of the year, the Wassail itself takes place in Stroud. The day starts with entertainment throughout the streets from dancers, actors and others. A procession leads the crowd to the front of the Subscription Rooms. They knock on the door and demand admission. The door is opened by the Master of the House (the mayor) and a broad enters to chase out all those

within. The Master then invites the wassailers inside for beer and cake. Another wassail for families takes place at the Museum in the Park. The day ends with the Revels; a variety entertainment featuring dancing, drama, storytelling and more.

The wassail wishes all of the citizens of Stroud, and visitors to the town, a healthy and successful year. It boosts trade, enhances community spirit and supports local charities.

At its heart, it is about going out and meeting friends and neighbours; wishing them well. It is not confined to those with an interest in history or traditional folk customs. It is not confined to people of a specific religious or political belief. It is certainly not confined to any particular racial background.

So please enter into the spirit of the Wassail. Get out there. Watch the entertainment. Sing. Dance. But above all else, wish each other success and Waes Hael!

Stroud Wassail is eager to talk to anyone who would like to take part including dancers, singers and all types of performers. The Wassail is not just for those involved in the folk tradition. It's for everyone.

The Stroud Wassail takes place on Saturday 13th January with Morris, mummers, street performers and magical beasts all around Stroud culminating with the revels event at the Subscription Rooms. Tickets for the Stroud Wassail Revels cost just £11adv (£12.50 on the door) and starts at 7pm. Visit subscriptionrooms.org.uk for tickets and stroudwassail.com for further info and the full programme.

Robin Burton is a local singer and the Chair of Stroud Wassail.





Adam Horovitz

By Jill MacKeith

“I wrote that one in a frenzy”, Adam Horovitz explained, talking of ‘The Abattoir’. “I had to get it all out and work through what I thought about it”. And indeed, there was a lot to get out – save one other, it is the longest poem in the whole collection of *The Soil Never Sleeps*, his latest book.

As a vegetarian poet, Adam does not often find himself in abattoirs. In fact, becoming poet in residence of the Pasture-Fed Livestock Association (PFLA) for 2017 was not something he could have predicted, despite his connection to the pastureland surrounding the beautiful Slad Valley where he was brought up.

As a writer, Horovitz told me, he’s always been interested in the relationship between mankind and the landscape, eager to “tease out the more metaphysical connections between man, land and animals”. Indeed, that was a large aspect of his previous book, *A Thousand Laurie Lees: The Centenary Celebration of a Man and a Valley*, which focuses on the land and landscape of the Slad Valley. While Adam was in the midst of writing about this landscape of the past (in 2013), John Meadley (Chair of the PFLA) approached him and asked him to consider a residency, looking at a landscape into the future. The challenge was too enticing to let pass, and so, over four seasons and travelling to four farms across England and Wales, from the Yorkshire Dales to Cornwall, Kent to the Black Mountains, Adam immersed himself in the life and landscape of the PFLA farming community.

Armed with “a moleskin notepad and a pen that could withstand driving rain”, Adam shadowed the farmers and explored the land, taking photographs that not only acted as an aide-memoire for writing, but also proved invaluable to artist Jo Sanders who provided the striking ink illustrations accompanying Horovitz’s words on the page. “Jo illustrated my previous book, *A Thousand Laurie*

Lees”, explained Adam, “and I was keen to work with her again. She’s managed to really capture the essence of the farms I stayed at and has woven parts of the poems into the artwork”. It’s a beautiful representation. The poems in the collection follow the order in which Adam visited the farms: Spring, Autumn and Winter 2016, followed by Summer 2017. The EU Referendum took place in the middle of the residency, the outcome of which provided much food for thought for the final section of the book, which investigates the ethics, politics and future of farming.

Two poems from the collection, ‘The Soil Never Sleeps’ and ‘Three Options for Farmers’, were written at the Oxford Real Farming Conference, January 2017, well in the wake of Brexit. Adam explained how he conceived them. “They were essentially cuttings from words and phrases that I had heard the farmers use during the conference which I grafted together and presented back to them”. Some of the farmers were rather bemused by his residency: “They asked John Meadley, ‘What are you doing getting a poet?!’. So they were then rather surprised to hear their own voices presented back to them in that way, rather than just as a curious set of facts”.

He acknowledges that the experience was an extraordinary

learning process. In the introduction to *The Soil Never Sleeps*, Adam admits, “Growing up I had a mythic sense of the landscape instilled in me; most of my understanding of its minutiae, of what made it work and what work it made, came from reading.” I asked him if he felt more connected with the land now. He answered that the experience of this residency and resulting collection has provided him with “a stronger sympathy for the pasture farmers and a better understanding of what drives them. They’re

essentially taking an old style of farming and adapting it for the future, to allow everyone a future”. Horovitz added that, with regard to mainstream farming, “something has to change, even Michael

Gove has been quoted in the Guardian as saying that the UK is 30 to 40 years away from ‘the fundamental eradication of soil fertility”.

With the uncertainty about the future of British agriculture hanging in the balance since the referendum result and the realisation of the state of our soil fertility, one could be forgiven for bracing oneself for expecting a melancholic read. Horovitz, however, refrains from woe and urges us to be guided by balance and hope. Indeed, the closing poem, ‘Three Options for Farmers’, is encouragingly optimistic, imploring the reader to:

... go into the towns and cities laden with produce and stories,
your tongues ripe with carefully disguised science, the bare bone facts dressed in the muscle of myth and memory.
Too much fact runs off busy people like water from compacted soil.
Learn how to open them to the seeds of ideas.
Water them with stories.
Watch them grow.

I asked Adam how he would promote the book if money and time were no object. He said he’d “love to tour with it around the country, through the landscape like the minstrels or bards of old, stopping at ale houses along the way, giving readings and spreading the word – to go out there, tell people, change their minds.” Me? I am already converted.



The Soil Never Sleeps will be released on 6th January via Palewell Press (palewellpress.co.uk), and will be launched at the Oxford

Real Farming Conference 2018, a gathering of the UK’s sustainable and organic food and farming movements. Visit adamhorovitz.co.uk for news and updates and goodonpaper.info/literature to read an exclusive extract from the book.

Jill MacKeith is a Stroud based freelance researcher, project manager, budding writer, curator and mother of two.

SPRING



SUMMER



AUTUMN



WINTER



LITERATURE LISTINGS

ALE HOUSE

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

Rick Vick: Writing Group

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

ATELIER

TUES 30TH

Atelier's Radio Cinema: Cold Water Swimming

Atelier's Radio Cinema evenings returns! Come and discover the art of listening to amazing podcasts, and sound pieces. Atelier will host Radio Cinema every last Tuesday in the Month. 7:30pm £3

atelierstroud.co.uk

BLACK BOOK CAFÉ

SAT 6TH

Good On Paper Nelson St. Party

The annual Good On Paper party returns this time across two venues with poetry, spoken word at the Black Book Café ft. stand up poet Jonny Fluffypunk, Little Metropolis (ft. Adam Horowitz), legendary poet and letterpress printer Dennis Gould and much much more...5pm £13adv from goodonpaper.info/events

blackbookcafe.com

HAWKWOOD COLLEGE

WEDS 17TH JAN – WEDS 21ST MAR

Wild Writing with Kevan Manwaring

Are your words too tame? Do your ideas need liberating? Let them out of the cage, and allow them to prowling the page! This rule-breaking writing workshop is designed to encourage you to give voice to the feral fringes of your creativity. You'll be supported in a friendly, safe environment to venture beyond literary comfort zones and tap into words that can electrify, shock, motivate and move. All you need is a pen and paper and a willingness to be wild! You may be out in the garden in the evenings, so bring outdoor clothing and be prepared!

7-9:15pm £75 (for 10 sessions)

FRI 19TH

Mac Macartney: The Privilege of Being Alive

Inspirational talk by international speaker, writer and founder of Embercombe - Mac Macartney. Your gifts must be deployed, swiftly, powerfully, imaginatively, joyfully, and peacefully. Now. 8pm £12/£9concs

THURS 25TH

Chris Paradox: Confessions of An Egomaniac

Confessions of an Egomaniac - the tragicomic true story of one man's 12 selves and their epic quest for happiness. A one man show and book signing with Chris Paradox - an inspirational author, performance poet, teacher and coach. 9:30pm £12/£9concs

hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

THE LITTLE GEORGE

WEDS 24TH

Stroud Radical Reading Group: Kristin Ross - Communal Luxury

The Stroud Radical Reading Group meet every month at the Little George and aim to read a variety of articles and books on radical issues, feminism, environmentalism, trade unionism, politics, and current affairs. Having considered The English Revolution via Christopher Hill's book, and the recent session on Chartism, the SRRG explore the political imaginary of the Paris Commune - the subtitle of Kristin Ross' book Communal Luxury. 7:30pm Free

stroudmicropub.co.uk

THE PRINCE ALBERT

SUN 21ST

Turn Left at the Albert

A fundraising event for the Labour Party ft. stand-up poet, armchair revolutionary and recumbent rocker - Elvis McGonagall, stand-up poet and sustainable nihilist - Jonny Fluffypunk and Stroud's favourite miserablist Bill Jones...7:30pm £10adv from rodlabour@gmail.com / 07534619788 and the Albert

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

SPACEHOPPERS

TUES 9TH

The Gloucester Poetry Society: Villanelles Poetry Evening

An evening of eclectic open mic poetry co-hosted between Jason Conway of The Gloucester Poetry Society and SpaceHoppers Co-Working Ltd. All are welcome, from first time performers or writers of poetry to traditional, spoken word and slam poets and poetry lovers to come along and be inspired by an evening of eclectic poetry and share a favourite poem if they like. Names will be taken on the night, for people wishing to perform, so please arrive in good time to avoid disappointment! 6:30pm Free

spacehoppers.work

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

SUN 28TH

Brave Bold Drama: Storytelling Workshop

Create Your Own Adventure: just add imagination! 60 minutes of quick thinking, sparks of inspiration and a lot of delight as we whisk ourselves off to far-flung locations as yet unknown! A drama workshop for all the family to enjoy together, led by Brave Bold Drama, makers of award-winning family theatre and the company that brought you George and the Flight of the Imaginees. Bring

everyone, from the super-small to the silver-haired! 2pm £3

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

18A KENDRICK STREET

SAT 20TH - SUN 28TH

Ideas About Truth and Reality

More than a dozen creative minds share their response to a call for work exploring ideas around truth and reality including poetry ft. Bill Jones, Dennis Gould, Jay Ramsay, Jeff Cloves and more...Private view Fri 19th 6:30-8:30/Fri-Sun 11am-8pm/Mon-Thurs 12:30-6:30pm or by arrangement: foksfam@aol.com 07767787641 (venue is above Made in Stroud)

NEW BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

WEDS 24TH

Mixed Media Journals with Becky Kimberley

Explore colour, pattern, print stitch and composition with this exciting introduction to the world of art journals. You will be encouraged to combine materials, play with different colour-ways & textures, explore making your own sketchbooks and covers in this fun and accessible creative course. 10am-4pm £80

newbreweryarts.org.uk

arts • sustainability • spirituality • well-being

HAWKWOOD



NEW YEAR Retreats, Arts & Centre for Future Thinking

Wild-Writing evening class with Kevan Manwaring 17 Jan–21 Mar
The Privilege of Being Alive
Public talk with Mac Macartney 19 Jan
Confessions of an Egomaniac with Chris Paradox On-Man Show 25 Jan
The Art in Listening
day workshop with Nick & Ra Twilley 28 Jan
New Year Retreats
5-7 Jan with Sam May Mindfulness
5-9 Jan with Mel Skinner Restorative Yoga
19-21 Jan Coming Home with Mac Macartney
How to Flourish in an Age of Distraction
RSA Watch film & discussion 6 Feb
Strategies for communicating your green message with Caroline Aistrop 22 March

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Rebecca MacMillan

By Nikki Owen

When I met Rebecca MacMillan, she was due to have a baby. And when I say due, I mean go into labour at any minute. For most people, the fact that their baby might decide to enter the world at any minute would mean meetings, interviews and gatherings of any kind would be out of the question. However Rebecca is not most people...

Rebecca - who incidentally, had to cancel our first interview because, yup, the baby was on its way - is possibly one of the most relaxed people you'll ever meet. Not only is she meeting up to talk to me just two weeks - two weeks - after she's had a baby, but on Saturday 6th January between 10-11pm at the Black Book Café, she, along with her theatrical comedy troupe Impromptu Shakespeare, will be performing live, freestyle improv to a packed audience.

So, for a lady who clearly has a knack of keeping the drama purely to the stage, I asked Rebecca, who is also co founder of Maydays, an award-winning improvised comedy and theatre company, why improv? "I started improvising in 2003 and first performed in Brighton with a group that ended up becoming the Maydays in 2004," said Rebecca, her newborn in her arms and her elfin, porcelain features neatly arranged under long, honey-coloured hair. "At the time this was short form improvisation (we moved over to long form improvisation around 2006), but I never started off there. I had normal jobs - went into management for the Coop group - and then moved to Brighton. I'd been to meet a friend who was doing improv, and I always thought I would end up doing performance, and at Uni, I was obsessed with Monty Python and thought I would do something like that alongside my degree - like improv - but I didn't."

It's a story many of us can relate to - the dreams we have about the job we want to do, the sort of life we want to lead. Except when we get out into the world, everything seems to take over and, before we know it, we're as far away from our

"WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR BRAIN DURING IMPROV IS CALLED CREATIVE DISSOCIATION - A FLOW STATE. YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE CHANNELING SOMETHING ELSE. ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE AN OBSERVER OF THE PROCESS."

dreams as can possibly be. That's why Rebecca, who has a degree in classics and Latin, is so awe-inspiring. Because for Rebecca, it was a chance sighting in a newspaper for classes on improv that promoted her to stop and look at her life and go and fulfill the ambition she'd always dreamt of.

She favours what's called long form improv. Long form improv is where performers create shows in which short scenes are blended by story, characters, or themes; whereas short form improv (think 'Whose Line Is It Anyway') consists of short scenes usually constructed from a predetermined game, structure, or idea and driven by an audience suggestion. Or, in other words, long form is to jazz as short form is to pop. "I like improv because it's a bit like Jazz," Rebecca says whilst simultaneously feeding her baby and buttering

some toast. "What happens in your brain during improv is called creative disassociation - a flow state. You feel like you're channeling something else. Almost like you're an observer of the process."

That's what makes Impromptu Shakespeare such an exciting thought for the Good On Paper party - that flow state. So, crucial question: what's going to happen on the night? "It starts with a ping pong ball chucked into audience," Rebecca says with a grin - and a sleeping baby on her lap. "About 150 balls are chucked out at random and on them are written Shakespeare ingredients - locations,

objects - like daggers, for example - types of people - rings, witches, stuff that happens in the plays, themes such as unrequited love, revenge. Then, the audience have to try, at the start, to throw the ping pong balls - during a song and dance routine - in to a pair of the bard's bristles." Just an average night out in Stroud then. Rebecca goes on to explain that the performers then select ping pong balls and ask audience questions relating to each message written on the balls, personal stuff - and then the improv gets going from there as the performance expands.

For Rebecca, who's lived in Stroud since 2016, improv has been, in her words, "genuinely life changing." And you can see why. Not only is she one of the most chilled out people I think I have ever met, but Rebecca's also creative

and genuine. "Improvise tend to be really nice people because of this having to work together on stage," says Rebecca. "You become open to ideas and you help people to grow while being bold with your own ideas and not second guessing yourself, and at the same time knowing you will be supported."

It's infectious, Rebecca's positivity and enthusiasm, it's inspiring. We end the interview with a coo over the (very cute and sleepy) baby and a promise from me to see the show. And what's next for Rebecca, aside from super-mum-dom and maybe some sleep? "Impromptu Shakespeare has a London residency at the Nursery Theatre and we're looking forward to the Good On Paper Party in January!" And this is all on top of Rebecca being in a band called the Shakespeare Heptet, regular outings with the Maydays and running another improv group called The Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes. Told you - amazing.

But, whatever Rebecca does next, something tells me that for her and the Impromptu Shakespeare gang - fun and creative freedom are only ever a ping-pong bounce of a word away. With extra newborn baby cuddles, naturally.

Impromptu Shakespeare will be performing at the Black Book Café stage as part of the Good On Paper Party on Saturday 6th January alongside Jonny Fluffypunk, Little Metropolis, Dennis Gould and Paper Jungle's the Skeleton Woman. Visit impromptushakespeare.com for further info and goodonpaper.info/ events for tickets.

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

THEATRE/ DANCE LISTINGS

BLACK BOOK CAFÉ

SAT 6TH

Good On Paper Nelson St. Party

The annual Good On Paper party returns this time across two venues with theatre at the Black Book Café ft. improvisational theatre/comedy troupe Impromptu Shakespeare, Paper Jungle presents the Skeleton Woman with puppetry by Isabel Lyster and much much more...5pm £13adv from goodonpaper.info/events

blackbookcafe.com

COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE

WEDS 3RD – SUN 7TH

Baroque Theatre Company: The Three Musketeers

Baroque Theatre Company is proud to present this classic family adventure adapted from Alexandre Dumas' 'The Three Musketeers!' Cry 'All for one and one for all,' as we join D'Artagnan and his friends Porthos, Athos and Aramis, in their quest against the scheming Cardinal Richelieu. A rip roaring, fast paced, swashbuckling show ideal for families (ages 5+). Inventive stagecraft, witty dialogue and with colourful characters from the novel, this exciting story is brimming with energy and skilful storytelling to keep audiences captivated. There will be action and romance galore in this specially commissioned production. Weds-Sat 7:30pm/Sat-Sun 2:30pm £12/£7under16/£30family

cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

MINCHINHAMPTON MARKET HOUSE

SUN 7TH

Tutti Frutti and York Theatre Royal: The Ugly Duckling

Tutti Frutti and York Theatre Royal present a delightful new version of Hans Christian Andersen's' much loved tale, The Ugly Duckling. This classic story about families, identity and finding your place in the world is funny, sad sometimes but ultimately uplifting. 11:30am and 3pm £8adv

minchinhamptonmarkethouse.co.uk

SVA

TUES 9TH/16TH/23RD/30TH

Introduction to Flamenco Rhythms Workshop

An introduction to flamenco rhythms for dancers, guitarists, percussionists, or anyone interested in flamenco music. 8pm £5 (John Street)

sva.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS

SUN 28TH

Brave Bold Drama: George and the Flight of the Imaginees

Within the confines of his bedroom George can conjure pre-historic beasts and subterranean mythical creatures, simply by slipping through a black hole into other-worldly dimensions. All these imaginings are just for fun, until George is summoned to protect the Ancient Spirits of the Imaginees. Harnessing his magical powers against those that seek to dim the dazzling light of creativity - join George as he stretches ideas into even more fantastical brand new shapes. A globe-trotting quest bursting at the seams with magical illuminations and original music - in a tale about how limitless imagination can be (and how it can get you into a spot of bother sometimes!) 11am £8/£6concs/£25family

SUN 28TH

Brave Bold Drama: Storytelling Workshop

Create Your Own Adventure: just add imagination! 60 minutes of quick thinking, sparks of inspiration and a lot of delight as we whisk ourselves off to far-flung locations as yet unknown! A drama workshop for all the family to enjoy together, led by Brave Bold Drama, makers of award-winning family theatre and the company that brought you George and the Flight of the Imaginees. Bring everyone, from the super-small to the silver-haired! 2pm £3

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

18A KENDRICK STREET

SAT 20TH/FRI 26TH

Marcus Blackett: 7Up...Down... Whatever!

A performance by Marcus Blackett as part of the Truth and Reality exhibition above Made In Stroud - a mixed media show of the work of more than a dozen creative minds exploring what Truth & Reality means to them. What does it mean to you? Come and wonder, sit on a beanbag, chat, drink tea/coffee and watch the performance...6pm free or by arrangement: foksfam@aol.com 07767787641

CHANTRY CENTRE DURSLEY

SAT 20TH – SAT 27TH

The Dods: The Wizard of Oz

The Dods festive season family show! Sit back and enjoy the wonderful timeless music of Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg as they tell the tale of Dorothy and her adventures on the yellow brick road...Visit website for times and tickets.

chantrycentre.org

COMEDY LISTINGS

BLACK BOOK CAFÉ

SAT 6TH

Good On Paper Nelson St. Party

The annual Good On Paper party returns this time across two venues with comedy at the Black Book Café ft. improvisational theatre/comedy troupe Impromptu Shakespeare, stand-up poet Jonny Fluffypunk and much much more...5pm £13adv from goodonpaper.info/events

blackbookcafe.com

THE PRINCE ALBERT

SUN 21ST

Turn Left at the Albert

A fundraising event for the Labour Party ft. stand-up poet, armchair revolutionary and recumbent rocker - Elvis McGonagall, stand-up poet and sustainable nihilist - Jonny Fluffypunk and Stroud's favourite miserabilist Bill Jones...7:30pm £10adv from rodlabour@gmail.com / 07534619788 and the Albert

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

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Hazel's classes start on **Sunday 14th January 2018** at **6.30pm**



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