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**COVER ARTIST:
DOM THOMPSON**

"Music and photography occupy an almost identical space for me. The creative process for both being almost identical; the only difference being the end product, one is heard the other is seen. Their relationship has become increasingly fascinating to me, a daily meditation, constantly changing, never the same, created in a split second as a response to the world around me."

I: @expoja W: expoja.co.uk

EDITOR'S NOTE

WELCOME TO ISSUE 104.

And the first one with the number 2024 on the cover...

As well as covering things happening in the first month of the new year this issue features our annual round up of albums and EP's released by local musicians, bands and solo artists (including a Stroud 2023 playlist featuring songs from those releases) and books published by Stroud dwelling authors in the previous year.

Once again we are also happy to be supporting the Stroud Book Festival, working with them to publish the winning entries of the 2023 Laurie Lee Prize For Writing and elsewhere we cover new albums, delve into ongoing art projects and much more...

2024 will bring another 12 issues filled to the edges with words and pictures. A monthly guide to arts and culture events across the Stroud District. A regular deep delve into what's being created, produced, put on and presented right on our doorstep.

And next month? The Good On Paper Party returns...Don't forget to buy your ticket before they go...

Happy New Year

Long Live the Printed Word

Alex Hobbis and Adam Hinks

FRONT COVER: Dom Thompson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Paul Harper, Robin Layfield and Rob Clucas-Tomlinson

TEAM:

ALEX HOBBS

Advertising/Editorial/Listings
alex@goodonpaper.info

ADAM HINKS

Artwork and Design
adam@goodonpaper.info

ONLINE: goodonpaper.info

FACEBOOK: /GoodOnPaperStroud

TWITTER: @GoodOnPaper_

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LONG LIVE THE PRINTED WORD.



Jane Garbett

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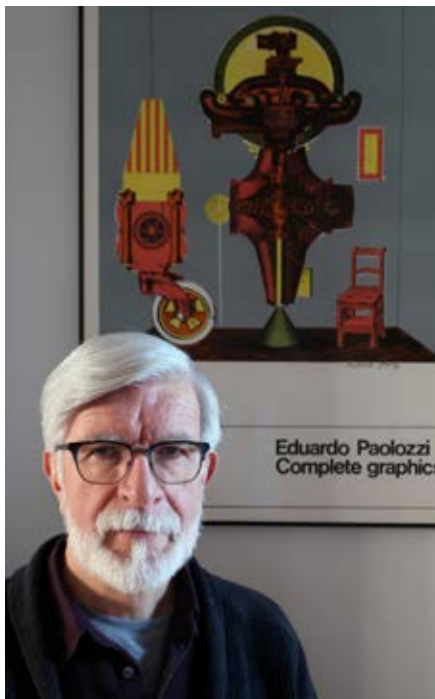
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RICK POYNOR

BY PAUL HARPER
PHOTO BY JANE POYNOR



Ground Control by Julien Pacaud

RICK POYNOR IS A RENOWNED JOURNALIST, ESSAYIST, EDITOR, PUBLISHER, CURATOR AND ACADEMIC, PROFESSOR OF DESIGN AND VISUAL CULTURE. HE HAS PUBLISHED WIDELY IN THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA AS WELL AS IN SPECIALIST PUBLICATIONS. THE FOCUS OF HIS CRITICAL WRITING IS VISUAL CULTURE, SPECIFICALLY GRAPHIC DESIGN. HE FOUNDED A QUARTERLY REVIEW OF GRAPHIC DESIGN, EYE, AND CO-LAUNCHED A WEBSITE, DESIGN OBSERVER, AS A PLATFORM FOR DISCUSSION ABOUT DESIGN. HE IS A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR GRAPHIC DESIGN HISTORY AND APPRECIATION.

Design, perhaps graphic design especially, has often been valued or denigrated (depending on your perspective) as an instrument of marketing, part of a system of production and consumption, with its primary purpose being to get us to buy more stuff. Design history, in the meantime, has often followed a model that constructs descriptive narratives around key designers, movements and a canon of

important designs, with limited critical analysis of its social significance. Over many years of observing and writing about design, Rick has become more interested in the broader cultural meanings and effects of graphic design as "a vital medium of communication and visual expression".

A selection of 46 of his essays has now been collected together under the title, *Why Graphic Culture Matters*. The topics covered encompass the corporate dominance in design, the evolution of design critique and its historical context, the interplay between word and image, the cult of design celebrities, critical approaches to practise, and the timeless connection between art and design. The book is engaging, thought provoking and brimming with ideas.

One of the first things that strikes me as I sit down to read *Why Graphic Culture Matters*, is how good the writing is. I've found that this is a remarkably rare experience for an academic working in the fields of art and design, where critical writing is often a chore to decipher – seemingly intended to obscure rather than illuminate. If you find a book that is both clever and a pleasure to read, you cherish it.

When we meet, I discover that Rick speaks as he writes, with clarity and precision, with well-defined critical and polemical purpose, tempered by conviviality, humour, and a fluent facility for words. I imagine that his lectures are very popular. The essays are certainly scholarly, erudite, thoughtful and insightful, informed by a deep knowledge and understanding of graphic culture, whilst drawing on a rich store of reference and comparison that crosses disciplines and artforms. However, Rick is

not writing solely, or even primarily, for an audience of insiders or professionals within the field. The subject is too important for that. He wants to appeal to a wider audience. He tells me that he assumes that his readers won't necessarily have any specialist knowledge, but that they will be intelligent and interested in the discussion. He is drawing our attention to an aspect of visual culture that is all around us everywhere. This ubiquity is central to Rick's argument – we are all implicated and invested in graphic culture and it should be subject to public debate.

The essays are organised into three sections, which represent different perspectives on graphic culture. The first discusses ways in which graphic culture has been annexed by business and how that can limit the expressive possibilities. The second looks at alternative ways of thinking about graphic communication, both a practice and form of culture. The final section is forward facing, dealing with ideas and innovations that are shaping graphic culture now and in the future. Driven by technological developments, new media and the breaking down of boundaries between art and design practices, forms and intentions, how will graphic design continue as a distinct culture?

In bringing together these essays in one place Rick has created a very readable and inclusive introduction for anyone at all interested in visual culture and the debates surrounding graphic design, as well as a valuable text for design students – I'll be making sure that copies are ordered for my university library.

As we talk, Rick brings out and shares with me other examples of his work. I'm surprised in some ways



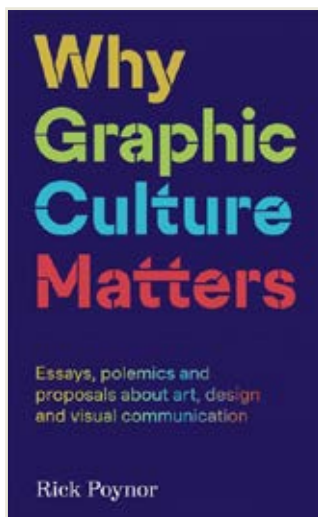
Endangered Ghost by Anymade Studio

by how familiar I am with many of the images and artists that he has written about, but of course that is the nature of his subject. Graphic design is pervasive, threaded through our lives: persuading, provoking, informing and misinforming, entertaining. It is also notable that great care and attention has been paid to the quality of the books and magazines. These are satisfying objects, beautifully produced, lovely to handle - very much in tune with the spirit of Good On Paper!

Rick Poyner is a notable figure in his field, and, as is often the case when I'm asked to interview people for GOP, I'm rather amazed to find that he lives in Stroud – and only five minutes walk from me. He moved to the town two years ago and has found himself very much at home in a community that welcomes and encourages participation, activism and creativity. I was especially pleased to see that the most recent edition of Eye features an article by Rick, richly illustrated and affectionately written, about another distinguished Stroud character who has left his own mark on the graphic culture of the place, Dennis Gould – long live the printed word!

Why Graphic Culture Matters by Rick Poyner is out now, published by Occasional Papers (occasionalpapers.org)

PAUL HARPER LIVES IN STROUD WHERE HE WRITES ABOUT ART AND MUSIC AND LIKES A GOOD CHAT. HE HAS PUBLISHED WIDELY IN ACADEMIC JOURNALS, BOOKS AND ARTIST'S CATALOGUES. HE TEACHES RESEARCH SKILLS, AND CRITICAL AND CONTEXTUAL STUDIES IN THE SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN AT MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY.



THE STREET A



"I WOULD RATHER DO SOME WHOLESOME OUTLET THAN SIT AROUND WITH A LOAD OF SUITS STROKING MY CHIN ALL DAY..."
— MILKY

BY ROBIN LAYFIELD AND KATE BUCKINGHAM

Kate Buckingham and Robin Layfield met with local graffiti artists, MILKY and ZED IN THE CLOUDS to discuss the Street Art Project from Stroud Town Council on the hoardings outside the Market Tavern and what's next...

RL: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A GRAFFI WRITER?

MILKY: Probably since college, so for about four or five years, maybe three years properly serious. I'm doing Fine Art at Uni but I prefer this.

ZED: I've always done art from a really young age, my mum was a designer and a printmaker, I've always kept a sketchbook. I started taking it seriously after the death of a friend in 2018, which set me on a different path.

RL: IS THERE A BIG GRAFFITI COMMUNITY HERE?

ZED: There's a lot of talent here and it's nice to see it being more supported by the Town Council and to get the opportunity to bring it to the surface more, with a space right in the middle of town, where people can actually interact with it in a way where it's not frowned upon.

MILKY: It would really brighten up the whole town if we could start putting art into the urban environment. There's so much more industry going up into the town. The more art that we can bring into it that's more accessible, more freelance artists, instead of having more Starbucks and Costa Coffees.

RL: DO YOU THINK PEOPLE NEED PERMISSION TO BE ARTISTS?

MILKY: Not at all. It depends on the context of your work.

ZED: The nature of art is to question - in whatever form that may take and I don't think that you require permission from anyone in order to voice your opinion. Historically lots of artists have been persecuted, or victimised or become social pariahs for their art but that doesn't negate the value of their work.

RL: THERE WILL BE PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT THINK "I'D LIKE TO DO A PIECE OF WORK BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT - OR WHAT I DO IS NOT GOING TO BE GREAT" AND YOU'RE GIVING THEM THAT PERMISSION.

ZED: That's the beauty of a legal space - obviously painting illicit stuff is not cut out for everyone and for people that want to engage with it without fear, this allows them to explore that as well. For community relations it's helpful to have these spaces - this has proved useful in a lot of cities and towns up and down the UK. I think the chaotic collaboration element of it is really nice as well, especially in a workshop setting, it allows you to learn things in a way that no one person would be able to - it takes a lot of the pressure off.

RL: YOU'VE DONE A LOT OF WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE - YOU'VE WORKED ON THE HAF (HOLIDAYS ACTIVITIES AND FOOD) SCHEMES AND YOU'VE WORKED ON THE MURALS HERE...

ZED: This is a big part of my working practice — as you get older, you become more self-conscious and more aware of what's around you. Pure creativity gets lost sometimes but stepping back and working with younger people is freeing. It's always nice to meet new kids and see what they are interested in and how they draw. I just try to nourish that really.

MILKY: I've done similar community projects. I try to step back and let the kids do as much as possible. For me it's been a big learning curve and this has helped me to get better at working with lots of different people. When you give worksheets to kids - they've never done graffiti before - and when they give them back, you think "this is way better than some people's stuff that you'd see who've been painting for years."

KB: We have been talking about establishing a Paint Festival in Stroud in 2024. Lee Kirby, the other artist that has worked on this project is keen to try to establish a date for something — starting with something really small scale, perhaps with some hoardings in front of the Sub Rooms.

ART PROJECT

ZED: It would be cool to see some more consideration in Stroud for this particular type of art, given that it is renowned as a place for art, with so many artists practising here.

If there was more space for this art, then maybe more people would get involved - people that work in studios might want to do some work outside, people that don't engage with traditional art might be more interested in this form that they can directly participate in.

RL: THERE IS A WHOLE THING THERE ABOUT PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION: YOU'RE INTERACTING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, YOU'RE INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE, IT'S NOT JUST A PIECE OF WORK IN ISOLATION, PEOPLE TRAVEL TO SEE IT.

MILKY: If you want to bring in something like the Paint Festival, you have to be on board with the fact that people who aren't part of the paint festival are going to come and paint on walls without permission. There is a paradox in having a paint festival to glorify this artform and punishing people for painting without permission.

KB: It's usually thought to work the opposite way. There are innumerable studies that show diversionary activity works and that giving young artists a platform and sacrificial sites reduces tagging in town centres. The Street Art that was produced on the wall has remained completely untouched, showing the respect peers have for each other's work when it's a good piece. We wanted to bring young people into the centre of the town and make it clear that they have a place in the fabric of the town.

ZED: I love the concept of it but I hope that everyone can get a look in. It would be nice to see people that don't have the opportunity to paint being given spots to paint in. For me the essence would be more about trying to include the community than to highlight established artists.

RL: THIS ARTICLE IS A CALL OUT TO STROUD TO SEE WHAT APPETITE THERE IS OUT THERE FOR A STREET ART FESTIVAL. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED IN IT?

MILKY: It would be good to have some permanent pieces come out of the festival. The side wall of Starbucks has a huge wall that could hold a 20 foot by 20 foot mural. There's a tunnel by the old kebab shop that's already got some street art in it, stencils and stuff.

ZED: I've set up a Memorial Wall before that was really well received, where people could write the names of their loved ones and that is something I would really like to see. This is a big part of graffiti culture and it's very important to me. If I was going to paint something, I would want to be able to paint my friend's name on that wall. It would be great to see more youth inclusion and everyone being welcome, with no politics around what's worthwhile and what's not? Graff battles would be good as well. It would be nice to see the old-school writers getting their time of day and being given a wall to paint.

For further examples of Zed In The Clouds work head to instagram [@zed_in_the_clouds](https://www.instagram.com/zed_in_the_clouds)

Contact Kate Buckingham at Stroud Town Council (Kate.Buckingham@stroudtown.gov.uk) with any enquiries around the Street Art Project and Paint Festival.

ROBIN LAYFIELD IS A STROUD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WITH AN INTEREST IN INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY.

KATE BUCKINGHAM WORKS FOR STROUD TOWN COUNCIL



2023

A YEAR IN MUSIC



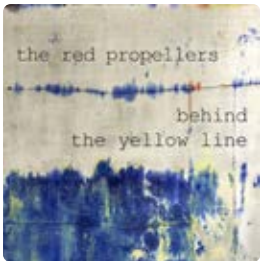
TOADSTONE

Cernunnos

Release Date: 27/01

On Cernunnos, Toadstone continues to explore and refine their unusual and ethereal folk sound, taking inspiration from folk legends and the local landscape. The album invites Toadstone fans to also explore what is meant by our shared cultural heritage through our relationship with folk tales.

toadstonemusic.bandcamp.com



THE RED PROPELLERS

Behind The Yellow Line

Release Date: 16/02

The new album by post-punk, alt-rock group the Red Propellers fronted by singer and poet James Dick inspired by the Velvet Underground and late 1970's New York City punk music scene. The ten tracks transport us back to that time with James' spoken/sung/shouted poetry leading the way...

theredpropellers1.bandcamp.com



SLUNK

Pigtails

Release Date: 31/03

The debut solo release by Josh Bannister (Milk Teeth, Gun Shy, Tummyache) as Slunk. The album was recorded live, straight to tape in just two days resulting in an intimate, raw, lo-fi and gritty collection of tracks influenced by the likes of Sonic Youth, Sebadoh and Dry Cleaning.

slunkonline.bandcamp.com



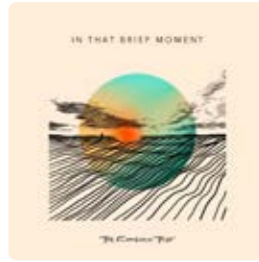
PHONSONIC

Chrome

Release Date: 02/04

An album born out of Phonsonic's (aka Alexander Caminada) fascination with the interplay between chance and counterpoints. To create each track, he relied heavily on improvisation, often starting with a simple, found sound, a randomly generated sequence or a melody played on an instrument forming the foundations to create new textures and harmonies to tell musical stories.

phonsonic.bandcamp.com



THE FLAMENCO THIEF

In That Brief Moment

Release Date: 10/04

With its unique blend of classic melodic acoustic sound, arpeggios, fingerstyle, and big-sound orchestration, the album takes listeners on a sonic adventure that seamlessly fuses old and new. The Flamenco Thief's passion for experimenting and trying new things is evident in the album's use of new instrumentation and the collaboration with a diverse range of musicians. "In That Brief Moment" is a testament to Craig Sutton's artistic vision and unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of contemporary acoustic guitar music.

theflamencothief.bandcamp.com



MAN SIZED CREATURE

Through The Air and The Leaves

Release Date: 12/04

The boldly unreserved 'Through The Air And The Leaves' is an 18-minute long foray through raucous breakcore, trippy ambience, guitars warped beyond repair, and evocative lyricism pulling the listener far into an ethereal dreamscape before bringing them back at the end with a soft acoustic ballad. Producers Sam Judd and Felix Jupiter handle far-out electronics with a deep sense of organicism in an inaugural record that is playful, subversive and deeply introspective all at once.

mansizedcreature.bandcamp.com



LEVERET

Forms

Release Date: 21/04

English instrumental powerhouse Leveret mark ten years of playing together with the album 'Forms'. During their decade together, Sam Sweeney, Andy Cutting and Rob Harbron have been at the heart of countless albums and projects with numerous heavyweight artists - Roger Daltrey, Bellowhead, The Full English, Blowzabella, Eliza Carthy and Jon Boden to name a few - and yet as a trio they continue to plough their own furrow, playing the music they are passionate about in their own unique way. Together they have inspired a new generation of musicians and helped bring a renewed interest in English instrumental music. Forms is Leveret at their best - spontaneous, inventive and truly listenable music from three superb instrumentalists who are truly leading the field.

leveretband.bandcamp.com



ORBURY COMMON

Devil Gurning EP

Release Date: 21/04

A four track EP by the cosmic bucolic electronica duo featuring guest appearances by fellow Stroud dwellers Boss Morris and Mermaid Chunky and two different remixes of the title track. Orbury Common is more than Bristol and Stroud-based musicians Josh Day-Jones and Emlyn Bainbridge. It's a place rooted in their collective imagination, a warped parallel to our own world, with its own strange cultures, customs, landscapes and landmarks...

orburycommon.bandcamp.com



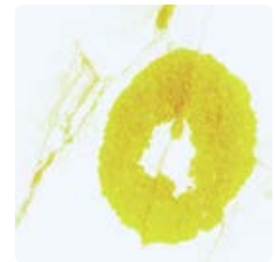
COSMO SHELDRAKE

Wild Wet World

Release Date: 26/04

Pioneering multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer, Cosmo Sheldrake's album Wild Wet World features humpback whales singing, sperm whales clicking, weddell seals courting, coral reefs spluttering, bucktoothed parrot fish crunching, an oyster toadfish grunting, shrimp snapping, long horned sculpins honking, blue whales lamenting and haddock drumming. The music is composed entirely out of recordings of these animals and the sound worlds that they inhabit.

cosmosheldrake.bandcamp.com



SIMON MCCORRY

Rituals Of Non-Existence: Listen Closely Everything Sings

Release Date: 31/05

Another unique release from industrious cellist Simon McCorry as a beautiful limited edition pro dubbed cassette, with full colour on body print on shell: "tracks from dark days between years looking back and forward, a creative slack tide, waiting, both change and no change, yet uncompromising. Music written towards the end of 2022 in a moment of crises and self doubt, both personal and creative. In some ways the two are tied together..."

Other Releases in 2023: Resonant Fields (27/11), I the Storm (22/09), Florescence w/ anth ne (16/06), Mood Purple (26.03)

simonmccorry.bandcamp.com



ANDREW BUTLER

Songs From The Underworld
Release Date: 23/06

Songs From The Underworld is Andrew Butler's second album written during a turbulent period of Butler's life. It holds ten enchanting and original songs, with memorable melodies and lyrics that are close to the bone against the backdrop of a dark gothic underworld. Composed as an emotive journey through light and dark, Songs From The Underworld speaks of vulnerabilities and shattered dreams, defiance and unswerving hope, inviting its listeners to become part of a complex and beautiful metamorphosis.

andrewbutler.bandcamp.com



THE ACHIEVERS

Easy Going Days
Release Date: 30/06

The second of two albums released in 2023 by the award winning the Achievers (featuring artwork by illustrator Jacob Mackie) in a busy year which included a 10th anniversary tour: "It's ten largely unconnected songs that don't quite fit into either roots, rock, pop, blues or Americana music. And yet the album is probably all those things at the same time."

Other releases in 2023: Live From Temperance (17.03.23)
theachieversuk.bandcamp.com



THE REMAINDER

Evensong
Release Date: 14/07

A unique band featuring Blancmange's Neil Arthur (vocals, guitar and synthesisers), solo artist Finlay Shakespeare (synthesisers and vocals) and Liam Hutton (drums, guitar and synthesisers). The latter - best known for his work with Boxed In, Neneh Cherry and more recently, Young Fathers - initiated the writing process back in 2015. The trio's crisp, glacial rhythms, cascading synths, shadowy psychedelia, absurd humour and lyrical x-rays of everyday life all feature strongly on their forward-looking debut album.

theremaindermusic.bandcamp.com



STEVE QUERALT AND MICHAEL SMITH

Sun Moon Town Versions
Release Date: 21/07

Sun Moon Town Versions is a companion piece to last year's EP, on which Steve Queralt, bass player of pioneering shoegazers RIDE, joined forces with the writer and film-maker Michael Smith for a stunning four-track EP featuring Steve's music and Michael's spoken-word musings. On Versions, the four tracks have been reimagined by Nandele, Flug 8, GLOK and Nina Walsh, kindred spirits and treasured members of the extended Bytes/Ransom Note family.

stevequeraltmichaelsmith.bandcamp.com



POPPY ACKROYD

Pause Reimagined
Release Date: 25/08

Four atmospheric homages to songs from Poppy Ackroyd's hauntingly beautiful 2021 album Pause by four female artists - Alexandra Hamilton-Ayers who performed at this year's Hidden Notes festival in Stroud, Japanese singer and composer Hinako Omori, Berlin based cellist and composer Anne Müller and Brussels based filmmaker and composer Christina Vantzou.

poppy.bandcamp.com



HIDDEN ORCHESTRA

To Dream Is To Forget
Release Date: 22/09

Released via Hidden Orchestra's (aka Joe Acheson) own newly formed Lone Figures imprint, the musical direction for To Dream Is To Forget involved a concerted effort to condense musical themes and ideas into more immediate arrangements, with less utilisation of field recordings than previously released material. The album title is taken from a line by Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa - "No one tires of dreaming, because to dream is to forget, and forgetting does not weigh on us, it is a dreamless sleep throughout which we remain awake." And this seems an apt calling card for a collection that draws influence from a fantastic and diverse array of places. Musically at any given point you are as likely to hear sounds akin to Max Cooper or Four Tet as you are Stravinsky, Debussy, and Ravel.

hiddenorchestra.bandcamp.com



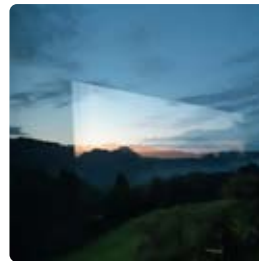
ANDREW HEATH

Scapa Flow
Release Date: 20/10

Full of majesty, fragility and darkness, Scapa Flow explores our complex relationship with the sea and its pivotal role in our sense of identity. The album continues Andrew's endless explorations with piano, guitar, and electronics, his love of the e-bow to create organic and constantly changing tones, as well as with more unusual instruments like the zither, an instrument that he has refashioned and used on "We are Shipbuilding Again".

Other releases in 2023: Sollila with Anne Chris Bakker (18/08), Fold (16/06), Landscape Studies No.3 (05/05), North By North East w/ Seigo Aoyama (03/03), Short Stories - Addendum (13/01)

andrewheath.bandcamp.com



SARAH NICOLLS

Visible Notes
Release Date: 02/11

A ten track album inspired by Sarah Nicolls' captivating performance at this year's Hidden Notes festival using her own unique invention - the Inside Out Piano. A 1900 Erard grand piano whose strings run straight upwards from the keyboard, shaped so that the audience see into the instrument; the guts and moving parts literally on show... "In this music is me, my feelings, the sounds I love. The incredible-ness of inside piano mixed with the fun of simple technology and the joy of melody."

sarahnicolls.bandcamp.com



RADIOLARIANS

Radiolarians
Release Date: 10.11

Radiolarians is the solo project of electronic musician Dave Cudlip. His new self-titled LP, produced in an edition of 300 was released by Stroud based label Klang Tone Records. The 10 songs were produced spontaneously as a collection of slightly sombre mood pieces punctuated by more upbeat wonky bedsit electronica.

klangtone.bandcamp.com



A PLACE FROM MANOAH

Songs From Cuckoo Lake
Release Date: 01.12

One fine spring day, old friends Harry and Bilbo set off into the mountains on a quest for visions, wonder and magic. They make their camp by a lake home to a cuckoo, and are befriended by a little mouse who joins them around the campfire by night. During the course of their stay, channels are opened to uncharted realms, and many discoveries are made; ancient herbivores, moss temples and meetings with 'the Great Mystery'. This is a record of that time - Songs from Cuckoo Lake.

aplacefrommanoa.bandcamp.com

“I THINK THIS RECORD WILL OFFER GREAT COMFORT AND SOLACE TO SO MANY. IT WILL HELP A LOT OF PEOPLE.”

KRISTIN MCCLEMENT

PHILIPPE NASH

BY ROB CLUCAS-TOMLINSON

In 1903 Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke's collection *The Book of Poverty and Death* was published to critical acclaim. From it, the poem *Like a Holy Face Held in My Dark Hands* stands out as one of the book's most poignant works.

“Lord, the great cities are lost and rotting. Their time is running out.....Beyond them waits and breathes your earth, but where they are, it cannot reach them.”

He wrote, contemplating the idea of God as nature, and nature God. Like *A Holy Face* is also the name of Philippe Nash's new album. The title is, of course, inspired by that poem, and justly so, as Philippe's deep spiritual connection with the natural world around him runs through every song like the wind through the trees on a blustery day.

“I live in a small community just outside Nailsworth, in a beautiful old caravan tucked under apple trees,” Philippe says. “Living in the Stroud area, it finds its way into my songs through my close relationship with nature and the outside world. Because I made the album at home in the caravan, the recording process often includes the natural sounds that surround me whether I like it or not.”

If you listen to *Like A Holy Face* carefully, and you should, because it's an album of subtle beauty, you can actually hear the sensual sound of rain falling on the caravan roof in the ballad, *Chair*, while in the song, *Crisis*, you can hear birdsong. Stroud Valleys birdsong, no less. There's also a written reference to Swifts Hill in the gorgeous *Hands Laid On*. “This was something I decided to flow along with rather than battle against and try and erase,” Philippe continues. “I tend to record each song as one take and then build on that raw skeleton, and it just felt right to include the sounds that weren't coming from me - a way of connecting to place and to the land where I live.”

Philippe moved to Stroud in the Winter of 2021, arriving just in time for the second lockdown, something he “rode out alone in a flat in town through some dark months of maximum social isolation and solitude,” before emerging into the new normal of a post-pandemic England. But then he became sick. Very sick. And he faced his dark night of the soul at just 33. But he is now recovering, and he's returned to music, and you can feel the relief in many of the songs in this album, together with the deep appreciation of life - his life, and the natural world which immerses us all in its constant travails.

The song *Chair*, in particular, takes us on a powerful journey of

grief and recovery. ‘The chair is still in the room/ Cherish the wellness in you.’ He sings, depicting a conversation he had with his mother soon after his diagnosis. The song ends candidly, ‘The chair is still in the room. Cherish the illness in you.’

But there's so much more here than just his battle with cancer. After all, Philippe has been a serious songwriter since his early teens, and *Like A Holy Face* draws inspiration from so many of the quintessential themes of being human - love, faith, fear, belonging. It's an achingly vulnerable journey throughout, taking you into the beautiful, the personal, the gentle and the intimate - an intimacy so honest that it as good as transports you, as you listen, into his caravan beside him as he sings. You are wrapped up in his words and melodies, safe from the rain falling mournfully outside, but not so far from it that you're disconnected from its life-force completely.

And yet, it's difficult to listen to the album and not hear or feel the scars of his struggles to survive and thrive again. The best works of art are always the ones that artists bring to life in order to heal or celebrate, exorcise or trumpet very real experiences. And *Like A Holy Face* has clearly been, for Philippe, a cathartic undertaking.

‘God breaks your heart until/ it's free and letting go of every ill/ finding that you've loved and want to grieve/ will carry you all the way downstream.’ He laments in the third-to-last song, *Stream*. Nature, like life, affects us all in different ways. Philippe's philosophy, like his songs, sings me to a safe place, swaddled beneath a duvet, where rainfall heightens the senses but also soothes the heart to sleep.

.....
Like *A Holy Face* will be released on Weds 31st January, you can listen to the singles *Chair* and *Stream* from the album now via philippenash.bandcamp.com

Philippe will be supporting Michele Stodart (the Magic Numbers) on Monday 29th January at the Prince Albert. Head to theprincealbertstroud.co.uk for tickets and further info.

ROB CLUCAS-TOMLINSON IS A WRITER WHO ALSO GOES BY THE NAME MR. BOBBINGTON. HE CREATES QUIRKY QUIZZES AND CROSSWORDS AND IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR COMMISSIONS



THE OLD MAN IN THE EARTH

BY SOPHIA BURSEY

(WINNER - 16-20 CATEGORY)

Her grandmother had first told her about the old man in the earth. His presence was never questioned: when they were out walking in the hills, she'd often ask: what part of the man are we on now? Her grandmother's cool hand pressed her own to thick, gnarled tree roots. 'These are his knuckles. He can't bend his fingers very well; too stiff, they are.' As they traced the landscape surrounding the house the image grew clearer and clearer in her mind. The two ponds, clear and cold, in the sodden field behind the nearest farm - the old man in the earth had the kindest eyes. His arteries were the Thames, the Severn, the Frome on the map spread over the kitchen table, with tributary veins under her feet wherever they chose to go that Sunday. He was comfortingly inescapable; even the twisting streams that carved the bottom of the steep valley below her grandmother's house were his, blue but beating with life, bringing blood to his fingertips. She believed in the man in the earth without blinking: his bones lay cracked inside the hills, his flesh healed where it was quarried. His skin morphed and stretched to accommodate its visitors; the sunspots and wrinkles on it seemed to be made for animals to make their homes in; there was a different shade for every human village.

The old man in the earth didn't need protecting, back then. He protected them. Lying on her back with her head in his hair beneath the lime tree in the back garden, looking up at the clouds, she thought how he could see the same sky as her from where he lay. He was generous, always willing to share. The first autumn she knew him, she had cried watching her father dig into the ground to plant, knowing the spade could be chipping into his nose, cracking his teeth, burrowing into his forearm, anything. Her protests weren't understood, and a confused hug hadn't soothed the knowledge that the old man could be hurting. Yet he hadn't given up after the planting - he had welcomed the apple tree, and lent his own blood to the carrots and beans that sprang up full of life. He was strong and elastic despite his weary, rocky skeleton. The flowers on the peas were a sign of his forgiveness, and she lay her hand in the soil in thanks. Love was loam.

Watching the tiny television screen in her grandmother's sitting room, she began to wonder about the man in the earth. Was there more than one? Or was her scrap of land just special, the rest uninhabited and ungoverned? Hers could only take up so much space and still be so kind. No, there was only one, her grandmother told her, crooked fingers on her shoulders,

but he could change. Sometimes he was less understanding. Sometimes he arched his spines and flexed his muscles, and the houses built on them crumbled. Sometimes he reared up underwater, like sitting up in a bathtub, and sent shockwaves onto the unsuspecting lying at his feet. She couldn't blame them for being hurt, because not everyone knew about the man in the earth - not everyone loved him like she did. But some people disregarded him. Her grandmother had waded into his left eye, once, and picked up a bottle thrown by a walker, a rare disturbance to their isolation. 'Never put things down like that; the man might get sick to his stomach.' She didn't want him to be sick; he was their protector. She wanted to help him in return.

The road to the nearest village was impossibly steep, and they called part of it the Devil's Elbow. Her grandmother knew the people who lived at the crook of it, and grew vegetables, chopped and dried firewood, hung windchimes in the garden. The children in the village said it was the spookiest house for miles, and that the Devil really lived there. She didn't like to think that they might be talking about the old man in the earth. He wasn't devilish; if anything, he'd keep them safe there; she put her fingers on her own arm. The concentrated warmth of blood and bone and the firm tracks of cartilage seemed made to surround the house with life. The cottage nestled in the joint there couldn't be harmed in her mind. Surely, this was another mistake, to view the man as opposing and contradicting their lives - the crook of the elbow was proof that he lived in tandem with them, that they bent and stretched around each other, and he kept them alive in return for their peace.

Even if that wasn't him on the little screen, even if he became someone else, she felt him wherever she went. The photos showed her up to her knees in saltwater - his body shimmered as the seafloor, and the rippling water soothed his neck. Calling into the black mouth of a cave, she heard him respond, albeit muffled around his stalactite teeth. Her feet fit into his crevices; they were made for each other; she loved every part of him, even his roughness. The craggy Bannau Brycheiniog were as beautiful, to her, as the smooth hill rolling into vale in view of her grandmother's house, and more beautiful still was the soft, velvety sand that she ran her fingers through, sprinkling it like the freckles on his old, bent nose. When it was wet it transformed and could be carved and packed into whatever she had dreamed of the

night before, but the waves washed away her mock-creations when it was time for the old man in the earth to rest. It was comforting to know that he reverted to his same calm, reliable state every six hours, and she found herself unwilling to leave the beach in the knowledge that he was there breathing in and out, expanding and contracting, forgiving her mistakes and delighting in her talents. His softness rivalled his hardness, but the old man remained harmonious, his separate parts clicking together like the gears on her bicycle.

When she closed her eyes at night, her eyelashes gave way to his. Her grandmother had taped a postcard to a kitchen cupboard some years ago - on it, a chalk horse made of angles and hard lines was frozen in a hillside. They ate their meals at the long wooden table in the kitchen, and each morning she saw that horse, and wondered whether the old man in the earth minded it. Tattoos, she had read, were sacred to some people - but this was no sign of honour or status. Could he even see beyond the pain of the carving? She'd asked one evening. 'Did it hurt the man in the earth when they drew that?' her grandmother could make anything from nothing with her old hands. 'The man in the earth is tough. And his hair grows back when we cut it, just like yours, eh?'

'That's not his hair. He didn't ask for his tattoos, did he?'

The old woman smiled. 'Tattoos hurt, and they bleed, and then they heal. At least it's only the surface. Believe me, men can do more damage than a chalk horse.'

They watched the television set until she wasn't afraid anymore. She knows, now that she's not a child, that the ribs, the shins, the shoulder blades - wherever the skeleton is closest to the surface - these places hurt the most. Her instincts for him are the same. Back then, were those his ribs erupting through the earth? Was his spine still intact, or had the muddy boots marred even that?

The farm along the hillside kept horses, and the first time she met them she wondered whether they knew about him, too. They stepped back from her hands, tossed their heads and moved their skittish eyes away, always. While she waited for her grandmother she watched their careful feet, instead. They kicked the ground only when they were nervous. She became convinced that they weren't meant for this yard. When they stood among the knots and dips of the fields, she could see them closing their eyes and tilting their heads down. Did they align their breathing with his,

as she did? Slowly, they trusted her. She sat on them, and when they ran she felt the drumbeat of their hooves on the ground and knew the rhythm was natural, that they and he had a covenant older than humans knew. Their figures lined up, their shadows crossed. They could drink from his pools and survive, and others across the world could, too. The old man was endless, and she felt that the horses knew that, and that their freedom came from that same quality that couldn't be suppressed. She wanted the freedom they had, and loving him gave it to her.

Everything grew over the years: the girl, her love for the old man in the earth, the distance between them. During school days in the big town, she couldn't hear him at all. He was dormant, and she silently worried that the concrete had crushed the air from his lungs. The grass on the school field was fake, a ridiculous toupee. The ponds in the parks were stagnant and stinking; there was a shopping trolley in his mouth. His veins in these parts were canals, all straight edges, concrete banks, slimy gates blocking the bloodflow. She didn't talk about the man to the teachers, who hadn't learned what her grandmother had, and weren't willing to teach what she had, either. No one here was willing to care for him the way she did, and although he still lived in her thoughts she no longer lived in his arms. Her visits to the clear, high hills brought fresh air back to her mind. The clouds over the valley dissipated into white cirrus wisps, and she lay face-down in the grass, breathing his perfume, wishing she could stay with him forever.

And now. She could get married when she was eighteen, but she knew she only wanted to be with the old man in the earth. Over there, men with bigger spades than her father's in the garden so many years ago were draining black bile from deep within him, their tilting trebuchets relentless in the quest. The sea that kept the old man refreshed, the clouds that watered his wild skin, the life that he so tenderly allowed to run across his chest - all were changing. The wind in the sails was unpredictable and burned her face. In this valley, though, they can be alone together at last. She sees him shrinking a little with age, but he is no less beautiful. If she loses him she will have her revenge. But she can't imagine him not being there. The body of the landscape is passive but tough, aged and weary, breakable, liable to dent, malleable, mortal, but somehow still breathing, still bleeding, still crying with joy. She can hear his deep laugh at night, she can feel it in her chest, and she will never let go of that sound.

LAURIE LEE PRIZE FOR WRITING 2023

**CHILDHOOD MEMORIES:
DARK LANE, CHALFORD HILL**

BY DEBORAH COX

(WINNER - OVER 21 CATEGORY)

It was a Sunday morning. It was still but not quiet. I could hear two sets of snores coming from my parents' room. My dad's snore, close to the pillow rumbled like an angry lion caught in a snare. My mum's snore occurred every two breaths and was a quick rasping sound as if Jack the Ripper had suddenly put his hand to her throat.

It was time for me to get up. The day outside was starting to chatter and I wanted to be there. I got dressed and went out into the garden. There was still a mist rising from the dew. I could hear the knocking of a snail against the garden path. I looked to see the culprit. A blackbird tossed the carcass to and fro until the sound and the wrestling stopped. One breakfast eaten.

There were translucent, red yew berries scattered over the path. They were poisonous. Just one berry I wondered, or would you have to eat many? The yew tree was the tallest in the garden and the hardest to climb. I scanned its branches for the foothold I used last summer. I looked up at its long, proud trunk and remembered how those tiny maverick twigs, that were so hard to bend and snap off, had scratched me again and again on my journey upwards. What was it about a yew branch that made it so bendy? It would twist and gyrate in my hand, dodging and ducking from that final clean snap that other tree branches allowed. Good for bows and arrows, I thought. The red berries could be rubbed on the end of the arrow. Even their needle like leaves were poisonous. There were lots of them arranged along a spine. Sometimes they dropped off easily forming a sort of devil's confetti over the lawn. Other times each one needed a deliberate tug between finger and thumb.

Tug
"She loves me".
Tug
"She loves me not".
Tug

I slowly made my way to the bottom of the garden, the red-eyed yew berries crunching under every step. Here was the discarded snail shell, its front door brutally forced open, hard, sharp, cracked edges, where the sculptured rim had been. Nothing inside except some earth, and a sudden absence. No time to pack your bags or tell your friends, just pierced by a long orange beak, snatched from everything you've known – shelter, warmth, food, your mother – and down a gobbling hungry throat.

Here was the rockery that caught the sun in the afternoon and was like fishing about in warm rock pools by the seaside. If I turned over this large stone, suddenly a whole world was set in motion, a thousand grey wood bugs were on the move. I was God crouching in the rockery. I could turn one stone and a thousand lives would be affected, their affairs in a sudden state of disarray. I could, if I fancied, knock them off the stones so that they fell upside down from a great height. I could tread on them. No-one would know. Who counted wood bugs? There would be no trial, no jury, no verdict, no sentence, no punishment. I would always be free but I could commit acts of extreme cruelty if I wanted. I watched them running fast for cover. Some had been sleeping, one on top of the other, several wood bugs deep.

"There were ten in the bed and the little one said roll over! Roll over!" I sang as I gently coaxed them from the stone with a dry twig. The wood bugs were my friends. When dad brought wood into the fireplace to be burnt, there were often wood bugs running for their lives. Sometimes whole double beds full of them. My dad just threw the logs onto the flames.

Ouch! Ouch! I would think, as I watched their little bodies burning. Their sisters, their uncles, their little baby brothers, who were only the size of a burnt match head, all popping in the fire. I often tried to save them by picking them

off the logs before my dad reappeared. One life saved, I thought as I gently picked a large one from the bark. This required some skill because if I was too firm with my finger-and-thumb I could crush the little armour-plated shell. I tugged another from the moss, its many legs splayed like a swimmer in the air. Another life, I thought. How could I save them all? Who would know the terrible cruelty that went on in this living room? Would I one day grow up and tell the world?

Here was the large shell, like a conch, that my sister had brought back from the sea. It looked like a giant, white, fossilised wood bug with half its legs dislocated from its body. When it was turned over, it had a pink salmon underbelly that was smooth to touch, and hadn't changed colour despite being on land for many years. It folded into a deep, dark hole where you could hear the sea, even this far inland. All you had to do was go down the hole like the rabbit in Alice in Wonderland. Perhaps if I made a special yew berry concoction I could shrink like Alice and then fit into its long tunnel.

I stood up, forgetting how long I had been crouching down. I heard the cuckoo. It must be in one of the trees above.

Cuckoo! Cuckoo!
Spring is here I thought.

Just then I heard water gushing from the outside pipes of the house. My parents were up. My heart thumped. Should I have brought them up tea? Was my dad angry? I stopped and listened to the sounds. A door was slammed, a window was closed, a toilet flushed.

I followed their noises down to the kitchen. I could see them both by the sink. I hid from view. I suddenly remembered the dirty dishes by the sink. Was I supposed to have washed them? The back door opened. "That wasn't what I saw" my dad said to my mother. He cleared his throat like someone gargling backwards, and spat out the phlegm into the

nearby flower bed. He went inside, slamming the door. He hadn't noticed me.

They were having a row. Something smashed, it sounded like glass. My mother screamed. My dad was shouting, "Bitch! STUPID BITCH!"

I felt sick.

I was a frightened sparrow, a cornered lizard, an earwig about to be crushed. Nothing could ever prepare me for this moment. I felt like a soldier in combat, waiting for a command to go into enemy territory, knowing there would be certain death.

Another smash, a tinkle followed. There was crying now. It was sobbing. Who was sobbing? Did parents sob?

Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

I walked down to the bottom of the garden, to see if there were any apples from my favourite apple tree.

Here was my tree. "Rotten through and through", my dad had said kicking it with his foot. How could it be rotten but still produce such lovely apples? I wondered, pulling one gently off the tree. I bit into the round apple and felt the shiny, green skin smoothing my tongue as I lined it up with my teeth.

A blackbird sang from the Copper Beech tree. I stood still. There were no more noises now. I could hardly swallow. My stomach tightened. What was happening in the kitchen? What was my dad doing? Was my mum alright? As if asking the tree I ran my fingers over its bark.

The blackbird, looking at me from a great height sang:
"Bitter, bitter. Bitter sweet. Bitter, bitter, bitter. Bitter sweet. Bitter sweet".

A voice shouted: "Debbie! Debbie!"

It was my mum calling me from the kitchen door. I ran up the path, my breath laboured with the steepness and the fear circulating in me, but I hardly noticed, shrouded as I was with the dark anticipation of what awaited me.

There in the kitchen my mum stirred the small milk saucepan on the stove with a wooden spoon. Tap! Tap! it went as it touched the sides. "I'm making scrambled egg on toast. Do you want some?" she asked, not turning around. She was still in her nightdress, no slippers on her feet. The kitchen floor was cold I thought.

"Where's dad?" I asked, cautiously sitting at the table.

"He's gone out for the day" she said, staring out of the window.

One slice popped up, then two. I buttered them. She ladled out scrambled egg. I looked up at her and was taken aback to see black and purple bruises down her neck and a dark patch on her eye.

"Are you ok mum?" I asked, unable to eat. "I'll live" she said, giving me a smile that opened and closed like an accordion.

We ate the food in silence.

I jumped up.

"You don't need to wash up" she said, pre-

empting my next move. "Go and play, I'll do it"

I opened the kitchen door and went into the garden. It was now late morning and the sun was nearly full in the sky. The starlings were 'tut, tutting' on the telephone wires. Flies passed by without a word.

"Dear God" I said as I looked up at the blue sky: "Help us, please help us!"

Mr Sherwood was laying slabs on his patio next door. Bright yellow stones that came from a factory. In the summer he went around with his belly hanging over his draw-string shorts. He was bald and always happy. I sauntered to the adjoining garden wall and peered over. It took him a while, but eventually he felt me looking at him and straightened up.

"Hello" he said. He seemed pleased to see me. "Know any more jokes?" he asked. I had told him my repertoire of jokes the previous day. "No" I said, burying my head in my shoulder. Had he heard my mum and dad fighting? I wondered. If so, why hadn't he vaulted over the wall to see if my mum and me were alright. If he had heard, why was he smiling so much?

"We've been out all morning getting these slabs" he said, putting his hands on his hips. Just then, there was a familiar chug chug chugging from The Golden Valley below. A few seconds later a choo choo choo! as the steam train to London gathered momentum.

"It used to stop in Chalford when there was a station," Mr. Shergold said as we both watched the smoke rise and fade. London was full of tall buildings and lots of people running around like tiny ants I thought.

"I'm going to London one day!" I announced.

Suddenly I noticed a long bamboo stick. It had been used to tie a plant to. The green wire was still around it but it came out of the soil easily.

"Bye" I said, smiling.

I had a stick, a long yellow stick with knots like my grandmother's knuckles. It was light and good to wave in the air. You could swish it and swash it, and if you whizzed it very quickly left to right it made a cracking noise, and it made you dizzy. It was just right to hold and suddenly I was Queen again.

Here were the flower beds behind the vegetable patch out of view from the kitchen window. I banged the stick on to the grass and it surprised a clump of earth that shot up. A hole was left in the grass. I tried it again, whack!

There were the stinging nettles I had fallen into when I was only six.

"Take this, you nasty nettles!" I shouted at them. "You little bastards!" I snarled, whacking them from side to side – their long stems suddenly cut short, not even time for surprise. Caught with their mouths open, I thought. Ha! Ha! Again, I sliced their stems from the top, from the bottom, one by one, in a bunch. I had no mercy although they begged me.

"We're sorry, we're sorry" they cried, pleading with me. But the more they pleaded, the better it felt to whack their little heads off, their silly, white, truculent little heads off.

"THAT'LL" - whack!
"TEACH YOU" – swash!
"TO STING ME!"

I stopped for a rest. Being a warrior with a razor-sharp sword was hard work.

Ah ha! I spotted some Chrysanthemums in the flower bed that had dried over the winter – there were several of them all about the same height with their heads still attached. I felt a rush of pleasure sweep my body that was a tingle of excitement and anger.

"OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!" I shouted. "Please, please!" they begged. "Please don't kill us!"

I stood still considering their request. "Please don't kill me!" squeaked one in a high pitched voice.

"But you can't cook properly can you? Always food from tins. You forget to buy milk, you don't clean the house properly. You're useless aren't you? You're a silly bitch. A SILLY BITCH!" At that moment with a wide swipe of the stick, her head came flying off into the compost heap. It was a clean cut. There was now one Chrysanthemum, that was just a stalk, with no head, amongst the others.

Ha ha! I was pleased with my deed. An officer has to do her duty.

Suddenly without warning, I struck at the others:

ONE!
TWO!
THREE!
FOUR!

Heads went catapulting in all directions. Stems got sliced – not one was spared – all women and children – a massacre – it was a massacre.

I was out of breath. I had committed a terrible crime. I knew that I had.

There were the four inch stalks in front of me, where once sleeping Chrysanthemums would have blossomed. I had murdered them all in their beds. I turned around to check my mother hadn't seen from the kitchen window. I looked back at the flower bed and wondered whether she'd notice.

But the blackbird had seen, the woodbugs knew, the Forget-Me-Not knew. Sweet William had seen. Rosemary, Basil and Oregano knew. The Dahlias knew, the Deadly Nightshade had seen. Foxglove and Bell Flower knew. The Knot Weed, the Snap Dragon and the Fuchsias had all seen.

I threw the stick away. My hands in my pockets I went down to find a slow worm in the thicket. I wouldn't apologise I thought, not to any of them.

And as I walked sulkily to the bottom of the garden, I felt their breath upon me, their whispering voices. I saw their heads and petals turn and glance in my direction, and I knew that I was bad. I knew that I was bad through and through.

2023

A YEAR IN BOOKS

MANDY ROBOTHAM

The War Pianist
Published: 16/02 - Avon



Two cities. Two spies. Which woman survives? Pianist: NOUN. Informal. A person who operates

or controls a radio transmitter – often in code. July, 1940 Blitz-ridden London: Marnie Fern's life is torn apart when her grandfather is killed in an air raid. But once she discovers that he'd been working undercover as a radio operative – or pianist – for the Dutch resistance, Marnie knows she must complete his mission – no matter the cost... Nazi-occupied Amsterdam: At the other end of the wireless, fellow pianist Corrie Bakker is caught in a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse as she desperately tries to keep her loved ones out of the line of fire – even if it means sacrificing herself...

FRANCES MARCH

Looking Out, Looking In
Published: 16/02 - Graffiti Books



Frankie March and her husband Geoff have lived in the same house on the side of the hill

below Rodborough Common for the last 36 years. During this time it has witnessed the raising of their two children - now happily rearing their own young families - then Frankie's late career as a teacher and their early retirement years together when her single minded focus turned to poetry. However in early 2022 she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's which curtailed her writing much too soon. This collection of 45 poems, written over ten years, is an effective retrospective of the trials of growing up as one of four sisters in Minehead ('literally, and for me metaphorically, at the end of the line'), bygone family history, raising a family locally ('Motherhood always had a hill to climb...') social observation and love, family and loss.

KATIE FFORDE

One Enchanted Evening
Published: 02/03 - Century



Ever since she can remember, Meg has wanted to be a professional cook. But it's 1966, and in restaurant

kitchens all over England it is still a man's world. Then she gets a call from her mother who is running a small hotel in Dorset. There's an important banqueting event coming up. She needs help and she needs it now! When Meg arrives, the hotel seems stuck in the past. But she loves a challenge, and sets to work. Then Justin, the son of the hotel owner, appears, determined to take over the running of the kitchen. Infuriated, Meg is determined to keep cooking - and soon sparks between them begin to fly.

Laurie King and Miriam Lancewood

Wilder Journeys
Published: 14/03 - Watkins Publishing



Never before have so many people with such incredible life experiences within nature committed

to a single book. In response to a growing public expression of eco-anxiety, Miriam Lancewood and Laurie King have gathered together an extraordinary set of adventurers, nomads and nature lovers who have had profound experiences in nature.

SARAH STEELE

The Lost Song Of Paris
Published: 16/03 - Headline Review



'For a moment she closed her eyes and imagined she was perched on the diving board at the Piscine

Molitor, the sun beating down on her bare shoulders and the sound of Parisians at play beneath her. All she had to do was jump.' 1941. Darkness descends over London as the sirens begin to howl and the bombs rain down. 1997. Amy Novak has lost the two great loves in her life: her husband, Michael, and her first love, music. With the first anniversary of Michael's death approaching, Amy buries herself in her job as an archivist. And when a newly declassified file lands on her desk, she is astonished to uncover proof that 'Agent Colette' existed - a name spoken only in whispers; an identity so secret that it has never been verified.

ALICE JOLLY

From Far Around They Saw Us Burn
Published: 30/03 - Unbound



The eagerly awaited first short story collection from Alice Jolly, one of the most exciting and accomplished

voices in British fiction today. The extraordinary range of work gathered here is united by a fascination with how everyday interactions can transform our lives in unpredictable ways, as well as a focus on lonely people, outcasts and misfits, and the ghosts that inhabit our intimate spaces. The result is a compelling, arresting and, at times, devastating collection – not least in the title story, which was inspired by the tragic true events of the 1943 Cavan orphanage fire.

ALEX COLES

Tainted Love
Published: 19/04 - Sternberg Press

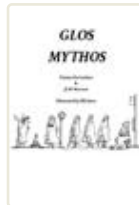


The first book-length inquiry into the twisted romantic ballad, giving a sense of both its history and contem-

porary currency. Titled after Soft Cell's version of the original 1965 Gloria Jones track, Tainted Love is the first book-length inquiry into the subject of the twisted romantic ballad, giving a sense of both its history and contemporary currency. Featuring an analysis of songs by Kendrick Lamar, Nina Simone, Roxy Music, Joni Mitchell, The Velvet Underground, Frank Sinatra, Soft Cell, Paul McCartney, Charlotte & Serge Gainsbourg, PJ Harvey & Nick Cave, and Little Simz, this book turns on the question: What compels songwriters to compose—and us to listen to—these warped songs?

GLOS MYTHOS

Emma Kernahan, JLM Morton, Bill Jones
Published: 21/04 - Dialect Press



Glos Mythos brings together the poetry of JLM Morton with the satirical prose of Emma Ker-

nahan and original cartoons by illustrator Bill Jones. The collection emerged from friendship, dog walks and a shared fascination with the ways ideas about archetypes, folklore and myth gain popularity during times of adversity.

MADELEINE BUNTING

The Seaside
Published: 04/05 - Granta Books

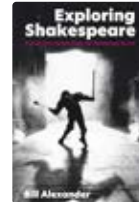


Acclaimed writer Madeleine Bunting journeyed clockwise around England from Scar-

borough to Blackpool to understand the enduring appeal of seaside towns, and what has happened to the golden sands, cold seas and donkey rides of childhood memory. Taking in some forty resorts, staying in hotels, caravans and holiday camps, she swims from their beaches and talks to their residents to delve into their landscapes, histories and contemporary plight.

BILL ALEXANDER

Exploring Shakespeare
Published: 18/05 - Nick Hern Books



In Exploring Shakespeare, acclaimed theatre director Bill Alexander takes us inside the rehearsal

room to reveal – in unprecedented and captivating detail – exactly what happens there. He examines the key relationship between the actors and the director, how they work together to bring Shakespeare's vision to life, and how choices are made that will shape every aspect of the play in production. Personal, forthright, and full of pragmatic advice, Exploring Shakespeare is a masterclass for directors and actors, and a fascinating insight for anyone interested in Shakespeare.

ROD NELSON AND MERLYN CHESTERMAN

Twenty Concepts In Woodblock Printing

Published: 18/05 -
The Crowood Press



This inspiring book introduces twenty concepts for printmakers to use to enhance their work ranging

from abstraction to composition, and from symbolism to boundaries. It focuses on woodblock printmaking but the principles it covers can be applied to all graphical and pictorial arts. Mainly pictorial, it includes fine examples of finished work from leading makers and students, and is a remarkable and thought-provoking addition to any maker's library.

KAT AILES

The Expectant Detectives

Published: 08/06 -
Zaffre



For Alice and her partner Joe, moving to the sleepy Cotswold village of Penton is a chance to embrace

country life and prepare for the birth of their unexpected first child. He can take up woodwork; maybe she'll learn to make jam. But the rural idyll they'd hoped for doesn't quite pan out when a dead body is discovered at their local antenatal class and they find themselves suspects in a murder investigation...

SARAH EDGHILL

The Bad Wife

Published: 14/06 -
Bloodhound Books



A married woman's lust for a stranger compels her to risk everything, in this new suspense by the best-

selling author of His Other Woman. It's just a small picture in the local paper — Katie can't explain why it sets her heart racing. But hiding the photo of local GP Joe Harvey in her bag sets in motion a chain of events that will dramatically alter her life forever.

TOM PERCIVAL

Finn's Little Fibs

Published: 06/07 -
Bloomsbury



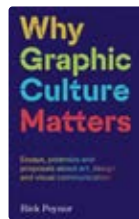
One day, Finn tells a tiny little fib - and soon, it's out of control! A book about telling the

truth, from the bestselling author of the Big Bright Feelings series.

RICK POYNOR

Why Graphic Culture Matters

Published: 21/08 -
Occasional Papers



Why Graphic Culture Matters gathers 45 thought-provoking essays by design critic Rick Poynor about

graphic design and visual communication, written in the past two decades. Poynor writes as a non-designer deeply immersed in the practice of graphic communication. Many of the essays were first published in the American magazine 'Print', where he was a columnist for 17 years.

MERILYN BRASON

Crossing the Rift

Published: 22/08 -
Matador



It is 1943. Join Elf, an intrepid grandmother, on her secret journey of over 6,814 miles up the African

continent. Based on her personal journals, Crossing the Rift recounts her remarkable tale of travelling alone as a sixty-four-year-old English woman, braving the dangers of World War II, and challenging terrain, to rejoin her unsuspecting husband in Palestine. Along the way, Elf encounters a diverse array of fellow travellers, and her journey by various modes of overland transport provides a vivid glimpse into a bygone era. This captivating memoir is enriched by detailed maps and striking period photographs that bring both Elf's story and the beauty of Africa to life.

INTELLIGENT HANDS

Why Making Is A Skill For Life

Published: 08/09 -
Quickthorn



Recent years have seen a decline in craft and creative education in schools and a shift from practical to

theoretical learning models in higher education. Young people are leaving school with no idea that craft-based careers are even possible, and graduates of craft-based degree courses are entering the workplace with so few hand skills that their employers must train them from scratch. Where did the idea come from that white-collar work should be rewarded more with money and status than that of a blue-collar worker? Intelligent Hands looks at this phenomenon, the historical precedents that led us here and why hand skills are crucial in education and for lifelong learning.

LAURA CONNOCHIE

Bread And Butter Beings

Published: 11/09



What do you do when Christmas dinner is ruined by a family fight or your therapist wants to

explore female friendship and it's making you uncomfortable? When you're stuck in a traffic jam outside Swindon in a car with no aircon during a heatwave? When a deceased loved one visits you years later in a dream or you have a meltdown while doing a big shop at the supermarket after work during the pandemic? In her second collection of poetry, Laura Connochie turns these memorable moments and more into poems.

RACHEL MARKS

One December Day

Published: 12/10 -
Penguin



One December Day, Laura meets Luke... Luke loves Christmas. He loves the woolly scarves,

the mulled wine, the music, the snow. But he's beginning to ask: what good is it, if you have no one to share it with? Laura doesn't think there's anything magical about December. She'd never normally be seen dead with a man in a Christmas jumper. But, at a crowded gig this winter's evening, has she found her soulmate in handsome, funny frontman, Luke? Under the lights, something magical begins. But will Luke and Laura still feel the same on this day next December? And the one after that? Finding love at Christmas is special. But is staying in love - year after year, through the joy and heartbreak - the real miracle? Luke and Laura are about to find out. One December day at a time...

LOUISE TICKLE

Between The Lies

Published: 19/10 -
Cinto Press



When it comes to families, is anyone a reliable witness? Cherry Magraw can never forget

the date her mother and brother were killed - the night of her ninth birthday. When her father was jailed for their murders, she lost everyone she loved. Twenty years later, Cherry is a freelance journalist investigating domestic abuse and the secret world of the family courts, when she gets a letter from her father - still in prison for the killings - which contains a startling request. From that point on, her past becomes entangled with her work, dismantling everything Cherry thought she knew about her family tragedy and plunging her into a dangerous game of cat and mouse. Will her history cloud her judgement about another desperate family? And how far will she go to save someone else's children?

Laurie Lee

Collected Poems

Published: 26/10 -
Penguin Classics



A landmark new collection of poems from the author of Cider with Rosie. Laurie Lee is beloved for his

writing on a lost rural world. His evocative poetry springs from his deep connection with nature, as he tracks the seasons changing and the years turning over. Yet Lee's poems also captured war, human relationships and distant places, informed by his own experiences of lives uprooted by change and conflict. Gathered in one volume for the first time, and including a generous selection of previously unseen verses from Lee's archives, these timeless, poignant poems show him expressing the essence of life, love and loss.

MERLIN SHELDRAKE

Entangled Life:

The Illustrated Edition

Published: 02/11 -
Bodley Head



The smash-hit Sunday Times bestseller now illustrated with over 100 spectacular full-colour

images, showcasing this wondrous and wildly various lifeform as never before. The more we learn about fungi, the less it makes sense without them. They can change our minds, heal our bodies and even help us avoid environmental disaster; they are metabolic masters, earth-makers and key players in most of nature's processes. In Entangled Life, Merlin Sheldrake takes us on a mind-altering journey into their spectacular world, and reveals how these extraordinary organisms transform our understanding of our planet and life itself.

LISTINGS

MONTHLY GUIDE TO ARTS & CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE STROUD DISTRICT.

ART + CRAFTS

ALEPH CONTEMPORARY

FRI 1 DEC - WEDS 31 JAN

Jane Garbett: Life Lines

Aleph Contemporary's inaugural exhibition in Stroud, 'LIFE LINES' by Jane Garbett. Paintings on canvas and board exploring hand worked surfaces in oils. Layering colours and imposing repetitive mark making, a paring back that has been evolving over time. Flaws, imperfections and mutability are an all important part of the finished piece. Fri/Sat 10am-4pm (closed 23rd Dec) New Imperial House, Station Road, GL5 3AR

alephcontemporary.com

ELVERS STUDIO

MON 1 JAN - THURS 1 FEB

Colin Heavingham

New exhibition of works on paper by Colin Heavingham now on at Elvers Studio, Nelson st, Stroud. 150 new works, post expressionist figurative abstracts. Unframed to view in folders by the man from Essex who came to Stroud looking for a past.

elversstudio.com

FORM GALLERY

FRI 17 NOV - SAT 6 JAN

David Bowie - The Geoff MacCormack Collection

Form Gallery is proud to present an exhibition of photographs by Geoff MacCormack documenting his time and travels with David Bowie. Geoff MacCormack, AKA Warren Peace, was one of David Bowie's oldest and closest friends, their relationship dating back to their childhoods in Bromley. MacCormack toured with Bowie for three years (1973 - 1976) as backing vocalist, dancer and percussionist. During this time he recorded with Bowie on five albums - from Aladdin Sane to Station to Station, also co-writing the track 'Rock 'n' Roll With Me on Diamond Dogs, and Turn Blue with Bowie on Iggy Pop's album Lust For Life. As Bowie preferred not to fly, he and MacCormack travelled together by boat, train and road. The photographs in the exhibition explore this period, and give a rare insight into their friendship.

formgallery.co.uk

GALLERY PANGOLIN

SAT 20 JAN - SAT 16 MAR

The Stockroom

Gallery Pangolin is transformed into a 'behind-the-scenes' space as their store rooms are, to revisit and reflect on works from their broad history, seen from an intriguing new perspective. Instead of being behind closed doors, shelves, plan chests and open crates offer a chance to discover something new.

gallery-pangolin.com

GLoucestershire PRINTMAKING COOPERATIVE

THURS 11 JAN - FRI 16 FEB

Screen Printing With Christine Felce

Over the 6 weeks you will be able to experiment and learn how to produce a varied collection of prints onto paper using the photo stencil method of screen printing. The course will cover all areas of screen printing from planning your work to producing an accurate small edition on A3.

09:30am-12:30pm £180

SAT 13 - SUN 14

Linocut Weekend Workshop with Tabitha Fedden

On this two day workshop all aspects of developing a linocut will be explored. Working from their own projects and designs, participants will be guided through each step of the process from transferring designs, cutting methods, registration techniques, inking and printing. 10am-4pm £150

MON 15 JAN - MON 19 FEB

Linocut Printing with Beth Jenkins

Learn how to make lino prints from scratch or use the course to really extend your existing skills. The small class size means everyone can work on their own projects at their own pace. 09:30am-12:30pm £180

TUES 16 JAN - TUES 12 MAR

Textile Design with Anne Haworth

This course is designed to give you more of an insight into textile design, it looks in more detail at the design element of printing on fabric and encourages you to produce more complex patterns and designs using subject matter that is personal to you. 09:00-12:30pm £240

SAT 20 - SUN 21

Collograph and Monoprinting Weekend Workshop with Christine Felce

The word collagraph as a technique comes from the word collage. During this two day workshop you will create unique colour layered prints using a variety of textural materials and mark making. You will use recycled tetra pack & cardboard plates and a variety of textured materials to create your collagraph printing plates. 10am-3pm £150

SAT 20 JAN - SAT 3 FEB

Lighting Up - Crossing Paths, GPC Pairing: Siobain Drury and Rachel Oram

Curated works by Members Rachel and Siobain who have techniques in common, but their subject matter varies, sometimes crossing paths, they both like to consider the use of space on paper and like to play with text both printed and embossed. Rachel is interested in exploring the different ways of representing a particular place combining print methods and Siobain likes to play with ideas as much as composition and colour - fluoro/neon is her current obsession. Open Tues and Thurs 9:30am-2:30pm/Open Day Sat 20 Jan 11am-4pm or by appointment email: info@gpchq.co.uk

SAT 27 - SUN 28

Two Plate colour Etching Weekend Workshop with Christine Felce

This course will cover developing your ideas using two A5 etching plates and experimenting with colour transparencies. Some previous experience of etching would be useful. During the course you will use hard or soft grounds and aqua-tint to create your image. 10am-4pm £150

gpchq.co.uk

IMAGINE THERAPEUTIC ARTS

MON 8 JAN - TUES 19 MAR

Art Mornings/Evenings

Both sessions offer an introductory studio space in which you can try out for yourself, to experience what it's like being in a shared and open art studio. You can join at any time, if there is a space, and beginners are most welcome. Tuesday mornings 10-11:30am/Monday Evenings 7-8:30pm £15/session (taster) £10/taster session (price for morning and evening sessions)

MON 8 JAN - THURS 21 MAR

Studio Practice Sessions

A weekly open studio space for you to pursue your own artistic process. The group is facilitated by one or two therapeutic art practitioners, who are available to support participants artistically, technically and - if needs be - emotionally. You can join any time, booking required. Monday 2-5pm: Painting and Drawing/ Tuesday 2-5pm: Painting, Drawing and Clay/Wednesday 7-9pm: Painting, Drawing and Mixed Media/ Thursday 10am-1pm: Painting, Drawing and Mixed Media. 2-5pm and 10am-1pm - £9/hour, or £25 for a 3-hour session and 7-9pm - £18.00

WEDS 17 JAN - WEDS 20 MAR

Ageing With Soul

Two weekly facilitated group sessions: one in the studio and one online (via Zoom). Join us and share what it is like to be growing old in the current time (and we are all growing older!) All materials are prepared and provided. No experience needed. Booking required. 10am - 12.30pm - in-studio and on-line groups (zoom). £30 (£25) each session (10 sessions). £270 (£230) if paid at the start of the term.

WEDS 17 - WEDS 20 MAR

Theme-Based Group: Colouring the Darkness

Gaining resilience and strength through the prism of colour and light in the dark time of the year. A supportive, weekly group which combines free and playful expression with a nurturing and nourishing quality. Working with a variety of methods, creativity can encompass feelings, responses, reactions and even emotions through the use of forms, colours, and textures. No experience needed. Booking required. 2.30-5pm £270/£250concs - 9 sessions

SUN 28

Information Open Day: Help Us With Our Mission

Fromehall Mill Community Benefit Society (FMCBS) has been formed by all the tenants, including Imagine Therapeutic Arts, to purchase the Mill as a community asset meaning that forever after it will be owned by and for the community it serves. In order for this to be secured the Mill needs investment through buying shares or by donation. This event is to provide information to all of our community about how each of us can help transform Fromehall Mill into a community asset. There will be information boards and videos, with a presentation as the focus of the day. We look forward to seeing you there and answering any questions. 11am-4pm Free

imagine-therapeutic-arts.co.uk

KINGSHILL HOUSE CREATIVE CENTRE

FRI 5 JAN - FRI 22 MAR

Absolute Beginners Watercolours With Warren Sealey

Learn the basics of watercolours while building your confidence, and create a beautiful piece of artwork each week. The majority of the students on this course go on to attend the Improvers session, to develop their skills. 1-3pm £132

WEDS 3 JAN - WEDS 27 MAR

Improvers Watercolours With Warren Sealey

Take the next step in your painting journey and develop your skills in watercolours. Be inspired by those around you and by the beautiful building that the course is held in. 1-3pm £144

THURS 25 JAN - WEDS 21 MAR

Traditional Botanical Drawing and Painting With Jenny Brooks

Join acclaimed botanical artist, Jenny Brooks, for the second out of 3 terms of traditional botanical drawing and painting. This term students will be encouraged to work through various assignments; beginning with drawing and painted studies of small plant specimens, then moving on to more complex plant forms. 10am-12pm £112

kingshillhouse.org.uk

NUTGROVE HOUSE PAINSWICK

SUN 14

Punch Needle

Punch Needle workshop with Julie Hicks. 10am-4pm £90

SUN 28 JAN

Enamelling

Enamelling Workshop with Kath Williams. 10am-4pm (lunch included)

nutgrovehouse.co.uk

THE PAINSWICK CENTRE

MON 22ND JAN - MON 12 FEB

Art Classes With Clare Wimperis

New Art Classes Starting in Painswick In January. Clare teaches wild drawing, which is a fun, creative, loose and based on finding and developing your unique style. You will use pencils, inks and mixed media and you will experiment with all sorts of drawing styles. Fun, relaxed and friendly. 10am-12pm £85 (book in adv 07825630558)

painswickcentre.com

PEGASUS

THURS 4 - 25

Extreme Poses Life Drawing With Paul Fowler

Nude models are suspended from the ceiling using a network of slings, which opens up new ways to explore the world of life drawing. Each pose gives 30 minutes of drawing and teaching time. It doesn't matter how good you are, or how experienced you are. Everybody is welcome. 9:30am-12:30pm £130

TUES 9

Captivating Cloudscapes With Charlotte Aiken

Six-week painting course with local artist, Charlotte Aiken, designed for students of all abilities and is an opportunity to learn exciting and expressive ways to paint your own cloudscape. 9:30am-12:30pm £130

SAT 13

Drawing With A Difference With Wendy Rhodes

Kick off the New Year with an explorative drawing & painting workshop using hand-made brushes & a variety of tools - try something new! Everyone welcome. £90

SAT 13

Start Painting In Oils with Max Hale

Aimed at total beginners or those wishing to refresh their skills, you will be taught the basics and then encouraged to enjoy the practical side as soon as possible. You will learn about how to use the materials, options on paint types, brushes, palettes and choices of canvas and other supports. £90

MON 15 JAN - MON 19 FEB

Collage With Helen Norman

Get into Collage with Helen Norman and learn how to express yourself through

Collage with no more need for paint brushes!! This eco-friendly, mindful and impressionistic form of art will really inspire you. 10am-1pm, £150 (inclusive of all materials) 6 week course, early booking advisable.

SAT 27

The Secret Success In Oils With Max Hale

Intended as Part 2 to 'Start Painting in Oils' students will build on their basic knowledge - you may well have tried oils but need an uplift into improving your skills. Along with this, approaching real subjects you'll learn to develop a process that will set you up for success. Using simple landscape, the drawing out, where to start, including planning and composition are all included within the day. £90

pegasusart.co.uk

PREMA

WEDS 10 JAN - FRI 16 FEB

Ritu Sood: Portals

In this exhibition, Sood invites us to journey into three decades of her paintings exploring the power of colour to seduce us and transform our mood. They evoke ancient memories, mindspaces and states of being. Sood's mastery of pigments and nature's colours create painted 'Portals' that awaken us into realms of connection. Sood gained a Masters degree in Painting from the Slade School of Art, London and currently works from her studio at SVA in her home town of Stroud. Her paintings are regarded as eloquent commentaries on human experience.

WEDS 10 JAN - FRI 16 FEB

Charlie Ash: Adjusting the Pressure

The landscape of cast iron, giant wheels, rollers, rows of odd tools and mysterious dark substances can feel pretty daunting when you first walk into a printmaking studio. Printmakers learn to engage with these machines and materials using time-tested rules and conventions; a framework for amazing forms of image making. However, this framework is also a starting point for the deviation, experiment and reimagining which makes print an expressive art. This idea, shaped by a handful of different print workspaces and communities, has been central to the first few years of Charlie's artistic practice. In his exhibition within Vestry Café (at Prema Arts Centre, Uley) he exhibits work made at Falmouth School of Art, Gloucestershire Printmakers Co-op, his bike-shed-studio, De Rode Schuur in the Netherlands, and in the early stages of his studio residency here at Prema, spanning 2019-2023.

prema.org.uk

RAW UMBER STUDIOS

WEDS 17 - FRI 19

Sculpture with Sara Myers

This 3-day workshop is a perfect introduction to sculpting with clay. You will produce a life sized bust from life under the guidance of Sara Myers. £360

FRI 26 - SUN 28

Portrait Painting with Anastasia Pollard

Regular BP Portrait award exhibitor Anastasia Pollard will teach you to paint a portrait, either with a limited 'Zorn' palette or a full colour palette, depending on your goals and level of experience. £360

WEDS 31 JAN - SAT 3 FEB

Portrait Painting with Luca Indraccolo

This four day workshop with Luca Indraccolo is ideal for beginner, intermediate and advanced artists who would like to gain experience in painting the portrait from life in oils. £480

rawumberstudios.com

STROUD BREWERY

WEDS 3/10/17/24/31

Women's Wednesday Art Group

This established group has been running for nearly 2 years now in its new location of Stroud Brewery it is welcoming new members. The emphasis is on expressing yourself through your creativity - and the multiple benefits that this can bring, such as improving emotional well-being, reflection, relief, own insights and understanding, plus the additional support from a regular, creative group. 10:30am-12pm Fri 5/12/19/26

Sketchbook Builder

Each week is a new challenge! Learn techniques for getting the most from creativity, building up your sketchbook, expressing yourself effectively and growing in confidence through having fun with art. 11:30am-1pm

stroudbrewery.co.uk

STROUD POTTERY

MON 8 JAN - MON 22 APR

Throwing Course

New intake for the Throwing Course at Stroud Pottery! £360

stroudpottery.co.uk

SVA JOHN STREET GALLERY

SAT 13 JAN - SAT 3 FEB

Moina Moin: Mittens Got Talent

Moina Moin brings her audio-visual exhibition 'Mittens got Talent' to SVA, a project she has developed at her recent 6 month residency at Lewisham Arthouse. Come see her wearable sculptures, prints and ceramics inspired by haystack folklore, muddy bogs, fast food and amateur contemporary dance. Launch evening Fri 12 6-8pm

sva.org.uk

THREE STOREYS

SUN 14

Katy Bevan and Katharina Child: Considerate Clothing - Darning

This darning workshop with Katy and Katharine will give you a host of different techniques, to enable you to repair and reuse your clothing. 11am-1pm

FRI 19

Painting Flowers in Watercolours and Inks With Alison Vickery

A demonstration led workshop to inspire you to experiment with different materials and increase your observational and drawing skills to capture the essence and character of flowers. 10am-4pm

SAT 20

Enjoy Using Your Sketchbook With Alison Vickery

This workshop will take you through the many ways to draw and work in your sketchbooks, using a wide variety of media and plenty of one-to-one support. 10am-4pm

SUN 21

Make Your Own Green Man With Juli Bharucha

The myth of the Green Man takes many forms, and this workshop will enable you to bring your own to life, imbuing your sculpture with your interpretation of this Legend. 10:30am-4:30pm

TUES 30 JAN - SUN 25 FEB

Next Level - Youth Exhibition

A celebration of the creativity of local young artists, aged between 4 and 19 years old. Three Storeys second open youth exhibition will showcase the talent and imagination of children, with their work displayed on real gallery walls, for everyone to enjoy.

threestoreys.co.uk

GOOD ON PAPER

STROUD 2023 PLAYLIST

A PLAYLIST FEATURING SONGS FROM ALBUMS AND EP'S PLUS SINGLES AND REMIXES RELEASED BY STROUD DWELLING BANDS AND SOLO ARTISTS IN 2023...

SEARCH ON SPOTIFY FOR 'GOOD ON PAPER - STROUD 2023 PLAYLIST' OR SCAN THE QR CODE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE COLUMN.

- Hidden Orchestra:** Ripple
- The Flamenco Thief:** Tails
- The Remainder:** Evensong
- Steve Queralt, Michael Smith:** Chaldean Oracle - GLOK Remix
- Voka Gentle:** Sympathiser - Delmer Darion Remix
- Orbury Common:** Constant Billy ft Boss Morris
- Leveret:** Bass Hornpipe
- Toadstone:** Feast
- Man Sized Creature:** Forest Fire
- Phillippe Nash:** Stream
- Andrew Butler:** The Last Of My Old Skin
- Poppy Ackroyd:** Suspended - Reimagined By Anne Müller
- Mara Simpson, Her Ensemble:** Ropes
- Cosmo Sheldrake:** Benthos
- Simon McCorry:** These Scalding Tears
- Phonsonic:** Unanswered
- Andrew Heath:** North Atlantic Drift, pt.2
- Sarah Nicolls:** Skim III
- Decision Flower:** Slunk
- The Red Propellers:** Don't Mention The Music
- The Achievers:** Mary Don't You Weep (Live)

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO ACCESS THE PLAYLIST!

VICTORIA WORKS STUDIOS

SAT 6

Stained Glass Hanging Workshop With Sarah Davis

Join glass artist Sarah Davis for this colourful and fun workshop and create a beautiful stained glass decoration to hang in your home or give as a gift. You will learn how to cut glass, in colours of your choice, and to join it using copper foiling techniques. This fascinating workshop is suitable for beginners and for those with some glass working experience. 10am-5pm £90

SAT 20

Lino Printed Lampshade Workshop With Lizzie Mabley

Join printmaker and textile designer Lizzie Mabley for this busy but informal workshop designing, printing and constructing your own unique drum lampshade! 10am-4pm £70

victoriaworksstudios.co.uk

NEW BREWERY ARTS CIRENCESTER

SAT 20 JAN - SUN 7 APR

Clay Is My Canvas

An exhibition curated by Nick Duxbury exploring a snapshot of different techniques used across ceramics that have their roots in painting and illustration by a select group of contemporary artists. From the almost Abstract Expressionism of Emily Gibbard and Eddie Knevet to the tight illustrative control of Ian Thompson and Jihye Han, these are artists who have chosen to use clay as their medium to present their visual language. Some of the artists featured, like Rafaela de Ascanio and Tom Norris, are completely comfortable drifting between clay and other materials, including painting on canvas and working with textiles, as part of their wider artistic practice. The perceived boundaries that existed between a hierarchy of mediums as recently as the late 1990s are being erased by the next generation of artists. Featured artists: Nehal Aamir, Jesse Albrecht, Rafaela de Ascanio, Megan Burridge, Claire Curneen, Emily Gibbard, Jihye Han, Yeonsoo Kim, Eddie Knevet, Tom Norris, Jasmine Simpson and Ian Thompson.

newbreweryarts.org.uk

CIRCUS

SCHOOL OF LARKS

Come join the Larks! Weekly 'circus' classes for all ages and abilities, brought to you by School of Larks. Join us for a variety of exciting weekly classes, available for curious participants to explore circus skills. Open your imagination as you stretch both your body and mind. Immerse yourself in these astonishing arts as you turn them into practical skills.

schooloflarks.com

COMEDY

CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ART

THURS 11/18/25

Improv Comedy Drop-in Class With Rebecca MacMillan

If you're looking to try something new this year why not discover your inner comic genius, unleash your creativity and have fun being truly in the moment. Open to all levels - yep, even if you've not done it before...or don't even know what improv is! Although these are drop-in sessions, do book in advance. 7-9pm £11 inc hot drink.

stroudimprov.com

FESTIVAL

ST LAURENCE CHURCH

THURS 25 - SUN 28

Midwinter Sacred Music Festival

Keeping the flame alive in the darker days of winter. Showcase concert with Soumik Datta and refugee musicians, 'Sanctuary' immersive choral experience with Acapelles Choir, Pilgrimage talk and walk with Joa Robins, afternoon deep-dive chant space including Taizé chants, harmony singing with Jo McAndrews, inclusive kirtan with Tim Chalice. See website for full programme details and tickets!

sacredmusicfestival.org.uk

FILM

ELECTRIC PICTUREHOUSE

SUN 14/MON 22

The Red Shoes

In Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's visually ravishing masterpiece, a young ballerina is torn between the demands of love and art. Like the heroine of Hans Christian Andersen's source fairytale, whose magic shoes compel her to dance, Victoria Page – played by real-life ballerina Moira Shearer – finds herself driven to breaking point by obsessive Russian impresario Lermontov (Anton Walbrook) when she's cast in his ballet The Red Shoes. Sun 7:30pm/Mon 2pm

THURS 25

NT Live: Dear England

Joseph Fiennes plays Gareth Southgate in James Graham's gripping examination of nation and game. Filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, Rupert Goold (Judy) directs this spectacular new play. 7pm

wottoncinema.com

LANSDOWN HALL

SUN 28

Denial

A screening of Denial as part of Holocaust Memorial Day. Deborah Lipstadt, a celebrated historian, attempts to prove that the Holocaust actually took place when David Irving, a denier, sues her. 7:30pm

lansdownhall.org

THE LONG TABLE

SAT 6

Black Dog Way with Q&A Hosted By Edith Bowman

In the winter of 2016, Steve found himself homeless aged 49, in the wake of a family tragedy. His story is like many others. 219,000 in England alone, every single year. Steve was a victim of circumstance and a man suffering from his memories. He became trapped moving through the support system, trying and failing to navigate his way back. Experiencing the system from the inside, he saw it as fundamentally broken. After getting himself back on his feet, he vowed to ensure others wouldn't go through the same experience. He became a homeless advocate, helping people and asking for nothing in return. In doing so, he became a voice for those in need. He remained determined in the belief that things could and should be better. Steve set out, along with many others in the city of Gloucester, to do just that. This is Steve's story. Special guest Edith Bowman hosts a Q&A with star of the documentary Steve Gower and director Sam Pope. 7:30pm

thelongtableonline.com

THE SUB ROOMS

TUES 16

Stroud Film Society Presents: The Eight Mountains

The friendship between two men, who met as boys in a remote alpine village and explored the mountains. Set over several decades as they reconnect as men. A

moving and beautiful film, set amongst amazing scenery. 8pm £8

TUES 30

Stroud Film Society Presents: How To Blow Up A Pipeline

A gang of people with diverse backgrounds have a shared belief that non-violent protest against the fossil fuel industry is insufficient. They decide to take action. A tense radical eco-activist thriller. 8pm £8

thesubrooms.co.uk

MUSIC

THE ALE HOUSE

SAT 6

Kaos

Full fat, old skool, kick arse, pumping Classic Rock. 8:30pm Free

FRI 12

King Street Turnaround

Heavy Blues and Funk for your delectation. 8:30pm Free

FRI 19

Steve Ferbrache

Achievers front man plays original roots, classic Americana, folk and deep cuts from classic albums. 8:30pm Free

FRI 26

Bob Bowles

Swindon's own 'Mr Blues' returns to Stroud with a fine mix for blues and R&B. 8:30pm Free

thealehousestroud.com

BOX VILLAGE HALL

SAT 27

Air In G Presents: Graffiti Classics

16 strings, 8 dancing feet and 4 voices with 1 aim: to make classical music wickedly funny and fantastically exhilarating for everyone. Graffiti Classics burst the elitist boundaries of the traditional string quartet with their hilarious all-singing, all-dancing musical comedy show. 7:30pm £15 from airing.co.uk

box-village.com

CHRIST CHURCH NAILSWORTH

SUN 21

Bristol Ensemble Tea-Time Concert

Bristol Ensemble performs Mendelsson's uplifting Octet, written by the composer when he was just 16 years old and scored for double string quartet - four violins, two violas and two cellos. Tea and home made cakes served at 4pm. 3pm £15/£13concs

bristolensemble.com

THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

THURS 4

Rodda's Hairy Craic

Irish acoustic Session. 8pm Free

FRI 12

Will Killeen

Highly acclaimed Irish acoustic blues guitarist, singer and songwriter. Will has a totally unique style; celtic roots mixed with American blues. You can expect songs from early blues standards through to Dylan classics delivered with inimitable percussive guitar and whirling vocals. 8:30pm Free

THURS 25

Open Mic Night

Open Mic Night curated by the Reverend Stretch - all welcome! 7:30pm Free

crownandsceptrestroud.com

DUFFLE VINTAGE

SAT 6

DJ Cosmic Meow

Come chill and lose yourself at Duffle

Vintage with DJ Cosmic Meow's beautiful live set (and maybe personal style advice!) 12-5pm Free

duffle-vintage.business.site

HAWKWOOD COLLEGE

FRI 26 - SUN 28

Recorder Weekend With Palisander

A weekend of consorts, chamber music and ensemble playing for recorder players Facilitator: Palisander. International award-winning quartet, Palisander, will facilitate a weekend of ensemble playing that celebrates the diversity of the recorder. The repertoire will span from the medieval to the present day, including repertoire unique to Palisander. Members of the quartet blend their extensive performance experience with a variety of teaching practices. From £285

hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

IMAGINE THERAPEUTIC ARTS

SUN 7

Fundraising Event - Darkness To Light

A performance of poetry, storytelling, music, and song around the theme of Darkness to Light. Performed by: Gillian Stott (Voice), Jane Abel (recorder and guitar), Christophe Poynder-Mearns (voice). Refreshments will be served in the interval. Admission by donation to raise funds for the Imagine Bursary, which enables people on low income to join creative sessions in a supportive studio space. 2:30pm

imagine-therapeutic-arts.co.uk

JOLLY NICE

FRI 5/12/19/26

Friday Night Lates

Friday Night Lates are back at Jolly Nice in their newly winterproof log fired bar, with DJs, locally produced drinks, cocktails, mocktails and grass fed burgers. Kicking off every weekend, local DJs from the Stroud Valleys explore the global tapestry of feel-good sounds, playing a mix of funk, rare-groove, disco, house and beyond. The bar celebrates the best of our local breweries, vineyards and distilleries, with organic cider and beer on tap - along with a fantastic selection of alcohol free drinks. The kitchen will be open until 9pm serving up Jolly Nice Burgers, highlighting locally and responsibly produced ingredients. Free to attend, 6pm until late.

jollynicefarmshop.com

KINGSHILL HOUSE CREATIVE CENTRE

FRI 26

Claude Bourbon

Ready for a unique and talented take on a wide range of musical traditions? Claude Bourbon is known throughout Europe and America for amazing guitar performances that take blues, Spanish, and classical stylings into uncharted territories. 7:30pm £15

kingshillhouse.org.uk

THE LONG TABLE

SAT 20

An Audience With Corinne Bailey Rae

A very special acoustic evening and auction night with none other than the Grammy award winning singer/songwriter Corinne Bailey Rae...

thelongtableonline.com

MISERDEN VILLAGE HALL

SUN 21

Deep Winter Singing

Pearl Legay-Clarke runs Stroud Folk Choir and Sing Ahoy! Dursley Shanty and Folk Choir as well as embarking on a deep



CROWN & SCEPTRE

MON 3-10PM TUE-THU 3-11PM FRI & SAT 12-11PM SUN 12-9PM

EVENTS THIS JANUARY

- MON 1ST NEW YEARS DAY **OPEN AT 3PM**
- WED 3RD UP THE WORKERS **FROM 6-7 PM**
- THU 4TH RODDA'S HAIRY CRAIC **LIVE 8PM**
- SUN 7TH SUNDAY LUNCH ROAST CHICKEN **FROM 1-2:30PM**
- WED 10TH CURRY LOUNGE **6-7 PM**
- THU 11TH BACKGAMMON NIGHT **FROM 7:30PM**
- FRI 12TH WILL KILLEEN **LIVE 8:30PM**
- SUN 15TH SUNDAY LUNCH ROAST LAMB **FROM 1-2:30PM**
- WED 17TH UP THE WORKERS **FROM 6PM**
- SUN 21ST SUNDAY LUNCH ROAST PORK **FROM 1-2:30PM**
- WED 24TH CURRY LOUNGE **FROM 6-7 PM**
- THU 25TH OPEN MIC NIGHT **FROM 7.30PM**
- FRI 26TH MOMOS **FROM 6PM LATE LICENCE!!**
- SUN 28TH SUNDAY LUNCH ROAST BEEF **FROM 1-2:30PM**
- MON 30TH RUBY'S BIG QUIZ **FROM 7PM**

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**Christ Church, Nailsworth
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www.bristolensemble.com

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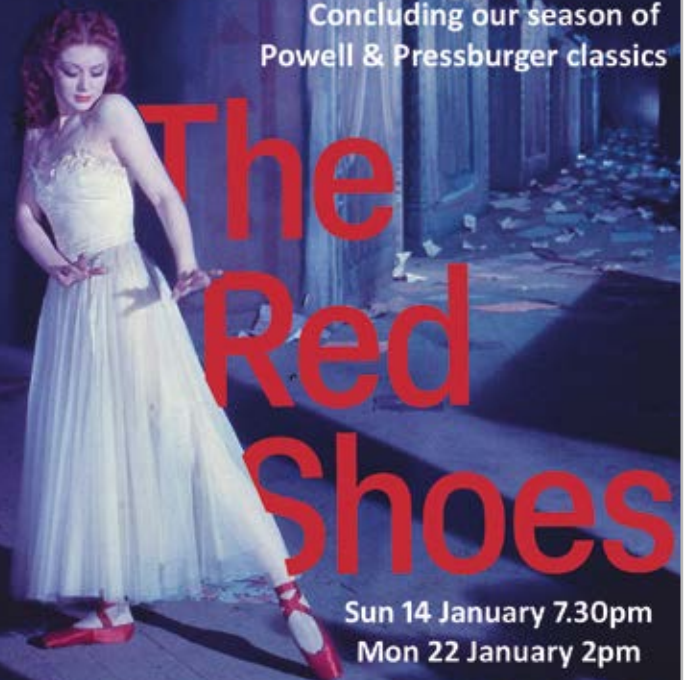


www.thechemistryset.co.uk

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study of Vocal Improvisation and voice over the past 3 years. She also brings her workshops to festivals and gatherings, including Shambala, Land Skills Fair, and The Organic Growers gathering. The songs she chooses are centred both in the folk tradition and are often in connection with the seasons, nature and the land and the improvisational games largely stem from her work with one of the pioneer teachers of Vocal Improvisation in the UK, Briony Greenhill, who in turn learned her craft from Bobby McFerrin and Rhiannon. 10am-3:30pm £40-£60 (tickettailor.com/events/withonevoice/1080030)

miserdenvillagehall.org

THE PRINCE ALBERT

WEDS 3

Traditional Folk Session

All welcome to enjoy the space to play to other musicians and listeners. 7:30pm Free

THURS 4/11/18/25

Hands On Harp Presents: Drink and Plink

Bookings essential - learn to play with Morwenna from Hands on Harps. Suitable for complete beginners and the experienced. Beginners 7pm/Intermediates 8pm. £2 if you have (rent or own) one of our harps/£5 if you have your own harp/£7 if you need us to bring a harp

THURS 4

Bert Ussher, Eva May, Ben Jakes

First Stroud outing for Bert Ussher - the new moniker of Bob Pearson (Ardyn, Katie J Pearson) and his band. Support comes from Eva May and former Lazurus Kane frontman Ben Jakes. 7:30pm £10

SAT 15

Truck, Alex Cormaish

Truck writes simple, feel-good songs about the things in life that matter: your mates, having a laugh, falling in love etc. Taking influence from all corners of popular music, the band mixes elements of 90's alt-rock with 60's pop music, with some little sprinkles of country and folk thrown in there too for good measure. Alex Cormaish is a Singer/Songwriter hailing from Tetbury way. His debut single was his first, and his latest was his most recent. With lyrics containing mostly words, and chords and melodies made up of collections of notes, he has a voice that is all his own. Helpful eh - what the Albert does know is they like his sound and think you will too...7:30pm Free

SUN 16

Jaz Delorean

Best known as the frontman of Tankus the Henge, now touring his first solo release in six years. Although totally at home headlining festival stages with his band - Jaz is equally superb just doing his own thing, playing some of the songs that the band have made well known, or his more personal penned tunes, just him and the piano. And at lunch time too. So book a table, bring yer mates, enjoy a pizza and a special intimate afternoon with the Albert's favourite boat dweller. Matinee show! 2pm £15

MON 17

Burlesque Night - Kai's Winter Warmer

Beat the January blues with a fun filled evening of burlesque and beer at The Prince Albert. Featuring 6 jaw dropping acts held together by comedy, circus and magic by local entertainer The Magnificent Mr. Kai. 7:30pm £10-£14

THURS 27

Shanty Bants

Shanty Bants meet once a month at the Prince Albert. It's free to join in and all are welcome! Bring your voices and a song to share if you have one. No sheet-music - we like to learn-by-ear, dive headfirst into new material, explore variation and bring songs to life. 7:30pm Free

MON 29

Michele Stodart, Philippe Nash

Michele Stodart is an award-winning solo artist, singer-songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. Best known as bassist, vocalist and co-songwriter of Mercury-nominated, double-platinum selling band, The Magic Numbers. She is playing in Stroud tonight songs from her new UK Americana Nominated album 'Invitation', as well as some other tunes you may recognise. Michele's diverse skills as a songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, producer and musical director have led to many collaborative projects with various great artists that we have had play here - Kathryn Williams, Emily Barker, Ren Harvieu as well as those that are still to play such as Billy Bragg, Judy Collins, Allison Russell, Bernard Butler, David Ford, Natalie Imbruglia, Rachel Sermanni, David Kitt, Hannah White, O'Hooley & Tidow amongst many others. With support from Stroud based alternative singer/songwriter Philippe Nash. 7pm £16.50

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

SOUND RECORDS

FRI 19

The Peekies

Folk duo Peekies play a selection of original songs and covers with their own brand of modern folk music. 5:30-7pm Free entry (donations encouraged)

SAT 20

Fran & Flora

Following their still talked about set at Hidden Notes and the recent news that they have signed to the festivals record label Hidden Notes Records (with their second album due to be released in April) the multi-award-nominated experimental/contemporary folk string duo Fran & Flora perform an intimate set at Sound Records. The music of Fran & Flora sits in two camps, both steeped in tradition, with material drawn directly from archival recordings, recovered manuscripts and years of study with traditional music masters, whilst simultaneously garnering a contemporary and avant-garde aesthetic, speaking to the more classical and experimental listener. As string players Fran & Flora's collaborations together and separately includes performing with the likes of Tom Skinner, Portico Quartet, Imogen Heap, Riz Ahmed, Sam Lee, Talvin Singh, Jocelyn Pook, Hannah Peel and The Vernon Spring. There will be a bar and Noni will be serving up the ltd edition Hidden Notes coffee! 7pm Free (donations welcome!)

soundrecords.co.uk

STROUD BREWERY

TUES 2

Open Mic

Come along and entertain eager visitors with your talents or alternatively buy a beer, sit back and be wowed by the talent on offer from others. 8pm Free

WEDS 3/10/17/24/31

Morning Music Group

Do you have a musical instrument? Do you have a willing voice? Come to Stroud Brewery on a Wednesday morning and join the enthusiastic attendees who all join together to make sweet sounds. 10:30am-12:30pm Free

FRI 5/19

Folk Music

Come and listen to a local folk group performing on the stage for the musical pleasure of all within earshot. Grab a pint, sit and enjoy. Great way to start the weekend. 3:30pm Free

SUN 7

Sunday Stylin': DJ Siva Gold

The brewery welcome Siva Gold to kick off our Sunday Stylin' sessions for 2024. Come

and reset after the first week back from the festive break, to a soundtrack of chilled out disco, house and good beats. 3-6pm Free

SUN 14

Sunday Stylin': DJ Graham Dowler

One of Stroud's best loved DJs. Graham will be spinning soulful tunes, ranging from 90s R&B to Disco and House. 3-6pm Free

SUN 21

Sunday Stylin': DJ K-Dee

Expect a cool mix of Hip Hop, R&B, Garage and more. 3-6pm Free

SUN 28

DJ Neon Pumps

Neon Pumps Returns with her up-tempo mix of UK Garage, Deep House & Liquid Jungle. 3-6pm Free

THURS 18

Azhaar and the Global Wave

'Azhaar continues the tropical jazz sabor of popular Brazilian jazz group Sirius B with her latest project, Global Wave. The band will be promoting their new EP 'Song of the Quetzal'. As a prolific writer with 8 albums to her name so far, she has worked with many of the top names in jazz. Jason Rebello, Iain Ballamy, Gareth Lockrane, Gareth Williams and Snowboy, who produced the title track of their debut album, 'Original Love'. With Global Wave she has found a platform for her distinctive violin playing, likened to Grappelli meets Jimi Hendrix! 7:30pm £5

SAT 20

Bands 4 Charity: The Achievers, Albino Tarantino, the Bob Porter Project, Nick Parker, Rich Dickinson's Drive Force

A fundraiser for NHS Gloucestershire Bowel Cancer Care and Research Trust curated by the Bob Porter Project who have called upon some of Gloucestershire's top musicians under the banner of BANDS4CHARITY, to help raise vital funds. This is a 'not to be missed' event that will raise funds for a very worthwhile cause. 7pm £15

SUN 28

The Songbook Sessions Presents: Gerry Colvin

The Songbook Sessions is the live acoustic music club held at the Brewery featuring the best of songwriters across the genres. The first headline act? Gerry Colvin. Folk-pop legend Gerry Colvin must be one of the most endearing and energetic musicians on the planet, just as much at home playing small clubs as he is supporting Status Quo on their Acoustic Live Tour. This multi-talented singer-songwriter performs all his own material, combining catchy melodies with thoughtful lyrics on love, society, angst and Johnny Cash! A stellar musical CV includes co-writing with Alison Moyet, being a John Peel favourite with his 80's skiffle-cowpunk indie outfit Terry and Gerry (who toured Europe and the USA and appeared on countless Radio and TV shows including The Tube and The Old Grey Whistle Test), winning best band (with his band Colvinquarmony) at Fairport's Cropredy Festival as well as the Hancock Award for best live folk act. A Glastonbury stalwart, he has played several times and also acted as compere on more than one occasion. 7:30pm £9

stroudbrewery.co.uk

THE SUB ROOMS

SAT 20

Jesca Hoop

California-born but now based in Manchester, UK, Jesca Hoop is what you'd call a musician's musician. Discovered by Tom Waits and brought on tour by Peter Gabriel to sing in his band, it was a phone call from Elbow's Guy Garvey that saw her move to the UK. 8pm £18

thesubrooms.co.uk

SVA

SAT 6

The Uplifter

Tom Earwaker ignited as The Uplifter in 2004 and has toured his live shows with trademark live percussion around the globe. The Uplifter lives up to his name with his energetic set that reflects his deep love for Reggae, Dub, Ska and ska punk. 8pm (Goods Shed)

FRI 12

Kingsonik and Thee Ones

Nick Buckle and Josef Reeve Presents an evening of musical delight. (John Street)

SAT 13

Loose Joints vs Terrain

Monobrow and Charlie Stoic go head to head with an assortment of global grooves to get 2024 started. 8pm Free (John Street)

FRI 19

Global Beats

Global Beats brings you funky tunes from around this groovy globe. 7pm (John Street)

FRI 26

Stroud Jazz Club With Sophie Stockham

Listen to never-before-created live music with special guest Sophie Stockham (Dakhla Brass, Sefrial, Orfic, Starlings and the Cut Capers). Come and perform with friendly supportive musicians. At the end of a hard week get in the zone, rid your cares, relax! 8pm £5musicians/£7general admission otd (John Street)

sva.org.uk

UNDER THE EDGE ARTS

SAT 20

The Magnificent AKs

The Magnificent AKs are the singing blokes of Ashton Keynes, a tranquil corner of north, North Wiltshire nestled between the nascent river Thames and the Cotswold Water Park. From humble beginnings, the troupe have ascended the greasy-pole to perform in (among other places) The Colston Hall and The Roundhouse. They've appeared live on Radio 3's 'The Choir' and sung on Windmills, White Horses and at Stonehenge, giving them the title for their first CD 'Monumental'. 8pm £8-£10

FRI 26

Electronic Open Mic Sessions

Do you play an electronic instrument? Then come and join us for an evening of experimental electronic music. The intention is to have 15 minute slots where you can either play on your own, or jam with up to 4 instruments playing together. Bring your instrument, whether a synth, drum, drum machine, laptop, voice or Moog! In short, anything that can be plugged into the mixer or a sampler will do. Get in contact if you want to play so we can make sure we have the right leads. 8pm Free (donations welcome)

utea.org.uk

TALKS/ SPOKEN WORD/ LITERATURE

DIALECT

THROUGHOUT JAN ONLINE

Hedgerow Poetry Self Study Course

This self-study, eco poetry workshop is an active exploration of the hedgerow as a boundary between the 'civilised' and the wild - in the landscape and in our imaginations. Created by award winning poet JLM Morton and filled with prompts and ideas to spark new writing at your own pace. Suitable for beginners and those ready to take their poetry to the next level. £30

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MON 1 - TUES 30 ONLINE
Writing Power Hours

Want to get your writing kick started for 2024? Carve out some dedicated time with our procrastination busting Power Hours. Turn up, write in companionable silence, check in at the end for discussion and encouragement. Simple, but magic. Mon 10-11am/Tues 7-9pm/Sat 9-10am, £5 per session (free to Dialect members)

dialect.org.uk

KINGSHILL HOUSE CREATIVE CENTRE

WEDS 10 JAN - WEDS 7 FEB

Creative Writing With John Bassett

Do you have a story you want to tell? Do you want to write a script for theatre, film or TV? This 5 week course run by professional writer John Bassett is open to all levels. 6:30-8:30pm £60

kingshillhouse.org.uk

THE PAINSWICK CENTRE

THURS 11

First Thursday Painswick Presents: Sue Stuart-Smith

Sue Stuart-Smith in conversation with Sandie Randle about her acclaimed book *The Well Gardened Mind*. Sue Stuart-Smith is a psychiatrist, psychotherapist and passionate gardener. Here she brings her immense insight to bear on the many ways in which gardening can support mental health and healing. 7-9pm £10

firstthursdayspainswick.co.uk

RUSKIN MILL

SUN 21

Tales For The Turning Year with Fiona Eadie and Ariane Olnor

As the new year settles in, join Fiona Eadie and Ariane Olnor for an afternoon of seasonal stories and ridiculous riddles around the fire. Stories are for everyone and adults without children are as welcome as children with adults. 2:30-4:30pm £5adult/£4child/£12family (cash otd!)

rmt.org

THEATRE

COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE

25 JAN - 3 FEB

The Cotswold Players Presents: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Chase away those post-Christmas blues by joining us in the quaint market town of Wingieampton, to meet the heroine of our tale - the beautiful Snow White - together with a host of colourful characters, including the lovable Nurse Nettles and her appropriately named son, Muddles! This show promises to be a fun-packed adventure with comedy, music, dance and song - and not forgetting all those traditional panto ingredients. 25/26/27 7:30pm and 1/2/3 2:30pm £17/£9under16s

cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

THE SUB ROOMS

WEDS 20 DEC - SAT 6 JAN

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

A fantastic festive treat for the whole family, produced by the same team that brought you last year's production of *Cinderella*. Will Snow White ever find her happy ever after? Join us this Christmas to find out. The must-see theatrical experience for every member

of every family in and around Stroud. Various times, from £16

thesubrooms.co.uk

BARN THEATRE CIRENCESTER

MON 20 NOV - SAT 6 JAN

Treasure Island

A rip-roaring thrilling feast of swaggering pirates, foot tapping mayhem, mutiny on the high seas and sea shanties galore! Pirates of the Caribbean meets Fishermen's Friends.

MON 29 JAN - SAT 9 MAR

Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Fiend

A brand-new comedy adventure, in which Conan Doyle's fictional Victorian London collides 1888 London and the Whitechapel Murders. A hilarious mix of Thirty-Nine Steps and Cunk on Britain, combined with the technical wizardry of The Barn.

barntheatre.org.uk

COMMUNITY EVENTS

STROUD VALLEYS PROJECT

SUN 14/21/28

Archaeology Walk of the Heavens

Specialist local archaeologist Neil Baker returns for one of SVP's most popular events of the year: a guided walk across the beautiful Heavens to talk about its fascinating hidden history. Due to popular demand, Neil is kindly running three walks this year - but they do fill up quickly, so book your place at SVP eco shop in Threadneedle Street. 11am-2pm. £7 adults/£3 children

stroudvalleysproject.org

GLOUCESTER-SHIRE FESTIVALS

CHELTHENHAM TOWN HALL

SAT 6

Cheltenham Travel Festival

A festival bringing a world of travel experiences and expert advice to the heart of the Cotswolds. Free travel talks, photography masterclasses, expert advice, giveaways and much more! GOP READER OFFER - Attend free of charge by using the code CTF2024COMP when booking.

cheltenhamtravelfestival.com

GLOUCESTER GUILDHALL

FRI 26 - SUN 28

Gloucester Cajun and Zydeco Festival

Europe's longest running Cajun & Zydeco festival is back for its huge 30th birthday year. Featuring live performances from the finest Cajun & Zydeco bands from the UK, Europe and beyond!

gloucesterguildhall.co.uk

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If you like, you can follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for all our latest news. Preferably though, come in and say hello!

Look forward to seeing you next time you are in Stroud.

We are open Monday—Saturday 8.00am — 3.00pm



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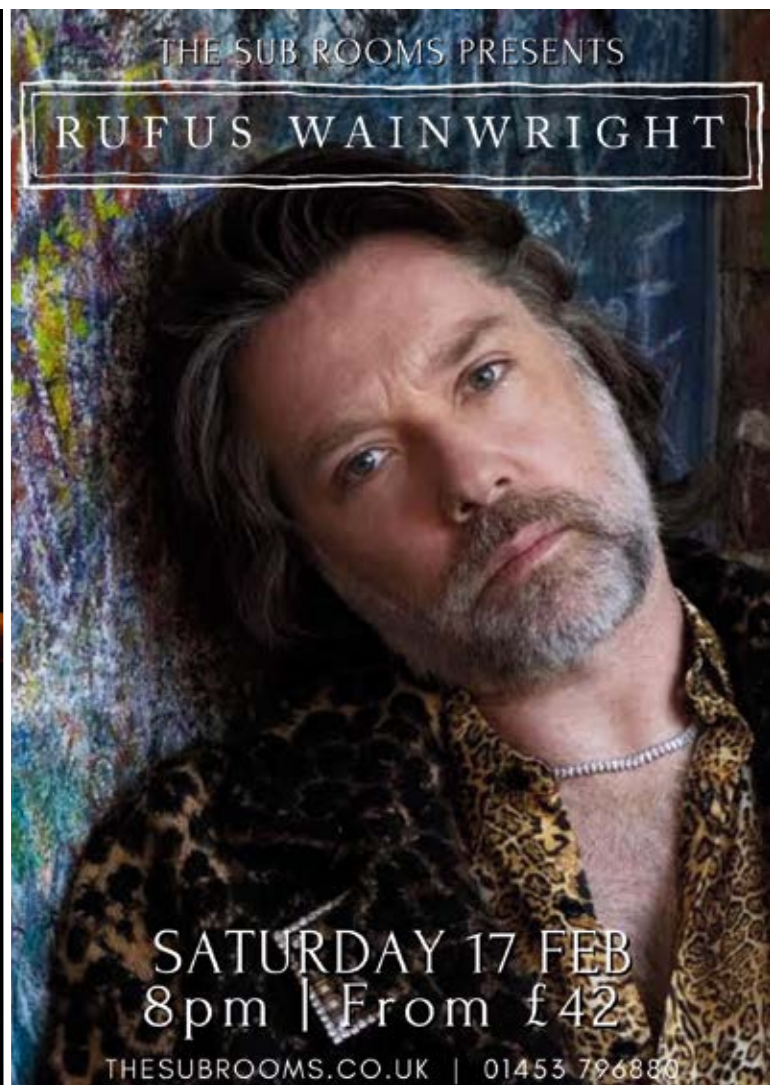


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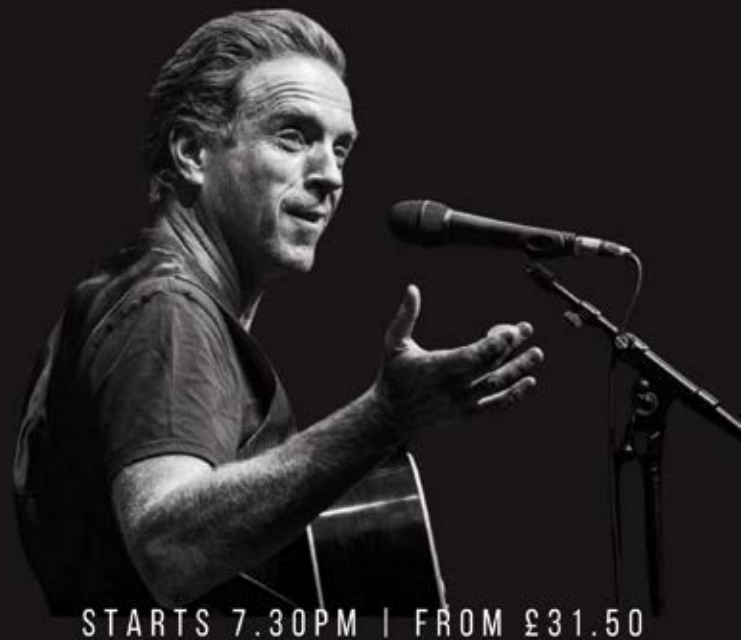
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SUNDAY 24 MARCH



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