

Issue #11  
Feb 2016

FREE  
MAGAZINE



TAKE ME HOME

# GOOD ON PAPER

AN INDEPENDENT, FREE  
MONTHLY GUIDE TO MUSIC,  
ART, THEATRE, COMEDY  
& LITERATURE IN STROUD

Image: Siobain Drury

# Where potential is realised



**Whole School Open Morning** Saturday 5th March 2016  
Senior School 9am-12.00pm, Preparatory School 10am-12.00pm



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

**WELCOME TO THE ELEVENTH ISSUE OF GOOD ON PAPER - YOUR FREE MONTHLY GUIDE TO MUSIC CONCERTS, ART EXHIBITIONS, THEATRE PRODUCTIONS, COMEDY SHOWS AND LITERATURE EVENTS IN STROUD...**

Well after nearly a year we finally managed to find the time to have a launch party - thank you all for coming and supporting the magazine. We (well you) managed to raise over £600 to Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers!

Thanks also to Lotte and the rest of The Prince Albert, and to Rhain, Little Metropolis, Dave Ayre's Nanoscopic Ensemble, Miserable Malcolm, Jonny Fluffypunk, John Bassett, Dennis Gould, Uta Baldauf, James Kriszyk, Joe Magee, Two Peas Street Food and to Snow Business for bringing forth the snow...

We do have other exciting events in the pipeline which will be announced later in the year but for now read on and don't forget to visit our website for extra content including film listings, reviews, playlists, poetry, short stories, downloadable archived issues and more...

P.S Re-reading the above (and previous issues) it seems we have a tendency to use too many commas in our Editor's Note, sorry,

Alex and Adam  
[www.goodonpaper.info](http://www.goodonpaper.info)



ALEX HOBBS  
EDITOR



ADAM HINKS  
DESIGNER

**CONTACT:**

Advertising/Editorial/Listings:  
[goodonpaperstroud@gmail.com](mailto:goodonpaperstroud@gmail.com)

Artwork & Design:  
[adam@thepdco.co.uk](mailto:adam@thepdco.co.uk)

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LIMITED EDITION 'GOOD ON PAPER PARTY' POSTER, SIGNED BY JOE MAGEE



£10

FROM MADE IN STROUD SHOP

**GOOD ON PAPER**

Limited edition signed poster from the recent 'post-launch(?)we are still here!' party held at the Prince Albert. Designed by Stroud based illustrator and award winning film-maker Joe Magee (interviewed in issue #8 of Good On Paper), it is available now for just £10 from Made In Stroud, 16 Kendrick Street



## Tea-time concerts

with the  
**BRISTOL ENSEMBLE**

A monthly series of Sunday afternoon chamber music concerts given by the professional musicians of Bristol Ensemble

**Christ Church, Newmarket Road, Nailsworth**

Sunday 14 February at 3pm

**Mozart** Flute Quartet in D Major K.285  
**Debussy** Syrinx • **Haydn** Symphony No.103 'Drumroll'

Flautist Roger Armstrong takes centre stage in this programme of chamber music featuring Mozart's elegant Flute Quartet in D major and Debussy's solo work *Syrinx*.

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

# APPLEWOOD ROAD

INTERVIEW WITH  
EMILY BARKER

IMAGINE WRITING AND RECORDING  
AN ENTIRE ALBUM IN FOUR DAYS.  
NOW IMAGINE PULLING THAT ALBUM  
NOT ONLY IN SUPER SPEEDY TIME, BUT  
DOING IT WITH A BUNCH OF SINGERS  
A) YOU'VE ONLY JUST MET AND  
B) YOU DON'T LIVE ON THE SAME  
CONTINENT AS.

Step forward Emily Barker and her original-three piece, all women folk band, Applewood Road. Made of three singer-songwriters Emily Barker (naturally), Amber Rubarth and Amy Speace, each successful in their own right, with accolades from everyone from The New York Times and The Huffington Post to Billboard Magazine and the BBC, Applewood Road produces beautiful, ethereal music that's not only making big waves in the industry (they were on the Dermot O'Leary Show on BBC2, no less, back in October 2015), but is also clever and unique. Clever because the band went on to write their first song together during the very afternoon they first ever met over in iconic Nashville, Tennessee where Rubarth and Speace live. And unique because each of their songs is recorded in analogue around a single microphone. Nice.

I met with Emily Barker to find out more. We'd met briefly before over in The Prince Albert when Emily was performing with Applewood

Road and it was my birthday. Yes, I'd had a few birthday beers, but still I was so blown away by their music that night in the packed pub, by their incredibly ethereal voices, by the way everyone watching never uttered a word during the performance, so mesmerized were they by the angel-like quality of the harmony and voices, that when I was asked if I could interview Emily, it was a no brainer. We grabbed our coffees, and the first thing I was dying to know was how she'd ever got into this amazing music in the first place. "We never had a telly," Emily says, in her light Australian drawl (Em is from near Perth). "My dad was big into music, so we'd just chose a record, put it on the house and dance. Mum played a little guitar, too."

For Emily, that early music nurturing was the start of what has turned out to be a varied musical career. The list of successes is long. Her most recent album, *The Toerag Sessions*, was recorded live to tape at London's legendary Toerag Studios with Grammy-winning producer

Liam Watson – an album that has been playing none stop at my house ever since, along with the music of Amy and Amber of Applewood Road too (Amy has performed for the high-profile 'Ted Talk' sessions.)

But Emily doesn't just play solo or simply with one band. "Oh, yeah, one of my best moments," says Emily when I ask her, "is when me and The Red Clay Halo, who I also play with, sold out at our gig at The Chapel in London. 900 people we played to. And during the set my electric guitar failed and I had to quickly improvise!" It's this stroke-of-luck thinking that seems to define Emily. Now based in Stroud, Emily found herself sticking to the UK after her tour with The Red Clay Halo was one day featured on the famous BBC Radio One John Peel Show. "People were very interested in us then. Before that happened, I was due to return home, but then I stayed."

And it was a good move. Emily's last album with The Red Clay Halo, *Dear River*, launched to

critical acclaim, with lead reviews in The Times and Evening Standard, amongst many others, and spent five weeks in the top 20 in the UK Independent Album Breakers chart.

So, with family back in Australia and her band mates over in Nashville, what brought Emily to stay in Stroud? 'The countryside,' she replies, without hesitation. "It gives me the chance to be creative without the same noise. I can walk in the woods or a run along the canal when I'm in the middle of writing. It's good for my wellbeing." But isn't it tricky with Applewood Road on different continents? "No," Emily replies with a smile. "We're looking forward to touring together now."

Turns out that not only is Emily continent hopping – she's racking up the awards too. See, what I didn't realise until afterwards is that Emily wrote the music for the hit Scandinavian-origin TV show, *Wallander* – and she won a BAFTA for it. A BAFTA! How on earth did that happen?

"I was playing a house concert," Emily says, "in Tufnell Park in London and the composer, Martin Phipps, happened to be at the party. He rang me up a few days after seeing my show and asked me if I would pop down to his studio to do an alternative recording of 'Nostalgia' for the series opening credits. It went on to become the theme tune of *Wallander*." Following that, Emily now also has a film score to her name, writing and singing the soundtrack for the heart-warming film *Hector*, starring BAFTA-winning actor Peter Mullan, which came out December 2015 to great critical acclaim.

So, for this award-winning songwriter who would have on her 'iconic dinner party guest list' the likes of Neil Young, Pattie Smith, Elvis and Sister Rosetta Tharpe (the godmother of rock. Google her - she's a legend. Em wrote a song about her) what are the next steps for Emily? "The Applewood Road Album is out on 12th February on vinyl and after that, lots of touring." And more film scores? "I'd love to!"

So there you go. Turns out meeting band members by chance and doing an album in just four days is not only a breeze, but a downright successful one at that. And if you're an aspiring songwriter, Emily before she left gave this advice: "Practice, practice - and do as many shows as you can, including open mic nights."

And, of course, maybe hop a continent or two – you never know: it may just work. Certainly did for Emily and Applewood Road.

- Applewood Road's album is out on vinyl with Gearbox Records on 12th February, for forthcoming tour dates and further info visit [applewoodroadmusic.com](http://applewoodroadmusic.com)

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*Nikki Owen is an author and writer. Her debut thriller, Subject 375 (Harper Collins), is out now. Catch her at [blog.nikkiowen.wordpress.com](http://blog.nikkiowen.wordpress.com) or website [nikkiowenauthor.com](http://nikkiowenauthor.com)*



## G.O.P BLOG

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [GOODONPAPER.INFO](http://GOODONPAPER.INFO) FOR NIKKI OWEN'S REVIEW OF APPLEWOOD ROAD'S DEBUT ALBUM

# THE RESURGENCE OF STROUD'S MUSIC SCENE

BY FRED HULLS

WHILE SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY STILL DESCRIBES PLAYING  
IN STROUD AS THE BEATLES' WORST EVER GIG, THAT  
DOESN'T DETRACT STROUDIES FROM THE CLEAR AND  
MOST SIGNIFICANT PART OF THAT MESSAGE: THE  
BEATLES PLAYED IN OUR BELOVED TOWN!



Stroud is back on the music map. With a re-energised Fringe Festival which boasted 12,000 attendees last year, our music scene feels more vibrant than ever. 400 performers across 6 stages, 85% of whom were local, means we have a festival to boast about.

"It was wonderful to see our town coming together to celebrate its vibrant music scene in 2015, we were astounded to receive nearly 400 applications to perform at the Fringe - most of whom have already asked to perform again this year!" said Sarah Watson, Stroud Fringe 2015 committee member "We are proud to host one of the biggest free festivals in the UK, it's a true reflection of the town's position as 'one of the most musical towns in the South West' and the Fringe weekend is a celebration of a year round calendar of diverse and exciting musical events."

Historically, our town has always been a hub for music, with The Subscription Rooms hosting artists of global fame. I myself have experienced a superb gig by Desmond Dekker and The Aces at the 'Subs', as well as Chumbawumba soon after their Tubthumping fame (I actually repeatedly sang their lyric "Pissing the night away" in a falsetto voice at the band as they left the venue - which they loved, of course).

Musically, a lot has happened between The Beatles mid-60s gig and Desmond Dekker's gig of March 2004, and unfortunately not all of it was good. Big name DJs have pulled out-of-town crowds to the town's nightclubs, thankfully we have moved away from national fame in favour of local talent and it's contagious.

Stroud has gone back to its music roots and is proud of its new homegrown talent. Bands, DJs, singers and musicians are taking a nationwide stage, getting airtime on national radio stations and playing sets at the biggest music festivals.

Local talent is lucky to have the opportunity to play in some awesome venues. Owners of spaces such as the SVA and the Prince Albert not only have stages ready to fill, but the contacts to attract acts to pull a big crowd. While these venues have been brewing for years, fresh blood has hit the local music scene and is proving popular.

The Crown and Sceptre on Horns Road was taken over by Rodda Thomas in 2009 and has become a hub for local music, including 'Stroud Unplugged', the pub's very own folk festival. "Our town has a unique live music scene, which is constantly evolving with more venues popping up all the time", said landlord Rodda. "Stroud Unplugged will be happening again in the 'Gert Yurt' in April and any interested acoustic acts should get in touch."

The Convent opened its doors more than two years ago and has had an array of well respected artists. Fred's Bar first popped up at Fringe 2015, serving bespoke cocktails using local drinks, and has had a total of seven events with top local DJs and bands. unit2, a new recording studio, music academy and rehearsal space, has now stamped its presence as a great venue for events. Ragged Moon Studios have launched their own record label (with a multitude of releases scheduled for later this year), artist management services and book tour dates including local shows for numerous artists on their roster. Last summer

saw The Golden Fleece reopen its doors, focusing on live music, using Freehouse Live Music Booking's Steve Ferbrache to fill up its music calendar. Meme Arts Café is hosting live acts, promising to be a great acoustic venue. What's lovely is the fluidity between the artists and venues in the town, all demonstrating a respect for each other.

As well as a fantastic selection of venues, the town's musical offering couldn't be more diverse. Beautiful folk sounds from the likes of Hot Feet; alternative and rock from Sq. Bomb and Broken Jaw; world music DJs Global Beats and Barrio Sounds; disco, funk and soul from Situation Sounds, Stroud Calling and Disco Sucks; and pure vinyl enthusiasts such as PaVinyl and El Rewind.

"Hardly anyone showed up for a start, which was not wonderful," Sir Paul McCartney said of The Beatles' Sub Rooms gig. "A group of Teddy Boys started throwing coins and we ended up picking them up."

Things have certainly come a long way since then, suave Teddy Boys may have converted to youthful hipsters, but Stroud's music scene is 'on the up' and things look only to get better.

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*With a background in PR, Events and Marketing, Fred works in London, Los Angeles and Stroud. Fred's brand is a new vision for the pop-up cocktail bar, and he is creating a festival that celebrates the finest cuisine, cocktails and drinks, and live entertainment*

## Fred's Bar

**FRED'S BAR LAUNCHED AT 2015'S FRINGE FESTIVAL AND HAS SINCE BECOME A POPULAR CHOICE FOR PARTIES AND PRIVATE EVENTS. ALREADY TAKING BOOKINGS FOR WEDDINGS, PRIVATE PARTIES AND FESTIVALS IN 2016 AND 2017, THE TEAM HAVE TAPPED INTO A POPULAR CALLING: 'EVENTS WITH A SPECIAL VIBE AND BESPOKE COCKTAILS.'**

### NEXT EVENT:

80s Valentine's Prom on Saturday 13th February. Get out your shoulder pads and perm your hair for this special event! Expect reworked classics intertwined with incredible music from Stroud Calling and Situation Sounds. Held at unit2 with an array of special cocktails, including two process cocktails for £10. Tickets cost £7 and are available from Trading Post

**FOR NEWS AND REGULAR UPDATES FOLLOW FRED'S BAR ON TWITTER AT @FREDSBARUK AND FACEBOOK. COM/FREDSBARUK OR EMAIL INFO@FREDSBAR.CO**

## Top Picks

### HOT FEET

Stroud band Hot Feet are inspired by their rural surroundings, but also their eclectic music hints at a darker and more complex world than the pastoral paradise you might expect. This folk group has regular airtime on national radio and is hot on the festival scene

### SITUATION SOUNDS

Local DJ collective and Soundsystem combine disco, funk and soul, and are supported by a fantastic live band. Regularly playing sets at Glastonbury festival, this group deserve their national following

### LITTLE METROPOLIS

After Fringe Festival success, musician Josef Reeve and poet Adam Horovitz crowdfunded to launch their book and CD. Giving Stroudies a kick of nostalgia, the pair launched the project with ease and recent updates suggest their initial CD and book publishing have sold out!

### THE PRINCE ALBERT

Local's pub with incredible music variety and quality. Owners with excellent music contacts and an eye for talent. Brilliant upcoming event and fundraiser, 2 Calais With Love, 13th and 14th February hosts local DJs and raises money for refugees. Tickets £12-£15 (see music listings for details)

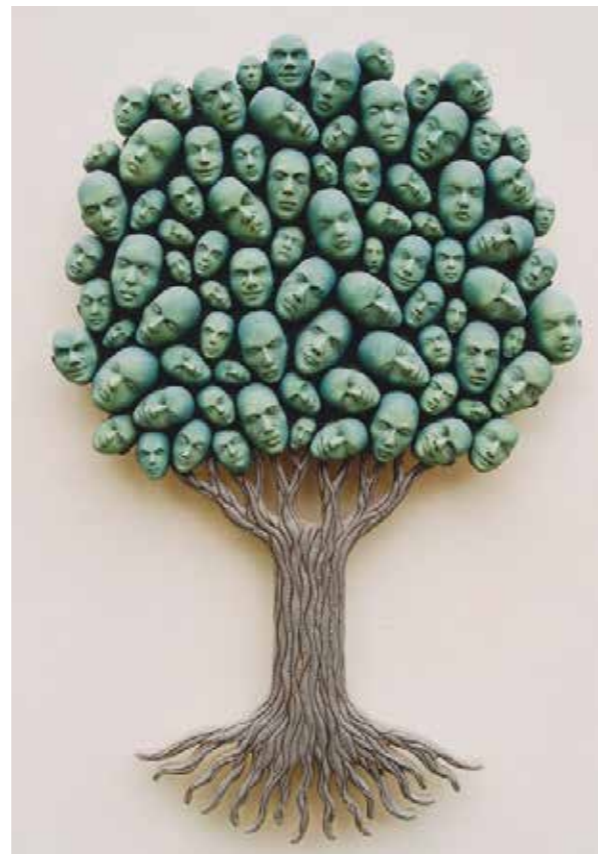






# ANDREW WOOD

BY KATE MONTGOMERY



**STROUD BASED ARTIST AND SCULPTOR ANDREW WOOD HAS HAD AN ECLECTIC AND HIGHLY DISTINGUISHED CAREER, A POINT HE BRUSHES ASIDE WHEN WE TALK ON A COLD JANUARY AFTERNOON. "I DON'T HAVE A CAREER," HE TELLS ME MODESTLY, "I DON'T EVEN HAVE AN AGENT!" LIKE THE NOSY-PARKER I AM, I NEED TO KNOW MORE...**

Andrew has exhibited all over the world, sold work to the famous and flamboyant and started the highly successful Prema Arts Centre in Uley near Dursley. How did it all begin? I ask as I sip fragrant tea from a delicate bone china cup, and settle down to hear his astonishing story.

He first moved to the area aged nineteen as a student of Fine Art at Cheltenham Art College. He fell in love with the area at once, "The Cotswold landscape blew me away after growing up in the polite and tidy home counties." He rented a cottage in the hamlet of Paradise near Painswick, and while he enjoyed his discovery of the rural and bohemian life of the Stroud Valleys he was not so happy with his course at Cheltenham and bridled at the conventions of the Fine Arts faculty "I got away with things at art school," he tells me with a wry smile, "because I was so prolific."

He managed to get a transfer Falmouth College of Art and realises in retrospect that he was nursing an unconscious desire to re-invent himself. Up to this point his passion had been paint and his only ambition was to be a painter. He had been a pre-diploma student at the Camberwell School of Art, studying under Frank Auerbach and other artists of the Bomberg School.

The substance of his painting had been getting thicker and thicker and within weeks of his arrival at Falmouth he discovered clay. "Falmouth was heaven," he tells me, "Eighty students, a Regency house with tropical gardens." Andrew is clear on his chosen medium, there has never really been another "I fell in love with clay" he asserts firmly. "The pottery was virtually unused so I could work completely undisturbed." And work he did. Wood produced piece after piece, culminating in a graduate exhibition whereby everything sold, on the back of which he was given a studio, a salary and a solo exhibition with the Nicholas Treadwell Gallery in London. A feat virtually unheard of at the time. His tutors tried to persuade him to go to the RCA, but Wood decided instead to go with Treadwell, a man who was interested in the future of ceramics and especially fine artists having their work realised in clay.

After the closure of Treadwells experimental ceramics factory, Andrew gathered together his precious slides (photographic slides being the visual currency of the time), put them into a sock "I couldn't even afford a nice box to put them in!", and bought a one way ticket to UC Davis near Sacramento. He arrived

unannounced with without and appointment at the world famous ceramics department was run by renowned ceramicist Robert Arneson. Arneson liked Andrew's work so much he gave him a studio and found him a place to live. "It was just great, I produced six very ambitious pieces, I loved it there. I had a great time."

But the Cotswolds beckoned him back to their green folds, "I'd made friends in the Cotswolds, I was introduced to the bohemian element of Gloucestershire. Having grown up in the boring Home Counties, I suddenly had people around me who talked about art and painting, it was great!"

No interview with Andrew is complete without mentioning the highly successful Prema Arts Centre which he began seemingly by accident in 1981. "A friend and I went along to view a disused baptist chapel, which had just come on the market, in the village of Uley. It was this derelict ghost place of a building. It was Georgian, very attractive, but I didn't think too much about it." But three weeks later a friend suggested they go along to the auction and he found himself bidding - and winning. "What I didn't know is that you had to sign a cheque there and then for ten per cent. I had precisely £84 in the bank." He smiles at the memory "I guess its the way I've lived my life ,taking reckless risks, I managed to borrow a bit from friends and family through sheer enthusiasm. I had no plan, I just lived in it."

Andrew became involved with village life, especially with the children in the area. "I used to give them lumps of clay to play with after school." It was at this point in his life that Wood found Sathya Sai Baba, who would become his spiritual guru. The teachings resonated with Wood, especially his emphasis on service. "I was looking for a way to be of service." From this Prema (the sanskrit word for divine love) was born. "I didn't really have a clue what I was doing, I had no idea what an arts centre was, I'd never set foot in one before. I was unbelievably naive!" Wood laughs, "But I soon learnt about trusts, foundations and charities and set it up as a charitable trust." The centre was opened in 1981 by Sheila Hancock and John Thaw and world renowned artists, musicians, actors and poets exhibited, danced, talked and taught their way through the centre for the next eight years.

Prema continues today, as a highly successful family arts centre and still promotes the value Andrew instilled in the very beginning; to provide a centre for all the arts, culture and education, a centre of excellence which would

demystify the arts, make the practice and enjoyment of art accessible to all and to expand people's cultural horizons. No small feat.

His work with Prema is testament to his tenacious outlook on the adventure of life, and it's this playful outlook which is so abundant in his work. From the gloriously naked Narcissi (inspired by the male vanity Wood witnessed while living near Venice Beach), to the beautifully intricate 'Madam Joy' which resides on the studio wall he explores his clay based love affair with gusto. Each piece is infused with vibrancy and life. It is a celebration of colour and form and as he says "my personal and entirely subjective challenge is trying to create harmony between colour and form."

Andrew returned to his "green and pleasant land" three years ago after living on an olive grove in Tuscany. He now lives and works in a cosy studio in the centre of Stroud and seems very much at home, "I love it here, Stroud is a brilliant place to be, it really is phenomenal."

Andrew was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2005. While it has not stopped him working, he is actually aware of the gradual decline of his physical energy as the Parkinson's develops. The frustration that he experiences is that his physical energy and abilities cannot keep pace with his creative imagination which is more active than ever. "I've never had a problem with ideas. I'm able to tap into my imagination both instinctively and at will. It's been one of the most frustrating things in my time as an artist, I have far too many ideas and not the capacity to do more about them." Not that he is without options, "I'd love to have a few assistants or interns, because that would really multiply my output."

Andrew's playful outlook and charisma have seen him live all over the world, from California to Italy. His work hangs in a multitude of fascinating places and his commissions come from a diverse range of clients, his 118 plaster relief portraits of Blues Gods hang in the House of Blues Museums across America. His work has been bought by the collectors and taste makers who define our generation, and it's easy to see why. His exuberance for life shines through his work. "I just want to keep going for as long as possible." He tells me, "You never know who's going to walk through the door. I love that about life. The mystery and the adventure."

To see some of his work you can visit his studio at number 2 Fromedale on London Road in the centre of town. Further examples are also available on his website at [andrew-wood.com](http://andrew-wood.com)

*Kate Montgomery is a writer, artist and blogger. She lives in Stroud with her husband and two daughters. She hosts creative writing groups and wastes far too much time instagramming her food @clevermonty*

# ART LISTINGS

## Centre For Science & Art

**MON 1ST - MON 29TH**

James Kriszyk:  
When Spider Kisses Fly

A new collection of stunning black and white images by Good On Paper's resident photographer James Kriszyk. The photographs in the exhibition are a selection from his recent book 'When Spider Kisses Fly' which contains portraits and street scenes in his now instantly recognisable and unique style. They seem spontaneous yet considered and offer a relatable account of the world which surrounds him. The 27 page book is out now and can be purchased by emailing James at jkriszyk@gmail.com

roomhirestroud.co.uk

## Gallery Pangolin

**MON 11TH JAN -  
FRI 5TH FEB**

The Year Ahead

A glimpse of what's to come at Gallery Pangolin during 2016 with tasters from 'Sculptors' Prints and Drawings' which again runs alongside the biennial Impress Printmaking Festival, 'Jubilee', which celebrates the gallery's 25th birthday in June and our much-anticipated George Fullard solo exhibition, scheduled for the autumn Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-1pm

**MON 22ND FEB -  
FRI 1ST APRIL**

Sculptor's Prints  
and Drawings

Gallery Pangolin's annual exhibition of works on paper featuring prints and drawings by Modern and contemporary sculptors. As in previous years, their show is part of Impress'16, the biennial Printmaking Festival which showcases some of the best in International printmaking at venues across Stroud and the Cotswolds Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-1pm

gallery-pangolin.com

## GPC Printmakers Gallery

**SAT 27TH FEB -  
WEDS 30TH MARCH**

Drawn to Print

An exhibition of prints and workshops exploring drawing within printmaking featuring Jason Hicklin, Wendy Rhodes, Andy Lovell, Lucy Guenet, Beth Jenkins and other invited artists. (IMPRESS 16 PRINTMAKING FESTIVAL)

gpcq.co.uk

## Lansdown Hall

**MON 22ND FEB -  
SAT 12TH MAR**

Jason Hicklin: Orkney -  
Twenty Five Etchings

This amazing series of etchings is based on Jason's time in the Orkney archipelago; the prints formed part of a series called "Gods of the Earth, Gods of the sea", and are definitely awe-inspiring and atmospheric in their scope and execution. They were made over a four month period following time walking and drawing on the islands. The plates have been open bitten which brings the light back into the metal and forms a stark contrast to the deeply etched aquatinted blacks (IMPRESS 16 PRINTMAKING FESTIVAL) Mon/Sat 10am - 4pm

lansdownhall.org

## The Line Gallery - SVA

**FRI 5TH - SUN 28TH**

Bob Gelsthorpe

Bob Gelsthorpe is an artist, writer and co-director at Bit Studios in Cardiff. After training as a painter he has now moved away from this practice. Faith is the key driving force in his practice-based research, which includes drawing, performance, photography, sculpture and curatorial projects. Bob's work dictates the medium as he explores his idea-based work. He has recently been awarded the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery 'Artist in Residence'

at YMCA Swansea where he will be developing work for his show at the Line Gallery Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am - 5pm/Private view Fri 8th 6-9pm

linegallery.co.uk

## Meme

**MON 1ST - MON 29TH**

Siobain Drury & Kay Mclean

Mixed media and paintings from Meme resident artists Siobain Drury (see Exhibition Space on p17) and Kay McLean. Original works and prints also on sale

memecafebar.co.uk

## Museum In The Park

**SAT 23RD JAN -  
SUN 28TH FEB**

Cheltenham Illustration  
Awards 2015:  
Tales Of The City

This exhibition showcases the winning entries from the 2015 Cheltenham Illustration Awards. Organised by The University of Gloucestershire, this annual competition invites submissions from all over the world and attracts students, established, and emerging illustrators. The successful entrants in this internationally known open competition are shown in an exhibition and published in a hardback, full colour annual. The chosen theme has always been one of narrative, to encourage visual storytelling. This leaves the artist free to explore their imagination and experience to create all sorts of stories, imaginary worlds or documentary chronicles which may be conveyed in one illustration or a number of sequential images. The 2015 competition attracted 800 images submitted from more than 20 countries around the world. Look out for the Museum's half term holiday happenings which will accompany this show Tues-Fri 10am-4pm/Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

**TUES 2ND - SUN 14TH**

Cutting the Cloth

In 1815 the first patent was taken out that led to the development of the Cross Cutter and the end of a skilled craft, shearing broadcloth, not just in the Stroud Valleys but in the world. The exhibition traces the resulting changes that produced fine cloth, transformed lawns and smooths the path of the snooker ball. This exhibition is organised by Stroudwater Textile Trust and part of Festomane, Stroud's festival of engineering and manufacturing. Please note: Gallery Two opening hours vary from day to day, please call ahead on 01453 763 394 before making a special visit

**SAT 27TH**

The Visible Mending  
Programme, Confessions  
of a Serial Mender

Following a Darning masterclass earlier in the day at Atelier Tom of Holland, a textile artist based in Brighton, shares his love for mending. In a culture where more and more people are dissatisfied with the throw-away culture of fast fashion, Tom provides an antidote through his Visible Mending Programme. In his work he explores the story behind garment and wearer, and highlights the history of beloved items, with the aim of getting people to wear their clothes for longer, complete with a beautiful darn as a badge of honour 2:30pm-5pm

museuminthepark.org.uk

## SVA

**SAT 30TH JAN -  
SUN 21ST FEB**

A Maze

Immerse yourself in a Maze in the Goods Shed...The SVA are building a maze at the Goods Shed over the next few weeks, get ready to get lost and leave the ball of string at home...you won't need it...once you're in you can never leave, never, nie!!! Sat/Sun 10am - 4pm Tues/Thurs 4 - 6pm Fri 4 - 9pm



## Atelier Textile Craft Club February

### WORKSHOPS

Make Roman Blind, two afternoons	starts Sunday the 31st Jan (1-5pm) £80 (£70)
SEWING, Follow a Pattern, 4 Wednesday evenings	starts, Wednesday the 3rd (6:30-9:30pm) £110 (£70)
SEWING Clinic, theme: Seam finishing	Wednesday the 10th (7-9pm) £20 (£10)
Make a pair of Knickers	Thursday the 11th (6:30-9:30pm) £35 (£30)
Make Fairy light lampshades	Saturday the 13th (1-4pm) £25 (£22)
Celtic Knot workshop	Thursday the 18th (7-9pm) £20 (£17)
SEWING Clinic, theme: Buttons etc	Wednesday the 24th (7-9pm) £20 (£10)
DARNING Masterclass Tomofholland	Saturday the 27th (9:30am-12:30pm) £50 (£45)
LEATHERWORK, Make a Leather Belt	Sunday the 28th (10am-5pm) £64 (£55)

### WEEKLY CLUB ACTIVITIES

Extra Club session	every Tuesday morning from (9:30am -1pm) £7 (£0)
Knitting Session, Fair Isle Theme	Every Wednesday (9:30am-12pm) £7 (£0)
CROCHET Session,	Every Wednesday(8-10pm) £10 (£5)

### EVENTS

Radio Cinema A celebration of stories told through sound	Tuesday the 23rd (7pm) £5 (£0)
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### Atelier Textile Craft Club - CLUB SESSIONS

- drop in during club hours and use our facilities and work on your own projects. - £7 (£0)

Monday	Afternoon session (1-5pm)	Evening Session (7-10pm)
Tuesday	Afternoon session (1-5pm)	Evening Session (7-10pm)
Wednesday	Morning session (9am-1pm)	Evening Session (7-10pm)

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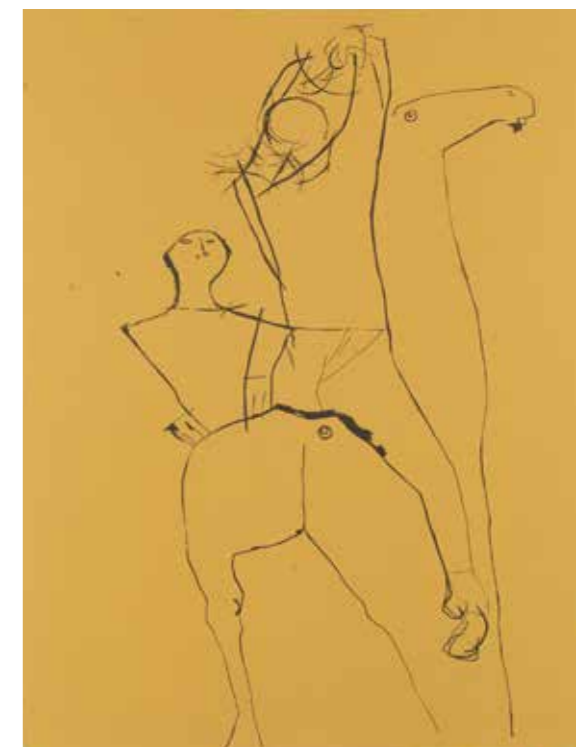
## Courses 2016

<b>SAT 30<sup>TH</sup> JAN</b>	KERRY PHIPPEN: DRAWING FOR ADULT SCAREDY CATS WITH KERRY PHIPPEN 10am-4pm £55
<b>SAT 6<sup>TH</sup> FEB</b>	ALISON VICKERY: LANDSCAPES IN MIXED MEDIA 10:30am - 4pm £45
<b>SAT 13<sup>TH</sup> FEB</b>	CHRIS BINGLE: CANVAS MAKING WORKSHOP (Times TBA) £35
<b>SAT 20<sup>TH</sup> FEB</b>	ALISON VICKERY: WORKING WITH ACRYLIC INKS 10:30am - 4pm £45

FOR DETAILS OF REGULAR CLASSES VISIT THE WEBSITE

www.pegasusart.co.uk

## GALLERY PANGOLIN Sculptors' Prints and Drawings 22nd February - 1st April



Two Acrobats with Horse 1955 Marino Marini

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

## Bob Gelsthorpe

Private View Friday 5th February



5th - 28th February

Open Friday & Saturday 10-5pm

4 John Street, Stroud SVA



**SAT 5TH/12TH/  
19TH/26TH**

**The Weaving Shed**

Sally Hampson, an artist and weaver, is back in the SVA project space at number 29 High Street bringing Weaving workshops and events in the coming months. For further details of workshops email SVA: office@sva.org.uk (Drop in or by appointment)

**MON 8TH - SAT 27TH**

**Art Exhibition and Auction:  
A Fundraiser for Refugees**

Artists have very kindly donated artwork for this exhibition and auction in the former Millets shop at number 20 High Street. An exhibition and auction of artwork kindly donated from local artists who all have a shared desire to do something to help the current humanitarian crisis. Buy some affordable art and your money will go a long way to helping to ease the plight of refugees. Open every Saturday with auction on taking place on Saturday 27th

sva.org.uk

**Prema Arts Centre - Uley**

**MON 4TH JAN -  
SUN 14TH FEB**

**Rosemary Grace Booth**

Artist Rosemary Grace Booth (Rosie) is a recent graduate from Manchester School of Art. Her most recent works explore the intricate and delicate forms of an imaginary environment, twisting and flowing together. Her work always begins with a meditative process of drawing; each one is packed with detail and intricacy. 10:30am-4pm

**MON 4TH JAN -  
SUN 14TH FEB**

**Kelly Kitsch**

Artist Sarah Kelly was born in Sierra Leone and grew up in various countries around the world including Australia, Yemen, United Arab Emirates and the Solomon Islands. Her experience of these countries, their cultures, mythologies and most importantly their distinctive natural landscapes continues to influence her artwork. The lush and bright

jungles of the Solomons, where nature felt abundant and vivid often lend inspiration and colour to the opulent, playful creations made by Sarah. 10:30am-4pm

prema.org.uk

**New Brewery Arts Centre  
- Cirencester**

**SAT 13TH  
SUN 28TH FEB**

**The Connections Project**

Pop-up studios and gallery showcasing the work of six printmakers (IMPRESS 16 PRINTMAKING FESTIVAL)

newbreweryarts.org.uk

**Ruskin Mill - Horsley**

**SAT 6TH FEB -  
SUN 6TH MAR**

**A Constellation of Wise Owls**

This exhibition of printed textiles and drawings from students on the SGS South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, Foundation Art and Diploma course (WISE campus), represents an artistic reaction to Ruskin Mill, its land, lakes and buildings. The students who normally learn in an urban environment have drawn and documented their immersion in this rural place. Their responses are presented in the form of field notes and observations as well as finished pieces of work in textiles and applied stitching 10am - 4pm

rmt.org

# SIOBAIN DRURY

**SIOBAIN DRURY IS A COLLECTOR OF PRINTED  
MATTER, JOURNALS, MAPS, PAPERS AND  
SMALL OBJECTS. SHE IS NOSTALGIC ABOUT  
THEIR PROVENANCE, KNOWING THAT WHEN  
USED IN ORIGINAL PIECES, THEY ARE NOT  
ONLY COMPLETELY UNIQUE BUT ALSO LOST  
FROM HER OWN PERSONAL COLLECTION.**

She paints, draws, documents, collages and uses stitch as means of mark making and her work can be playful, image based or conceptual with surprisingly varied outcomes.

The blue and orange series started eighteen months ago with some small blue & orange mixed media sketches and the identification of some found materials that had a visual resonance. Central to these pieces are the decrepit 'jolly craft' alphabet stencils from the 1970s.

Siobain is especially interested in type in all forms and this is a homage to the ever so slightly not great letterforms found as stencils, and the consideration of digital type by comparison.

Also included in the series are used dressmakers carbon paper (where you can see it has been used over & over for garment making), manufacturing waste paper, Eastman watercolour paper for hand tinting black & white photographs (dated 1930-50) and old stock embroidery threads from Brigette & Otto Kerbes' Haberdashery shop (1975-2004 Shirehampton, Bristol).

A selection of original works and prints are currently on display at Meme Café Bar.

siobain@harumscarum.co.uk

www.harumscarum.co.uk

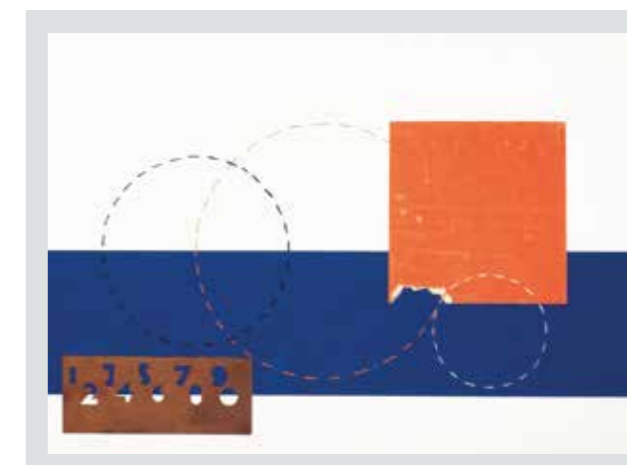
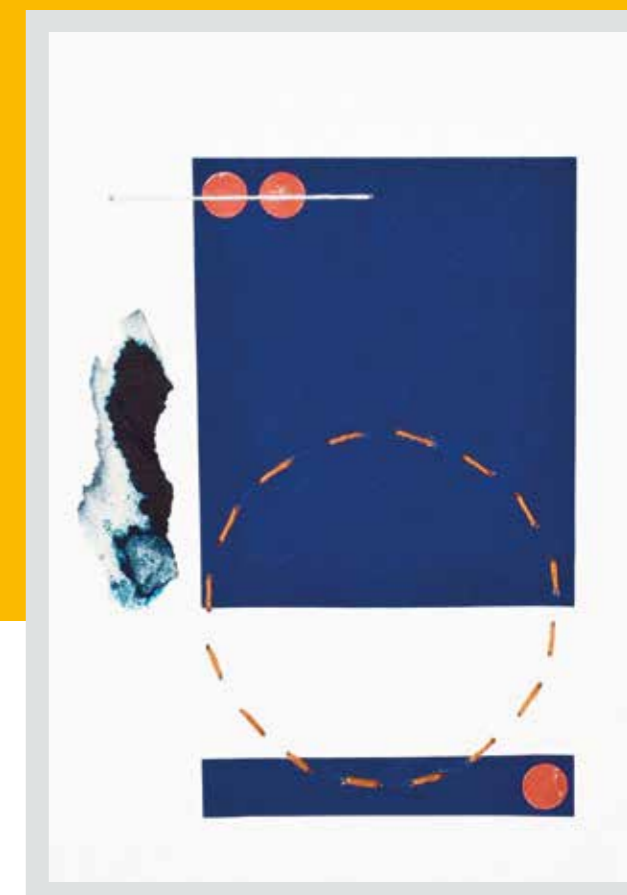
**Latest Exhibition @ Meme Café Bar**

**MON 1ST - MON 29TH**

**Siobain Drury & Kay Mclean**

Mixed media and paintings from Meme resident artists Siobain Drury and Kay McLean. Original works and prints also on sale

memecafebar.co.uk



## EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITY

THE UPPER LOCK CAFÉ IS  
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BUSTLING CANAL-SIDE CAFÉ.

If you are an artist looking to organise a small exhibition and would like to find out more email Pam Jenkins at [pkjinx@hotmail.com](mailto:pkjinx@hotmail.com) or call 01453 297172

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ROOMHIRESTROUD.CO.UK

GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
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GPCHQ.CO.UK

HAWKWOOD COLLEGE  
HAWKWOODCOLLEGE.CO.UK

KENDRICK STREET GALLERY  
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PEGASUS ART  
PEGASUSART.CO.UK

RUSKIN MILL  
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THE SCULPTURE STUDIO  
THESCULPTURESTUDIO.CO.UK

SOUTH WEST ART WORKSHOPS  
SWARTWORKSHOPS.CO.UK

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SGSCOL.AC.UK

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SVA.ORG.UK

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SUBSCRIPTIONROOMS.ORG.UK

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FACEBOOK.COM/  
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NEWBREWERYARTS.ORG.UK

PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY  
PREMA.ORG.UK

# SUSAN LYNCH & THE RATSOCIETY

BY LEAH GRANT

Susan Lynch as Hester Swane in *By the Bog of Cats*, Abbey Theatre, Dublin

VALENTINE'S DAY IS ALMOST UPON US, BUT THIS YEAR, RATHER THAN INDULGING IN THE OBLIGATORY CANDLELIT MEAL FOR TWO, THE OVERPRICED ROSES AND THE HEART-SHAPED CHOCOLATES THAT THREATEN TO INSTANTLY RUIN YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION, WHY NOT TREAT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES TO SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT?

From February 12th-14th, professional actor Susan Lynch - best known for her roles in *Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles* (1994), *Waking Ned* (1998) and *From Hell* (2001) - brings her community theatre group, RATSociety, to Lansdown Hall and Gallery as they perform Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Crimes of the Heart*. Set in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, *Crimes of the Heart* centres around three sisters - Lenny, Meg and Babe McGrath - who are brought back together after Babe shoots her husband. "It sounds quite heavy and it is, it's a really dark play, but it's also really funny and really heartfelt and engaging..." admits Susan, when I catch up with her a few weeks before opening night, "...there's so much in this play that is relevant to now; it's set in the early seventies in the wake of Hurricane Camille, there's lots of flooding and there's still a lot of racial tension in Mississippi. So there's these different social elements to it and then there's three sisters who have the legacy of a mother who committed suicide and it's about the community's prejudice against them..."

This is not the first time that RATSociety (Ruscombe Amateur Theatre Society) have performed *Crimes of the Heart* - their debut run at Whiteway Colony Hall in 2014 was a huge success, despite the confines of the space, and it is partly for this reason that Susan decided to revive it: "I felt there was a deeper place that we could go now that the guys had initially got over the thing of acting for the first time...now we're at the intermediate level so they can really start to get

deeper into the text, really get the absolute colours of the tragedy and the comedy of the play." Formed in 2013, RATSociety was the result of a discussion between Susan and her friends Victoria Ashcroft and Laura Smith during which it was revealed that the pair were interested in acting, but were unsure of how to go about doing it. Having come from community drama herself, Susan was well aware of the benefits of theatre at this level, both as a means of escapism and as a way of strengthening bonds between collectives, and so through workshops, events, readings and productions, RATSociety was created.

It is clear from the start of our meeting that *Crimes of the Heart* is a production that

Susan feels extremely passionate about. As the final weeks of preparation become more and more intense, she discusses her role as director and her pride and enthusiasm for her team both in front of and behind the curtain: "Being a good director is being a good mum, and you have to watch each of them and how they're developing and you have to know when you've got to go, right guys, this is the last furlong and lets absolutely nail it...We've got an amazing composer, Luke Smith, he composes all the music and he did the last time, but now he's got a whole new set because the direction has slightly changed, we've gone for something darker, we've got much more of a soundscape of what's actually happening in Mississippi before the audience sees the play unfold." *Crimes of the Heart* is very much a group effort and Susan is keen to highlight the various helpers who have contributed to the production along the way, including lighting design by Andy Coleman, publicity by Andy's partner Alice and set design by Hannah Thomson (landlady of The Woolpack Inn at Slad) as well as the kind sponsorship of rehearsals by new Stroud business, SpaceHoppers.

Singing the praises of others seems to be inherent in Susan's personality; as our conversation naturally veers towards her professional career, I happen to mention her husband (fellow actor Craig Parkinson) and she's quick to stress his upcoming performance in Channel 4's *Indian Summers* and BBC 2's *Line of Duty* as well as his current role in Martin McDonagh's *Hangmen* on the West End. Clearly she's a very proud wife, but what's in store for this Northern Irish actor whose career so far has seen her working with the likes of James Nesbitt, Ewan McGregor and Johnny Depp? "I've just been doing a film with Jim Sheridan or

My Left Foot fame and *In the Name of the Father*, he's a brilliant Irish film director, that's called *The Secret Scripture* which is based on a very famous book and Vanessa Redgrave and Eric Bana are in it. And I've just finished the second series of *Happy Valley*, I'm doing a supporting role in that." And for RATSociety? What happens when the final curtain falls on *Crimes of the Heart*? Well, with local professional actor Simon Chadwick, Susan is planning to embark on a more experimental project: "We're doing a piece called *Cider with Rosie* and *Beyond*, it spans over a hundred years of Gloucestershire and it's a kind of kaleidoscopic snapshot of different scenarios."

Leah Grant is a writer and photographer with a keen interest in art and literature. On her blog, *Bellyful of Art*, you can find reviews of exhibitions, installations, dance performances and literary events as well as her own lovingly created pieces of short fiction *artbellyful.wordpress.com*

- Tickets for *Crimes of the Heart* can be purchased from Trading Post on Kendrick Street for £8 or for just over £9 online at [www.ratsociety.com](http://www.ratsociety.com)

- If you have a space that could be used for RATS rehearsals (e.g., a disused building) or you would like to get involved with RATS, then please get in touch via the website



## THEATRE PREVIEW

BY JOHN BASSETT

### UPSTAGE/DOWNSTAGE: THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE THEATRE WORKERS COLLECTIVE

Upstage/Downstage is a new collective of theatre professionals from Gloucestershire set up with the aim of promoting theatre in all its forms throughout the county. Born out of the success of the annual Stroud Theatre Festival, the collective is starting to establish a network of venues throughout Gloucestershire for local companies to tour their shows. It is hoped this will happen from April this year.

Its first performance is due to take place on Friday 12th February at the Subscription Rooms where different companies will preview excerpts from works to tour later in the year. The 20 minute pieces will include a range of work and styles from existing performances to new works in progress.

Companies and performances confirmed so far include:

### THE SENTENCE

By Cheltenham based writer Martin Lytton performed by Katie McLeod and Paul Southcott. This powerful play focuses on John Scrivener, who in the 16th century translated the Bible into English and was sentenced to death. His daughter was sentenced to light the fire.

### THE FIRST PUNK IN KINGSHILL

A new show from Jonny Fluffypunk. The poet, raconteur, anarchist and flaneur brings extracts from this new work following his show *Man Up*, Jonny Fluffypunk.

### SPANIEL IN THE WORKS PRESENT: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JACK SHEPPARD - THIEF AND JAIL BREAKER

Part drama, part pantomime this one man show offers an insight into the life of the infamous 18th century criminal, notorious as the only man to escape from Newgate Jail three times.

Gloucester based company Brickdoor Theatre will also be presenting an extract from a new as yet untitled work and other companies and performers are still TBA.

Tickets for the evening cost £5 and are available from the Tourist Information Centre or by calling 01453 760900

The collective is open for anyone who makes part of their living through theatre and performance including actors, writers, directors, producers, technicians, stage managers, venues and theatre companies. If you would like to get involved or to receive further information email: [info@spanielworks.co.uk](mailto:info@spanielworks.co.uk)

John Bassett is an actor, writer and the director of *Stroud Theatre Festival* and *Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company*

### Cotswold Playhouse

#### FRI 5TH

#### Hexagon Theatre Co: Pyrenees

In the *Pyrenees* a middle-aged man is found unconscious in the snow. He has no papers and no memory of who he is. A young woman from the British Consulate is dispatched to his hotel to see if she can establish his identity. As they talk and begin to work out a story for him, they find themselves connecting on a deeper level. But, the arrival of another guest threatens to undermine their conclusions...7:30pm £12

#### FRI 12TH

#### Trevor T Smith: The Return of Savonarola

The 15th century Florentine preacher Savonarola, hanged and burnt to death on orders from the Vatican, returns from the after-life into the body of a dissolute, drunken, stand-up comedian... Edinburgh Festival reviews:

"Smith's performance - all wild eyes and trembling, prophesying gestures - is captivating." The Scotsman.

"This impressive actor uses the power of his voice to great effect in this solid, compact, intimate show; a masterclass in how a lone actor can grip an audience." Edinburgh Spotlight 8pm £10/£8concs

#### FRI 19TH - SAT 20TH

#### Glitter & Twisted: The Pirates of Penzance

Glitter & Twisted Theatre Company shines a new light on Gilbert & Sullivan's masterpiece. This quirky new production updates the musical to 1953, while remaining respectful to Gilbert's witty dialogue and Sullivan's sparkling score.

Packed with familiar tunes including "A Policeman's Lot" and "Poor Wand'ring one", the show is fun for the whole family and will have you laughing and humming all the way home 7:30pm £12/£8under 8

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

### Lansdown Hall

#### FRI 12TH - SUN 14TH

#### RATSociety: Crimes of the Heart

See p18! 7:30pm £8 from Trading Post/£9 from [www.ratsociety.com](http://www.ratsociety.com)

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

### Subscription Rooms

#### THURS 11TH

#### Dot to Dot Drama: Robina Hood

Boo, hiss and laugh your way through this quirky twist on the tale of Robin Hood. Enjoy some panto-style entertainment when Robina proves that girls can do anything, baddies

must meet a sticky end and laughter is always the best medicine. Brought to the Subscription Rooms Stage by local children, the Stroud Schools' Drama festival is right on target! 5pm £9/£6concs

#### THURS 16TH

#### Thingumajig Theatre: The Ugly Duckling

Life isn't much fun in the farmyard for the misfit 'duckling'. Teased and tormented, he dreams of kindlier places beyond the farm gates. But will he survive out there?

Join in the adventures of this famous 'under-dog' in Hans Christian Andersen's much-loved tale of transformation, brought to you in Thingumajig's house style - beautiful puppet characters, live music, captivating story-telling and a generous sprinkling of theatre magic.

50 minutes. Recommended for ages 5 + 11:30am & 2:30pm £8/£6concs/£25family ticket

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

### Prema Arts Centre - Uley

#### SAT 13TH

#### Theatre Temoin: Nobody's Home

Odysseus has come home from the war. His bath's broken, and he can't fix it. As he stares at his reflection, he begins to find that his journey back to the people he loves might not be as easy at it might have seemed. Set in a bathroom,

Nobody's Home follows a soldier's homeward journey through his own mind as he struggles with the monsters of his past 8pm

#### FRI 26TH

#### Flabbergast Theatre: Tatterdemalion

This hilarious, absurd and enchanting show features puppetry, physical comedy and mime in the tradition of Ecole Philippe Gaulier. Tatterdemalion juxtaposes a sense of loneliness and (be)longing with joy and exhilaration. Tonight you are warmly invited to witness one man's quest for a friend in a world that can, for some, feel mightily chilly 8pm £10/£7concs/£8friends/£6concs/£25family/£23friends/£15otd

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

### Vue Cinema

#### TUES 9TH

#### Kenneth Brannagh Theatre Company

The Winter's Tale (PG) 6:50pm

#### SUN 28TH

#### National Theatre

As You Like It (12A) 6:45pm

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

# POETRY BY HEART

BY KEVAN MANWARING

**THIS FEBRUARY BUDDING YOUNG BARDS GATHER AT HAWKWOOD COLLEGE TO DECIDE WHO WILL BE THE COUNTY FINALIST OF POETRY BY HEART, A NATIONAL POETRY RECITATION CONTEST STARTED BY FORMER POET LAUREATE, ANDREW MOTION.**



Talented students aged 14-18 from across Gloucestershire have been learning two poems from the online Poetry By Heart anthology. Each school holds a competition and the winner is entered in the county final. The county winner goes through to the regional and possibly national heats, held at Homerton College, Cambridge in March - a glittering finale which is recorded by the BBC and broadcast as a Poetry Please special on Radio 4.

Last year's county winner, after a tough contest, was Sophia Smout, Year 12 student (2014/15) of Stroud High School. Her poem choices were (pre-1914): The Witch by Mary Elizabeth Coleridge; (Post-1914): Lights Out by Edward Thomas; and the First World War poem 'To His Love', by Ivor Gurney. The latter two have Gloucestershire connections: Edward Thomas moved to Dymock just before the First World War to live near fellow poets Robert Frost, Lascelles Abercrombie, Wilfrid Gibson and John Drinkwater (collectively known as the Dymock poets). Ivor Gurney is arguable the Gloucestershire poet par excellence, evoking the genius loci of the area in collections such as Severn and Somme.

As the county organiser I have organised the venue, judges, contestants and guest performer, Adam Ho-rovitz, on behalf of Poetry By Heart. Having set up the Bard of Hawkwood contest last year for adults, and having won the Bard of Bath contest myself back in 1998, I know how important these platforms are for supporting the voices of the future. It can be incredibly empowering to stand up and shine in front of an audience. For any young person it is a great skill to acquire, boosting confidence and employability, and is a brilliant way to experience poetry. Much poetry is meant to be heard rather than just read, and by committing it to memory you are embodying its rhythms and wisdoms -- something which can stay with you for the rest of your life.

The former Poet Laureate Andrew Motion is Co-Director of the Poetry Archive and plays a lead role in Poetry By Heart. He commented: "Poetry By Heart has gone from strength to strength since its launch in 2013. Many thousands of students have not only learned great poems for life but they have also shared them with friends and families in the inspiring and moving performances that are at the heart of every competition. I am constantly surprised and delighted by the quality of the students' achievements."

Poetry By Heart has a special Stroud connection - it is an education initiative of the Poetry Archive, which was set up by Andrew Motion during his time as Poet Laureate, but is curated from an office in Stroud. The Poetry Archive is the world's premier online collection of recordings of poets reading their work with sound recordings dating back to wax cylinders of Tennyson and WB Yeats right up to the current Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, and many diverse poetic voices.

Since its launch in December 2012 an estimated 10,000 students have had some experience of Poetry By Heart. Competitors have been involved from all categories of secondary education including local authority maintained schools, Academies, Grammar Schools, Sixth Form Colleges, F.E. colleges and Independent schools.

In 2015 333 schools and colleges from Cumbria to Cornwall; Suffolk to Shropshire took part in 43 county competitions. Participants recited one pre 1914 poem and one post 1914 poem from the Poetry By Heart website at poetrybyheart.org.uk. In the county rounds a third poem was recited from a special supplementary online anthology of First World War poetry.

206 Poems have been selected for the competition anthology by poets Sir Andrew Motion and Jean Sprackland with additional suggestions from co-founder and co-director of Poetry By Heart, Julie Blake. The website holds information about

the competition; helpful notes on the poems and poets; the philosophy behind the initiative and more resources for teachers and students.

The County finals take place at Hawkwood College, on the edge of Stroud on Wednesday, 10th February at 1.30pm. There is a limited number of public tickets which can be acquired by contacting the Hawkwood office (01453 760900).

It should be a very special afternoon, and I encourage everyone to come and support these bards of the future, and be entertained by a programme of top quality poetry. It is also worth checking out clips of last year's finalists on the Poetry By Heart website. The standard is ridiculously high.

.....  
*Kevan Manwaring is a Stroud-based writer. Author of fiction and non-fiction, he lectures in creative writing for the Open University, is a Hawthornden Fellow, and academic consultant for BBC TV's The Secret Life of Books. Locally, he is the organiser of the Bard of Hawkwood contest and hosts the monthly open mic, Stroud Out Loud! kevanmanwaring.co.uk*

## G.O.P BLOG



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
GOODONPAPER.INFO/LITERATURE  
TO READ LAST YEAR'S POETRY  
BY HEART COUNTY WINNER  
SOPHIA SMOUT'S CHOSEN POEMS  
'THE WITCH' BY MARY ELIZABETH  
COLERIDGE; 'LIGHTS OUT' BY  
EDWARD THOMAS AND 'TO HIS  
LOVE' BY IVOR GURNEY

# LITERATURE LISTINGS

## Ale House

**WEDS 3RD/10TH/  
17TH/24TH**

Rick Vick: Writing Group

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

## Atelier

**TUES 23RD**

Radio Cinema

A listening event, lasting around an hour where you will listen to one of the many interesting podcasts available today... The genre could be radio drama, documentary or more experimental sound art pieces - To use Radiolab's opening phrase: "Where sound illuminates ideas, and the boundaries blur between science, philosophy, and human experience" 7pm £5

atelierstroud.co.uk

## Black Book Café

**SAT 27TH**

Transition Stroud Book Group: Merchants of Doubt by Oreskes & Conway

Following the screening of the documentary version of Merchants of Doubt taking place at the Lansdown Hall on the 18th February, the Transition Stroud Book Group will meet to continue the discussion and take more of a look at the book on which the film is based. Join them for a cup of coffee and a stimulating discussion! To find out about Transition Stroud visit their website at www.transitionstroud.org 12 - 2pm Free

blackbookcafe.com

## Centre For Science & Art

**SAT 27TH**

Creative Writing Workshop

Words are the main commodity of our ability to communicate, we use them everyday - to reach out into the world, and to interpret and understand what happens around us - everyday we are speaking, writing, reading, listening and thinking... Are we also speaking and listening to our deeper selves, are we in dialogue with our imaginations? This workshop will address the words we have within us that have not yet been spoken; the words that lie beyond their ordinary function, and allow us to access the expression of our creative selves. With Lucy Trevitt, artist and poet 10am-4pm £45/£40concs

imagine-therapeutic-arts.co.uk

## Hawkwood College

**WEDS 10TH**

Poetry By Heart

See p20! 1:30 - 6pm Free

hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

## No. 23

**SUN 21ST**

Short Stories for Grown Ups

The next regular Short Stories for Grown-Ups event features the entertaining Elaine Miles, playwright and short story writer from Bath. Introduced by Stroud writer-performer and winner of the 2015 Gloucestershire Writers Network short story competition Philip Douch, the evening promises plenty of laughs amongst its six cleverly crafted and well-read stories - three from Elaine, two from Philip, and one selected at random on the night from audience members who choose to bring along one of their own (1500 words maximum). Audience members also have the option to make a separate meal booking on 01453 298525. Make sure you've finished eating - or just arrive in time to get yourself a drink - before moving upstairs to the cosy performance space for the stories at 8pm £5adv from pandjdouch@gmail.com alternatively you can just come on the night. Advance bookers take priority!

## Stratford Park Leisure Centre

**WED 17TH**

MyChainReaction: Poetry and Supply Chains

Poetry, artwork, supply chains and manufacturing all meld at the Creation & Innovation Revealed Exhibition, part of Festomane's week-long festival of manufacturing and engineering. Do you think supply chains impact on your life? What about their local or global significance? Have your supply chain thoughts and stories turned into poetry by Pangaea Poets whilst the VJ bae bops, and then try some fun games and activities showing science can be fun, too 10am - 6pm Free

festomane.co.uk

## Subscription Rooms

**SAT 13TH**

Fluffed Up

It's back! Following last year's sell-out, another spectacular 'dress to frill' love-themed Valentine's cabaret including comedy, music and poetry. Don't miss popular local poet Crispin Thomas performing with Out to Lunch: "A car-boot full of roots, blues poetry and nonsense..." Cheltenham Festival of Literature 8pm £8.50adv/£10otd

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

## Ruskin Mill - Nailsworth

**SAT 13TH**

Storytelling with Fiona Eadie

Story lovers young and old are warmly invited to a Saturday morning of stories to celebrate the coming of Spring at the Ruskin Mill fireside. Enchanting stories, enthralling tales and elaborate lies... Enjoy listening to the wonder, wit, mystery and magic of stories from around the world. Coffee shop open for drinks and delicious home-made cakes 10:30am-12:30pm Adults £4/Children £3 (suggested minimum age is 5)/Family £10

rmt.org

## SVA

**FRIDAY 12TH**

Miserable Malcolm and Uta Baldauf host John Street Social Club "Unlucky in Love - a pre-Valentines Night of Woe"

Valentine's is approaching so get the disappointment over early at this night devoted entirely to heartbreak. Miserable Malcolm (aka Bill Jones) will be hosting open mic sessions for you to share your poems and true stories of unrequited agonies and romantic disaster. He also invites people to come

and read from their teenage diaries and even sing sad songs if it makes them feel better. Uta will be giving a performance as well as playing a variety of love-lorn and tragic tracks throughout the evening. There'll also be plenty of opportunities to mingle with other sad souls and make maudlin chat with one another. And there'll be a well-stocked bar should you wish to drown your sorrows (but, don't forget, they're strong swimmers) 8pm £1 membership on the door

sva.org.uk

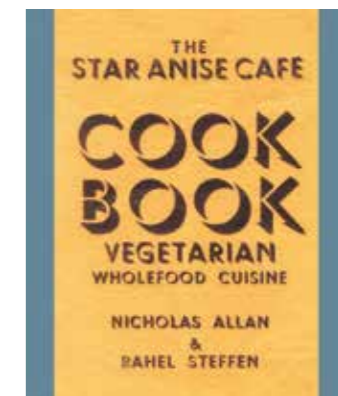
## New Brewery Arts Centre - Cirencester

**TUES 23RD**

Writers in the Brewery with Paula Coston

A regular event that takes place on the last Tuesday of the month in the cafe. Everyone is welcome to come along, share their ideas and writing or just enjoy meeting writers and listening to their fiction, poetry, articles and autobiographical writings. This month's guest speaker is Paula Coston, one-time book publisher (On the Far Side, There's A Boy), freelance journalist and educator in schools 7-9pm £4 (inc. free tea and coffee; other drinks at bar prices)

newbreweryarts.org.uk



"At the heart of good cooking is the excitement and delight that comes with trying something out for the first time..." Nicholas Allan

Get 20% off the RRP when you buy the book from Star Anise Arts Cafe.

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# CRAZYBIRD COMEDY

BY CHRIS HEAD

## WHAT KINDLED YOUR INTEREST IN COMEDY NICK?

I've always loved any sort of comedy whether it was watching the genius of Rik Mayall & co in *The Young Ones*, Rowan Atkinson in *Blackadder* or more recently Ricky Gervais in *The Office*. But *Stand Up Comedy* was always where it was at for me. I can remember seeing Eddie Murphy 'Delirious' for the first time and being completely gobsmacked, from that moment on I was hooked.

## WHAT WAS THE FIRST LIVE COMEDY NIGHT THAT YOU WENT TO?

Ricky Gervais in Nottingham. It was just after *The Office* second series had just finished. I didn't really know what to expect as to me he wasn't really a stand-up comedian, he was, well 'David Brent'! But he was absolutely fantastic. I also used to be a regular (heckler) up at *The Prince Albert* for their comedy nights. They were great fun, a great venue with a great audience, especially when Stephen K Amos played there.

## WHEN DID YOU FIRST START PUTTING ON NIGHTS?

My first comedy night was a fund-raiser at Frocester Cricket Club in July of 2013. We had over 280 people there and it was great night. This is now an annual event. The next one is likely to be in late June. Watch this space!

## HOW DID YOUR CURRENT NIGHTS COME ABOUT?

Quite simple really. I was bored of always having to travel to either Bristol or Cheltenham to see some good live comedy. The Frocester Cricket Club nights

had gone well, and in the process I'd struck up a good relationship with act manager, booker and compère Geoff Whiting, so I thought I'd try and bring some good acts to Stroud. It is a vibrant and eclectic town which deserves good comedy!

## WHAT MAKES GEOFF SUCH A GOOD MC?

Geoff really is a master of his trade. There is a big difference between performing stand-up and being the compère. He instantly warms the crowd up and sets the tone for the whole night. Quite often he will hardly use any of his material, he will solely run with what the audience have told him about themselves and that is a real art. People have said they'd pay just to watch him! I'm extremely lucky to have him as my resident MC.

## SO YOU'VE GOT GEOFF AT THE HELM.

### WHAT ELSE MAKES FOR A GOOD COMEDY NIGHT?

Other than the obvious, booking some good acts, the other essential for me is a good venue. The Lansdown Hall & Stroud Brewery are perfect venues for an intimate comedy night, where the audience are relatively close to the comedians. This builds a really nice rapport and mutual respect between the two. Having a bar at the venue always works. You need to look after the comedians as well. They are professionals and this is their trade, so things like having a good stage, a proper PA system and lighting can mean the difference between a good night and a great night. Keeping them fed & watered always helps too! The other essential for me is the audience. Making sure they have a great night is my priority. The audience play a significant part in a comedy night and shouldn't be underestimated. If you have a good audience, the comedians love it; they feed off the crowd and produce a really good show, which is what

WHEN I STARTED WRITING THESE COLUMNS  
MANY ISSUES AGO I SAID "SOMETHING IS  
STIRRING IN THE WORLD OF STROUD  
COMEDY." ONE MAN IN PARTICULAR HAS  
GIVEN COMEDY IN THE TOWN A SHOT IN THE  
ARM AND THAT'S LOCAL LAD NICK BIRD,  
WHO IS BEHIND CRAZY BIRD COMEDY. WITH  
HIS NEXT NIGHT COMING UP I SPOKE TO HIM  
ABOUT HOW HE GOT STARTED AND WHAT  
MAKES FOR A GREAT NIGHT OF STAND-UP.

the audience want. It kind of goes full circle really. The Stroud audiences are great. They just come along to be entertained and appreciate good live comedy. There is no abusive heckling or malice towards the comedians and the acts really appreciate that.

## WHAT NEXT FOR CRAZY BIRD COMEDY?

The main thing is to continue to put on regular intimate nights on at *The Lansdown Hall & Stroud Brewery* and to hopefully build a bit of a following. I'm really excited about bringing Arthur Smith & Guests to *The Subscription Rooms* in April. Promoting an act of Arthur's calibre will hopefully raise the Crazy Bird profile...

I'd love to put on a night of improvised comedy too, like a 'Whose Line Is It Anyway' kind of night. I saw a lot of it at the Edinburgh Fringe and at *The Comedy Store* recently and I think the Stroud audiences would love it.

## MIGHT YOU DO STAND-UP YOURSELF ONE DAY?

I'd love to try but I'm just not funny. I die on my arse! Perhaps I should do one of your courses Chris. I think I'll stick to the promoting!

For news of forthcoming shows follow the CrazyBird Comedy facebook page at [facebook.com/crazybirdcomedy](http://facebook.com/crazybirdcomedy)

.....  
*Chris Head has established himself as one of the UK's leading comedy coaches and has nearly twenty years' experience as a director of live comedy. Visit [chrishead.com](http://chrishead.com) for further info*

## Lansdown Hall

FRI 5TH FEB

Crazybird Comedy Club

The CrazyBird Comedy Club returns to the Lansdown Hall in Stroud after sell out shows at the Stroud Brewery and Woolacombe Hall. Resident MC Geoff Whiting also returns to host the event which comprises 4 professional comedians from the UK comedy circuit including Mark Maier, Zahra Barri, Geoff Alderman and Neil McFarlane 7pm £12adv available from Made in Stroud or via email: [crazybirdcomedy@gmail.com](mailto:crazybirdcomedy@gmail.com)/£14otd

## Subscription Rooms

SAT 13TH

Fluffed Up

It's back! Following last year's sell-out, another spectacular 'dress to frill' love-themed Valentine's cabaret including live music, spoken word and comedy from Matt Harvey. Host of *Radio 4's Wondermentalist Cabaret*, Matt's wordplay journey has taken him from Wimbledon Tennis Championships via Saturday Live to Edinburgh Festival and Womad. "Not only funny, but tender and true" *The Guardian* 8pm £8.50adv/£10otd

SAT 27TH

The Comedy Double Act

Laurel and Hardy, Morecambe and Wise, Rik and Ade, Reeves and Mortimer ...

Learn how to make 'em laugh with the slapstick physical comedy routines of the comic greats. A full day of belly aching laughs, ideal for anyone wanting to learn about comic timing, develop performance confidence, gain ideas for further devising and find simple ways into comic characterisation. It is not essential to bring a comic partner but you are very welcome to! 10am - 4pm £35

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

# COMEDY FESTIVAL 2ND - 5TH MARCH



Laugh Out Stroud Comedy Festival combines stand up, music, storytelling and maybe even yoga to tickle your funny bones. Local acts and national headliners combine to bring you the funniest week this year so far! The Subscription Rooms will be Comedy HQ, with gigs also happening around the town and there will be opportunities for you to find your inner funny man (or woman) and tell us your favourite joke live!

## MISERABLE MALCOLM: GRAVESIDE MANNER

Weds 2nd, The Little Vic

Stroud's gloomiest poet, Miserable Malcolm (aka Bill Jones) returns after his sell-out shows at the Stroud Theatre Festival, and once more attempts to entertain the audience in his own way -- with poems about death, appalling chit-chat and excerpts from the world's worst adventure story. And yet, somehow, he can't keep off the subject of his ex-girlfriend Mavis. And her new boyfriend. And how happy they are together...

"Bill Jones ... spreads his unique brand of miserablism to great comic effect." *Gloucestershire Echo*

"I left with a smile on my face and a tear in my eye ... a tear of laughter, I might add. This is definitely a show to see." *The Daily Fringe* 7:30pm £5

## MITCH BENN: DON'T BELIEVE A WORD

Thurs 3rd, The Subscription Rooms

"I'm a skeptic. But don't take my word for it. Or indeed anybody's. For anything..." and this is the basic premise of Mitch's new critically acclaimed show. It's a show that will make you laugh a lot and think a bit as well as Mitch debunks myths, exposes nonsense and grapples with the very nature of knowledge itself extolling the virtues of an evidence-based approach to life ... with amusing consequences and of course a few songs along the way.

The 'Now Show' aside, Mitch has recently co-presented BBC Radio 2's 'Anatomy Of A Guitar' with Harry Shearer, as well as performing 'Mitch Benn Is The 37th Beatle' and presenting 'Spank The Plank' both for BBC Radio 4.

'Britain's leading musical satirist' *The Times* 8pm £14/£12concs

## FANFARE OF STRUMPETS

Fri 4th, The Subscription Rooms

There's something for everyone with A Fanfare Of Strumpets - dashing four-woman a capella harmony with a sparkling repertoire ranging from traditional folk to Velvet Underground, irreverent send-ups, jazz standards and old favourites, spine-tingling Georgian harmonies, medieval love songs - sit back, let your ears tingle, and wonder what you'll hear next. 8pm £14/£12concs

## LATE N LOCAL @ MR TWITCHETT'S

Fri 4th

The festival's celebration of local stand-up comedy talent introduces some of the funniest people in Stroud and special guests from further afield. A real mix of styles, outlooks and ages doing short sets. 10pm Free

## CHRIS HEAD STAND-UP CLASS SHOWCASE

Sat 5th, The Subscription Rooms

Your chance to see some brand new local comedy talent! This show is the culmination of Chris's Stroud stand-up course. Weeks of intensive tuition are all leading up to this night where the students do their first ever stand-up performance. Course details: [www.chrishead.com](http://www.chrishead.com) 8pm £10

# BUY TICKETS



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



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