

Issue #6
Sept 2015

FREE
MAGAZINE

TAKE ME HOME



GOOD ON PAPER

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



Photo: James Kriszyk

OUTER FRINGE

Beer & Cider Festival and Country Fair

SEPTEMBER

4th, 5th, 6th

at the Crown & Sceptre

**FLOWERS, VEGETABLES
HOMEMADE PRODUCE
& CRAFTS COMPETITIONS
FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

SOUL DESTROYERS

**RAGGED EDGE SOUL BAND
CHINESE BURN**

THEE PULSATIONS

WIZARDS OF DELIGHT

WILL KILLEEN

SUBDUCTION

ALL CRAMPED UP

THE NANCY BOYS DAS MINE

DEAD MAN'S CONGAS

ALL STAR DUB BAND

THE SCRUTINEERS

BEKA JONES

THE REVEREND STRETCH



The Crown & Sceptre, Horns Road, Stroud
www.crownandsceptrestroud.com

EDITORS' NOTE

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



ALEX HOBBS
EDITOR



ADAM HINKS
DESIGNER

Last month we produced our first ever Stroud Fringe Take-Over Special and this issue has emerged just a few short days before this year's festival. Be sure to check out their website www.stroudfringe.co.uk and pick up a program for all the latest information on the various stages and vast amount of events taking place throughout the town from the 28th – 30th August.

Our resident photographer James Kriszyk will be exhibiting his unique work at no less than three locations during the fringe

weekend - at The Prince Albert, The Pink Cabbage and as part of our very own stage at the Centre for Science & Art, including images that have appeared in these very pages since our second issue. Selected prints will also be available to buy – we highly recommend a visit!

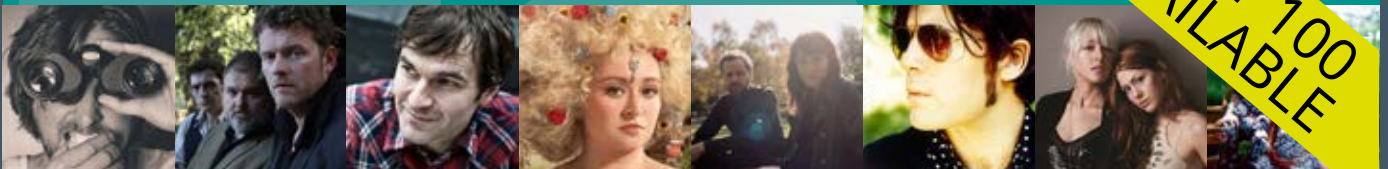
In other news (which we may have mentioned previously) Good On Paper relies on a hoard of contributing writers that has so far seen the likes of Adam Horovitz, Rupert Howe, Amy Fleming, Jess Bracey,

Leah Grant, Caroline Aistrop, John Bassett, Chris Head, Jamie Baldwin, Grace Davies, Siobain Drury, Helen Elliot-Boult and Sue Flook all sharpening their quills. We are currently looking to add to that hoard so if you are an aspiring writer, want to build your portfolio, looking for work experience or a professional writer who simply wishes to support the magazine please get in touch!

Alex and Adam

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GIFFORDS CIRCUS

BY AMY FLEMMING

GIFFORDS CIRCUS TURNED 15 THIS YEAR. AT THE START OF THE CENTURY, IN QUICK SUCCESSION, NELL AND TOTI GIFFORD MET, GOT HITCHED AND RECRUITED THEIR OWN TROUPE. NELL HADN'T BEEN BORN INTO A CIRCUS FAMILY, BUT AFTER CUTTING HER TEETH WORKING UNDER THE WORLD'S BEST BIG TOPS, INCLUDING RIDING ELEPHANTS AT THE CHINESE STATE CIRCUS, THE CULTURE WAS ALREADY IN HER BLOOD.

Each year since, Nell and her team of director, musical director, costume designer and choreographer conceive a new bonkers, bawdy and bedazzling show, to tour village greens for the summer months. Meanwhile, Toti, who also runs a landscaping business, oversees the meaty logistics involved.

Their 15th year has thrown up more challenges than usual, because Gifford's HQ, along with its performing horses, dogs and birds, has relocated from Bourton-on-the-Water to a farm in Lypiatt, just outside Stroud. "It's got more outbuildings, stables and more scope to develop," says Nell, who was already familiar with the area, having grown up not too far away. "But at the same time," she says, "I didn't know it well around here, so it has been really fun getting to know Stroud. I love it."

We meet at the Giffords' temporary operations room at the Centre for Science and Art on Lansdown, while offices at the new farm are

under construction. With sky-high ceilings and ornate stained-glass windows, the building seems a fitting stopgap; it would be hard to picture the team occupying a non-descript office block.

This year's show, Moon Songs, is set in a Victorian Lunar Park, led by a charmingly despicable ringleader and magician called Odoroff the Great, who is reluctantly aided by his talented "little man" assistant, David. Tweedy the clown avoids all your standard sartorial clichés - no big shoes or painted smile here - as he dashes between his hilarious routines, narrating as the man in the moon and being a spooky fortune-telling automaton who announces the next act. Other highlights include dogs riding ponies, a human canon and an exquisite Hungarian contortionist.

Generating ideas for the shows, says Nell, "Is like looking for something that's lost. You're searching everywhere and start to find

fragments of the thing and sew them together like a jigsaw puzzle." Her first meeting about next year's show with director, Cal McCrystal (who specialises in comedy), took place six weeks ago, and they remain in constant dialogue as the plans develop. The comedy is expertly conceived to work on many levels. "I can't bear kid's shows that just appeal to kids; that 'hello boys and girls' tone," says Nell. "It should be for all ages."

Getting the next show ready means, at least, that winters fly by. "The season comes back round so fast - it's a non-stop cycle and you can't quite believe that shows that seem like yesterday were actually two seasons ago." It also provides, she adds, a great balance of being at home and travelling.

The Gifford's troupe consists of about two thirds of regular members - "people you've worked with over the years and just love and can't imagine it without them." But there's always



Photos: James Kriszyk

a need for fresh talent. This year, for example, features the 12-strong Ethio Winget Troupe of acrobats, who have travelled from Ethiopia for the season. "There is a really big circus scene in Ethiopia," says Nell, "with street-level circus schools with gymnastics and things. They're very disciplined and they're really good to work with."

The show opens with two boys - the youngest of the troupe at 11 and 15 - dreaming of one day joining the circus, and they later reveal themselves to be fantastic jugglers and acrobats. "We supply a teacher on tour, so we've got a school," says Nell. "There's a big language barrier and culture barrier," she adds, but the children's guardians report that the children are not homesick, and are having a great time - which is certainly how it appears from the audience. Bibi and Bichu, the Ethiopian jugglers who have been with Gifford's since 2012, she says, "help us look after them and talk to them."

Younger still, the Giffords' five-year-old twins get to spend summer holidays travelling with the circus. Are they keen to learn circus skills? "Truthfully," says Nell, "the real circus skills are communication, knowing how to work in a team, the creative process, and they definitely learn those. Juggling? That's, in a way, secondary I think." Her daughter, Red, likes the animals while her son, Cecil, loves the machinery. "There's so much to circus life. It's machinery, moving, mechanisation, logistics, language, design, all those things are part of it as well."

Everybody mucks in, performers and all. For a start, they have to move the entire tent on a weekly basis. "We have to repaint the steps, spread sawdust, set up props, putting a balloon exactly where you need it. Especially for the clowns, there's loads of setting, so everything's where they need it." Then there are the animals to clean. Plus everybody has to be limbered up, and voices warmed up.

Nell was inspired by the great circus dynasties of mainland Europe such as Bougliones, Caroli and Gruss. Does she hope that she and Toti, Red and Cecil might be the beginnings of their own circus dynasty? "Yeah, it would be great of course, but who knows?" says Nell. "That would be the dream."

The last two locations for Moon Songs will take place in Cirencester from the Friday 4th to Monday 14th September, and finish at their new home of Fennell's Farm near Lypiatt on Thursday 17th until Sunday 27th September. Visit giffordscircus.com for tickets and show times.

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Amy Fleming was a writer and editor at the Guardian for 12 years, and now writes from home in Stroud, also contributing to Intelligent Life, Vogue, the FT and the Telegraph

THE OUTER FRINGE

AT THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

BY JESS BRACEY

**WHAT DRAWS YOU INTO A PUB? DO YOU JUDGE IT BY ITS COVER?
OR PERHAPS EYE UP THEIR SELECTION OF BEERS? MAYBE IT'S THE
ATMOSPHERE, OR JUST BECAUSE IT'S 'THE LOCAL'. WELL FOR THE
CROWN AND SCEPTRE TUCKED AWAY AT THE TOP END OF TOWN ON
HORNS ROAD, IT'S ALL DOWN TO THE HOSPITALITY.**

The steep walk from London Road was a triumph, but the warm welcome of Rodda Thomas with a pint of Budding and a slab of chocolate cake was oh so welcome. A pub is about community, a place to get away from the day to day and just unwind with friends or wrap your hands around a glass of your favourite tipple. For the Crown and Sceptre though it's the whole package and their two-week offering of music and west country merriment surrounding this year's Stroud Fringe Festival is just the ticket.

While the party is certainly in full swing during the Fringe Festival it's their Outer Fringe which has got us excited starting on the 4th September - carrying on the entertainment and enjoyment a whole week on. We all have that post-festival low so this is the perfect opportunity to keep those spirits high and top shelf spirits in the glass. Rodda Thomas has been at the heart of the Stroud Fringe Festival from years gone by and for three years ran the Outer Fringe with Roger Sanders who once held the helm of the Fringe itself. And back in the early to mid 2000s Rodda held his name responsible for street drinking in Stroud. "It worked out alright and we didn't get into any trouble" he said.

But what does the Stroud Fringe mean for the man behind the bar at The Crown and Sceptre? "A lot of hard work but it is rewarding at the end of it. This year though it's a double bubble," he said. The bubble has been in the making for some months now and after the Fringe weekend itself it's time to enjoy their unique offering of entertaining for all. It's so unique that it's the only pub in England that puts on a country fair. Now that's pretty special. Encapsulating all the elements of a town or country fair, on Saturday 5th September Rodda and his

team of merry volunteers, line their mammoth marquee with 42 tables so that the fine talents of Stroud can showcase their wares in front of a panel of judges, with the event supported by local businesses. From flower decorating to vegetables, crafts and a Mr Potato head competition for the kids - the Outer Fringe truly captures that community spirit. The baking competition is a tough one to beat though with Jamie and Don Walker from Walkers Bakery in town wearing the hat of Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry - they are tough cookies to impress. Another highlight of the country fair is the five valleys allotment trophy sponsored by The Bell at Selsley - with entrants battling it out for the coveted prize of having their allotment goods cooked by the chef at The Bell. Fine food for fine diners. If you have what it takes then bring your produce to The Crown at Sceptre between 10am and noon on the Saturday. Judging takes place between noon and 2pm and then the public will be able to view the exhibits after judging.

Once the congratulatory handshakes have been shook and rounds of applause have been heard, it's time for the charity auction. Making sure that nothing goes to waste and money is made for good causes, the pub donates all the funds raised from the action to four charities - this year including The Friends of Daisybank, the Air Ambulance and Williams Syndrome to name a few. "Last year I paid £45 for a chilli plant. I just kept bidding and bidding till I got it because it was so beautiful," said Rodda.

Chilli plants, country fairs and children's activities aside one thing that remains at the heart of The Crown and Sceptre is music. On Friday 4th September Stroud's punk offering Chinese Burn open the night at 6pm, followed by Ragged Edge Soul Band and ending the night with 14-piece soul band from Bristol; The

Soul Destroyers - who Rodda mentions are like The Blues Brothers - headlining at 9pm. At the country fair on Saturday music kicks off at 6pm with the king of the slide guitar Will Killen, followed by the caped crusaders Wizards of Delight and finishes off with headliners Thee Pulsations and their stax of soul. Sunday rounds of the Outer Fringe with a local mellow affair, starting with the acoustic Americana of Reverend Stretch followed by the calm Beka Jones, then Stroud sweetheart Kevin Howlett will play a few songs ahead of Jamie Walker and the Scrutineers. If that doesn't tickle your ears then pub favourites The All Star Dub Band bring along their Tewkesbury dub, followed by three of Stroud's newest bands Dead Mans Congas, Das Mine and The Nancy Boys. Keeping the ever-going line-up flowing The Cramps tribute act All Cramped Up perform before Subduction take their upbeat ska to wrap up the marquee stage. And then Floyd Davis Jr and the enigmatic Dom Perignon will take to the microphone to bring the house down with a few Las Vegas anthems in the pub - by that time we will all be seeing stars by the amount of beer, cider and cake we would have consumed that day.

With its shabby chic interior (which feels like an extension of Rodda's front room), the whole team at The Crown and Sceptre relish in bringing you the true meaning of the Stroud Fringe and the Outer Fringe. Community spirit.

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Jess Bracey works with BBC Radio Gloucestershire, BBC Introducing in the West and is also a writer who loves nothing more than indulging in local music. She's reported from Glastonbury Festival, Maida Vale Studios and has co-presented with Phill Jupitus off the telly. Music is her muse and Stroud is her playground



STROUD FOLK FESTIVAL

THE STROUD FOLK FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH ANOTHER HEADY COLLECTION OF FOLK CONCERTS, SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, THE OBLIGATORY MORRIS STREET DANCING AND THE LAUNCH OF A FASCINATING NEW ARCHIVE FOR GLOUCESTER FOLK MUSIC.

Proceedings start, as is now traditional, with the festival Ceilidh on the Friday at the Sub Rooms and the band this year is The Watch featuring Gareth Kiddier providing some stomping piano, melodeon player Dan Quinn and Rob Murch on the banjo. The Friday also brings forth something a bit special this year; The Gloucestershire Blinder. Celebrating the songs and tunes of our glorious county (old boundaries), this concert draws its material from a brand new online archive representing over a hundred years of folk song and music collecting, including rare field recordings and videos.

Saturday sees Morris dancers performing on the streets of Stroud as well as sessions in the Ale House and The Little Vic throughout the day. There will also be an ale and cider bar in the George Room at the Sub Rooms and maybe even a session in there too... The series of concerts being held on the Subscription Rooms main stage kicks off at 6pm with local heroine songstress, Hattie Briggs. Hattie's star has risen meteorically over the last couple of years and the



Stroud Folk Festival are delighted to welcome her back to open the evening's festivities.

She will be followed by the wonderful Lisbee Stainton who in the eight years since she became the first unsigned singer to perform at London's O2 Arena to 30,000 people has toured with the likes of Joan Armatrading, Paul Carrack and Seth Lakeman. She has also been a featured artist on BBC Radio 2's prestigious In Concert series, as well as releasing four albums to huge critical acclaim.

The festival then welcomes true Folk royalty in the shape of Steve Tilston. Steve made his recording debut in 1971 with the classic An Acoustic Confusion and has been turning out quality albums ever since. As a songwriter and guitarist he has many admirers including luminaries such



as Ralph McTell and the late great Bert Jansch. He's toured with John Renbourn's Ship of Fools, as guitarist with Ballet Rambert, with Brooks Williams in A Transatlantic Song-Swap and, of course, with his daughter Martha. But tonight it's just Steve and his guitar...

The night will be brought to a rousing climax by the magnificent New Rope String Band as part

of their farewell tour. Sadly the band has come to the end of their tether! The strain of spreading joy around the world for more than 25 years as Old and New Rope has proved too much. Audiences' laughter muscles have been stretched and they, too, need a rest. But, before these ageing folk-cabaret artistes go their separate ways, heading for new and exciting theatrical and musical horizons, they have decided to do a farewell lap



of honour, a celebratory extravaganza of their finest routines with some special final flourishes. Expect fish tanks, boiled eggs, fiddles, banjos, cardboard guitars, theremins, explosions, interactive films, drainpipes, mermaids, pink y-fronts, thrills, spills, tears and hilarity. For diehard audiences it's a chance to come along, laugh once more and say goodbye. For those who've never seen them, this is your last chance!

Tickets to this year's festival are available now at just £18 (£15 concessions) from the Subscription Rooms or contact the box office on 01453 760 900

www.stroudfolkfestival.co.uk

FRIDAY 18TH

- 7pm Ceilidh with The Watch - **Sub Rooms**
- 7pm Tune Session with the Dursley Session - **Ale House**
- 7:30pm Gloucestershire Blinder - **Little Vic**
- 9pm Irish Session with Host of the Air - **Ale House**

SATURDAY 19TH

- 10am Morris Dancing - **Stroud Streets**
- 10am Workshop: Community Choir Folk Songs - **Sub Rooms**

- 10am Workshop: Gloucestershire Dance Tunes - **Old Town Hall**
- 1pm Music Session - **Ale House**
- 1pm Song Session - **Little Vic**
- 2pm Workshop: Gloucestershire Songs - **Old Town Hall**
- 2pm Music Session - **Little Vic**
- 3pm Irish Session - **Ale House**
- 4pm Song Session - **Little Vic**
- 6pm Festival Concert: New Rope String Band, Steve Tilston, Lisbee Stainton, Hattie Briggs - **Sub Rooms**

SUNDAY 20TH

- 1pm Song & Tune Session - **Ale House**
- 1pm Song Session - **Little Vic**
- 1pm Song Session - **Imperial Hotel**
- 2pm Shanty Session - **Imperial Hotel**
- 3pm Music Session - **Ale House**
- 3pm Traditional Song Session - **Little Vic**
- 3pm Song Session - **Ale House**
- 4pm Song Session - **Imperial Hotel**

MUSIC LISTINGS


**G.O.P. YOUTUBE
PLAYLIST**
goo.gl/LUTWae

Each month we bring you our youtube playlist featuring artists taken from our music listings...
To access the playlist, type the above into your search engine. Enjoy.

Ale House

THURS 9TH/24TH

The Human Jukebox

The incredibly accomplished Aron Atwood on acoustic guitar plays the music of your choice 8:30pm Free

THURS 17TH

The Ale House Jazz Ensemble

Regular evenings of world class jazz from Dave Ayre and members of his jazz collective. John Pearce (violin), Matt Hopkins (guitar) & Dave (double bass) bring together their combined experience of working with artists such as Dave Norton, Chick Corea & Sir John Dankworth to create a vibrant and unique jazz sound. Red Hot Be-Bop, moving ballads and classic swing from an extensive and enthralling repertoire 8:30pm Free

FRI 18TH - SUN 20TH

Stroud Folk Festival @ the Ale House

Events take place from 7pm on Friday and from 1pm on the Saturday/Sunday Free

Black Book Café

THURS 24TH

Jam Sessions

Come along with your voices and instruments, get to know the musically talented bunch at the café and see what you come up with! You never know, might be where you find that vocal talent you've been searching for...7pm Free

SUN 27TH

Bob Porter's Acoustic Project

Bob Porter has always got something amazing lined up for the Black Book Café Sunday punters. Line up to be announced soon 1-4pm Free (Stroud Fringe)

blackbookcafe.com

The Crown And Sceptre

FRI 4TH - SUN 6TH

The Outer Fringe, Country Fair, Cider & Craft Beer Festival

Friday: Beer festival with 24 Ales and over 10 Ciders opens at 5pm

6pm Chinese Burn (Stroud punk)/7pm Ragged Edge Soul Band (dance band)/9pm Soul Destroyers (big band soul!)

Saturday: 10am David Cuts Hair (Fringes) from Punk to Perfection/11am Beer and Cider Festival opens/10am-12pm All Country Fair entries to be brought to the Marquee/12pm-2pm Judging in progress/12pm - 3pm Kidz Zone in the park (egg and spoon race, coconut shy etc)/2pm Country Fair opens for the public viewing/4:30pm Prize giving and charity auction/6pm Will Killeen/7:30pm The Wizards of Delight/9pm Thee Pulsations

Sunday: 12pm Beer and Cider Festival Opens/12pm The Reverend Stretch/1pm Moroccan Feast, including Veggie and Vegan options from Erin (no need to book but com early!)/1pm Beka Jones/2pm The Scrutineers/3pm All Star Dub Band/4pm Das Mine/5pm Dead Mans Congas/6pm The Nancy Boys/7pm All Cramped Up/8:30pm Subduction/10pm Floyd Davis Jr and Dom Perignon croon the festival to a close!

FRIDAY 18TH

The Bob Porter Project

A blend of country, folk and bluegrass music 8:30pm Free

FRIDAY 25TH

The Charlton Blues Kings

A 6 piece blues band from Gloucestershire with a growing reputation for their fun, energetic performances of authentic Blues from 50's Chicago to 40's Jump Blues and modern West Coast swing 8:30pm Free

crownandsceptrestroud.com

Imperial Hotel

SAT 5TH

Stroud Record Fair

Records swapped, sold and purchased! A treasure cave for vinyl fiends...10am-4pm £1 admission

SUN 20TH

Stroud Folk Festival

See page 8 for further info!

imperialhotelstroud.co.uk

The Prince Albert

THURS 3RD

Laurence Collyer's Diamond Family Archive

Laurence loves deep fried chicken and has an amazing beard; he had a beard before it was cool to be hairy. The Albert love Laurence and tonight he will be playing songs from his new album Would I were a swift (or a skylark be). Real soul music for everyone 8:30-11pm Free

FRI 4TH

Poor Old Dogs

The dogs are back in Stroud and tonight playing some of their new repertoire of drinking saloon style songs, family friendly singa-long shenanigans. They reside in the nook and crannies of Bristol and harbour a desire to sow their musical oats far and wide 8:30-11pm Free

SAT 5TH

Jake Meeking

Bit of a rarity here with Jake coming to the Albert after so many recommendations - he delivers crisp and perfect guitar driven rock with nods to John Mayer and Jeff Buckley. Support tonight from Goodall - former frontman of Our Mutual Friend and highly regarded by Guy Garvey 8:30-11pm Free

SUNDAY 6TH

DJ Soul Collective from 5pm

Key sells CD's in The Shambles on a Saturday and Miles always comes home with one, sometimes

Soul, sometimes reggae- always good. So when he asked if he could run a music day the Albert said 'Yay!' A mixed bag of tunes today, but all warm and dancey. Food served as well. Sorted Sunday 5-8pm Free

TUES 8TH

Nik Turner's Space Monkey

Eccentric, innovative and enigmatic. Yup, it's Nik from Hawkwind and with a

spectacular band - reports are saying he is as good as ever AND HE IS PLAYING THE ALBERT. It will sell out and it will be a really great night. No vaping 8:30-11pm £8adv/£10otd

WED 9TH

Bucket Boys

Three street musicians from Amsterdam/Tennessee! Banjo, Gut bucket and Chinese chopstick 8:30-11pm Free

THURS 10TH

Jessie Pie and the Thorn

Saucy jazz, meaty rock and hot potato blues...Verging on karaoke crossed with Burlesque they seem to know a song from every nationality and normally slightly blue too. Good times 8:30-11pm Free

FRI 11TH

Jez Hellard

A singer of potent songs, stunning harmonica player, guitarist and producer - Jez Hellard thrives on music of all stripes. His band the Djukella Orchestra play traditional and contemporary folk music, from jigs and reels, to tango, rumba, funk and reggae 8:30-11pm Free

SAT 12TH

Adrian Byron Burns

..." Too blues to be jazz, too rock to be blues, too folk to be rock, too jazz to be folk, too good to be ignored..."8-11pm Free

THURS 17TH

Laish

Laish is the band of Daniel Green - stunning the audience to silence of his visit previously, his songs of love, and life are spellbinding. Check out his Obituaries album to get a taste of his talent 8-11pm Free

SAT 19TH

Waiting for Kate

Party night up Albert, with good time ska and funk influenced indie pop! Waiting for Kate include musicians that teach music, and tonight it's their turn to let the hair down. They will even allow the odd cover or two 'cos the Prince Albert happen to know they do it very well...8:30-11pm Free

SUN 20TH**Attila the Stockbroker**

Attila's autobiography is released this month and this tour sees him back on the road hitting his 3000th gig while peddling his wares. Always funny, always relevant and we need more of this. Come and see a true original. NB. Tonight's gig is enabling Attila to enjoy Sunday lunch with his Stroud based uncle, but hopefully he will have digested and rested by the evening! 8-10:30pm £6adv

WEDS 23RD**Pirouette**

The Albert's favourite band. Musical mayhem and magical marvellousness, the band that ran around with THE circus play their end of season show in Stroud and have a bit of a knees up 8:30-11pm Free

THURS 24TH**Open Mic with Tiny Hill**

Eeny, weeny, teeny Tiny hosts Open Mic and gives us a few tunes too. Front person of Four Mile House and with a voice of a long lost soul Diva, come and play on the friendly stage in front of an appreciative audience!

WEDS 30TH**Cardboard Fox**

Anyone with an ear for bluegrass won't need introducing to the prodigious Carrivick sisters who have been blowing audiences away since their early teens. Cardboard Fox sees Laura and Charlotte team up with John Breese (bass) and mandolinist Joe Tozer to brew up sophisticated Americana, as good as you'd find on any Nashville porch 8:30-11pm

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

Stroud Brewery**SAT 5TH****DANADRA**

A fusion of semi acoustic guitar and dynamic percussion creating a unique and distinctive mix of blues/ latin/ Jazz /indie original material. From solid blues roots and world music influence - up tempo rhythms and melodies are complimented with melancholic soulful numbers to give a vibrant and inspiring set 7:30-10pm Free

SAT 12TH**The Bad Dads**

The Bad Dads' sound has an acoustic vibe, heavily influenced by the blues, but with elements of folk, bluegrass, jazz and rock and roll in there too 7:30-10pm Free

SUN 13TH**Hop Picking 2015**

Every year the Stroud Brewery 'Hop Club' members bring their hop plants to the brewery and sit about, pick hop flowers, chatting and drinking beer! The next day, the fresh green hops will go into a brew of the brewery's harvest celebration ale -Brewers Garden. Once again Dave Ayre and friends will entertain the pickers with some fantastic jazz. Everyone welcome to come along and help! For more information call 01453 887122 or send an email to: office@stroudbrewery.co.uk

SAT 26TH**Dark Island**

Dark Island have a repertoire of songs encompassing innovative arrangements of traditional and contemporary folk, blues/jazz including songs dating from as far back as the fifteenth century right up to 2015. They provide distinctive interpretations using shared lead vocals, strong sung harmonies and varied instrumental work 7:30-10pm Free

stroudbrewery.co.uk

Subscription Rooms**FRI 4TH****Spooky Men's Chorale**

Arising from the Blue Mountains in Australia, the Spooky Men's Chorale have been gleefully smashing up and reassembling the world of men's singing since 2001 and now continue their long, slow, global conquest with a 6th UK tour and their latest album Warm 7.30pm £18/under 18's £15

SUN 6TH**Tubular Bells for Two**

One album, two men, too many instruments. The multi-award winning hit show comes to Stroud for the first time! In a tense and thrilling ride, two crazy Aussies perform Mike Oldfield's masterpiece, Tubular Bells, with a twist. They are run off their feet as they tackle over 20 instruments to accomplish a feat that usually requires an entire entourage of musicians 7.30pm £19.50/£18.00concs

FRI 18TH - SUN 20TH**Stroud Folk Festival**

See page 8 for further info!

SAT 26TH**Steve Knightley**

Undoubtedly one of the world's finest acoustic multi-instrumentalists the multi BBC Folk Award-winning performer has left an indelible mark on the traditional music scene, and now returns to Subscription Rooms by popular demand. Known

for his solo output as much as his duo, Show Of Hands with Phil Beer (Albion Band), Steve has captivated audiences for decades with his inimitable songwriting. His infectious musical story-telling, underpinned by his deft use of a multitude of string instruments, encompasses fictitious and factual tales from generations both contemporary and long past 8pm £18adv/£21otd

SUN 27TH**European Union Chamber Orchestra**

The EUCO gave its first concerts in 1981 and soon gained an international reputation as a musical ambassador for the European Union. The Orchestra regularly performs in major concert halls throughout the UK and recent years have seen live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, the Bath Festival with Alison Balsom and a tour of Christmas concertos with Nicola Benedetti 7.30pm £14/£12concs

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA**FRI 4TH/
11TH/18TH/25TH****John Street Social**

The John Street Social Club is a series of weekly Friday night club socials hosted by different artists each week with visuals and audio to share. The format: decks, laptop, and a limited number of selected youtube clips of archive footage and informative curiosities...7-11pm £1 membership otd

**SAT 5TH/12TH/
19TH/26TH****John Street Café**

Now open every Saturday for drinks and eats plus live acoustic sessions 10am - 4pm

THURS 3RD**Bamboo**

A night based around the genres of Jazz and Hip-hop featuring live music from Tom Gill, Potato Salvation, Clear Conscience and DJ Dempsey Stigs. Organised by 6 work experience pupils as 'Plasticree Productions' 7pm £1 under 16/£3 adults

SAT 5TH**The Mighty John Street Ska Orchestra**

Live Ska Music on the band stand in Stratford park on a Saturday afternoon...Bring your family, food and pork pie hat and enjoy some great live music for FREE! 1 - 4pm

THURS 10TH**Stroud Jazz Sessions**

This month's special guest is Dom Franks. Dom is a wonderfully talented, stylish and experienced saxophonist most sought after for his superb jazz improvisational skills. As a post bop saxophonist Dom Franks leads his high-octane swing to funk quintet, paying tribute to his favourite horn players - Sonny Rollins, Kenny Garrett and Art Pepper among them. All welcome, singers, players and listeners. Stroud Jazz Sessions is a hub for all interested in jazz 8-11pm £5otd/£3 for performing musicians

SAT 12TH**Diablos Del Ritmo**

The Devils of Rhythm; Pav and Neil play Latin music from 50s, 60s and 70s including Cumbia experimental guitar-driven tropical sounds from Perú, Mambo, Puya, Porro, Gaita, Cumbiamba, Mapalé, Chandé, Descarga, Samba, Mexican surf...8pm-2am £6adv from Trading Post/£7otd

SAT 19TH**Situation Sounds**

Returning to the SVA bringing their unique flavour of future boogie, nu disco & re-edits to your favourite dance floor. This time they will be boasting a full live band - watch this space for more details. Come join us for some serious funk...9pm till late £6adv from Trading Post/£7otd

sva.org.uk

The Woolpack**SAT 5TH****The Woolpack Festival**

An all day festival showcasing the best Stroud has to offer including local beers, live music (artists TBA), home cooked food, face painting, children's area, puppeteer and competitions - all for free! There's even a shuttle service from the car park at the top of Stroud to Slad all day so there really is no excuse not to go...12pm-12am

thewoolpackslad.com

The Convent**FRI 4TH****Rainbow Girls**

A group of female musicians from California who write and perform original material with roots in folk and Americana 8-11pm £10adv

SAT 5TH**Martin Carthy
& Dave Swarbrick**

Bastions of the British Folk Scene, Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick once again create musical magic together 8-11pm £15adv

WEDS 9TH**The Goat Roper Rodeo Band**

With just two old guitars, an upright bass and a bucket full of aching harmony, GRRB are out there with their signature 'country blues' 8-11pm £10adv

THURS 10TH**Nick Parker & The False Alarms**

Expect folky/rocky/country-y shenanigans with banjo, mandolin, lapsteel, fiddle, accordion, bass, drums and plenty of fun! 8-11pm £7.50adv

THURS 17TH**Kenneth Nash**

Blends his smooth, emotive voice with a lyrical prowess which resonates as a poignant story of a man who's been to hell and back 8-11pm £8.50adv

SAT 19TH**Darden Smith**

Austin based singer-songwriter Darden Smith, weaves rock, pop, country and folk into an Americana infused musical blend 8-11pm £10adv

SUN 20TH**Kirk Fletcher**

Widely considered one of the best blues guitarists in the world, Kirk Fletcher has commanded the respect and acclaim of critics, peers and fans 8-11pm £15adv

THURS 24TH**Kelly Oliver**

The Convent are delighted to present award-winning acoustic singer songwriter Kelly Oliver, to their discerning lovers of music 8-11pm £7.50adv

FRI 25TH**Simon Campbell Band**

With a deep seated love of Rock and Blues Simon Campbell delivers up the real deal and pure craftsmanship - not to be missed! 8-11pm £15adv

SAT 26TH**Dreadzone**

Electro-dub pioneers Dreadzone are re-issuing their 2001 album 'Sound' this Autumn and have announced a UK tour running through October to December 8-11pm £15adv

SUN 27TH**BJ Cole & Emily Burrridge**

When BJ Cole and Emily Burrridge perform together they produce a dynamic energy created out of their complimentary musical perspectives 8-11pm £10adv

SUN 27TH SEPT - >**FRI 2ND OCT****Convent Singing Holiday**

Come and sing at the Convent 4 day singing course in the heart of the Cotswolds. Set in the beautiful surroundings of a former Convent!

theconvent.net

Prema**SUN 27TH****Craobh Rua**

Belfast's finest acoustic quartet who deliver a glorious mix of heartfelt traditional Irish music and song. Uilleann pipes, fiddle, whistles and guitar combine effortlessly blending the dynamic banjo/mandolin playing of Brian Connolly and passionate vocals from Jim Rainey. Touring throughout Europe has afforded this band wide recognition and a plethora of accolades 8pm £12adv/£15otd/£9concs

prema.org.uk

Ruskin Mill**FRI 25TH****Chris Wood**

Award winning folk singer Chris Wood returns to Ruskin Mill with his tour of his fourth solo album None the Wiser. Uncompromising and idiosyncratic, his music is a trademark blend of politics and the personal which combines a bleak commentary on English life with thoughtful, honest stories of love and survival 8pm £18/£15 (under 25's)

rmt.org



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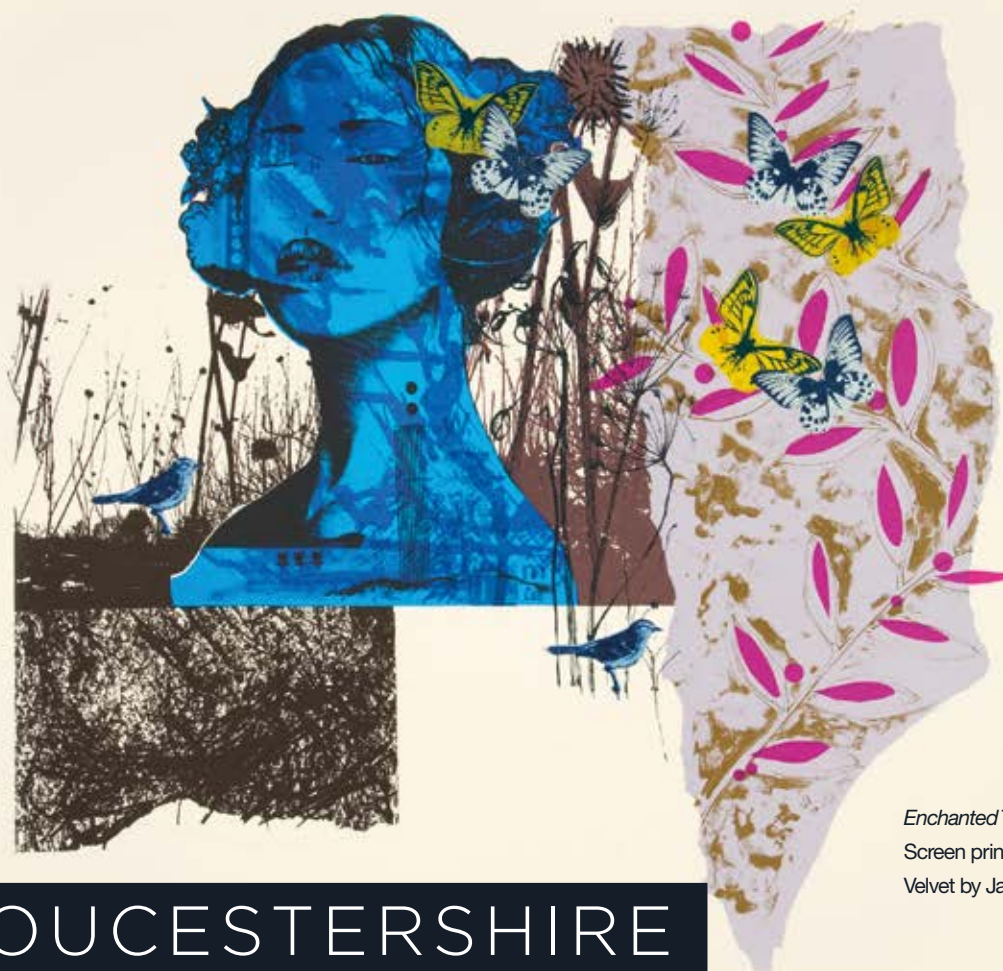
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Enchanted Tales

Screen print and stitch on Somerset

Velvet by Jane Sasanow

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRINTMAKING COOPERATIVE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRINT COOPERATIVE WAS FOUNDED IN 2005 BY ARTIST SUE DRENNEN AND A GROUP OF LOCAL ARTIST PRINTMAKERS AND IS THE ONLY FACILITY OF ITS KIND IN THE WHOLE OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Tucked away in Thrupp's Griffin Mill, I called in to GPC's workshops and gallery on a sunny August morning and was greeted by co-founder and Chair Christine Felce along with members Marie Smith and Terry Millington.

Christine began by telling me about how the cooperative came about "We realised that there was a gap – there were no facilities for people coming out of the university courses at UWE and University of Gloucestershire to print once they'd graduated. It took over a year to find a building, which was a big thing. We applied for some grants

and the whole thing just took off really.... now we've got around 80 members".

There's an impressive array of equipment for members to use covering a range of print techniques including Etching, Collograph, Screen Printing, Fabric Printing, Relief printing, Lithography, Lino Cut, photogravure, the only stone lithography facilities within the whole region, new (expanding) letterpress facilities and a full working analogue photographic darkroom – an increasingly rare facility today.

In addition to providing these facilities to its members, GPC also run a whole host of classes and workshops introducing novices to the range of techniques available and these are open to anyone who'd like to learn (www.gpchq.co.uk) "many new members join after completing one of our workshops" Christine tells me "and it's a bit like a gym in that some of our members are printmaking

fanatics who come very regularly, and some who sign up and only come occasionally, but usually it's beautifully serendipitous in that there's never too many people trying to use the equipment at one time."

Functioning as a cooperative means that members each take on different responsibilities for the various aspects of the operation. Christine is keen to involve other members in our conversation to ensure that she gives a true representation of the breadth of work that they do – in keeping with the processes of printmaking – it's a multi-layered undertaking. Member Beth Jenkins leads on their international exchange programmes, which she started up initially with Céret in France, and now Manhattan Graphics in New York. She tells me that they'd love to have more international exchanges as "the international artists, especially those from NY bring new perspectives in their work with diverse urban reference points - many of the



Pear and Two Halves
Colour Etching by Terence Millington



Unnamed
Mono print by Rachel Oram



Eliza Malone
Screen print, Woodcut & Letterpress
by Andrew Kinnear

GPC artists turn to their local rural landscape for inspiration, whilst naturally NYC provides distinctly different subject matter."

Then there is of course 'Impress' the triennial International Printmaking Festival, which started in 2009 and will see it's 3rd iteration in March 2016 - and will be featured in Good on Paper in the lead up to it's opening.

We're sitting at a long table covered in grey lino, which Christine explains is a section of 33 metres of lino that forms part of a project called 'Scrum Down'. Connected to the Rugby World Cup anyone can come and cut into the lino to help create the 33-metre artwork - a world record for the longest lino cut. The print will then be pressed with a scrum machine - a padded, weighty roller for rugby forwards to practice 'scrumming' against, and the whole length of the contingent

printed artworks will be exhibited in Newcastle to coincide with the international rugby event.

There's a extensive history of successful collaborations as well as many other projects in the pipeline. They'd like to do more, Christine tells me, but as an entirely self-funded operation, members' capacity and time is limited. A smile breaks out as she mentions that they've just appointed an administrator, and she's hopeful that the new addition will bring fresh opportunities for GPC.

Perhaps it is the lack of digital technology that makes the environment so pleasant; it is mesmerising to watch someone layering up plates or passing lino and paper through a press. The multi-layered processes of printmaking require concentration and skill to get it right, and it is enormously satisfying when the print emerges resplendent through the rotating rollers. Coupled

with the smell of the inks and the gentle creaks and squeaks of the hand-operated machinery makes me want to sign up as a member here and now.

I'm enjoying being in the workshops, and linger on a little whilst members chat to prospective members and course participants. I take in some of the artworks showing in the gallery at the entrance to the building, the range of styles and techniques is a superb showcase for the facilities. GPC has left its mark with me, and if you'll excuse the pun, I'm impressed.

.....
Grace Davies is Director of Visual Arts South West (www.vasw.org.uk), trustee of Stroud Valleys Artspace (www.sva.org.uk) and a born and bred Stroudie. She moved back to Stroud in 2009 after a 10-year hiatus of living and working in various cities across the UK, USA and Spain



Beech Stand
Linocut by Beth Jenkins



Enigma
Screen print and stitch on Somerset satin
and gampi tissue by Jane Sasanow

ART LISTINGS

The Blue Room Gallery

EVERY FRI & SAT

Oliver Vivian: Lucidity

A new gallery at Unit 1, Farris Lane just off Nelson Street exhibiting a series of works by local artist Oliver Vivian comprising of oil on canvases 10am-3pm

Gallery Pangolin

MON 17TH AUG - 11TH SEPT

Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Summer Exhibition

Lazy, Hazy, Crazy celebrates the season in all its glory with a themed mix of sculpture, prints and drawings. Visitors to the gallery will enjoy the 'bathing beauties' including Lynn Chadwick's bikini-clad Reclining Figure and Sue Freeborough's larger-than-life-size sculpture Mrs Midas relaxing in the sun. For gardeners and nature-lovers we have Nick Bibby's exquisitely detailed Watersnail and Toad and Michael Cooper's serene white Pelican. Bucket + Spade by Cockings & Hodge and Abigail Fallis' painted bronze Cod'n Chips are both joyful reminders of long sunny days at the seaside. Other highlights include Jon Buck's One Can't, Two Can straight from his one-man show at Pangolin London and shown at Gallery Pangolin for the first time, and Hamish Black's expressive ink drawings Back 2 and Side 13 Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-1pm

SAT 26TH SEPT - FRI 6TH NOV

Lynn Chadwick: Draughtsman

The first major exhibition to focus on Chadwick's mastery of line...Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-1pm
gallery-pangolin.com

Goods Shed - SVA

SAT 1ST AUG - SUN 6TH SEPT

Crazy Golf

The first indoor 18 hole crazy golf course in Stroud! Each hole is designed by an artist/designer or collaborative team featuring Soozy Roberts, Lorraine Robbins, Daniel Sparkes, Kate Merry, Gavin McClafferty, William Sheer, Jon Seagrave, MOULD, Holly English, Dan Rawlings, Gem Waggett, Ollie Penman, Briony Wilson Fforde and Stephen Wilson Fforde. The project has been initiated by Tomas Millar from the award winning architects Millar + Howard Workshop. The SVA and Millar Howard continue to collaborate on projects after the success of their Goods Shed popup restaurant 'Causeway' in 2012 involving celebrity chefs 'The Baker Brothers'. This project will follow in its footsteps involving art, performance, food and design. There will also be a café open every day 10am-4pm £3 adults/£2 children

SUN 6TH

Crazy Golf closing party!

Last chance to have a go at the brilliant and very successful indoor crazy golf course! Café / Bar and BBQ will be open cooking up a treat from a special guest...1-6pm

sva.org.uk

Lansdown Hall

TUES 1ST - SAT 5TH

Rosanna Mahony, Barbara Matthews & Goldy Manzife: A Celebration of Colour

Rosanna Mahony: Developed her print making techniques from fine multi-coloured etching to collographs and mono prints with mixed media and is well known for her vibrant colours. Rosanna has lived in Stroud for the last 20 years and is a member of the GPC (see p12-13) and also has her workshop in Woodchester where she works and runs private classes suitable for beginners, and experienced artists, students and children.

Barbara Matthews: Is now in her 80's....at the age of 14, at the end of the War, she started her career in art by going to Epsom School of Art where she won a scholarship... She explored many techniques, mainly illustration. Later on she discovered print making, including textiles, lino screen printings and embroidery. Barbara joined Rosanna Mahony's classes at Ruskin Mill 12 years ago where she discovered the magic of the mono prints and Collographs with textures and colours. She and Rosanna now work together in their workshop in Woodchester.

10am - 5pm

TUES 8TH - SAT 12TH

Christina Rice & Sarah Smart: Still Looking

An exhibition of paintings, drawings and photographs by Christina Rice and Sarah Smart featuring works taking inspiration from the natural world and capturing small moments in time 10am-5pm

TUES 22ND SEPT - SAT 3RD OCT

Millie Wood Swanepoel: Earth Walk

An art exhibition of ceramics and mixed media. "Walk this earth with awareness on your life's journey. We are not in control of nature, but part of it. We use its resources but we need to love, respect and honour its bounty; use this gift wisely. Do not take it for granted."

This exhibition is a collection of ideas/images inspired, fired expressed in clay, fused glass, metal, wire and a combination of found objects 10am-5pm

lansdownhall.org

The Line Gallery - SVA

FRI 28TH AUG - THURS 3RD SEPT

David Evans

David's work takes the aesthetics of the macabre along with elements of the tradition of Catholic and Christian art and mixes it with a dash of pop art sensibility

FRI 4TH - WEDS 9TH

Holly English

Mixed-media artist with a meddlesome nature, driven by themes of anthropology. Primarily investigating innate faculties and how they resonate in misplaced obsessions, with a particular emphasis on 'value' within and to the exclusion of social structure

THURS 10TH - WEDS 16TH

Simon Ryder

Simon Ryder will be transposing his current art 'practice' into the gallery space, along with all that this word implies: attempts, frustrations, successes and failures. He will be working on a series of large-scale chalk on blackboard drawings, and some chalk and gold sculptures. Come along for a talk on Tuesday 15th

FRI 18TH - WEDS 23RD

Zoe Heath

"I work extensively on the layered surface of my paintings. Images and objects are transcribed and re-interpreted, often forming abstract marks. I then draw back into my prints; a whisper of a trace, a pin prick line marks the presence of an absentee and stitching binds the stories of these objects and images together as these elements are built up and then consciously eroded, partially obscuring or uncovering traces"

FRI 25TH - WEDS 30TH

Ann-Margreth Bohl

Sculptural works and drawings exploring the ability to see and feel light and shadow through form.

Focusing on instinctive erosion of natural materials and the place where conscious reduction meets form

sva.org.uk

Museum In The Park

SAT 5TH - SUN 27TH

Stroud School of Art Show

Stroud School of Art began in the 1860s, moving to purpose-built

accommodation at Lansdown in the 1890s, a building which went on to also house Stroud's Museum. The School of Art continues to inspire generations of students, thanks to the creativity, passion and dedication of its staff. This exhibition presents a selection of work by many of the talented artists who currently teach at the school, now part of SGS College Tues-Fri 10am-5pm/Sat-Sun 11am-5pm

SAT 5TH - SUN 27TH

Simon Morriss: Tracing Absence

After a career as an architect, Simon Morriss completed a Foundation Degree in Creative Practice at Stroud College in 2012 and went on to gain an MA in Fine Art from Birmingham Institute of Art and Design. On display here are artefacts which incorporate an element of absence and paintings and drawings which further explore this theme. Please note that Gallery 2 is a multi-use space, please call ahead before making a special visit on 01453 763394

museuminthepark.org.uk

Subscription Rooms

TUES 22ND - SAT 26TH

Foto Forum: View Points

Foto Forum is a small group of independent photographers based in Gloucestershire. The group provides the opportunity for its members to share their work and experiences and contribute their own perception to joint exhibitions. This latest work shows the diversity of the four photographers, each with their own way of interpreting their world. Please note exhibitions will be closed on certain days. Please call ahead on 01453 760900 before making a special journey!

TUES 29TH SEPT - SAT 3RD OCT

Three by 3 plus One

Following on from previous successful showings by "Three by 3", Pauline Cullimore, Janet Grist and Sylvia Hammond are again showing a diverse collection of their stitched textiles, wall hangings and quilts. They are complemented in this exhibition by Fiona Moir with her atmospheric landscape paintings 10am-5pm

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

WEDS 30TH

Composite Approaches

A screening of short films curated by Brenda Miller featuring five artists whose video works address themes of internal/external space. Suze Adams, Linda Ashe, Joanna Greenhill, Kirsty Limburn and Brenda Miller. Screening followed by an informal chaired discussion 7pm

sva.org.uk

Upper Lock Café

SUN 30TH AUG - SUN 27TH SEPT

Claire Ash

Claire recently returned to painting and drawing in the Stroud area, having spent the last 10 years producing graphic design and illustration work. She particularly enjoys producing pastel drawings, which to Claire reflect the beautiful colours, shapes and movement of the landscapes around Stroud. Claire thinks this area is one

of the most beautiful and creatively inspiring places in the UK. She also likes to paint fish and seafood. Claire studied at the Norwich School of Art and has a BA (Hons) degree in graphic design and illustration

Mon-Sat 10am-4pm/Sun 10am-3pm
upperlockcafe.co.uk

Studio Maru

14TH SEPT - 30TH OCT

The Life Instinct featuring James Kriszyk & Ric Stultz

An exhibition of two artists' (including resident Good On Paper photographer James Kriszyk) with greatly contrasting styles and backgrounds. A gritty British urban photographer and an American painter inspired by pop culture. Their work finds common ground in the exploration of the visceral energy of life, survival, passion and instinct Mon-Sat 10am-5pm/Weds 10am-1pm
studiomaru.uk

Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Summer Exhibition

Until 11th September



Reclining Figure (Green Wave) Lynn Chadwick

Next exhibition:
Lynn Chadwick *draughtman*
26th September - 6th November

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STROUD THEATRE FESTIVAL

BY LEAH GRANT

HERE ARE MY PLANS FOR
THE WEEKEND: ON FRIDAY
AFTERNOON I'M OFF TO MEET
A REINCARNATED 15TH CENTURY
WHISTLE-BLOWER; ON
SATURDAY MORNING I'M
ATTENDING A LECTURE ON
DRAGON MANAGEMENT; AND ON
SUNDAY EVENING I'M HOPING
TO CATCH UP WITH A POET
DEALING WITH 'LATE ONSET
RESPONSIBILITY'. OH AND
I MIGHT TRY AND SQUEEZE IN A
CLOWNING WORKSHOP AT SOME
POINT TOO. SOUND LIKE FUN?

As part of Stroud Theatre Festival, twenty-eight acts are planning to transform our quiet Cotswold streets into a hive of theatrical activity as they perform their unique shows in various locations around the town. A few weeks prior to the festival, I catch up with its founder - writer and actor, John Bassett - to discuss the range of performances on offer this year and discover how this exciting event came about: "I went to do a festival down in Barnstaple in North Devon and I liked the ethos of that festival," says John. "After about a year or so I went and did it again and then

after the next year I thought, we ought to have one of those in Stroud."

Now in its third year, Stroud Theatre Festival doesn't just attract local companies; in fact, this time round audiences can expect to see acts from as far away as Lithuania and as close to home as Bristol, Devon and Exeter: "It's a bit of a South West centre because that's where the call-out goes which is nice because we're encouraging this region, this area." Although John's happy for anyone to apply, the majority of acts performing at the festival are professionals, yet in his eagerness to champion emerging talent, John actively encourages new companies to join the event whilst also supporting those wishing to experiment with fresh material: "...basically everything's theatre, and we're not saying 'this is what theatre is' which is what other festival's do."

A new feature in Stroud Theatre Festival's programming this year is the introduction of three adult workshops that allow attendees to experience theatre performance on a more personal level. From open rehearsals, to developing comic characters, to a lesson in the art of clowning, John hopes that these workshops will help cultivate an environment where actors work together to share and expand their skillset: "When I've done

workshops in festival situations before, we've had a lot of people who are actors attending the workshops, so as much as they're for the public, they're also a chance for people within the profession to try something new, something different."

Learning and affordability (tickets are just £6 each or £4 for concessions) certainly seem to be key components not just of Stroud Theatre Festival, but of John's general attitude towards drama and the arts. We talk at length about the importance of getting children interested and involved in theatre and it is whilst discussing John's own acting background that we touch on the effects drama has on younger generations: "For young people, drama's not about how well you hold yourself on stage, it's about how you can find somebody who is totally lacking in confidence who will suddenly come forward and shine...it builds teamwork, commitment, concentration, imagination and that's why it's so vital for young people to be involved in it."

John's passion is clearly reflected in the 2015 programme; several shows are specifically geared towards families, including Norse Tales, a production written and performed by John's own theatre company, Spaniel in the Works. Other performances use parentage as either a central or outlying theme, such as Man Up



Jonny Fluffypunk or Gemma Bolwell's *How to Reappear*. As we discuss the five one-woman shows performing at the festival, it becomes apparent that personal issues, woven into clever narratives, have also come to dominate this year's performances.

"The most important thing with any piece of theatre is: does it connect with an audience? Does it move them? Does it make them laugh or make them cry? And the only way people will get that emotional engagement is if they can relate to it in some way."

The diverse range of shows on offer at Stroud Theatre Festival points to an event that is

determined to be as original as it is inclusive; from classics such as *Rough for Theatre II* - a play written by Samuel Beckett and performed by Brabbins & Rohwer - to comedy fresh from Edinburgh Fringe in Angie Belcher's *Mythical Creature*, audiences will be hard pushed to find something that doesn't appeal in this year's line-up.

Stroud Theatre Festival is on from September 11th – 13th with performances held at Lansdown Hall & Gallery, The British School at Star Anise, The Imperial Hotel, The Centre for Science & Art and the Ballroom and the George Room at Stroud Subscription Rooms. Over the course of the weekend, Mr Twitchett's Coffee House & Bar at the Sub

Rooms will be transformed into Mr Twitchett's Theatre Club, a place where audience members can chat to actors and leave reviews.

To browse the festival's full listings, pick up a brochure from various locations around the town or visit www.stroudtheatrefestival.co.uk

.....
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

COMEDY

BY CHRIS HEAD

**HOW MANY WAYS CAN
A PERFORMER ON
STAGE BE FUNNY?
I CAN THINK OF QUITE
A FEW. AND STROUD IN
SEPTEMBER SEEMS TO
BE SERVING UP PRETTY
MUCH ALL OF THEM.**

Stand-up is probably the most direct of these ways with comedians commonly appearing as themselves and talking about their life and opinions. Despite this they do have a persona that they step into when they go on stage. As a new comic your stand-up persona is the fundamental thing to find and you may well end up with a very different persona than the one you started with. The famous example is of grumpy Jack Dee starting off happy and upbeat and only finding his voice when he was disillusioned and doing what he thought was his final gig. The angry Rhod Gilbert persona also wasn't there at the outset. I gather he started off rather more whimsical and surreal. This month you'll have another chance to see some fledgling comedians working out their persona at the open-mic night at Black Book Café. Hosted by the amiable George Rigden from Bristol, he'll be bringing some great new acts with him and the night will again give a platform to new Stroud acts.

Full disclosure: these new Stroud acts tend to have come through my Stroud stand-up courses. Which brings me neatly to another Stroud comedy course coming up in September and a chance to tick off another way people can be funny on stage: impro. Over ten weeks at the Subscription Rooms Joy-Amy Wigman will be running her



liberating and wonderful comedy improvisation course.

The Sub Rooms will also be playing host to comedians who have long since found that aforementioned elusive persona and may well do the odd bit of impro. Someone who definitely will be improvising is the MC for the night, the brilliant Tony Vino from Preston. The show also features Bath based (and Stroud regular) Geoff Whiting. Geoff is normally himself a compère and you may have seen him ably and hilariously hosting the Crazy Bird comedy club at Lansdown Hall in July. This night is a



rare chance to see him do a set in his own right. Also on the bill at the Subs Rooms that evening is Sol Bernstein. It is said that the legend that is Sol escaped the Pogroms in Russia, the Nazis in Germany, and went on to become the World's first all-round entertainer. He's a song and dance man, comedian, magician, actor, and jazz musician (rated Best Triangle Player in the USA in the '50s). Except that Sol Bernstein is not a real person! The man behind him is Steve Jameson and Sol is a character like Count Arthur Strong

or John Shuttleworth. Sol Bernstein is of a similar vintage to those acts and is every bit as well drawn and believable. Here then is another way of being funny on stage: the character act.

So stand-ups can appear as a version of themselves and also as a fictional character. Then you get comedy performers appearing as real people. Of late (and 'late' is apt here) there have been a range of shows where contemporary performers resurrect dead comedians. These have ranged from Kenneth Williams to Peter Cook to Eric 'n' Ernie to Bill Hicks. This flourishing sub-genre is also represented at the indefatigable Sub Rooms. They are bringing us "And



This Is My Friend Mr Laurel" where the superlative Jeffrey Holland (Hi-de-Hi, You Rang M'lord) plays his hero Stan Laurel.

In Stroud in September then we have stand-up acts, character comedians, improvisation and a portrayal of a classic deceased comedian. How many ways of being funny does that leave? Well there's musical comedy. But fear not Stroud has that covered too.

The Convent hosts The Panic Brothers, sharp witted stand-up comedian and songwriter Richard Morton and award winning singer songwriter Reg Meuross. The pair have reunited, after a break of 25 years, and are teaming up with some of their most talented friends

from the entertainment business for a series of cabaret style evenings of music and comedy at the Bloomsbury Theatre London... and the Convent Club, Stroud!



This show will feature special guest comedian Phill Jupitus. Best known for Never Mind the Buzzcocks, Phill has long been a hilarious performance poet. Incidentally, the internet seems divided on it (and my spellcheck is screaming) but I think it's Phill with the double L. Maybe when starting out he was employing the same strategy as another late great comedian, Frankie Howerd. With the surname 'Howerd' he reasoned at least he would be noticed as a spelling mistake. Anyway, as 'Porky the Poet', Phill Jupitus reveals a completely different, far gentler side of himself than his familiar stand-up persona. Which ticks off one last way of being funny on stage: comic poetry. Stroud really is covering all bases this September.

.....

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. He directs Helen Wood in the Stroud Theatre Festival show 'What Kind of Fool Am I?' on Friday 11th September at the Subscription Rooms

chrishead.com

Black Book Café

WEDS 16TH

Comedy Club

Hosted by George Rigden, line-up TBA soon... 7 (incl. corkage) 7pm
blackbookcafe.com

Subscription Rooms

SAT 5TH

Comedy All Stars

MC Tony Vino, Geoff Whiting and Sol Bernstein 8pm £10adv/£14otd (Buy 10 advance tickets for the price of 9 and get a table reserved for your party!)

TUES 15TH

**Cuffing It! Improv
Comedy Course**

Over 16s only Tues 15th (Taster Session) 8-9pm £10/Course starts Tues 22nd

8-9pm £75 Booking essential

THURS 24TH

And This Is My Friend Mr Laurel

8pm £14/£12 concs
subscriptionrooms.org.uk

The Convent

THURS 3RD

**The Panic Brothers presents:
Comedy Cabaret with
Phill Jupitus**

9pm £20 members/£25 non-members

theconvent.net

LITERATURE LISTINGS

Ale House

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

Rick Vick: Writing Group

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

Black Book Café

THURS 3RD

Word Up

Bring along Spoken word. Poetry, Songs, Instruments and share with other artists. It's BYO (£3) or enjoy a lovely cup of coffee and a slice of cake 7pm Free

SUN 6TH

Poetry and Pies

Readings of selected poetry with a choice of pies for lunch 2pm Free

SUN 20TH

Children's Story time

Enjoy a reading from Enid Blyton's The Magic Far Away Tree. For all ages 11am Free
blackbookcafe.com

Lansdown Hall

SAT 26TH

**Steve Biddulph:
The Road to Manhood**

An engaging workshop brought to you by Stroud book publishers Hawthorn Press with author Steve Biddulph. Based on Steve's classic book Manhood and Raising Boys this special men-only seminar uses humour, storytelling, teaching, and discussion to cover what a whole man is like and steps to getting there, healing the father wound in ourselves and in the culture, men and women and what we really want from each other, the steps

from being a boy in a man's body, to being truly adult, why we are in the world... and much more. Steve's books have affected the way we look at boys and men, and are in 3 million homes and 32 languages. Steve uses humour, disarming honesty, and a gentle but straight talking style that men warm to and find leads them to exhilarating growth in a safe and sustainable way. 18s and up 7-9pm £16/£12concs (under 25) Adv tickets available from Star Anise Arts Cafe

SUN 27TH

**Steve Biddulph:
Understanding Men**

At every age men provide a puzzle and a challenge, and sometimes a joy, to the women in their lives. In this hilarious, startlingly honest, and often very moving seminar for women only, Steve tells stories and opens up our eyes to what is happening inside the men in our lives. If you have a man or boy in your life, you'll want to know what makes them tick. If you had a father, you will probably carry the effects of his strengths and weaknesses.

The wounded, and wounding, nature of men in the past is vital to understand and overcome. Whether you love men, or have given up on men, if you are raising sons, or still feel like a daughter, there is something in this seminar to help you. 18s and up 7-9pm £16/£12concs (under 25) Adv tickets available from Star Anise Arts Café

lansdownhall.org

Subscription Rooms

WEDS 23RD SEPT

**Creative Writing with
Kevan Manwaring MA**

Whether you are a curious beginner, a secret scribbler or someone in need of fresh inspiration, feedback and advice, this friendly, supportive and informative class will be for you. The ten week course will look at finding and developing

ideas in prose fiction and life-writing, cultivating a healthy writing practice and pathways to publication. By the end of the course you'll have a writer's toolkit of techniques, a portfolio of work, and a clear idea of how to proceed. Each week there will be a chance to workshop your writing, give and receive constructive criticism and hone your critical faculties as a writer - cultivating a professional approach to editing and submitting your work for profit or for pleasure. All abilities welcome. Bring pen and paper! 7-9pm £75 (Booking essential)
subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

FRI 18TH

**Mr Fluffypunk's Penny Gaff
feat Rob Auton:
The 'Water' Show**

Alternative cabaret with a spoken word spine. Rob Auton is a writer

and performer of some of what he writes. He was born in York and now lives in Walthamstow in London and since 2008 has been saying things out loud to people without wanting them to respond verbally. Some call this 'Stand up comedy', some call it 'Stand up poetry'. Whatever it is, he started doing it and has continued to do it ever since. He has had writing that he recorded into his computer by Jarvis Cocker and Scroobius Pip and shown on the television by BBC1 and Channel 4. The Water Show is a comedy/theatre/poetry show about water. The Water Show is suitable for people who have used, drunk or looked at water, or who know someone who has. It is basically Rob marvelling at the transparent wet stuff, and encouraging others to become fans of water, too. Other acts include poet Adam Horowitz and performance art from Kirsty Limburn, plus film and something else TBA 8pm £7adv£8otd
sva.org.uk



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DAN RAWLINGS



**"I TRY TO CREATE IMAGES
THAT REMIND PEOPLE OF THE
MOMENTS WHEN EVERYTHING
SEEMS POSSIBLE AND FREE;
TIMES WHEN CLIMBING A
TREE, OR SITTING ADMIRING
THE WAY ITS BRANCHES TWIST
AND CURL MEANS NOTHING,
BUT MEANS EVERYTHING**

I enjoy using sentimental objects such as old tools and farm equipment, they bring to mind a time when things were simpler, not easier, but the concerns of everyday people were fundamental and shared. Commercialism may provide a distraction or a goal we can use to give our lives meaning, but it drives a notion of self importance which is detrimental to growth. Real experiences are often disregarded in favour of material possessions.

The really important things in life tend to get pushed aside and ignored in the rush, but like wild flowers growing up through cracks in the pavement, they have incredible persistence; a great deal of hope and positivity can be taken from stopping to admire them once in a while.

Enjoy what you love, because life is so much bigger than us."

everyact.co.uk



GOOD ON PAPER

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& LITERATURE IN STROUD

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Wednesday 26th Marc O' Reilly
Thursday 27th Rob Heron and the Tea Pad
Orchestra
Friday 28th Sam Brookes
Monday 31st Bajaly Suso

OPEN MIC

- September, Wednesday 2nd With Tiny Hill
September, Wednesday 16th With Tiny Hil

September

- Thursday 3rd Diamond Family Archive
Friday 4th Poor Old Dogs
Saturday 5th Jake Meeking
Sunday 6th Pocket Soul Collective DJs
Tuesday 8th Nik Turner – HAWKWIND
£8 in advance
Thursday 10th Jessie Pie and The Thorn
Saturday 12th Adrian Byron Burns
Thursday 17th LAISH
Sunday 20th Attila the Stockbroker
£6 in advance
Wednesday 23rd Piroutte – THE
Circus Band
Wednesday 30th Cardboard Fox

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