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## COVER ARTIST

"LONG LIVE THE PRINTED WORD...ALTHOUGH PARADOXICALLY THE IMAGE WAS CREATED USING NOW OBSOLETE TECHNOLOGY, AND BASED ON THE DUTCH 'VANITAS' THEME - THE ACCEPTANCE THAT ULTIMATELY ALL THINGS MUST COME TO AN END..."

**EWEN HYDE**

[INSTAGRAM.COM/EWENHYDE](https://www.instagram.com/ewenhyde)

PHOTOGRAPHED BY HARRY OLIVER @H\_M\_P\_O

# EDITOR'S NOTE

**WELCOME TO ISSUE 66 OF GOOD ON PAPER...**

**WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE NOW WORKING WITH ACCESS BIKE PROJECT AND THEIR NEW VENTURE - THE BIKE DROP! PEDAL POWERED GOOD ON PAPER DELIVERIES...**

The Bike Drop is a sustainable, responsive delivery service which provides opportunities for young people aged 18-25 and significantly contributes to Stroud's green impact by reducing traffic and pollution. Working with the enterprising business has meant that we can add new stockists and further extend our reach across the Stroud District.

This month's issue has turned into a literature/spoken word behemoth with the return of the Stroud Book Festival and Stroud Short Stories, poems by JLM Morton and Bill Jones, interview with author and cook Kate Young, the first ever TEDxStroudWomen, a playlist by Jonny Fluffypunk and stand-up poet Elvis McGonagall popped into the Prince Albert for a catch up with landlords Lotte and Miles. Elsewhere we delve into the debut album by experimental music performance duo Mermaid Chunky...

Long live the printed word, and pedal power.

**Alex Hobbis and Adam Hinks**

**FRONT COVER:** Ewen Hyde

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Jane Millichip, Fiona Magee, Jenny Patton, Judith Gunn, Elvis McGonagall, Ruby Kester

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHY:** Carmel King, Simon Pizzey, Harry Oliver

**NEXT MONTH:** Jon the Bus, Thee Ones, Tessa Harris, Marilyn Brason and much more..

**TEAM:**

**ALEX HOBBS**

Advertising/Editorial/Listings  
[alex@goodonpaper.info](mailto:alex@goodonpaper.info)

**ADAM HINKS**

Artwork and Design  
[adam@goodonpaper.info](mailto:adam@goodonpaper.info)

**ONLINE:** [goodonpaper.info](http://goodonpaper.info)

**FACEBOOK:** [/GoodOnPaperStroud](https://www.facebook.com/GoodOnPaperStroud)

**TWITTER:** [@GoodOnPaper\\_](https://twitter.com/GoodOnPaper_)

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# NEWS

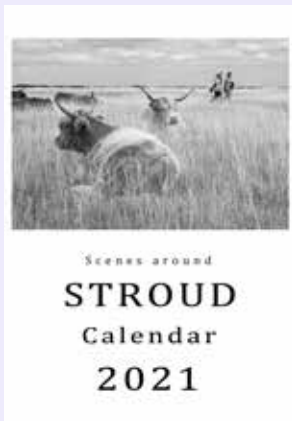
Arts and culture news from across the Stroud District

## ART

### DEBORAH ROBERTS

The Scenes around Stroud 2021 calendar is now available in shops and online. Local photographer Deborah Roberts has been producing this popular calendar for the last 6 years.

Her images, both colour and B&W, have a distinctive style and celebrate the natural beauty and unique character of the area. This year's cover features cows and walkers on Minchinhampton Common and many of the photographs have been taken as part of Deborah's ongoing project concerning grassland conservation in the Stroud Valleys. There will be a display of Deborah's work at The GreenShop, Bisley throughout November and December, plus the sale of a wide range of prints and greetings cards.



[deborahroberts.biz](http://deborahroberts.biz)

### FOREST GREEN ROVERS

Musician, artist and founder of Massive Attack Robert Del Naja has just been announced as FGR's first ever Artistic Director. Known to many as 3D – he joins chairman, Dale Vince and Arsenal footballer, Hector Bellerin as one of FGR's main investors. The club became the world's first vegan football club in 2015 and went carbon neutral in 2017. Rob met Dale when Massive Attack were planning their exemplar zero carbon gig in Liverpool with Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research last year – intended as a blueprint for the future of sustainable gigs and tours. The event is on-hold until coronavirus restrictions are lifted. At FGR, Del Naja – a lifelong S.S.C Napoli and Bristol City fan will work with club chairman Dale Vince and the team to raise awareness of its environmental and ethical agenda – and work on new ways of engaging with football's global fanbase.



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

### STROUD IMAGINES

A new creative, wholly volunteer-led initiative in Stroud. Stroud Imagines is looking to inspire the use of our collective imagination to tackle local issues and



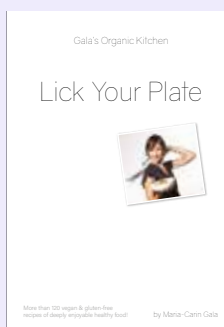
challenges, bringing together people from all parts of our communities to support each other more effectively. Their inspiration is the work of Rob Hopkins in his book 'From What Is To What If' and seeks to explore the powerful 'what if...?' questions he poses at a local, Stroud, level. They have started a series of regular Open Mic nights, inviting 8 local people to come and share their creative imagining for Stroud and surrounds. Held on the third Wednesday of each month, the next being on Wednesday 18th November and 16th December. They are hoping to also include spoken word and musical presentations, and are holding at least one of the slots to give a platform for local young people.

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

## BOOKS

### MARIA-CARIN GALA

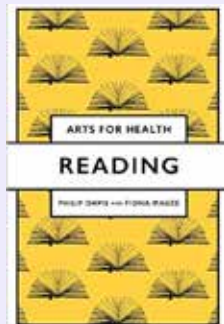
Lick Your Plate - is a brand new cookbook with over 120 deeply enjoyable recipes, all plant-based, gluten-free and refined sugar-free! Totally eco-printed, written by local author Maria-Carin Gala from Gala's Organic Kitchen, a passionate foodie with a weakness for healthy cakes, and a love for animals and the planet.



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

### FIONA MAGEE

Can reading literature really help our mental health? This book shows how and why - not by instruction or prescription but by emotion and exploration. Offering case histories of individual readers and reading groups based on the work of The Reader, a charity dedicated to bringing serious literature to neglected communities, the authors showcase how a whole new demographic might get into reading, and in doing so unlock the emotional intelligence and benefits to health and wellbeing which come from our access to written human stories and imagined situations. Fiona



Magee combines the three main strands of this book: research into literary reading, the compilation of interviews and films of case histories, and the practice of shared reading. Philip Davis is Emeritus Professor of Literature and Psychology at the University of Liverpool, UK and was the director of CRILS (Centre for Research into Reading, Literature and Society).

[books.emeraldinsight.com](http://books.emeraldinsight.com)

### ELVIS MCGONAGALL

Stand-up poet, comedian and walking shortbread tin Elvis McGonagall returns with "Complete and Utter Cult!" the follow-up to 2017's "Viva Loch Lomond!". This new collection of satirical verse captures Elvis' ongoing futile exasperation at the dismal trajectory of our post-truth world



as it trundles along the primrose path to Beelzebub's bottomless pit. Fake news and COVID-19. Organic novichok and Piers Morgan. Yes, the good ship lollipop is sailing down the shitter. Climb aboard with Elvis as he bellows into the void of our diseased, burning planet and we all drift towards a giant melting iceberg. "Complete and Utter Cult!" tackles everything from the pernicious effects of the patriarchy to disappearing rainforests via Brexit milkshakes and a pandemic. Yes, all the feel-good hits are here, fully annotated with the innermost thoughts from the canyons of Elvis' mind as he banged away on his typewriter at The Graceland Caravan Park. And there's a love poem.

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

### STROUD BOOKSHOP

Though times are strange, Stroud Bookshop is as busy as ever. They've loved welcoming you back to the High Street, but have also been sending books out for those shielding at home. To make it as easy as possible for you to order books, they have just launched a new website with details about their current bestsellers, extensive range of cards, and a page dedicated to the books you'll want to get your hands on during this year's Stroud Book Festival.



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

## MUSIC

### ORBURY COMMON

Innovative electronica duo Orbury Common release a much anticipated live EP - Suppertime Seance on the 6th November. These four songs were summoned from

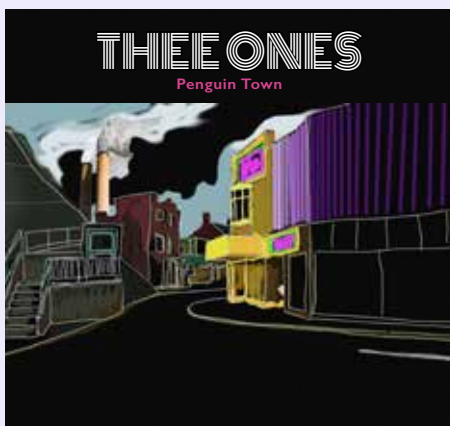


the spirit world of Orbury Common by means of musical seance, performed live around the old round table. The ghostly, traditional Orbsong was channeled, translated and extracted via various electroacoustic instruments, then beamed out as comprehensible sound...Yep.

[orburycommon.bandcamp.com](http://orburycommon.bandcamp.com)

### THEE ONES

Thee Ones are set to release their third album 'Penguin Town' on the 1st December. Recorded over four sessions at Jim Barr's J&J Studio in Bristol then mixed back in



Stroud by Jam Sponge Music. It features guest slots from Jack Page and Marianne Parrish and welcomes fellow Low Chimes alumni Lachlan McLellan as a permanent 'One'. Find out more in next month's issue...

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

## JONNY FLUFFYPUNK PLAYLIST

"It was good fun putting this together. I err on the side of lo-fi; of the incomplete, the ramshackle, the imperfect. Human stuff. I'm not much interested in production values and things like that. Not to say there isn't some stuff on here that isn't the product of months tweaking in the recording studio, but if there is, I'd be hard pushed to tell you what, and it's certainly in the minority. I grew up with punk rock, and DIY attitudes. If you had something you wanted to say, it was far more exciting to get up and just do it rather than worry about technical things, like learning to play properly. Anyone can sing in tune; anyone can play a guitar. James Blunt can do both; he moves me not. The Ramones could do neither; they changed my life. This playlist, like most people's, is just skimming a cupful from an ocean of possibility. It's what came to mind when I sat down, just now. No long deliberation or tweaking to make sure it's fine-tuned for optimum coolness. There's tons of obvious classics I've missed off, some people (Wreckless Eric, The Burning Hell, Prince Far I) who should really be on there and loads of genres I love dearly that are sadly unrepresented- I love loads of experimental improv stuff, but that's rarely about individual tracks. There's also stuff I love that you won't find on spotify, cos the people who made it release it on cassette, or floppy disk (!) or just make damn sure it's not available on spotify. Lots of the artists below operate like prolific cottage industries. R. Stevie Moore, Jad Fair of Half Japanese, Stanley Brinks and Jeffrey Lewis release steady streams of output in small runs on obscure labels, scratching livings on the artistic margins. Boldly following their stars, oblivious to prevailing trends. I urge you all to check them out."

**SEARCH ON SPOTIFY FOR 'GOOD ON PAPER - JONNY FLUFFYPUNK PLAYLIST' OR SCAN THE QR CODE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE COLUMN...**

1. **Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band:** The Intro and The Outro
2. **Daniel Johnston:** Don't Let the Sun Go Down On Your Grievances
3. **Ivor Cutler:** If Your Breasts
4. **The Moldy Peaches:** Lucky Number 9
5. **Soccer 96 ft Alabaster dePlume:** I Was Gonna Fight Fascism
6. **Jeffrey Lewis:** Williamsburg Will Oldham Horror
7. **Le Tigre:** Hot Topic
8. **Stanley Brinks and The Wave Pictures:** Orange Juice
9. **R. Stevie Moore:** Part of the Problem
10. **Dr. Alimantado:** Best Dressed Chicken in Town
11. **Captain Beefheart and His Magic Band:** Moonlight on Vermont
12. **Eddie Harris:** Live Right Now
13. **The Slits:** Shoplifting
14. **Half Man Half Biscuit:** All I Want For Christmas Is A Dukla Prague Away Kit
15. **The Mountain Goats:** The Best Ever Death Metal Band In Denton
16. **The Human League:** WXJL Tonight
17. **Sacred Paws:** Strike A Match
18. **Television Personalities:** Part Time Punks
19. **Townes Van Zandt:** To Live Is To Fly
20. **The Raincoats:** Fairytale in the Supermarket
21. **The Fall:** Jawbone and the Air Rifle
22. **Beat Happening:** Indian Summer
23. **Buju Banton ft. Tenor Saw:** Ring the Alarm
24. **Wild Billy Childish and The Spartan Dreggs:** The Charcoal Burner's Lament
25. **Burning Spear:** Slavery Days
26. **LL Cool J:** I Can't Live Without My Radio
27. **King Missile:** Jesus Was Way Cool
28. **Bright Eyes:** Lua
29. **Johnny Moped:** Incendiary Device
30. **Silver Apples:** I Have Known Love
31. **Minutemen:** This Ain't No Picnic
32. **Jonathan Richman:** Vincent Van Goch
33. **The Uncluded:** Delicate Cycle
34. **Half Japanese:** Penny in the Fountain
35. **Daniel Johnston:** Some Things Last A Long Time

**SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO ACCESS THE PLAYLIST!**





# STROUD BOOK FESTIVAL

BY JANE MILLICHIP

The organisers of the Stroud Book Festival have achieved something very few governments have come even close to this year. They responded early and decisively to the looming pandemic in a manner that protected both the community and the arts. While others prevaricated over their Covid protocols, the festival team elected at the beginning of the year to take this year's festival entirely online, and this summer they made an even bolder move to make the festival free to the public.

For Festival Marketing Director, Louise Brice, this was no mean feat: "Community was at the forefront of our minds, so having made the decision to go online, we felt it was appropriate to make a further gesture by making it free of charge. When we set up the crowd-funder this summer we weren't sure what to expect. But we received a lot of individual donations, and whilst that was great for the fund raising, it also really boosted our confidence that we were doing the right thing."

If the pandemic spurred the decision around logistics, have Covid and current affairs such as Black Lives Matter also influenced this year's festival programme? "We were working on most of this year's themes very early on. For instance, we were planning to feature Adam Rutherford's *How to Argue with a Racist* before we'd heard about George Floyd. But it couldn't be more relevant than it is now", says Festival Programme Director Caroline Sanderson.

Sanderson and Brice were keen to make this year's festival simultaneously 'very Stroud' and outward-looking. There is a strong showing from local authors with local stories such as Alice Jolly's period novel *Mary Ann Sate, Imbecile*, adapted for podcast by Red Dog Productions, which will be streamed nightly as a bedtime story. Local celebrities, Cath Kidston and Joanna Trollope power up the festival's wattage. Meanwhile, Helen Macdonald's session on her much-anticipated second novel *Vesper Flights*; and Anna Bailey's preview of her debut novel *bring scale* and exclusivity to the programme.

Through her career in publishing, Sanderson is well-placed to map literary trends, and I ask if authors are responding to this year's crises in their choice of stories and narrative form. Sanderson contemplates a deeper, slower impact: "It takes a while for world events to percolate in fiction. And there is always the risk of getting behind the zeitgeist if you are too reactive. But the pandemic has certainly created a heightened mood, and one in which life's simple pleasures are regaining a cultural value."

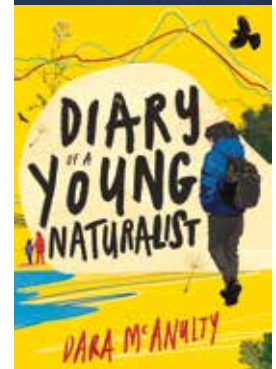
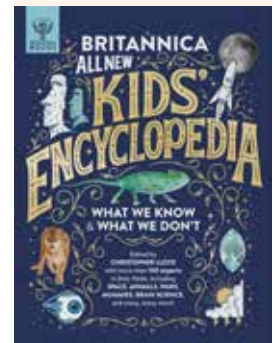
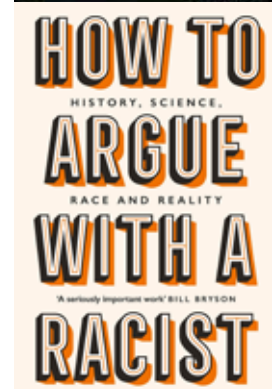
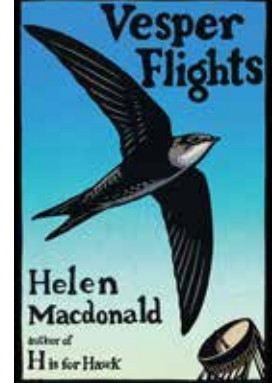
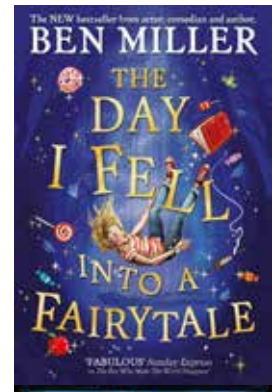
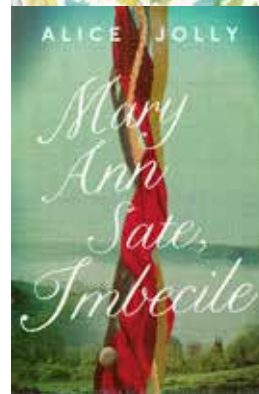
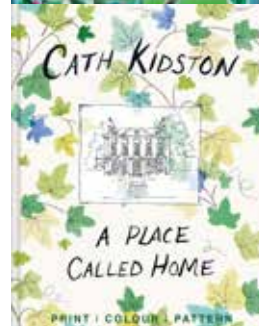
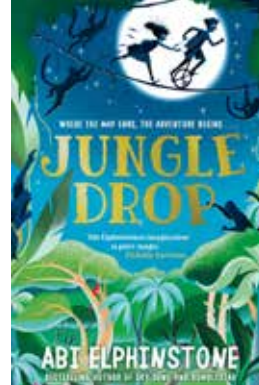
As in previous year's, the festival programme has a rich environmental seam, with the Polly Higgins tribute, an obvious highlight. Jonathan Porritt gives us reason for hope after a decade of confronting climate change and Dara McAnulty, the 16-year-old winner of the Wainwright Prize for UK nature writing introduces his charming book *Diary of a Young Naturalist*.

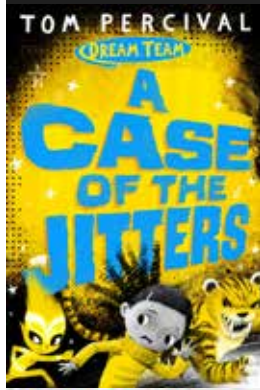
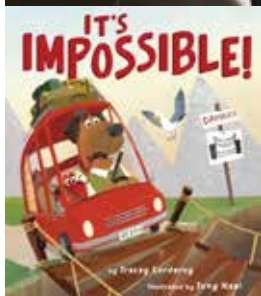
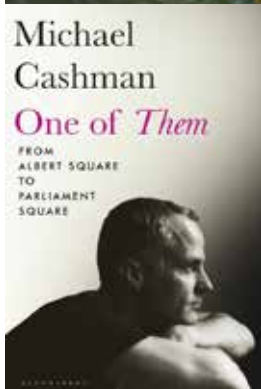
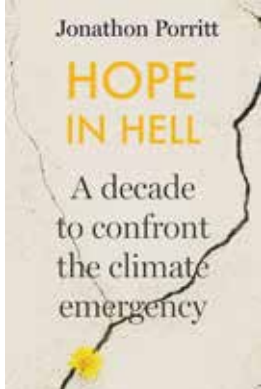
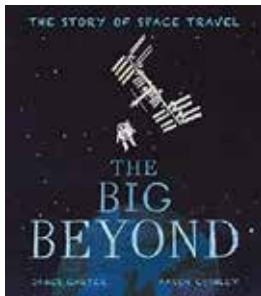
Sanderson is keen to broaden the appeal of the festival, and she believes McAnulty will chime with younger audiences. To that end, this year's festival has greater potential reach by virtue of being digital. The 2019 festival was considered a big hit with ticket sales of 4500, but there are no limits online. "It's actually pretty exciting that audiences can tune into our YouTube channel from anywhere", says Sanderson.

The Stroud Book Festival has depth, breadth, imagination and entertainment at its heart. It has been organised and curated with sure hands and inquisitive minds, supported by local businesses and community organisations. It is a blueprint for community action in a time of crisis that a few world leaders would do well to adopt.

For the full programme, further information and to subscribe to the Stroud Book Festival YouTube channel visit [stroudbookfestival.org.uk](https://www.stroudbookfestival.org.uk)

A FORMER JOURNALIST, JANE HAS WORKED IN THE INTERNATIONAL TV BUSINESS FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, ACROSS PRODUCTION, COMMISSIONING AND DISTRIBUTION. SHE IS NOW CHIEF CONTENT OFFICER OF SKY STUDIOS, THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION ARM OF SKY.





# STROUD BOOK FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

## WEDS 4TH NOV

**Dialect Workshop:** JLM Morton leads a free taster workshop for writers of all levels looking to kickstart, restart or simply enrich their existing practice.

**Mary Ann Sate, Imbecile:** Award-winning and Stroud author Alice Jolly presents the world premiere of Red Dog Production's audio adaptation of her novel Mary Ann Sate, Imbecile. Tuck up and tune into four further 15-minute streamed podcasts on successive nights of the festival.

## THURS 5TH NOV

**Schools' Day:** Prize-winning poet and guitarist James Carter heads into The Big Beyond for a rhyming, fact-fizzing exploration of space, space travel, science and song. Also, best-selling author Abi Elphinstone unlocks the magical worlds and characters in The Unmapped Chronicles.

**Dare to Be Great. Polly Higgins Tribute:** Join writers and campaigners Jini Reddy and Jonathon Porritt; with permaculture pioneer Maddy Harland in a celebration of the life and work of Polly Higgins, barrister, author and environmental campaigner.

**Hope in Hell: A Decade of Confronting Climate Change:** Jonathon Porritt, outlines his compelling blueprint for post Covid-19 recovery, for the people and the planet.

## FRI 6TH NOV

**Rare Books Behind the Museum:** Curators share the literary gems in the vaults of the Museum in the Park, including an early edition of The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland.

**The Case for Home Schooling:** Somewhat prescient discussion of Anna Dusseau's book advocating learning for life through home-schooling.

**How to Argue with a Racist:** Another timely discussion. Dr Adam Rutherford, geneticist, writer and broadcaster, draws on science and history to challenge both overt racism and the stereotypes and myths behind a world of unconscious bias.

**In Nearby Bushes:** Award-winning poet, novelist and essayist Kei Miller in conversation with Adam Horovitz

## SAT 7TH NOV

Sharpen your pencils for two draw-along events for big and small kids, featuring **The Best Place in the World & The Last Tiger**, with acclaimed author Petr Horáček; and **Unipiggle: The Unicorn Pig** by Stroud's award-winning author and illustrator Hannah Shaw.

**The Day I Fell into a Fairytale:** In conversation with actor, director and writer Ben Miller on the charm and drama of fairy tales. A family event for ages 8+.

**Mum and Dad:** Minchinhampton native and bestselling novelist Joanna Trollope delivers another astute chronicle of contemporary family life.

**A Place Called Home:** Internationally acclaimed designer Cath Kidston shares her journey to turn her rambling Stroud Valley manor house into a beautiful yet practical home.

**Tall Bones:** Exclusive. Anna Bailey discusses her forthcoming debut novel, described as a 'firecracker of a literary crime novel'.

**One of Them:** Actor-turned-LGBTQ+ activist and politician, Michael Cashman discusses the rich life that informed his memoir.

## SUN 8TH NOV

**Family Events:** Join Stroud authors Tracey Corderoy and Tom Percival as they share their adventures with their latest books, Impossible and Meet the Dream Team. Meanwhile Christopher Lloyd will boggle your brains with the Britannica All-New Children's Encyclopedia quiz.

**Small Island:** In association with Stroud Library, a special open reading group discussion of Andrea Levy's multi-award-winning novel. Re-read the book and join the live discussion.

**Travelling Hopefully:** Changing journeys, real and imagined, are at the heart of the latest bestselling books by Rachel Joyce and Raynor Winn – in conversation.

**Diary of a Young Naturalist:** 16-year-old Dara McNulty chronicles the life in a year from the perspective of an autistic teenager. Winner of the Wainwright Prize for UK nature writing.

**Stroud Short Stories no20, Disruption:** Ten authors read their stories, chosen from the 119 submitted by 90 Gloucestershire authors. Dedicated to the late Rick Vick.

**Festival Finale – Vesper Flights:** Helen Macdonald discusses her first book since her multi award-winning memoir, "H is for Hawk". A collection of forty-one essays, reflecting on human relationship with the natural world.



# STROUD SHORT STORIES

BY FIONA MAGEE

Stroud Short Stories is a bi-annual event, founded by local artist and writer Bill Jones in 2011, it's aims to encourage, promote and showcase contemporary writing by residents of Gloucestershire. Writers submit their stories, ten are selected by SSS organiser John Holland and a co-judge and, in 'normal' pre-COVID times, all ten stories are read aloud to a packed audience. Clearly, things will need to be a bit different this year - more on that later....

In 2014 John Holland took over from Bill as organiser, describing the post as 'a labour of love'. Former librarian, library campaigner and satirical gag writer for the BBC and Punch magazine, John started writing short fiction in 2012. He has now had more than a hundred stories and flash pieces published in anthologies, magazines and online and has won five short fiction contests, and been runner up, short listed, long listed, commended, etc in competitions nearly 50 times.

I met John for a cup of tea back in February - face-to-face, sitting on the same sofa, no-masks in sight...imagine! - and chatted again online recently, to get the low-down on what makes Stroud Short Stories such a special part of the area's arts landscape.

## **CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL CALLED STROUD SHORT STORIES "POSSIBLY THE BEST SHORT STORY EVENT IN THE SOUTH WEST" - WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES IT SO SPECIAL?**

Because it's crazy successful compared to many other short story events - this doesn't happen anywhere else. OK, there are events all over the country, but they don't get 150 people turn up and they don't sell out every event: every event we've held since May 2014 has completely sold out - that's 14 in succession. The quality is the thing that makes people come back again and again - there are some extraordinary stories. Of course, it's also partly about Stroud as a place - we are a creative centre and there's clearly something about the way we do it that makes people so enthusiastic.

## **WHAT MAKES A GOOD SHORT STORY?**

I am constantly asking myself that! There are no rules, but having said that...here are a few things to bear in mind. The key thing with a short story is that every word has to count, so make sure it's crisply written - you don't have time for verbiage or back story. If you've taken a whole page to set the scene, it's not going to work. You need to engage your reader from the very beginning.

Some entries have too much padding, I read them and want to shout 'Get on with the story!'. Create a universe the reader can buy into. A consistent authorial voice is a good thing, as is dialogue - that enlivens any story and will help with characterisation. Ideally there should be some sort of conflict in there and it shouldn't be predictable or mundane - there should be some sort of a surprise in it: a lot of the stories I read, I know what's going to happen, and it's great when I don't! Or even better, when I think I know and I'm proved wrong - that's fantastic.

## **I ALWAYS THINK ENDINGS ARE REALLY TRICKY IN SHORT STORIES - BOTH AS A WRITER AND A READER.**

Yes. I'm a short story writer myself and the ending is - as you say - the most difficult. We've had some very good stories that we haven't included because the author blew the ending, and it's really easy to do that. When I say I like surprises, I'm not talking about those 'twist at the end' kind of moments - I'm not keen on the 'it was all a dream', or it was aliens or ghosts kind of ending. People also have a tendency to explain the ending: don't. My suggestion is to re-read your story and then remove the last sentence. And then remove the last two sentences. See how that works. Then without the last three sentences and so on. Just keep cutting away until you are at the essence of what the story actually is. When it comes to a close a story should ideally give you a moment's pause for thought. You want something that's like a bell - it goes off and when you stop reading, it still resonates and you are still thinking about it for a while afterwards.

## **THERE WERE 119 STORIES BY 90 DIFFERENT GLOUCESTERSHIRE-BASED AUTHORS THIS YEAR, HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE TOP TEN?**

I always have a co-judge, this time it's novelist and short story author Ali Bacon. We both read everything - it's thorough, that's one of the things that makes SSS good. We don't see the names of the authors, we read them

blind, it's all anonymously judged. Most tend to come in as a flood in the last weekend - that's always an interesting time. Ali and I create a long list, then a shortlist, then the ten. The level of judging agreement varies! Not every short story, however good, will work when read out loud. That's always at the forefront of our minds when we're making our decisions.

## **THE READING-ALoud AND READING IT LIVE IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE - WHY IS THAT SO IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK?**

A few reasons: Personally, I consider reading short stories to an audience to be a rite of passage for authors - I was absolutely terrified about performing my short story the first time I did it, but it's so important. There's little to be gained sitting in a darkened room to hear an author read his or her words to you. You are fully 'in the now', not worrying about anything else. You lose yourself in it, and I think that's really special. And it's important to note that SSS has always been very much a live event. Yes we've published two anthologies, we do podcasts and videos but essentially it's about people coming along to hear authors read their own stories - and to me, everything else is peripheral. People refer to SSS as a competition but although there is a competitive element to it, it's more of a curation. It's about choosing 10 stories that will work together, of an evening, to amuse, inspire and entertain an audience. There is also a strong social and networking element to live SSS events. Authors meet authors and share their successes, failures, hopes and dreams; firm friendships have been formed between authors who met for the first time at SSS; audience members talk to authors about their work, or are inspired to start writing their own stories.

## **THIS YEAR'S THEME IS DISRUPTION - CAN YOU TELL ME A BIT ABOUT THAT?**

When we chose the theme DISRUPTION last December we had no idea how prescient it would be. Submissions actually closed on the 8th

**THE KEY THING WITH A SHORT STORY IS THAT EVERY WORD HAS TO COUNT, SO MAKE SURE IT'S CRISPLY WRITTEN - YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR VERBIAGE OR BACK STORY. IF YOU'VE TAKEN A WHOLE PAGE TO SET THE SCENE, IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.**

John Holland







Robin Booth



Geoff Mead



Emma Kernahan



John Holland



Steve Wheeler



Rick Vick



Ali Bacon

March, two weeks before the COVID lockdown so it follows that most of the stories are not pandemic related. Disruption can be about all kinds of things, it doesn't have to be literal – we wanted writers to think about it widely. This year's event is dedicated to the late Rick Vick – local author, writing tutor, events organiser and SSS mainstay, who sadly died last year. DISRUPTION is a theme Rick would have loved. Rick helped support Bill Jones in setting up SSS in June 2011 and read at the first one. In total Rick read eight times at SSS – a record. We miss him dearly.

**THINKING OF CURRENT TIMES AND KEEPING WITH THE THEME OF 'DISRUPTION' – HOW HAVE YOU MANAGED TO STILL GO AHEAD THIS YEAR?**

The choices in this year of pandemic were clear - go exclusively online or don't hold an event at all. So, on Sunday 8th November our event will be held on YouTube via links on the SSS website at 7.30pm. The chosen ten stories have now been recorded ready for November and it's been interesting hearing from the authors about how they've found doing it this way. Many said they missed the buzz of the live event, the sighs and laughter of the audience. But certainly there are pros as well as cons - some authors have been less nervous in front of a camera rather than standing reading into a microphone on a stage to an audience. In close up

on screen, the facial expressions - the manifestation of emotion on the faces of the authors - are clearer and possibly more powerful than at a distance. It will be really interesting to see how many views each recorded story receives on YouTube. It's special for a number of reasons this year: It's part of the wonderful Stroud Book Festival (all their events are also online this year too) it's also our 20th event since we were founded in 2011 and it's also free for the first time. My hope is, of course, that our next event, which will be on Sunday 9th May 2021, is live once more in front of a sell-out audience at the Cotswold Playhouse.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ANYONE WHO IS THINKING – AND MAYBE HESITATING! – ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED AND SUBMITTING A SHORT STORY?**

The thing to remember about short stories is that this is how we already share our everyday experiences: when we meet as friends what do we do? We tell each other little stories, "This funny thing happened to me last week....". The telling of stories, and the listening to them, is built so deep within us. Tap into it. I get it – that fear of failure, the blank page, am I good enough to write something excellent? As Rick Vick said, "Just write every day. It doesn't matter whether it's shit or not. Eventually it will improve." I'd like more young people to submit. We want to hear their voices!

.....  
The stories chosen this time are by Robin Booth, Stephen Connolly, Hannah Glickstein, Claire Harrison, Emma Kernahan, Geoff Mead, Simon Piney, Mark Rutterford, Sharon Webster and Steve Wheeler. As if it were a live event they will be placed on the SSS website in the order John thinks works well, but being YouTube, viewers can pick and choose which or whether they watch each story as they wish. SSS open for submissions again at the end of January 2021 for an open themed event on Sunday 9th May at the Cotswold Playhouse. LIVE – we hope!

For news, updates and links to this year's online event visit [stroudshortstories.blogspot.co.uk](http://stroudshortstories.blogspot.co.uk) and [stroudbookfestival.org.uk](http://stroudbookfestival.org.uk) The first book in the Stroud Short Stories anthology series covering 2011-15 is available online from [lulu.com](http://lulu.com) and volume 2 2015-18 can be purchased from Made in Stroud, the Yellow Lighted Bookshop and via amazon.

—  
FIONA MAGEE HAS WRITTEN OVER 200 ARTICLES FOR THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. RESEARCH FELLOW AT LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY, SHE CURRENTLY WORKS WITH THE READER CHARITY (THEREADER.ORG.UK), RUNNING LITERATURE-FOR-MENTAL-HEALTH GROUPS WITHIN HMP EASTWOOD PARK. SHE ALSO WORKS AT STROUD BREWERY. HER BOOK, CO-AUTHORED WITH PROFESSOR PHIL DAVIS - ARTS FOR HEALTH SERIES 'READING' - IS PUBLISHED BY EMERALD ON OCT 29TH.

# TEDX STROUD WOMEN

BY JENNY PATTON

## NEXT MONTH TEDX FINALLY COMES TO STROUD, BROUGHT TO US BY ONE OF OUR RELATIVELY NEW BUT NOTEWORTHY RESIDENTS, ROZ SAVAGE MBE, ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE AND THE FIRST (AND SO FAR, ONLY) WOMAN TO ROW SOLO ACROSS THE WORLD'S "BIG THREE" OCEANS...

TED is a non-profit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, it launched in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and has since evolved into a community of knowledge sharing spanning all disciplines and cultures.

TEDx is their grassroots initiative, the vehicle for bringing the spirit of TED into local communities to uncover their new ideas, share research and spark conversations. The TED concept feels especially fitting for our great town of Stroud, a melting pot of ideas and conversations that have for centuries influenced positive social and environmental change.

Event organizer and TED veteran Roz Savage has a habit of jumping into big ideas (cite solo rowing across oceans to raise awareness of environmental issues) and was inspired to launch the event after listening to an interview with Chris Anderson, head of TED, outlining his longer-term objectives. "I chose TED as a platform for sharing my experiences and ideas because it has incredible reach, the concept for making great ideas accessible through free knowledge sharing is a true practice of emergence and I find that incredibly thrilling." Says Roz.

Roz put forward Emergence for the theme of the event at the very first meeting with the TEDxStroudWomen team and it perhaps feels fitting at a time where we are emerging from the effects of an unprecedented pandemic, but the theme is about much more than that. "To explain emergence, you have to start with synergy," begins Roz. "Synergy describes different parts coming together to form a whole and to me, the exciting thing about emergence is the idea that the whole can become greater than the sum of the parts. That's pretty magical. In science we see it in things like water, where one water molecule isn't 'wet', but a load of molecules are. In ecology, we now know that a forest is more than a bunch of trees – its emergent property is as an interconnected, vibrant ecosystem of trees, fungus, and creatures. And in the human world, we often say two heads are better than one, and when you add in emergence, two heads are actually exponentially better than one!"

Roz first experienced the power of 'emergence' on her 50th birthday when she brought together a diverse group of 35 insightful women in a retreat environment to see what would emerge. It was groundbreaking stuff, and from this small beginning her community 'The Sisters' was born. Two years on and the The Sisters are a thriving community working towards a vision for changing the world by harnessing the intelligence and strength of the world's women and directing their actions toward change.

It is through this lens that Roz and her dedicated team are approaching the TEDxStroudWomen event; due to take place during the same fortnight as the international TEDWomen 2020 it also supports their vision that in this moment, diversity of ideas is more important than ever.

And what a range of diverse ideas there will be, with nine 15-minute talks spanning education, economics, sustainability, compassion, rural life, intergenerational trauma and creative collaboration, the ambition for TEDxStroudWomen is to create space for these diverse ideas to synergise, complement one another and see what magic emerges.

When asked to pick a favourite she bites her lip and looks upwards, eyes flickering, considering, "the selection process was agonising at times," says Roz. "The standard of entries was incredible, each team member had more than one favourite that didn't make it through. Our selection process was rigorous, considering the merit of the ideas but also the diversity of the program and so we actually have more than a few that got away" She adds. "We are so proud of the final line up, and as the workshops with our speakers continue, we couldn't be more excited to bring these ideas to the event." When pushed further to share a favourite Roz is reluctant but quietly references Dr. Zareen Roohi Ahmed, as one of the most moving stories stating, "it will be hard for anyone not to be moved by this wonderful woman who took such a heartbreaking personal tragedy and turned it into the motivation to be a force for good."

Due to the ever-evolving restrictions the TEDxStroudWomen team have recently had

to take the painful decision to become a virtual event. "Our core intention was to use TEDxStroudWomen to build community and we had imagined this would be easier to do in a real-life event, so we were considering cancelling this year all together." Says Roz, "But with TEDWomen only happening once a year and the topics we are covering being incredibly timely for 2020, we couldn't afford for this delay. With the support of our expert partners at twentythree.net we are curating a fully interactive and community building experience to live up to our original intentions and allow us to spread this unique experience even further."

As a member of the audience, the team and speakers at TEDxStroudWomen are inviting you as individuals to become part of the TEDxStroudWomen whole; your attendance won't be a passive experience; as with life imitating art, by being part of this synergy you have the opportunity to be part of the emergence. That's an idea worth spreading.

.....  
The event takes place on Sun 29th November at 2pm - 6pm with the final line up featuring Ann Finlayson (the Chief Executive at SEEd), Sharlize Nicholas (designer and director at Madia & Matilda), Inez Aponte (facilitator and educator in the Human Scale Development), Lucy Chan (Mindful Living Retreats), Dr Zareen Roohi Ahmed (founder of social enterprise Gift Wellness), Nishita Dewa (founder of CollaboratEQ), Jojo Mehta (co-founder of the Stop Ecocide campaign), Angela Findlay (professional artist, writer and freelance lecturer and a former teacher of art in prisons) and Eleanor Salter (writer and climate activist).

Tickets are on sale now at the early bird price of £5, rising to £7.50 at the end of October. For news, updates and the link to the Eventbrite page visit [tedxstroudwomen.co.uk](https://tedxstroudwomen.co.uk)

JENNY PATTON IS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE REGENERATIVE ECONOMY AND ONE HALF OF LEVELDESIGN.UK, A CREATIVE AGENCY WORKING TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD BY MAKING BIG AGENCY TALENT ACCESSIBLE TO EVOLVE BRANDS WITH INTEGRITY.

## THE SPEAKERS:



**ANN  
FINLAYSON**

Executive Director and Founder  
of SEEd

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**ELEANOR  
SALTER**

Writer and climate activist

---



**INEZ  
APONTE**

Facilitator and educator in the  
Human Scale Development

---



**LUCY  
CHAN**

Mindful Living Retreats

---



**NISHITA  
DEWA**

Founder of CollaboratEQ

---



**SHARLIZE  
NICHOLAS**

Designer and director at  
Madia & Matilda

---



**ANGELA  
FINDLAY**

Professional artist, writer and  
freelance lecturer

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**JOJO  
MEHTA**

Co-founder of Stop Ecocide

---



**DR ZAREEN  
ROOHI AHMED**

Founder of Gift Wellness

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# KATE YOUNG

BY JUDITH GUNN

**“I’M A WINTER FAN AND ALSO A CHRISTMAS FAN, SO IT WAS THE PERFECT BOOK FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO WRITE.”**

Personally I’m not a winter fan, but I do like Christmas and Kate Young’s book *The Little Library Christmas* is already setting me up for the celebrations, whatever they may be!

Kate Young is a food writer, recipe writer and a true fan, not just of winter, but of literature. “The blog was called *The Little Library Cafe*, which I started in March 2014 and it was putting a recipe a week online.” Recipes inspired by beloved literature, but Kate didn’t start out as a food writer.

Kate was born “out here” (in the UK) as she puts, it and brought up in Brisbane, Australia “I would say that my lived experience of Australia is that it is an incredibly food focused place...there is just such a lot of passion for sitting outside, eating together and having a nice drink and that very much is part of my childhood.”

Part of the success of Australia’s “superfoodie” status, Kate explains, is the produce. There are tropical tastes of mango, avocado, banana in Brisbane but not far away (by Oz standards) across the Great Dividing Range, it’s colder, and that serves up the best apples and then there’s seafood and the wine and the different heritages. But Kate did not start with food, she started as a theatre producer. She took Theatre Studies and Drama Teaching at the Queensland University of Technology so when she escaped the Australian summer and came to London, she worked with youth projects as a producer for The National Theatre, the National Youth Theatre and The Tricycle Theatre.

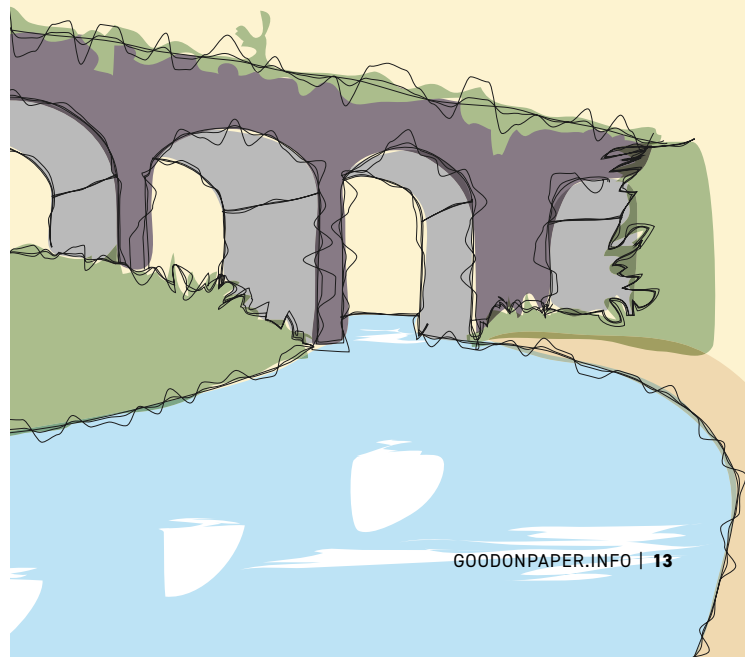
“I loved producing, it was absolutely the bit of theatre that I wanted to do, I loved being that person that brings everyone together.” Her love of theatre is not dimmed and she finds the current situation regarding the support or lack of it for the arts “deeply upsetting”. She is cogent in her defence of theatre on

# STROUDWATER NAVIGATION

Last Thursday my thirst bettered me  
 and I drank the Stroudwater Canal  
 all eight miles of it down in one  
 long swallow. I can't stop barking  
 like the paddleboarder's spaniel,  
 picking at the tail hair in my teeth.  
 Once I'd got over the cygnet's egg,  
 the trolley and milk-bottled mud,  
 I choked on brick at Nutshell Bridge,  
 tasted coal, lung tonic, the dust  
 of widow-makers settled in  
 the gunwale of a Severn Trow.  
 Bow-hauled by ghosts, their coprolalia  
 on my lips made me madder than a stroud.  
 My stomach foundered on tradecloth,  
 the theft of New World skin and bone,  
 I got high on tea and opium  
 a Montecarlo pleasure boat  
 sailed my intestines.  
 All my depth perception's gone,  
 I've let the flock go to my head,  
 how is it I keep thirsting  
 like the Navigation's dead?

BY JLM MORTON

**JLMMORTON.COM**



economic terms, but that's for another day. Ultimately she was never tempted by the life of a thespian, acting and directing did not appeal so in 2014 she started baking. "It was a tough year emotionally. I had been here for five years and had a real sense that I would probably be here permanently, that was certainly the hope. But I think I was missing my family and the security of being around people you love all the time."

Following a career in production was likely to lead her away from the aspects she enjoyed. "I think that it wasn't a lack of creative outlet that made me want to do something different, it was that I wanted to do something independent." The Little Library Cafe blog was born, the Guardian found it, reposted it and ultimately offered her a column which she wrote until 2018, when books took over. The Little Library Cookbook came out in 2017 followed by The Little Library Year and The Little Library Christmas which was published in October. You can buy it from her now in Stroud Bookshop where she sometimes works.

Kate moved to Stroud in 2019 to be with friends but, she says, "the farmers market was an enormous draw." Last Christmas Kate's Stroud flat was dressed for Christmas and the The Little Christmas Cafe book was photographed. Her cooking is authentic, her cookbook meticulously presented and yes every literary influence has been read "I'm really fastidious about that, in that I don't want to include a book if I don't think it's worth recommending."

"Food" says Kate "comes into play in so many books in so many different ways, not just in enjoyable ways, but the lack of it becomes a plot." Food can tell the reader so much about the character "whether they enjoy eating ...how easy it is for them to get access to food... how expensive it is ... perhaps a sense of somebody's cultural background."

"I think that I have found that all my favourite descriptions of food are generally in books by women and they are generally set in domestic settings which gives a chance for people to sit down around the table together and eat a meal, and that is the sort of food that I most love to recreate" She cites Elizabeth Jane Howard's The Cazalet Chronicles as a favourite.

And the men? Marcel Proust and his petites madeleines in Remembrance of Things Past. "I mean the whole idea of food having a sense memory or of putting you in a particular place is Proust." But few write about food like Charles Dickens. "There is so much rich brilliant detail of the food. I mean in A Christmas Carol, but also in everything, in all of Dickens because he grew up hungry." Kate's Little Library Christmas does include A Christmas Carol in fact she is adamant that the film The Muppet Christmas Carol is the best rendition of the story ever made. "The food in The Muppet Christmas Carol is perfect, it is beautiful." Then there is Little Women, both in book form and film form "that Christmas breakfast is really visceral... and certainly the detail of that is really laid out on the screen as it is on the page." The food, the sacrifice and generosity with it, as described in Little Women are crucial to stories we tell. Even arguments about brussels sprouts can delight and inform, such as depicted in Anne Enright's The Green Road or how they can be cooked to perfection as described in The Country Child by Alison Uttley.

The Little Library Christmas includes the food of literature and the joy of the event; themed thoughts on the winter, the search for a tree, Christmas TV and film. There are recipes for all tastes and traditions, vegan and vegetarian.

Who knows what Christmas will bring? But the Little Library Christmas will provide cooking for comfort.

The Little Library Christmas is out now via Head of Zeus (headofzeus.com).

For news, recipes, books and more visit [thelittlelibrarycafe.com](http://thelittlelibrarycafe.com) and follow Kate on facebook @thelittlelibrarycafe and twitter through instagram @bakingfiction



JUDITH GUNN IS A FRUSTRATED SCREENWRITER AND THE AUTHOR OF DOSTOYEVSKY: A LIFE OF CONTRADICTION. SHE HAS TWO STORIES IN THE LATEST EDITION OF STROUD SHORT STORIES AND IS THE CREATOR OF ONLINE EDUCATIONAL CONTENT AND BOOKS. SHE DOES THIS WHILE TUTORING STUDENTS ONLINE AND WRITING THE GREAT NOVEL. [JUDITHGUNN.COM](http://JUDITHGUNN.COM)

## *A Shed of Should*

*by Bill Jones*

*For too long I lived in a shed of should  
parked on the edge of the historic  
wanting grounds of others.*

*Sometimes I'd make excuses and disappear  
into a wood of woulds  
and disguise myself there.*

*But how little it mattered to anyone:  
all their desires were fleeting as deer.*

*And now, although they look aslant,  
I sit here in my shed of shan't.*





## LITERATURE/ SPOKEN WORD

### ENGLAND UNCOVERED - GUIDED WALKS

**SAT 31ST OCT/SAT 14TH NOV/SAT  
28TH NOV**  
Stroud: Bottoms' Up - A Guided  
Walk

On this guided walk you will explore the growth of Stroud from backwater to behemoth and on the way discover the last fatal pistol duel, the Napoleonic hero who almost became a schoolboy statistic and the man who made the suburban weekend. Arrive early and take a look around Stroud's famous farmers' market. The tour ends at the Stroud Brewery - where you get a free beer to toast Stroud's most famous son. 11am-1pm £12pp from: [englanduncovered.eventbrite.co.uk](http://englanduncovered.eventbrite.co.uk)

**SUN 15TH/SUN 29TH**

Painswick: Paradise and Puppy Dog  
Pie - A Guided Walk

Known as the Queen of the Cotswolds, Painswick may look sleepy, but it's certainly seen its share of action. Join a guided tour and hear about the origin of bowls, donkey doors, Puppy Dog Pie and the famous Clypping ceremony. You will also raise a cup to some of the famous sons and residents of Painswick, one of whom went on to create a beverage empire. 15th 2-3:30pm/29th 11am-12:30pm £12pp from: [englanduncovered.eventbrite.co.uk](http://englanduncovered.eventbrite.co.uk)

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

### ST GEORGE'S CHURCH NAILSWORTH

**FRI 6TH**

Yellowlighted Bookshop Presents:  
James Rebanks - English Pastoral  
James Rebanks' new book 'English Pastoral' has helped redefine our ideas about what we eat, who we are, and how we should live our lives. Both personal and polemical, James is first and foremost a farmer, but he brings to bear insights from many different perspectives. Against the grain, 'English Pastoral' is an optimist book, written by a pragmatic man with a lot to say. James is being interviewed by Benedict Macdonald (author of 'Rebirthing' and 'Orchard'). This is a real live event, and the YLB will be following strict safety measures. Tickets will NOT be available on the door. 7:30pm £10/£7.50concs in adv from: [ticketsource.co.uk/yellowlightedbookshop/t-nqeyqk](http://ticketsource.co.uk/yellowlightedbookshop/t-nqeyqk)

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

### PREMA ARTS CENTRE ULEY

**SAT 28TH**

Christmas Calligraphy  
Emma Barnes of Emerald Paper Design hosts this evening's beginners' guide to modern calligraphy with a fabulous festive twist. Learn the basics of modern calligraphy and then put your new-found skills to good use as you produce your own Christmas decoration and go home with a full kit of goodies to get you started on your festive calligraphy journey! 2-5pm £33/£30concs

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

### TETBURY GOODS SHED

**SAT 7TH**

Wilde Without the Boy  
Wilde without the Boy and the Ballad of Reading Gaol is Gareth Armstrong's brilliant dramatisation of "De Profundis", Oscar Wilde's searing letter to his lover, written from his Reading Gaol cell. Performed by Olivier Award nominee Gerard Logan and with music by Simon Slater, the piece is a window into the bruised soul of a literary genius. Wilde's poem The Ballad of Reading Gaol narrates the execution of Charles Thomas Wooldridge, convicted of murdering his wife. Award-winning composer Simon Slater's beautiful and original score provides a moving accompaniment to the performance. 7:30pm £12.50

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

### NEW BREWERY ARTS

**MON 9TH**

Modern Calligraphy  
During the session, key modern calligraphy basics will be covered; how to use the essential tools, mark making drills to practice applying pressure to your new pen, and alphabet practices before moving on to whole words. Emma from Emerald Paper Design will be giving demonstrations each step of the way, as well as being on hand for individual guidance. 10am-12pm £55

**MON 9TH**

Brush Lettering

An introduction to watercolour writing. Emma, from Emerald Paper Design will be hosting a beginners guide to brush lettering. 12:30-2:30pm £55

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

## COMEDY

### UNDER THE EDGE ARTS WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

**SAT 7TH**

An Audience With....Cerys Nelmes!  
Just like the popular British entertainment television show join local home grown comedian, Cerys Nelmes, as she performs for a limited socially distanced COVID responsible audience! There will be comedy, audience participation, with extracts from her popular solo shows Gameshow Mash-Up and Bush Fire, interspersed with questions from the audience, in a light hearted revue style. 7:30pm £7

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

## SEND US YOUR LISTINGS

EMAIL:  
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[GOODONPAPER.INFO](http://GOODONPAPER.INFO)



## Hawthorn Press Thoughtful books

As part of Stroud Book Festival 2020

*The Case for Homeschooling: free range home education handbook*

Book launch Friday 6th November 17:30 - 18:30 GMT



OUT  
NOW IN  
PAPERBACK  
AND  
E-BOOK

Join us for an online panel discussion about homeschooling and education with author Anna Dusseau.

[https://stroudbookfestival.org.uk/events/  
the-case-for-home-schooling-with-anna-dusseau/](https://stroudbookfestival.org.uk/events/the-case-for-home-schooling-with-anna-dusseau/)

@HawthornPressUK @NotTheSchoolRun

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

## CONNECTING LOCAL BUSINESSES & LOCAL RIDERS to local people

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a team of dedicated young people got together to transport items locally on bikes. We wanted to get active and be part of the solution supporting local businesses and their community.

### Business to Business

We connect businesses with local riders to develop regular deliveries and supply chains.

### Business to Customer

Access to goods from businesses that previously haven't offered delivery, or businesses new to sustainable, pedal powered delivery.



**WINNER** Stroud's Local Lockdown Hero Award 2020



To find out more, email  
[harry@thebikedrop.co.uk](mailto:harry@thebikedrop.co.uk)

# THE PRINCE ALBERT

BY ELVIS MCGONAGALL

IMAGES BY CARMEL KING

**RODBOROUGH HILL IS STEEP. VERY STEEP. BUT THE CLIMB IS WORTH IT. FOR AT THE TOP LIES A GEM - THE BEST BOHO BOOZER IN THE WEST AND MY FAVOURITE PUB ON THE PLANET, THE PRINCE ALBERT. AS THEIR WI-FI PASSWORD SAYS, "ILOVETHEPA". I'VE HUFFED AND PUFFED MY WAY UP IN THE PAST AS A CUSTOMER, A PERFORMER AND A WEEKEND BARMAN BUT TODAY I'M HERE FOR GOOD ON PAPER TO TALK TO THE LANDLORDS, LOTTE LYSTER AND MILES CONNOLLY, TO FIND OUT HOW THEY'RE COPING IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS.**

It's been six months since I last sat in the courtyard here. Lotte and Miles had just returned from their Thai honeymoon after getting "civilised" in February and the world was yet to be turned upside down by a pandemic. A couple of weeks later the country was in lockdown and the Albert was shut.

As Lotte and Miles say on their website, the Albert is much more than just a pub. It's "a performance space, a gallery, a living room, a quick chat with friends new and old, a meeting point and always a friendly face". Their passion is "making events" and the Albert is home to fantastic entertainment - live music, "silent" cinema, comedy and even (whisper it) stand-up poetry. I can vouchsafe that it's a fabulous place to play with an atmosphere that's second to none. A focal point for the local community it welcomes everyone from knitting clubs to all female Morris dancing sides, it hosts parliamentary hustings and mask making workshops and collects donations for Stroud Food Bank (a ton and a half of groceries so far and still counting).

While they were closed Lotte and Miles did a bit of re-decorating. The bottle green walls are now a lusciously vivid lockdown yellow and blue (complimenting the remaining neon pink bits) and although the socially un-distanced chaise longue is currently upstairs in their living quarters the vibe remains the same - a little bit rock 'n roll, a little bit louche lounge lizard - more Brixton backstreet than Cotswold country. Those psychedelic walls are still adorned with images of Tom Waits, Ian Dury, John Cooper Clarke et al. Kitsch chandeliers, a painted double bass and all manner of objets d'art hang from the ceilings.

Newcomers are often surprised to discover that despite the idiosyncratic

décor The Prince Albert isn't a free house but is owned by one of Britain's "Pubco's". It's a labour of love running a pub and as tenants it's financially precarious at the best of times. Lotte and Miles' income is regularly supplemented by Miles' work as a roadie for Glenn Tilbrook and Squeeze and his business supplying marquees to festivals. So what do you do when the entire hospitality and entertainment industries close down overnight?

Their Pubco gave them a rent holiday but that rent was still due at some point. Lotte says they were reluctant to look like they were begging but they decided to take part in a national initiative launched by the Music Venue Trust to help prevent the closure of hundreds of independent venues through Crowdfunding. As an established and much respected grassroots music venue live gigs are part of the Albert's DNA. They put on everything from Tuvan throat singers to Caledonian punkabilly via Baroque ensembles, feel-good funk, roots reggae and Balkan gypsy ska. The playlist they curated for last month's issue of this magazine gives a flavour of their wonderfully eclectic taste.

The Crowdfunding page raised £2,000 overnight and has now reached over £12,000. "We were blown away by the outpouring of love" says Lotte. A quick look at the comments section of that page reveals that the Albert is held in huge affection by locals and occasional visitors alike - and with good reason. Lotte and Miles' energy, warmth and generosity is legendary. They've housed, fed and watered countless itinerant bands some of whom stayed for days and found themselves sharing a bed with Erik the hedgehog.

The money raised proved a vital fighting fund to keep them afloat until they could re-open. In the meantime they installed



two pizza ovens supplied by the Pubco and started selling takeaway Barrel & Stone pizzas prepared by Miles in his new self-styled incarnation - "Skinny Milo's". Before Covid 19 various pop-up restaurants would serve a smorgasbord of food in the courtyard - Japanese, Jamaican, Indian vegetarian, burgers and - yes - pizzas. However, since re-opening in July they've continued to do the food themselves with table service as well as takeaway. As Miles says "without the pizzas we wouldn't be here". They sold 999 of them in August (the vegetarian "Garden Club" proving particularly popular - natch - this is Stroud).

They've been meticulous in complying with Covid-safe regulations with detailed information on their website and whilst the essence of the Albert is the same they've had to completely re-style what they do to keep going. "It's like starting a new business from scratch" says Miles. Lotte agrees showing me the bookings for the evening - "yes, a restaurant business". Numbers are necessarily down and regulars aren't as regular so staffing is currently mainly kept in the family - Lotte's daughters Ruby and Pearl with "assistance" from resident canines Fernando, Baxter and recent arrival Margot. It's a balancing act between not having too many customers but enough to make a living. However, they're making it work. More than that, undeterred by the fact that nobody really knows what even tomorrow might bring they continue to make plans.

As befits Stroud CAMRA's pub of the year 2020 the beer here (from Stroud Brewery, Bristol Beer Company and

beyond) is excellent and on November 4th they're putting on another Beer Festival (a sort of NotOktoberFest, lederhosen not required). Unlike previous festivals that have attracted throngs of drinkers this will have to be a slower, low-key, "heated and seated" affair. November should also see the screening of a BBC2 documentary Saving Britain's Pubs with chef Tom Kerridge - the Albert is one of the four featured pubs. Details are hush-hush at the moment but watch this space...

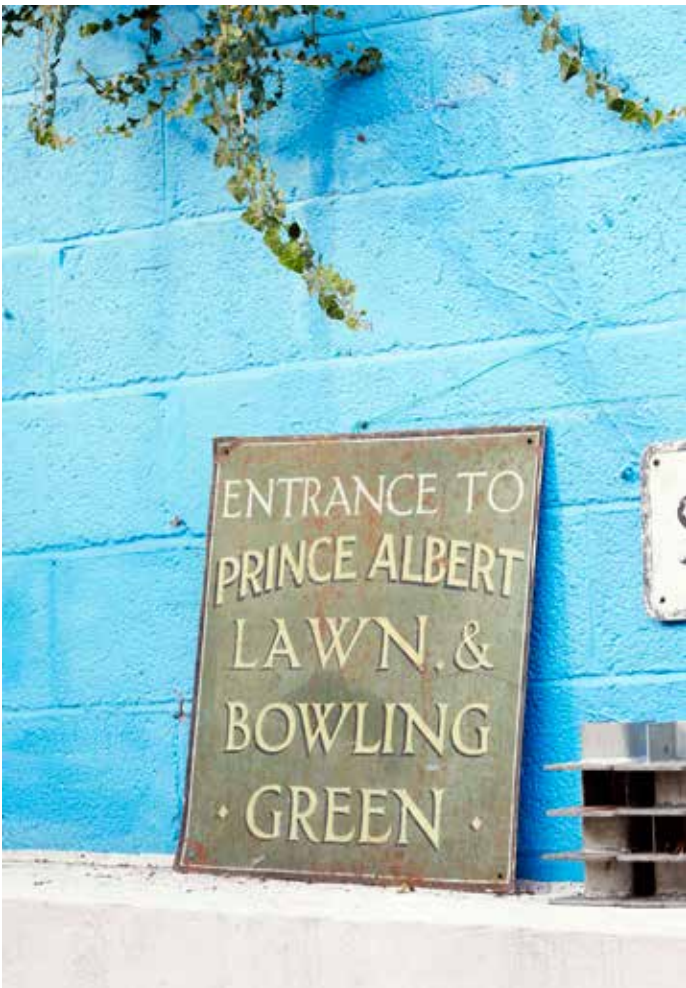
As I leave I ask them who would be their dream booking for the first gig back whenever this crisis might be over. "I'd love to have Cerys Matthews play here", says Lotte. Miles laughs, "there's this bloke called Elvis McGonagall". It's good to see that a plague hasn't dampened his sense of humour.

Next May will see the 25th anniversary of Lotte being at the helm, 15 of those with Miles and as I saunter back down the hill I think of Hilaire Belloc's words, "when you have lost your inns, drown your empty selves, for you will have lost the last of England". The Prince Albert is the beating heart and soul of Stroud. Let's all ensure it carries on beating for many years to come.

For news and updates visit [theprincealbertstroud.co.uk](http://theprincealbertstroud.co.uk)

ELVIS MCGONAGALL IS A STAND-UP POET AND ARMCHAIR REVOLUTIONARY WHO LIVES IN STROUD. "COMPLETE AND UTTER CULT!" A COLLECTION OF HIS POEMS FROM 2017-2020 IS PUBLISHED THIS MONTH BY BURNING EYE BOOKS - [ELVISMCGONAGALL.CO.UK](http://ELVISMCGONAGALL.CO.UK)









# MERMAID CHUNKY

BY RUBY KESTER  
IMAGES BY SIMON PIZZEY

**ONCE AGAIN THE COLLABORATIVE DUO THAT MAKES UP THE MERMAID CHUNKY MOTHERSHIP HAS LANDED IN STYLE WITH THE RELEASE OF THEIR NEW SINGLE GEMINI GIRLS ON SEPTEMBER 18TH 2020.**

**THIS EXPLOSIVE SONG MARKS THE START OF SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER: THE RELEASE OF THEIR DEBUT ALBUM VEST, WITH FAITH AND INDUSTRY RECORDS.**

Formed in 2017, Mermaid Chunky are now a regular in the Stroud arts and music scene: when you see them on a line up you know that you're in for a good night. Freya Tate and Moina Walker share out the roles in the band between them as they see fit – the music, the lyrics, the costumes... all are collaborative.

Mermaid Chunky is quite a hard band to categorise, not only because their sound is so unique but also because they couple it with elements of avant-garde performance art, comedy and just plain wholesomeness. Who could help but like them? They don't fit into any particular genre yet they take aspects from many including psytrance, jazz, club, hip hop, spoken word and (in their own words) The Shepherders' Guide to Music. Their invigorating performances have succeeded in raising the calibre of what a good night out means.

I caught up with them remotely, with the intention of finding out something new and something fun. They, of course, delivered.

**COLLABORATION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO YOUR ETHOS, AND YOU WORK HARD TO BRING AS MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE ABOARD THE MERMAID CHUNKY MOTHERSHIP AS POSSIBLE. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ENJOY ABOUT WORKING WITH OTHERS?**

**Freya:** It gives everyone a lot of energy.

**Moina:** I feel like, for me there's no point

if you don't get everyone involved.

**Freya:** It goes flat if you don't share and change stuff.

**Moina:** Totally, it gets so exciting when you've got so many amazing friends who can do all these amazing things. You want to be involved in their magic.

**ON THE NOTE OF COLLABORATIONS, ARE THERE ANY IN PARTICULAR THAT STOOD OUT TO YOU AS VERY EXCITING?**

**M:** That's hard... the people who really shine are all the amazing hometown Stroud crew. Everyone has amazing creativity and openness... an openness that can be hard to find. It cooks up a powerful feeling of shared ownership. But particular music collaborations? There have been so many but I really enjoyed playing with Yoshino Shigihara and Ursula Russell that time.

**F:** Yes, I was about to say that. Was it These Girls [a song by MC]? It was already really hectic and we had the drum machine, Ursula started doing this amazing drumming over the top and Yoshino on percussion, so it was kind of like having three drummers. Very intense.

**YOUR NEW ALBUM VEST IS BEING RELEASED WITH THE INDEPENDENT RECORD LABEL FAITH AND INDUSTRY. HOW DID YOU CHOOSE WHO TO GET YOUR MUSIC RELEASED BY? (OR DID THEY CHOOSE YOU?)**



**F:** Well we've worked with Kristian (Capitol K) before. He recorded our album at the Total Refreshment Centre in London. We really enjoyed working with him, and then he asked us to be on his label. It just seemed like the natural thing to do.

**M:** He's recorded some amazing musicians. He recorded Tony Alan just before he passed away, The Comet is Coming, Alabaster dePlume, Snapped Ankles, so you know, he knows what he's doing. He's very lovely and he doesn't tell us what to do, which is what we like.

**TINY TOPS. LITTLE WORDS. PINK BIKINIS. SWIMMING CAPS. WHAT WAS BEHIND THE DECISION TO CALL YOUR LATEST ALBUM VEST?**

**M:** So we were on our way to do this live performance on Worldwide FM, feeling excitedly nervous. We realised we were going to be asked about our album and what it might be called. It was quite a big occasion and we were like sh\*t we need to come up with a name right now! Right in this nauseous taxi! There were lots of silent pauses. I then said 'BEST', there was like a 20 minute pause and then Freya said 'VEST'. We both found it incredibly funny, both of us got really hysterical for some reason. But I think it seems to work because the vest is like the foundation of any kind of expression that goes on top.

**F:** It's kind of symbolic because the songs that are in Vest we've been doing

for three years and they have always been constantly changing. It's like they are the blueprint for a different journey every time. They always have the same ... 'oh the base comes in here and the clap comes in here' but then the lyrics will change and then the whole mood might change which is nice - a framework to build a whole outfit on for the winter.

**M:** It's our debut album, so it's the first layer we're buttering up the world with. Who knows what is going to come next. We like to create anticipation and vests can do that very well. Also we couldn't say no to the endless slogans ... 'Invest in Vest', 'Vest Yourself', 'Invested', 'Vest is the Best'.

**TAKE US THROUGH A JOURNEY OF THE ALBUM.**

**M:** It starts off with quite a soft song, aww, which feels like little creatures searching through the landscape.

**F:** It's super sensitive and then it gets a bit more desperate as it goes on.

**M:** The next track is Friends, which we actually recorded twice and the second take was so much more desperate.

**F:** It got really clingy and really psychotic. But also earnest as well, like a song by someone who's actually a stalker but it doesn't mean their feelings aren't really real to them. It's actually beautiful and transcendent.

**M:** Then we've got Gemini Girls, a

song you may have heard ... our recent single. A juxtaposition of feelings following on from Friends. We recently got some feedback from a DJ about Gemini Girls who was like 'love this sleazy little number'. Guest that sums it up.

**F:** The next group of girls is, These Girls. A frantic song about pulling yourself out of the muck and going out for the night. Club power. Keeping going.

**M:** Then we have Newbury Bypass. That is a very confusing song, very short, very percussive. Freya does some really good chopping tricks on the drum machine. It's also literally about Newbury Bypass, where all the trees got cut down, a very upsetting time for the locals and the political tree dwellers. There was an especially sad horse that actually in real life started kneeling down by the chopped down tree stumps, bowed its head and shed tears. So that was definitely written in a time of sadness, I was really feeling an affinity with the horse there. But it's a very happy song! So that's good!

**F:** Last of all we've got King of the Herbs. When we were first making this track we were like 'Aaaaaaah, this is what Mermaid Chunky is gonna... kind of sound like.' Moina set the scene with some 70's children's cartoons. And I just sort of riffed off that.

**HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE VEST'S RELEASE ON NOVEMBER 6TH?**

**M:** We are going to be releasing a very exciting film and recording of the Mermaid Chunky Vest performance, created at the Brunel Goods Shed in collaboration with SVA, d&b audiotechnik, Callum Chaplin, LocoDooms and Milligan Beaumont. Ideally we'd love to screen this film in the middle of a lake where everyone is on pedalos! Keep your eyes and paws on the buzzers. News coming soon...

.....  
VEST comes out on Friday 6th November and can be found on Bandcamp at [mermaidchunky.bandcamp.com](http://mermaidchunky.bandcamp.com), or at Sound Records in Stroud, as well as the Rough Trade website among others. If you can't wait to support them, then they'd love for you to buy their VEST merch and to send videos of your moves to Gemini Girls via their Instagram @mermaidchunky. You can also join their mailing list and check out their past projects [mermaidchunky.org.uk](http://mermaidchunky.org.uk)



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RUBY KESTER IS AN ART STUDENT AND ASPIRING-WRITER FROM THE STROUD AREA, CURRENTLY RESIDING IN LONDON. SHE RUNS THE SUNDAY SHORTS POETRY SHOW ON DEEPBED RADIO EVERY OTHER SUNDAY. HER INSTAGRAM IS @RUBY.KESTER



## ART LISTINGS

### GALLERY 1673

FRI 13TH - FRI 27TH

New Forms: A Group Show

Five contemporary artists exhibiting new works including sculpture, painting and drawings. Influences ranging from constructivism, street art and architecture. Ft works by Matt Eko, James Gallagher, Tim Woolner and Shikha Kuehn.

[theclayloft.co.uk/gallery-1673](http://theclayloft.co.uk/gallery-1673)

### GALLERY PANGOLIN

FRI 14TH AUG - SAT 14TH NOV

In the Mix

A changing mix of sculpture, prints and drawings by gallery artists including: Anthony Abrahams, Jon Buck, Lynn Chadwick, Halima Cassell, Ann Christopher, Terence Coventry, Sue Freeborough, Anita Mandl, Charlotte Mayer, Ellis O'Connell, Almuth Tebbenhoff and Deborah van der Beek. The gallery is open by appointment, please contact Sally or Cath to book a viewing.

SAT 21ST NOV - SAT 19TH DEC

Christmas Cracker!

Gallery Pangolin's popular annual Christmas exhibition includes bronze and silver sculpture, sculptors' jewellery, limited edition prints and unique drawings by their regular gallery artists as well as some less familiar names.

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

### HALLIDAYS MILL GALLERY

SAT 31ST OCT - SAT 19TH DEC

Anita Ford: Spirit Faces

The process of 'Psychic automatism' for Anita Ford (1948-2018) involved shadowing part of the brain in order to achieve a non judgemental platform on which to work; the reality of life meets subconscious expression.

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

### IMAGINE THERAPEUTIC ARTS

THURS 5TH NOV - THURS 10TH DEC

Mosaic Making Group

Rediscover and connect to our creative past by taking an alternative Journey, with artist Robin R James, to celebrate the elements of winter. Seeking inspiration from tales and legends as depicted throughout ancient history and the craft of mosaic. Explore these fascinating stories from around the world. Suitable for both beginners and those with some experience. Materials included. 7-9pm £140/£120concs (6 sessions)

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

### LANSDOWN HALL

WEDS 4TH - MON 9TH

Debbie Farah and Su Bittleston: Colours of Life

An exhibition of paintings and fused glass. Su's paintings are of landscapes and flowers in peaceful moods using oils and watercolours. Debbie's fused glass is made by

layering pieces of coloured glass together and fusing them into landscapes and various shapes and patterns. 10am-4pm Launch event Weds 2-8pm

TUES 10TH - MON 16TH

Helen Fox and Kirstie Green: Corona - A Retrospective

Corona – A retrospective – interpretations of Corona and an exploration of various aspects of the effects of the pandemic on life and changes in our perceptions. Artworks by Kirstie Green and Helen Fox (a contestant on Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year in October). Also featuring Helen's evolution of portraiture in preparation, the contest entry artworks and her portrait of Sir Trevor McDonald. Private view: Tues 12-8pm/Weds-Sat 10am-4pm/Sun 11am-3pm/Mon 10am-4pm

WEDS 18TH - MON 23RD

Herb Tandree: Colours of Morocco

Featuring the 'colours of Morocco' and other works in oil, pastel, plus framed painted glass, mobiles and assemblages. This colourful show of abstract paintings and three dimensional pieces, together with a special section of the warm colours inspired by Morocco, will brighten the darker grey days of November for the gallery visitor. 10am-5pm

WEDS 25TH - SUN 29TH

This Is Normal

Three local artists convene. DiSect - Outsider Collage Art: Inspired by space, shrooms and stuff. Only using found imagery from old books and mags. No photoshop. No resizing. No colour adjustment. Originals and Prints for sale. Tamzin MMart: Paintings and sketches inspired by Meme culture reflecting extraordinary times aka The New Normal. Rex Birchmore - Crab Museum: Drawings, paintings, specimens and objects, all with their own individual story, the Crab Museum ties its tide-line of curiosities together using crabs, beached plastic and 'Petrie'. All natural life used in the creation of the Crab Museum were found, or washed up, already dead from natural causes. 11am - 5pm

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

### THE MUSEUM IN THE PARK

TUES 25TH AUG - TBC

Theo Deproost: Lost In Time

An exhibition of photography exploring the secrets of the Museum's stores. Theo Deproost is a still-life and landscape photographer based in London. He grew up in Stroud and has fond memories of visiting the Museum when it was still in Lansdown. Since 2017, he has been exploring the museum's stored collection and taking photographs, with the aim of sharing some of its weird and wonderful (and usually hidden) artefacts with the wider public. Book your visit online or call 01453 763394.

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

### STUDIO 18

SAT 17TH OCT - SUN 1ST NOV

Albie Lucas: This is Not Enough To Sustain You

Studio 18 resident artist and rising star Albie Lucas puts on his first solo show. Albie's artwork focuses on what it feels like to be living, not glorifying any happiness or sadness, each are the same. This is what drives him to make drawings, not just to express his emotions but to express emotion itself.

[facebook.com/Studio18Stroud](https://facebook.com/Studio18Stroud)

### THE SUB ROOMS

MON 9TH - SAT 28TH

Everything Is Light

Everything is Light is a fantastic family attraction featuring a maze of illuminated tunnels and hidden rooms bathed in colour – all from the unbridled imagination of Jack Wimperis. Ticket slots will give visitors entry to the event for an hour, visitors are asked to arrive no more than 10 minutes before their time slots to avoid queues. A limited number of additional slots will be released with special intimate performances, from world-class performers. See website for times, tickets and further info...

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

### SVA

FRI 23RD OCT - SAT 7TH NOV

Home and Away

Artists Helen K Grant and Chris Rose met through AIM Art in Motion, a contemporary art group for people with learning disabilities in Bristol, where they discovered a shared enthusiasm for making art from scrap materials. At SVA they will be considering how they feel about 'home' from the distanced perspective of the gallery. How has this changed post-lockdown, when our homes became places of both refuge and confinement? Helen and Chris are planning an installation that fills the entire gallery space and invite you to peek within. AIM and SVA have also invited people from the Guideposts Community Hub to contribute artwork. The hub (based in London Road, Stroud) provides opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to make friends, develop skills, be creative, gain confidence and feel connected to their local community. Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am-3pm

WEDS 11TH - SAT 28TH NOV

Radio Droogdok In Residence:

Coming from Radio Heaven

Miniature Museum presents new experiments from audio offshoot project Radio Droogdok. "Gorgeous radios and half-soldered transmitting switchboards. Radio art-play with found sounds and out-dated technology." A work-in-progress R&D residency: further experiments in collaboration with Jonny Fluffypunk and Euan Maco McAleece. Combining revived vestiges of lo-fi history with digital futures, and live medium-wave radio mixing with in-the-moment interventions, culminating in 2 binaural live streams hosted virtually by Knaive Theatre. Live streams 27th & 28th Nov. (Please check

websites for details and to book: [knaivetheatre.com](http://knaivetheatre.com) Fridays and Saturdays 10am-3pm

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

### THE GREEN SHOP BISLEY

SUN 1ST NOV - THURS 31ST DEC

Deborah Roberts Photography

A display of prints by conservation photographer Deborah Roberts. Photography with a distinctive style, celebrating the natural beauty and unique character of the Stroud Valleys. Framed and mounted prints, a wide range of greetings cards and the Scenes around Stroud 2021 calendar will be on sale throughout the exhibition.

[bisleyvillage.com/green-shop](http://bisleyvillage.com/green-shop)

### WINSLEY COTTAGE

#### OAKRIDGE LYNCH

SAT 21ST NOV-SUN 7TH DEC

Open Studio of Paintings and Pottery by John Bailey

John Bailey will be holding an Open Studio of Paintings and Pottery at Oakridge Lynch, near Stroud in the weeks before Christmas. The work displayed will include his watercolours, mostly painted "en plein air" and larger oils and acrylics painted in the studio featuring the local Cotswold area and SW coast. New styles of colourful pottery will be available together with prints and cards which make excellent ideas for Christmas! John has raised almost £12000 for Cancer Research and the Open Studio will be to help this important charity at this difficult time. All visitors will be welcome but you are asked to let John know when you would like to come: 01285 760659 / [jrsbailey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jrsbailey@yahoo.co.uk)

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

### NEW BREWERY ARTS

#### CIRENCESTER

SAT 24TH OCT - THURS 24TH DEC

A Crafted Christmas

Christmas gifts and homeware from the best UK craftspeople. Give something special in 2020, hand-made made with skill, chosen with thought – future heirlooms that will really mean something...

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

## FILM LISTINGS

### LANSDOWN HALL

SUN 8TH

Lansdown Film Club Presents:

Parasite

In Bong Joon-ho's flawless tragicomedy, a poor yet united family bluff their way into the lives of a wealthy Seoul household. 7:30pm £6/£5concs from [trybooking.co.uk](http://trybooking.co.uk)/UKD

SUN 22ND

Lansdown Film Club Presents: Nae Pasaran

Felipe Bustos Sierra's documentary charts the incredible true story of the Scots who managed to ground half of Chile's Air Force, from the other side of the world, in the longest single act of



solidarity against Pinochet's brutal dictatorship. 7:30pm £6/£5concs from [trybooking.co.uk/UDJ](http://trybooking.co.uk/UDJ)

#### SUN 29TH

Lansdown Film Club Presents: The County

An Icelandic woman takes on the corruption of her local co-op and the outdated, exploitative system that supports it, in the latest from acclaimed filmmaker Grímur Hákonarson. 7:30pm £6/£5adv from [trybooking.co.uk/UDI](http://trybooking.co.uk/UDI)

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

#### ELECTRIC PICTUREHOUSE WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

#### FRI 30TH OCT/TUES 3RD NOV/

#### THURS 5TH NOV

Philophobia

A new feature film, shot in and around Stroud. After playing at Festivals internationally, Philophobia has now gained a UK cinema release. Set in the rolling hills of the English countryside, Philophobia is a picture of small town adolescence. One week of school remains for Kai, an aspiring writer, and his friends. How they choose to spend this time will cost one of them their life and leave them all changed forever. 7:30pm

#### SAT 7TH

The Human Voice

Madness and melancholy intersect to thrilling effect as Pedro Almodóvar reimagines Jean Cocteau's short play The Human Voice for an era in which isolation has become a way of

life. The critically-acclaimed 30 minute film will be followed by a 45 minute entertaining and insightful recorded Q&A. Hosted by Mark Kermodé, Pedro and Tilda discuss the inspirations they drew on for the film, how THE HUMAN VOICE fits within the 'Almodóvar oeuvre', and what Pedro will be making next - including a great surprise for Tilda. 7:30pm

#### THURS 12TH/SAT 14TH/SUN 15TH NT Live: War Horse

Since its first performance at the National Theatre in 2007, War Horse has become an international smash hit, capturing the imagination of four million people around the world. Based on Michael Morpurgo's novel and adapted for the stage by Nick Stafford, War Horse takes audiences on an extraordinary journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. Thurs and Sat 7:30pm/Sun 2pm

#### THURS 19TH/SUN 22ND

Exhibition On Screen: Frida Kahlo

This highly engaging film takes us on a journey through the life of one of the most prevalent female icons: Frida Kahlo. She was a prolific self-portraitist, using the canvas as a mirror through all stages of her turbulent and, at times, tragic life. Guided with interview, commentary and Frida's own words, EXHIBITION ON SCREEN uncovers that this, however, was not a life defined by tragedy. Thurs 7:30pm/Sun 2pm

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

## THEATRE

### LANSDOWN HALL

#### SAT 31ST OCT - SUN 1ST NOV

Flies On The Wall Youth Theatre: George George George

Flies On The Wall Youth Theatre present the film version of their exciting play 'George George George'. Set in Regency England where class and privilege clash chaotically with crime and poverty, 40 vibrant fully costumed young actors present a film version of this play with songs. Sat 31st 11am-2pm/5:30-8pm Sun 1st 11am-1:30pm Tickets in adv from [trybooking.co.uk/TVM](http://trybooking.co.uk/TVM)

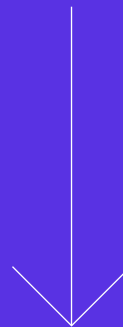
#### SAT 28TH

Last Legs Dance Theatre: The Robert Wedderburn Story

Live performance and post show discussion. Robert Wedderburn was a political activist of Jamaican/Scottish heritage from the early 1800's fighting for the freedom of slaves and equality for the poor in London. Like all influences from people of colour before 1948, their untold stories remain in our liberation but not in our education. Last Legs Dance Theatre will tell his story through dance, text and music pulling this history out from the fabric of our British culture and into the arena of discussion. 7:30pm £12/£10concs Online streaming via zoom (free suggested donation £2-£5)

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

# SEND US YOUR LISTINGS



EMAIL:  
[ALEX@GOODONPAPER.INFO](mailto:ALEX@GOODONPAPER.INFO)  
[GOODONPAPER.INFO](http://GOODONPAPER.INFO)



# WELCOME TO THE



**BANISH  
YOUR  
HUNGER**



**QUENCH  
YOUR  
THIRST**

# PRINCE ALBERT

#### OPENING TIMES:

Mon/Weds: 5-9pm Tues: Closed Thurs: 5-10pm  
Fri-Sat: 3-10pm Sun: 3-9pm

#### BEER FESTIVAL

Weds 4th - Sun 8th November  
Weds/Thurs: 4-10pm Fri-Sun: 1-10pm

#### BOOK YOUR SEAT:

Please call 01453 755600 to book your seat.  
[theprincealbertstroud.co.uk](http://theprincealbertstroud.co.uk)

## ONLINE LISTINGS

### ARTLIFT

**MON 16TH NOV - THURS 11TH FEB**  
Need a lift after lockdown? Free online art sessions for adults registered with a doctor in Gloucestershire and have completed cancer treatment in the last two years. Explore making, drawing and painting with trained, experienced artist, Susie Walker. No prior experience of art or craft is necessary. This is just a great opportunity for anyone living with or beyond cancer to focus on something positive with others in the same boat. Share experiences, make friends and build confidence in a safe, creative space. This 10-week online course runs from 16th November 2020 to 11th February 2021, every Thursday morning from 10.30am to 12.30pm. There will be a two-week break for Christmas. Places available. Contact referrals@artlift.org or 03000 200 102 for more information.

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

### DIALECT

#### WEDS 4TH

##### Creative Kickstart

Been thinking about writing but not sure where to start? Stuck for a while and need to jump back on the word wagon? Join this light-hearted, collaborative online workshop designed to ignite fresh ideas and generate new and exciting work. JLM Morton will lead you gently through a series of writing activities and share some great resources to help you keep the momentum going long after the Zoom room fun is done. Free Taster workshop for writers at any level looking for a kickstart to get back on the page or simply enrich your existing practice. 9:30-11:30am

#### WEDS 4TH

##### Treasuring your Word Hoard - Writing Dialect Poetry

Hinny, goosegog, ginnel, clarty - the music of vernacular language can make your poems sing! Join award-winning poet Liz Berry for a friendly, playful workshop exploring how to use dialect in your poetry. You'll read some wonderful contemporary dialect poems and take part in short, lively writing exercises designed to spark new work. Suitable for writers of all stages who want to seize this fabulous opportunity to work with Liz, a poet 'ablaze with energy and full of the rich dialect of the West Midlands,' an 'incandescent,' poet of dazzling talent and verve (Guardian). 4-6pm £30 (concs available)

#### FRI 6TH

##### Exploring diverse voices in rural spaces

Historically, our literature has been loud with the silences of those who've been excluded. Join Louisa Adjoa Parker, a writer of extraordinary skill, warmth and courage for an interactive workshop exploring the rich diversity of rural writing with its varied voices. Taking inspiration from working class, ethnically diverse and women writers who write through experience at the margins of this 'green and pleasant land,' you'll work with prompts and exercises to come away with new work and a different take on what

it means to write the rural today. All writers are welcome, wherever you live and whatever your experience / background or genre. 4-6pm £30 (concs available)

#### SAT 7TH

##### Words that glitter: re-writing and editing

So you have got a first draft of your novel or short story but you know that it doesn't quite work. How do you make it sharper, brighter, more engaging? How do you polish the writing and tighten the structure? This workshop with novelist, playwright and memoirist Alice Jolly will enable you to work on a hands-on editing and re-writing exercise which will show you how to turn an average piece of writing into a story that glitters. This workshop is relevant to beginners, improvers and those who are ready to send out work. Come with your editing pencil sharpened and ready to work with a writer of exceptional clarity and lyricism. 10am-12pm £30 (concs available)

#### SUN 8TH

##### Mapping Rural Worlds with Words

Join Fiona Benson on a foray into poems that seek to capture the realities of rural dwelling. We will work toward poems for our own personal 'Book of Days' by mapping out our rural territories. Exploring the overlay of the rhythms of rural life and the interplay of the seasons with our own inner lives, we'll write poems that journey through these landscapes. You will need the largest piece of plain paper you can find, and some colouring pens / pencils / crayons, as well as your notebook and pen. The uncompromising beauty of Fiona Benson's poetry has won her many awards and the admiration of readers, this is a wonderful opportunity to work with one of the best poets at work in the UK today. 10am-12pm £30 (concs available)

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

### DEEPBED RADIO

A project led by artists and supported by artists that has self set the task of profiling DJs and audio projects with roots or threads to artist led hubs in the Stroud and Gloucester area. Deepbed is an online station but it's also a meeting place for an emerging artists community with a common interest in each other's creativity. Follow Deepbed on facebook and instagram for weekly programme schedules and the website to listen back to previous shows.

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

### STROUD DISTRICT GREEN PARTY CLOUD CAFE

An invitation to everyone to join in on Weds 11th November for a free on-line session of speaker presentations and discussion. This month's topic: When Science Fiction Becomes Reality and Fantasy Becomes the Truth - The Rise of Conspiracy Theories. What was once dismissed as a shadowy online phenomenon in the US is becoming something more disturbing, more mainstream, more international, and more mystical and the effects are now being felt in Britain. From QAnon to unfounded theories about vaccines and Covid 19, from anti-5G conspiracies to believing in an international child trafficking ring run by politicians and Hollywood, these internet memes are emerging in the

public realm. Visit: [actionnetwork.org/events/cloud-cafe-the-rise-of-conspiracy-theories](http://actionnetwork.org/events/cloud-cafe-the-rise-of-conspiracy-theories) to register

[Stroud.greenparty.org.uk](http://Stroud.greenparty.org.uk)

### STROUD IMAGINES

Stroud Imagines is looking to inspire the use of our collective imagination to tackle local issues and challenges, bringing together people from all parts of our communities to support each other more effectively. Their inspiration is the work of Rob Hopkins in his book 'From What Is To What If' and seeks to explore the powerful 'what if...?' questions he poses at a local, Stroud, level. SI started a series of regular Open Mic nights, inviting 8 local people to come and share their creative imagining for Stroud and surrounds. This month's Open Mic will take place on Weds 18th Nov. Follow Stroud Imagines for news and further information.

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

### STROUD LOVE RADIO

Stroud Love Radio is a local live and interactive 'pirate radio meets chatroom'. A DJ

collective playing MOBO and World music SLR features 14 of Stroud's favourite DJs performing every weekend, Friday evening to Sunday. Selection ranges from the Northern Soul of veteran DJ Andy Edwards through to the Acidiscotek of Crooked Stylus. To listen, follow Stroud Lockdown Radio Facebook page, clicking on the links posted at showtimes.

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

### STROUD SHORT STORIES

The 20th SSS event 'DISRUPTION' will be exclusively available on Youtube via the SSS website on Sun 8th November from 7:30pm and will be free and unticketed. The event is dedicated to the late Rick Vick and is part of the 2020 Stroud Book Festival. Ten Gloucestershire authors will read their specially selected stories on the theme of disruption. The event will be introduced by John Holland.

[stroudshortstories.blogspot.com](http://stroudshortstories.blogspot.com)

SEND US YOUR LISTINGS



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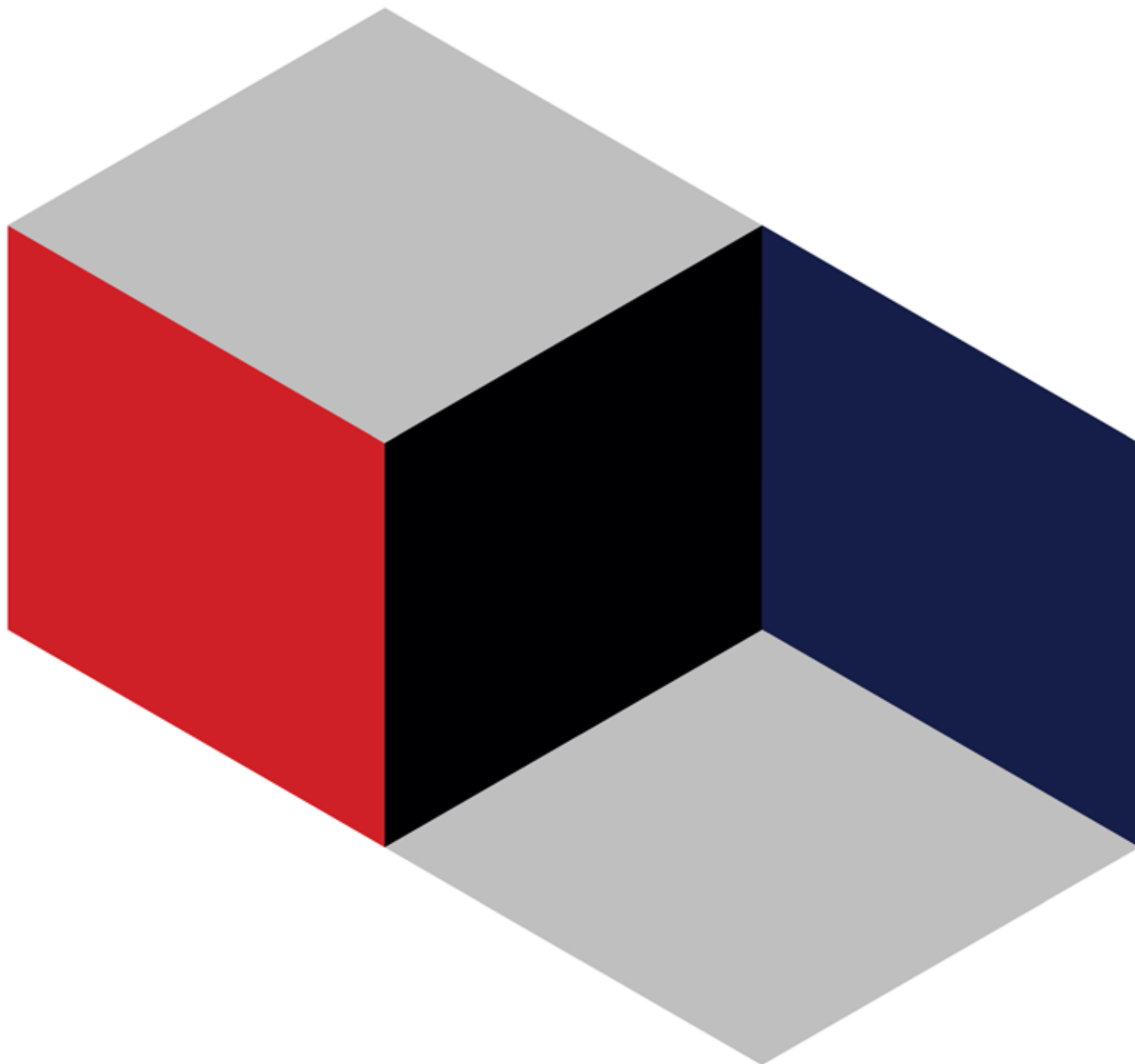


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