

Issue #9
Dec 2015

FREE
MAGAZINE

TAKE ME HOME



GOOD ON PAPER

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

Image: Ange Mullen-Bryan

DECEMBER EVENTS

LIVE BANDS, PARTIES & GASTRONOMIC DELIGHTS

Thursday 3rd

SPIRAL STAIRCASE

Jazz... 'Nice'

Friday 4th

THE FIXATED

4 piece Funk Rock

Thursday 10th

THE DANIEL BILLING BAND

Refreshingly Original Folk Rock

Friday 11th

RAGGED EDGE SOUL BAND

Good time soul, funk party band

Saturday 12th

CHEQUERED SOULS

Soul music to get your feet tapping, body shaking and juices flowing

Sunday 13th

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

From 1pm, Booking Essential

Friday 18th

RAGGED & OLD MUMMERS & THEE PULSATIONS

Stax of Soul, Late Licence

Saturday 19th

THE ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY

Late Licence, Tickets only. AVAILABLE FROM 5.00

Sunday 20th

CHRISTMAS LUNCH & CHILDREN'S CAROLS

Lunch from 1pm, Booking Essential. Carol singing from 4pm

Wednesday 23rd

UP THE WORKERS CHRISTMAS DINNER

From 6pm to 7pm. Booking Essential

Thursday 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

Late Licence, Tickets only. £3.00

Sunday 27th

BRUNCH

Bloody Mary Beef, Mash & Greens. Booking Essential

Monday 28th

MEAT FREE MONDAY

Plantain Curry, Rice & Pea. Booking Essential

Wednesday 30th

UP THE WORKERS CURRY NIGHT & THE REV. STRETCH

Booking Essential...Acoustic Americana

Thursday 31st

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Very Late Licence, Tickets only. AVAILABLE FROM 3.00



ALL AT THE CROWN & SCEPTRE
WWW.CROWNANDSCEPTRESTROUD.COM

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

Exciting bit of news this month as we delve further into the World Wide Web with the launch of our brand new website! It will be regularly updated with content not currently available in the magazine including reviews of albums, books and live events. Upon its pixel pages you will also find poetry, short stories and flash fiction by local authors, website and blog links to our contributing writers, a stockists list and further information about the magazine.

There are also plans for an online shop selling GOP related merchandise and a 'Supporters Subscription Service' enabling those of you who live on the outskirts of town to receive a copy of Good On Paper in the post - but more on that next month....

Until then, Merry Christmas to ye all!

GOP(in') Around the Christmas Tree

Alex and Adam
www.goodonpaper.info



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NEW YEARS EVE AT THE PRINCE ALBERT

SKA WARS

31-12-15

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM
 THE PRINCE ALBERT - £10

PARTY STARTS 8PM - SPACESHIPS AT 3AM

www.theprincealbertstroud.co.uk



LITTLE METROPOLIS

A HEALTHY DOSE OF NOSTALGIA
AND UNSENTIMENTAL OBSERVATION
WITH A GENEROUS PORTION OF
HUMOUR ON THE SIDE.

BY SARAH WATSON



Illustration: Adam Hinks



image by James Kriszyk

HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU HEARD
A SONG WHICH INSTANTLY TAKES
YOU BACK TO A PERIOD, OR EVEN
PRECISE MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE?
A SINGLE SONG OR LYRIC CAN
SUDDENLY MAKE YOU 18 AGAIN,
BRINGING WITH IT A WAVE
OF EMOTION; THE PAIN OF
UNREQUITED LOVE, YOUR
UNENCUMBERED TEENAGE YEARS.
IT'S SOMETHING WE ALL SHARE.

Of course other senses induce nostalgia quickly and easily too, a hint of perfume, or the feeling of a particular fabric against your skin. But there's something about music and

how central it is to our culture that makes the memories it conjures particularly special. Perhaps because music is something that we often experience collectively and so the reminiscence brings the people we shared the experience with to mind too.

So what happened when a poet and a composer collaborated to weave not only their own memories of Stroud, but also those of other contributors, Martin Hill, Aine Thomas, Uta Baldauf, Allan and Jackie Peacey and Mark Thompson? The result was an inspired performance of original poetry and music, incorporating other voices to create a colourful tapestry of the town's shared history, a mosaic of memories spanning decades.

Adam Horovitz and Josef Reeve were originally commissioned by the Stroud Fringe committee to produce a show that "embodied Stroud". They were given pretty free reign which, by their own admission, left them wondering how on earth they would tackle such a potentially extensive task. When Adam, an established and well-respected lyric poet, was approached to undertake the commission for this year's festival he suggested working in conjunction with composer Joe in order to give "an urgent, performance edge to the lyric".

They then interspersed the works with experiences and observations from Martin, Aine, Uta, Allan, Jackie and Mark. The interviewees come from a variety of backgrounds; some have been residents of the valleys for all of their lives, others are more recent additions, they all offer a different aspect, or voice to the work, giving a kaleidoscopic outcome. Adam and Joe were inspired by their recollections, using them as triggers to create 11 tracks which individually focus on a different element of the town, a group of people, or era, but collectively "tell a story of Stroud, back to Stroud".

The influences for 'Little Metropolis', the title of the work which originated from a choice phrase from one of the collaborators, are wide-ranging Adam describes them as "a pinch of Ewan MacColl's Radio Ballads to the ambient effects of Chris Morris's Blue Jam, the harpsichord pop of early 1980s Strangers to 1990s dance music as well as the poetry of John Cooper Clarke, Dylan Thomas, Allen Ginsberg and George Mackay Brown".

But Little Metropolis is so much more than a carefully crafted and composed selection of words and music. Listening to the tracks together over the course of an hour gives the impression of a dipping in and out of a

boisterous weekend spent across the town, across a number of decades even. If you're familiar with Stroud you'll understand many of the references and observations shared, some of the idiosyncrasies that give the town and its people it's character.

The work alone is fascinating, serving to record some of the history of the area through the collected voices of the people who live there, but the process itself revealed an unexpected, but equally valuable outcome.

Born from a community festival, a celebration of a diverse, creative town, the development of the project brought some unforeseen benefits. By asking contributors to step forward and record a contrasting, yet complementary account of their experiences, one which observes and honours the town's ghosts with delicacy, but not too much sentimentally, a common connection has been formed and cemented. An archive of bygone eras.

The commission was performed during one slot over the course of the August Bank holiday weekend, but the small venue was unable to cope with the sheer volume of people keen to hear the outcome, and so another phase in the project began. Adam and Joe decided to publish their work as a physical book and CD and sort community 'pledges' to help bring the work to a broader audience. With a not insubstantial investment needed, they cleared the funding goal required in order to make it happen through the support of the people of Stroud.

What caused the commission to capture the imagination of so many? Aside from the obvious talent of the two instigators, the process and eventual outcome tapped into something intrinsic to all of us; nostalgia. "A wistful desire to return in thought or in fact to a former time

in one's life, to one's home or homeland, or to one's family and friends; a sentimental yearning for the happiness of a former place or time".

Numerous bodies of research have taken place looking at the importance of words and music, and how it interplays with nostalgia. The power of songs to bring to mind previous events and times has been well documented; sometimes a general recollection - a memory of a specific summer, or childhood sweetheart, other times songs were found to bring to mind specific recollections of particular events. And with nostalgia comes an increase in social connectedness, a collective identity. And that it some way explains the successful formula that Adam and Joe have inadvertently stumbled upon. By producing a lyrically and musically rich shared memory of Stroud, they have cemented and to some extent nurtured the town's identity.

The works are a frolic through a spectrum of musical tastes and genres, interlaced with wistful recollections that celebrate the idiosyncrasies of this small town and its people. What makes it even more special? Although 'Little Metropolis' is undoubtedly about Stroud, anyone who has grown up or spent some time in a small town will appreciate just how particular, and special, that experience is.

[facebook.com/LittleMetropolis](https://www.facebook.com/LittleMetropolis)

No one knows what Sarah Watson really does, she spends time galavanting off to Africa to make films, writing for various publications, or passionately supporting community arts and events. She certainly gets about a bit.

SUPPORTING THE STROUD FRINGE 2016

'LITTLE METROPOLIS' IS AVAILABLE TO BUY AS A CD, OR AS A BOOK OF THE ORIGINAL POEMS VIA **BANDCAMP** OR AT **TRADING POST RECORDS, STROUD**. A PERCENTAGE OF THE SALES FROM THE BOOK AND CD WILL BE DONATED BACK TO STROUD FRINGE TO HELP THEIR WORK SUPPORTING OTHER ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS FROM THE AREA.

Visit our website www.goodonpaper.info for a review of the album by Simon Vincent from Trading Post

Adam and Joe will also be performing songs from the album at the **Good On Paper party** to be held at the **Prince Albert on Saturday 9th January** which also features Rhain, Miserable Malcolm (aka Bill Jones), Dennis Gould, Jonny Fluffypunk, John Bassett, Uta Baldauf, a James Kriszyk photobooth, Two Peas Street Food and Dave Ayre's Nanoscopic Ensemble. Visit our facebook page for further info: [facebook.com/GoodOnPaperStroud](https://www.facebook.com/GoodOnPaperStroud)



GET THE BLESSING

BY SEAN ROE

GET THE BLESSING ARE A JAZZ FUSION/POST ROCK BAND FROM BRISTOL FEATURING JAKE MCMURCHIE (SAXES), PETE JUDGE (TRUMPET), JIM BARR (ELECTRIC BASS) AND CLIVE DEAMER (DRUMS). THEY WILL BE PERFORMING AT SVA IN DECEMBER AS PART OF A TOUR TO PROMOTE THEIR MOST RECENT RELEASE 'ASTRONAUTILUS' WHICH IS OUT NOW ON THE NAIM LABEL.

For this, their 5th release since their inception in 2000, the music has evolved somewhat, the experimental playfulness and off kilter Jazz stylings of their previous releases is still present, but there is also an emphasis on texture and mood, with the extended use of electronics and more open form song structures adding a new dimension to their sound.

I managed to catch up with the band and ask them a few questions while they were on tour in Europe.

HOW IS THE TOUR GOING AND HOW HAS THE AUDIENCE RESPONSE BEEN TO THE SONGS FROM YOUR LATEST RELEASE?

This particular run of gigs has been very good so far. We've been playing more club-type venues and the audiences have been generally younger than your typical jazz audience. Berlin and Cork were particularly good for their enthusiasm and desire to dance their way through the entire set.

THE VIDEO FOR PHAENOMENA FROM YOUR NEW RELEASE IS QUITE SURREAL; YOU HAVE DONE QUITE A NUMBER OF QUIRKY VIDEOS FOR YOUR SONGS OVER THE YEARS. DO YOU MAKE THEM YOURSELVES, AND IF NOT, HOW DO THESE COLLABORATIONS COME ABOUT?

We've always been a very visually interested band, the (use of) bags/cellophane (over our heads) for example. We made one video entirely by ourselves for Quiet (from Lope and Antilope). We love the approach of John Minton who has made most of our videos and who does live visuals for us. He has a fantastically lo-fi

approach which suits us well. We like working with others as well and SJ Esau made our video for Corniche and Hankin Films made Phaenomena. We often reference films in the composition process, we think visually.

WITH THE NEW ALBUM - IT SOUNDS LIKE THE ELECTRONICS ARE MORE DEEPLY IMBEDDED IN THE OVERALL SOUND. ARE THESE SOUNDS ADDED AS OVERDUBS OR IS IT LIVE PROCESSING OF THE SOUND OF ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS? HOW EASY IS IT TO REPRODUCE OR CONTROL THESE EFFECTS IN A LIVE CONTEXT?

The electronics have always been a way of distorting the acoustic instruments, a way of subverting expectations. We often add other instruments afterwards but the electronics are always live.

Reproducing them can be difficult though! Electronic sounds are often multi-layered and improvised so remembering what the hell we did in a recording session can be difficult...

THE NEW ALBUM IS DEDICATED TO ORNETTE COLEMAN A UNIQUE VOICE IN JAZZ -WHO SADLY PASSED AWAY EARLIER THIS YEAR. COLEMAN IS AN IMPORTANT AND INSPIRATIONAL FIGURE TO THE BAND- WHY IS HE SUCH A CRUCIAL PLAYER FOR YOU COLLECTIVELY?

He was the initial inspiration behind the formation of our delightful institution, even providing our name. It's partly about line-up but also about the importance of melody and about the dynamic of a chordless 4 piece (band) and the freedom from traditional jazz convention.

DO YOU CONSCIOUSLY TRY TO APPLY HIS MUSICAL THEORY HARMOLODICS WHEN WRITING OR IMPROVISING TOGETHER?

To be honest, we've never understood it. So no. It sounds great when he does it but we are not the Ornette Coleman Quartet.

ASTRONAUTILUS WAS RECORDED IN CORNWALL - ON A REMOTE PART OF THE CORNISH COAST, CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE RECORDING PROCESS AND THE STARRY AND NAUTICAL THEMES FEATURED IN THE TITLE OF BOTH ALBUM AND SONGS?

We found a house on the North Cornwall coast and installed a mobile recording studio there for a few days in January. We could see the sea and the sky from our live room and it inspired us greatly. We'd brought sketches of tunes to help us get started but, just as with our last album Lope And Antilope we just started playing and much of the album is entirely improvised.

SOME OF THE TRACKS ON ASTRONAUTILUS HAVE A DENSER MORE ATMOSPHERIC FEEL THAN IN PREVIOUS RECORDINGS - ARE THERE ANY POSSIBILITIES OF THE BAND WORKING ON FILM SOUNDTRACKS IN THE FUTURE?

We've always wanted to. We have a music publisher now (Touch Tones Publishing) so perhaps it will at last come to pass.

BRISTOL HAS AN INTERESTING MUSICAL SCENE AND HISTORY- MASSIVE ATTACK, TRICKY AND PORTISHEAD ARE CONTEMPORARY ACTS THAT STAND OUT - BUT IN THE POST PUNK ERA IN THE 1980S BRISTOL BANDS LIKE GLAXO BABIES, POP

GROUP, RIP RIG AND PANIC, MAXIMUM JOY ALONG WITH OTHER BANDS LIKE PINKSKI ZOO WERE ALL MAKING A COMPELLING CASE FOR FREE FORM JAZZ INFLUENCED SOUNDS, MUCH LIKE YOU ARE NOW. WERE ANY OF THESE BANDS AN INFLUENCE?

Pinski Zoo were definitely an early, pre-blessing musical influence, though they're not from Bristol. The others not directly but the liveliness and creativity of the Bristol/Bath scene has galvanised us.

The West Country is a good place to be creative and not be bound by the normal conventions.

HOW DIFFICULT IS IT GETTING AIRPLAY FOR AN INSTRUMENTAL CROSSOVER BAND LIKE YOURSELF? HAVE YOU CONSIDERED USING VOICES OR VOCALS MORE PROMINENTLY IN FUTURE?

We are definitely considering collaborating more. We really enjoyed working with Robert Wyatt and Viv Albertine turned one of our tunes into a song on her last album. We'd like to work with both of them again and vocals – wordless or not – are an interesting potential addition to what we do.

HOW HEALTHY IS THE UK JAZZ SCENE AT THE MOMENT? DO YOU SEE YOURSELVES OPERATING FROM WITHIN THIS "SCENE" OR PREFER TO NOT WORRY ABOUT BEING DEFINED WITHIN A JAZZ CONTEXT?

To be honest, we never set out to be part of the "UK jazz scene" it just happened that way. Being from Bristol/Bath means we don't generally feel part of it, it's very London-centric. We're very happy to be considered part of the "scene" but essentially we just likemaking music and playing it to appreciative audiences wherever they happen to be.

YOU'RE ALL INVOLVED WITH OTHER MUSICAL PROJECTS, JIM & CLIVE WITH PORTISHEAD, JAKE WITH MICHELSON MORLEY AND PETE WITH EYEBROW, DAKHLA & THREE CANE WHALE. CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT FUTURE PLANS WITH THESE ACTS AND TELL US ABOUT TOUR DATES WITH GTB IN THE UK IN DECEMBER?

Michelson Morley will be releasing its 2nd album on Babel Records in May/June next year. Three Cane Whale's 3rd album will be released early next year with a UK tour in January/February and will be playing at the Goods Shed in Stroud on the 17th December, and Eyebrow plays at the Prince Albert on the 16th January. Stroud is GTB's only UK date in December, though we will be playing in Paris on the 8th December and we will be touring in Spain 10th-15th December.

Get The Blessing play at SVA's Good Shed on Saturday 5th December with support from Molecular (see bleow) and Ramses. Tickets are just £7adv and available from Trading Post or online at sva.org.uk

For tour dates and up to date Get the Blessing news visit theblessing.co.uk

Sean Roe is a Stroud based artist and musician. He runs Junkroom Records an extremely small outlet for unusual music facebook.com/junkroomrecords



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

GOODONPAPER.INFO

FOR SEAN ROE'S REVIEW OF GET

THE BLESSINGS LATEST ALBUM

ASTRONAUTILUS

MOLECULAR

Molecular was founded in 2010 by Enablers vocalist Pete Simonelli (words, vocals) and Lynn Wright of And the Wiremen (guitar) on a whim. Always an inclusive project, Molecular has seen a broad cast of musicians come and go in its highly rotational flux of instrumentation, musicianship and fearlessness in performances around New York City and Spain. It is a "feel" oriented collection of players and ideas that likes the steady yet shape-shifting spirit of improvisation. Simonelli's poems take on variable structures and tones when confronted

with the random and intuitive play of Wright's musical alterations, and neither music nor words ever settle into a precise definition. This particular incarnation of the group will include Simon Goff (And the Wiremen) on violin, Sam Ospovat (Enablers) on drums, and Algis Kizys (ex-Swans, Of Cabbages and Kings) on bass.

A backdrop to each performance will feature live projections made especially for this tour, the first UK tour by this unconventional group of highly skilled US based musicians...



MUSIC LISTINGS

Ale House

FRI 4TH

Steve & The Achievers

Upbeat soul, lowdown blues, rock n' roll & gospel 8:30pm Free

SAT 5TH

The Rhythm Slingers

Classic Rock n' Roll & rockabilly covers band 8:30pm Free

FRI 11TH

Solid Gone

Stomping alternative skiffle-blues band 8:30pm Free

SAT 12TH

Weston & Dellow

Rousing & delicate folk, jazz tunes from violinist Becky Dellow, accompanied by Stroud's finest acoustic guitarist, Matthias Weston 8:30pm Free

FRI 18TH

Subduction

Lively, reggae-fusion 5-peice 8:30pm Free

Atelier

MON 21ST

Atelier Christmas Party

Atelier is hosting a Christmas party with live music and poetry, 'Watson', Hanna, Sean Mosley, Dennis Gould, and more. Bring and share food and snacks, Stroud brewery beer and wine available for donations! 7-11pm £5 (donation to GARAS - Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers)

atelierstroud.co.uk

The Crown And Sceptre

THURS 3RD

Spiral Staircase

Jazz, Nice 8:30pm Free

FRI 4TH

The Fixated

4 piece funk rock 8:30pm Free

THURS 10TH

The Daniel Billing Band

Refreshingly original folk rock 8:30pm Free

FRI 11TH

Ragged Edge Soul Band

Good time soul, funk, party band 8:30pm Free

SAT 12TH

Chequered Souls

Soul music to get your feet tappin, your body shakin and your juices flowin... 8:30pm Free

FRI 18TH

The Ragged and Old Mummers & Thee Pulsations

Stax of Soul Late Licence 8:30pm Free

SAT 19TH

The Annual Cocktail Party

There will a Martini and Champagne and Absenthe bar plus entertainment from Floyd Davis Jr and Dom Perningnon! Strictly Black Tie or Cocktail dress...£5adv tickets only

THURS 24TH

Christmas Eve

Late License £3adv tickets only

WEDS 30TH

The Reverend Stretch

Acoustic Americana 8:30pm Free

THURS 31ST

New Years Eve

Very Late License(!) £3adv tickets only

crownandsceptrestroud.com

The Golden Fleece

THURS 3RD

Jim Reynolds

Acoustic Blues, Ragtime and ballads from renowned Bristol guitarist 8:30pm Free

SAT 5TH

Biff Bang Pow

Energetic acoustic four-piece - upbeat unusual covers 8:30pm Free

SAT 12TH

The Schmoozenbergs

1930's Gypsy Jazz & Swing 8:30pm Free

FRI 18TH

Steve & The Achievers

4-piece band playing upbeat Soul, R&B, Jump-Blues & Jive 8:30pm Free

SAT 19TH

Global Beats X-mas Party

Eclectic DJ 8:30pm Free

facebook.com/goldenfleecebar

Holy Trinity Church

SAT 5TH

Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

The internationally renowned Choir of Clare College, Cambridge are visiting Stroud in December, as part of their world tour. They will be going on to sing in Notre Dame Cathedral as well as five US states, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

They will be presenting their superb Christmas Concert, Ex Maria Virgine: A Christmas Sequence, described as a 'a festival Feast of Choral Music' 7:30pm £18adv/£15under 18s from the Subscription Rooms £20otd/£17 under 18s

stroudartsfestival.org

Meme

THURS 3RD

John Harris

Melodious Celtic harp playing traditional music 8:30pm Free

FRI 30TH

Scandi Nights

Bring your woolly jumpers and bobble hats as Meme host Scandinavian themed evenings with a background playlist from their Scandinavian music heroes: First Aid Kit, Kings of Convenience, Lykke Li, Peter, Bjorn & John, Say Lou Lou, The Knife, Kate Boy, Elliphant, The Cardigans, A-ha, Abba! They may even stray over to Iceland for a bit of Bjork... A Smörgåsbord of food and winter warmer boozy hot drinks available 6pm Free

memecafebar.co.uk

The Prince Albert

WEDS 2ND

Dusty Stray

Features the alt-folk repertoire of Texan expat Jonathan Brown which delves into universal themes of unrequited love, heartbreak, loneliness and death but(almost) always with a small dose of hope and redemption...8:30-11pm Free

THURS 3RD

Open Mic with Tiny Hill

Prince Albert's very special singer/barmaid is off to foreign lands soon and this is one of the last Open Mic Nights with Tiny hosting. All welcome, new, old. Inexperienced or chart toppers. No Pink Floyd / Oasis/ Crowded House please 8-11pm Free

FRI 4TH

The Croutons

Helmsman of the AK47 Man Choir (and Spooky Man Chorale too) Chris Samuel brings his vocal trio for a special Goodwill Evening performance at the Albert. Christmas starts here 8:30-11pm Free

SAT 5TH

The Model Folk

A six piece rumbustious balkan inspired original folk band back for another bash of driving frenzy and madness into the Albert. Last time they had the landlord dancing on a table and LITERALLY hanging off the chandelier 8:30-11pm Free

SUN 6TH/13TH/20TH

The Prince Albert Carol Consort

The pubs very own choir return for their 12th season of singing Unusual carols from up North mostly and some quite irreverent. Includes drinking and fun aplenty. Carol sheets available 11am-3pm Free

MON 7TH

Luckless

The ever-evolving musical project spearheaded by songwriter Ivy Rossiter. It has to be something special for the Prince Albert to put on a gig on a Monday night gig, and this is. Drawing inspiration from 90's heroes PJ Harvey, Mark Lanegan and Sparklehorse, while reaching out to contemporaries such as Warpaint; the music is poised somewhere between the ethereal haze of indie folk and the propulsive drive of alt-rock. Beautiful 8-11pm Free

THURS 10TH

The Worry Dolls

An indie-folk duo from London the Worry Dolls music is characterised by sublime harmonies and tongue-in-cheek, honest lyrics garnering praise from the likes of Paul McCartney and Joan Armatrading 8-11pm Free

FRI 11TH

The Soggy Bottom Boys

When the Prince Albert first started hosting regular music it was with these two wonderful characters of Gig on guitar and Mark on the fiddle...8-11pm Free

SAT 12TH

Backyard Rhythm Orchestra

'With furious horns, infectious dance rhythms, songs about Irn Bru and perhaps the most fabulous pair of trousers to grace the festival, their individual brand of gypsy punk was the perfect start to the day' - Fortitude review of Boomtown 2014 8-11pm Free

SUN 13TH

Gerard and the Watchmen + Andrew Butler

A four piece London/Cambridge based band that play a mix of modern folk acoustic taking their influences American and English folk with hints of James Taylor, Neil Young, Nick Drake, and Sufjan Stevens but very much a unique sound, cleverly and brilliantly blending voices as well as instrument and harmonies. With support from London based Singer/Songwriter Andrew Butler who has been compared to legends such as Roy Orbison, Jeff Buckley and Leonard Cohen but who is still undoubtedly original 8-11pm Free

TUES 15TH

Chris TT + Helen Chambers

An influential figure of UK songwriting, crossing barriers between punk, psych-pop and English folk, inspiring a generation of successful home-grown artists. With support from singer/songwriter Helen Chambers who has earned many a plaudit for her beautiful, down to earth country-infused songs 8:30-11pm Free

WEDS 16TH

Robin Elliot + Samantha Whates

Robin Elliot - Folk-pop meets financial crises whilst aged alcoholic perverts stumble across the enactment of terrible events enshrouded in suburban woodland. Samantha Whates – Singer/songwriter which despite living in London since her mid-teens, her heart, voice and songs retain a strong affinity with her Scottish roots, cultivating a sound that is thoroughly contemporary, rooted in tradition yet uniquely her own 8-11pm Free

THURS 17TH

The Turbans

An international musical collective bringing together exciting traditional near-eastern and eastern-European styles and original compositions, to create a modern and energetic performance with reverence for its ancient roots 8:30-11pm Free

FRI 18TH

The Lazy Susans

Stroud homegrown intoxicant The Lazy Susans return to the Albert with their eclectic sound which mixes Western Swing with Johnny Cash via the Levellers and features close-harmony singing, crazy fiddles, accordion, double bass, guitar plus the new addition of a drummer 8-11pm Free

SAT 19TH

Josh Kumra Band + Dollhouse

Singer/songwriter from Swindon currently signed to Sony/RCA and features on Wretch 32's single 'Don't Go'. With support from local quartet Dollhouse harbouring a unique sound with elements of Krautrock and post-punk 8-11pm Free

SUN 20TH

Hipkiss

Features Wishbone Ash's Muddy Manninen on guitar and acclaimed saxophonist and vocalist Patsy Gamble performing a mixture of original material and covers in a unique rock, blues and funk style 7:30-10:30pm Free

THURS 24TH

Christmas Eve Party

Open all day from 12pm until 1am, no ticket required and non-stop party atmosphere. Don't forget Christingle and St Mary Magdalenes at 4pm, something for every big and little kid... Free

FRIDAY 25TH

Christmas drinks

Open from 11:30am until 2:30pm so come and join the Albert extended family for a festive tippie, all dogs, children and well behaved adults are welcome to mingle with the Rodborough neighbourhood

SAT 26TH

Silent Night Disco

Boogie on down (silently) until 2am... Free

MON 28TH

Albert Carol Consort Knees Up

Once Christmas is done the Albert Carol Consort they truly let down their hair and beards for a well oiled evening session. Expect a few off kilter songs as various singers may go offpiste 7:30-10:30pm Free

THURS 31ST

New Years Eve Party

And this year's theme is...SKA WARS! £10adv 8pm

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

St Laurence Church

SUN 29TH NOV - SUN 6TH DEC

Christmas Tree Festival

The Festival switch on ceremony will take place on Sunday 29th November with music accompaniment by the Baily's Beads Barn Dance Band. The Festival will end with the Christmas Tree Festival Songs of Praise at 4pm on Sunday 6th Free

SUN 13TH

Christmas Presence 2015: A Very Vintage Christmas

The Door and Ignition Present their annual Christmas Concert with performances from singer songwriter Chris Eaton and Abby Scott and Jonathan Trim conducts a Stroud ensemble. Plus your favourite Carols! 7pm £10adv from thedoor.org.uk

stroudparishchurch.org.uk

Stroud Brewery

SAT 5TH

Gav and Nat

Gav and Nat play guitars, ukuleles and shaky eggs to perform the songs of various bands – some well known, others less so (including themselves) 7:30-10pm Free

SAT 12TH

Ethemia

Known as “one of the hardest working bands on the circuit” having performed over 450 gigs and appeared on over 40 radio stations their sound brings Fleetwood Mac and The Beautiful South to mind, but their trademark charismatic on-stage chemistry suggests ‘The Civil Wars’ 7:30-10pm Free

SAT 19TH

The Bob Porter Project

An Americana guitar band from Stroud ... if you like Country, Roots- Rock, Folk and Bluegrass original and covers then you'll enjoy this night at the brewery 7:30-10pm Free

stroudbrewery.co.uk

Subscription Rooms

THURS 3RD

A Touch Of Holly At Christmas

With authentic attire, horned rimmed glasses and the famous Stratocaster guitar, Marc Robinson will bring you a Rock N Roll Christmas Show full of Buddy Holly's Classics... Joining Marc Robinson, Gavin Stanley pays a sensitive tribute to Billy Fury and Elvis, the King of Rock n Roll will be played by Steve Halliday. Will Rock n Roll ever die? That'll be the day! 7:30pm £18/£17concs

SAT 5TH

Stroud Ceilidhs: Bursledon Village Band

Quintessentially all that is wonderful about English traditional dance music; vibrant, contagiously danceable and tuneful. (Caller Lisa Purkiss) 8pm £11adv/£10concs/ £12otdr/£11concs/ £5children

WEDS 9TH

The Bob Porter Project

Stroud locals performing Country, Roots- Rock, Folk and Bluegrass original and covers 7:30pm Free

SUN 13TH DEC

A Swinging Christmas Evening

Boogie woogie/swing pianist and vocalist Peter Gill and his band return to the Sub Rooms to perform an eclectic mix of swing standards and Christmas gems such as 'White Christmas', 'Santa Claus Is Comin To Town', 'Baby It's Cold Outside', 'Winter Wonderland' 'Route 66', 'Well Alright, Okay You Win' and 'Mr Bojangles' 8pm £14/£12concs

FRI 18TH

Doreen Doreen

Doreen Doreen play a mix of covers in their own inimitable style: Britney Spears, Queen, Ian Dury and Tom Jones plus a host of other favourites. If you have seen them before, you'll know what a fantastic night of fun and festivities will be had. If not, then prepare to be blown away by the sheer energy and humour of this top band 8pm £12adv/£15otd

SAT 19TH

Johnny Coppin: All On A Winter's Night

One of England's finest singer-songwriters presents a feast of carols, songs, humorous readings and folklore in a show that has become an essential event every Christmas. Johnny will be joined by the queen of the accordion Karen Tweed (ex-Poozies /Kathryn Tickell Band), Cheltenham's very own Paul Burgess on fiddle and recorders, ex- Decameron members Dik Cadbury and Geoff March, plus stunning seasonal images by award-winning photographer Martin Fry 8pm £15.50/£13.50concs + £3 Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

THURS 3RD

King Klam

Zappa said "Jazz is not dead, it just smells funny". I guess we are a jazz band because there are no vocals, we have a saxophone and there is improvisation but that is about the end of it. We dredged up some briny grooves and are slamming out some farcical funk that will not wash off for days 8pm £3adv from Trading Post/£5otd (John Street)

FRI 4TH

Mould host John Street Social Club

Mould presents: The 70's night! A night of music, film and dress up- 70's style. Bring your flares and your platforms and be prepared to get up and do your thing to some funky tunes! A specially invited chef will be keeping us well fed every Friday evening for the John Street Social Club so you don't need to eat before you come out 7pm - 11pm £1 membership on the door

SAT 5TH

Get The Blessing + Molecular & Ramses

See p6-7! 8pm £7adv online and Trading Post/ £8.50td (Goods Shed)

WEDS 9TH

Magic Lantern with Hot Feet

'Love of Too Much Living: Remakes' is an untraditional album. A record of 'reinterpretations and reimaginings' of The Magic Lantern's underground masterpiece 'Love of Too Much Living' Jamie Doe called upon some of his favourite artists to pick a song from the album and create their own version. The evening will celebrate the release of the resulting record, which features such artists as This Is The Kit, Emilia Martensson, and Stroud's very own Hot Feet! 8pm £5advance online and Trading Post/£6otd

THURS 10TH

Stroud Jazz Sessions presents GYJO Combo

Pete Martin runs the Gloucestershire Youth Jazz Orchestra (GYJO combo), with this line up consisting of 9 youth musicians (with some musicians playing several instruments!) All welcome, singers, players, listeners. Stroud Jazz Sessions is a hub for all interested in Jazz. Second Thursday of the month at SVA 8.30pm-11pm £3 musicians/£5otd (John Street)

WEDS 16TH

John Street Blues with The Steve Browning Band

Monthly blues night with a full set from invited guest plus open mic, archive foot- age and blues on vinyl. This month features the Steve Browning Band with a solid blues sound mixed with elements of jazz, funk and rock. If you are a musician with a blues song that you feel needs to be heard then

just turn up and find a slot somewhere in the evening! 8pm £3concs/£5otd/ Performing musicians free!

THURS 17TH

Three Cane Whale

A multi-instrumental acoustic trio based in Bristol, UK, featuring Alex Vann (Spiro), Pete Judge (Get The Blessing) and Paul Bradley (Scottish Dance Theatre). Their eponymous debut album was chosen by Cerys Matthews as one of her Top Five Modern Folk Albums, and in 2016 they'll be releasing their third album. As intricate as a team of watchmakers, as spare as a mountain stream, the music encompasses both a cinematic sweep and an intimate delicacy 8pm £6adv online and from Trading Post/£7otd (Goods Shed)

SAT 19TH

SVA Christmas Party

The SVA are having a Christmas Party! This December they want to celebrate Christmas properly and put on an event involving some of the artists that organise events at John Street throughout the year. There'll be spoken word, live music, film, food and some of the best DJs in Stroud for THE PARTY! Disco Sucks, Situation Sounds, Mr Fluffypunk's Penny Gaff, Jet Set Radio, Mockers, live bands, mulled wine, Bison Kitchen...18+ only 7pm-3am £8adv online and from SVA John Street (Goods Shed)

sva.org.uk

Twisted Fix

FRI 4TH

The Goodwill After-Party

10pm - 3:30am £5otdr 18+

SAT 5TH

Chemically Driven Vs Statik - Xmas Warm Up

9pm - 4am £5before 12 /£7after 18+

FRI 11TH/18TH

DJ J Keylex & Friends

Twisted Fix's very own resident DJ playing House, D&B, Hip-Hop, Dance and everything in between 11pm-3:30am Free before 12/£5after 18+

SAT 19TH

TWISTED FIX Resident TakeOver - Xmas 2015 Special

10:30pm - 3:30am Free before 12/£5after 18+

THURS 24TH

Xmas Eve

10pm - 1am £1entry & £1off all drinks 18+

SAT 26TH

Strictly Drum & Bass Boxing Day Bash

Ft. Dj Aphrodite 2 hour set!

10pm - 3:30am £6adv (call 07428675562)/£10otd 18+

Unit 2

SAT 5TH

Stroud Block Party Christmas

Back once again to finish the year in style! In conjunction with Freds Bar, the Block Party crew are gonna be rocking the bells till the early morning playing pure Block Party vibes and hopefully they will be able to announce some big plans for next year's line-up! 8pm-3am £5adv from Trading Post

SAT 19TH

Winter Solstice at the Crooked Stylus Social Club

To celebrate the shortest day and longest night, Crooked Stylus invites you to an evening of disco oddities, psyche funk and deep, double-dipped house business. DJ's include Rocksteady Tom Shillington and Darius Akashic with boozy delights from Fred's Bar 8pm-1am £5adv from Trading Post

THURS 31ST

Fred's Bar NYE Party

Come celebrate the New Year with the ever popular Fred's Bar with music from Situation Sounds Soundsystem, DJs playing the best disco and funk with live music thrown in too 9pm-3am £50adv from Wild Boar (which includes all drinks, a shuttle to and from town and a buffet at 1am!)

unit2studio.com

The Convent - Woodchester

WEDS 2ND

Ben Ottewell

Lead singer and guitarist of Gomez, Ben Ottewell brings his sublime sound to The Convent 8-11pm £15

THURS 3RD

The John Langan Band

"Astonishing work, boundlessly inventive... driving rhythms and mesmerising folk melodies" – R2 Magazine 8-11pm £7.50

SAT 5TH

Ben Maggs

Evocative vocals and melodic lyricism, combine in Ben's energetic "nothing held back" performance 8-11pm £10

SUN 6TH

The Magic Numbers

Exultant harmonies, sweeping melodies, driving rock and gorgeous ballads: The Magic Numbers are past masters at making music that lifts the spirits 8-11pm £18.50

THURS 10TH

Shine

Three voices, two Camac electro harps, one delicious Christmas tour... This show is packed with warming classic seasonal songs 8-11pm £7.50

FRI 11TH

Stark

'The lads ooze class and confidence... clever songwriting with a modern twist' – Blues Matters 8-11pm £7.50

SAT 12TH

The Albion Christmas Band

Featuring the combined talents of Simon Nicol (founder member of Fairport Convention), Kellie White (Albion Band), Simon Care (Edward II), and the Guv'nor himself, Ashley Hutchings, (founder of Fairport Convention, Albion Band, and Steeleye Span) this show takes you on a guided tour through the Christmas customs of Britain with a seasonal mixture of carols, spoken word, humorous readings and dance 8-11pm £15

SUN 13TH

Northsyde

With each member of the band having unique and diverse influences, their style is eclectic, but identifiable. A heady mix of soulful Blues, shaking Funk, and Zep-style riffing 8-11pm £5

FRI 18TH

A Convent Christmas with Cara Dillon and Friends

A festive evening featuring Irish songstress Cara Dillon, Mike McGoldrick, Lynched and Paul Brady 7-11pm £25

SAT 19TH

Jack of All

A folk/punk/rock duo with a unique sound that is all their own - and highly praised 8:30-11pm £5

SUN 20TH

The Dylan Project

Take four of Britain's most talented folk-rock musicians and a unique singer, add the repertoire of a genius, and you've got a dream band! 8-11pm £17.50

THURS 31ST

A Convent New Years Eve with Seth Lakeman

Curated by Seth Lakeman, guests will be treated to an evening of beautiful, hand-picked live music bound to

keep you transfixed. With a lineup to get excited about, this is destined to be a New Years Eve party to remember. Confirmed so far: Kathryn Williams - Popular singer-songwriter, Hypoxia writer/Zervas & Pepper - An upcoming Folk Rock duo from Cardiff, Wales/Gaz Brookfield - Bristol-based acoustic singer-songwriter/Seth Lakeman - Mercury Prize nominated acoustic singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist/Mad Dog Mcree - A unique mixture of folk rock, pop, gypsy jazz, bluegrass and 'shake your ass' music 7pm-1am £65

theconvent.net

Christchurch - Nailsworth

SUN 6TH DEC

Bristol Ensemble

Brahms wrote his visionary and meltingly beautiful Clarinet Quintet after hearing the playing of clarinettist Richard Mühlfeld, to whom the work is dedicated. It's paired with Haydn's String Quartet No. 1 Op.54, one of the 'Tost' quartets in which the composer explored new forms, new ways to employ combinations of instruments within the ensemble, and new harmonies. Featuring Roger Huckle and Paul Barrett (Violin), Carl Hill (viola), Robyn Austin (cello) and Dave Pagett (clarinet) 3pm £10otd

bristolensemble.com

St Georges Church – Nailsworth

FRI 11TH

Stroud Choral Society: A Celebration of Christmas

Celebrate Christmas with Stroud Choral Society in a family evening of carols, songs and readings. Listen to 'TheMinpins' – the Society's new children's choir, and join in with your favourite festive carols 7:30pm Tickets available from choir members or Stroud Subscription Rooms

stroudchoral.org

The Woolpack – Slad

WEDS 2ND

Lara Conley

As the nights draw in and we all feel like hibernating, the perfect solution is to come down to the cosiest Inn around and be sung to by the delightful Lara Conley; an established artist, with a back catalogue of songs, stories and music that add to the wealth of Britain's folk tradition 8pm Free

thewoolpackslad.com

THE GOP ALTERNATIVE XMAS YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

YouTube

Each month we create a YouTube playlist featuring artists taken from our music listings. Well we've done it again for December but we've also worked ourselves into some kind of mild festive spirit and put together our own Christmas playlist for you. Some of our readers may be upset at the omission of Chris De Burgh's A Spaceman Came Travelling, apologies. Send complaints to our email.

1. Mark Kozelek: I Believe In Father Christmas
2. Josh T Pearson: Angels We Have Heard On High
3. Sufjan Stevens: That Was The Worst Christmas Ever!
4. Low: Silent Night
5. Dawn McCarthy & Bonnie Prince Billy: Christmas Eve Can Kill You
6. Feist: Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming
7. Ian Archer: Little Drummer Boy
8. The Civil Wars: I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day
9. Yeah Yeah Yeahs: All I Want For Christmas
10. Minute Man: Last Christmas
11. Sufjan Stevens: Coventry Carol
12. Mark Lanegan: We Three Kings
13. Mark Kozelek: The Christmas Song
14. Andrew Bird: Auld Lang Syne



GOOGLE THIS TO WATCH:

goo.gl/LUTWae



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CHRISTMAS ARTS MARKETS

BY JOSIE CLIFFORD

THIS YEAR STROUD HAS SEEN AN INFLUX IN POP-UP SHOPS, EXHIBITIONS AND MARKETS DEDICATED TO THE ART OF CRAFT, NOT ONLY HAS IT INCREASED THE WANT FOR HANDMADE PRODUCTS, BUT IT HAS ENCOURAGED A WHOLE NEW ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR THE HARD WORK THAT GOES IN TO ANY ART FORM.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE APPRECIATION OF INDEPENDENT LOCAL BUSINESSES, WE KNOW THAT BY SHOPPING LOCAL AND SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBOURS WE CAN BOOST THE ECONOMY OF SMALL TOWNS, WHILST ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO PURCHASE GOOD QUALITY PRODUCTS AT A FAIR PRICE. THIS GUIDE IS HERE TO INFORM YOU OF SOME OF THE EXCITING FESTIVE TREATS THAT WILL BE POPPING UP OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD AND WHERE YOU CAN GET YOUR 'SHOP LOCAL' FIX...

ATELIER CHRISTMAS MARKET

MON 21ST DEC

Lower Street

Peruse an eclectic mix of handmade items created by local artists and craftsmen. Sally Hampson's wowed blankets, a Dennis Gould book stall, shawls and scarfs, leather goods and various other beautifully made products will be on sale to the general public. Plus mulled wine, tea and coffee will be available to quench your thirst as you shop for your Christmas treats 2pm- 6pm

atelierstroud.co.uk

CHRISTMAS MARKET AT RUSKIN MILL

SAT 5TH DEC

The Fisheries, Horsley

This has become a much loved Ruskin Mill annual tradition, offering a festive feast of beautiful hand crafted goods from makers and artists. Up for grabs will be a wide range of Christmas themed products, so as well as purchasing gifts for your loved ones you can pick up affordable decorations for your home and other items for your seasonal celebrations. Items on sale range from original prints, cards and jewellery to delicious honey scented beeswax candles in every shape and size imaginable perfect as a festive gift

or just something for your personal candle collection! To amuse the children there will also be storytelling sessions running at 11am, 1pm and 3pm in the aptly named: 'Festive Room'. The Ruskin Mill café will be on hand to serve up lunches and other refreshments 10am- 4pm

rmt.org

GALLERY PANGOLIN - CHRISTMAS CRACKER!

MON 16TH NOV - FRI 18TH DEC

9 Chalford Ind. Estate, Chalford

Over the past twenty four years Pangolin has established a reputation of uttermost quality and excellence by both modern and contemporary artists and this year's 'Christmas Cracker!' Exhibition is no different. With work from twenty three different artistic talents (six of which are local to the Gloucestershire area), the annual showcase features stunning silver work lending a special focus on sculptors' jewellery. Also on show will be an exciting and colourful selection of sculpture, prints and drawings to provide the perfect inspiration for Christmas presents. Artists include Anthony Abrahams, Ralph Brown, Lynn Chadwick, Abigail Fallis, Lorraine Robbins and Steve Russell Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-1pm

gallery-pangolin.com

MADE IN CHALFORD CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRI 4TH - SUN DEC 6TH

London Road, Chalford

For the second year in a row, Victoria Works Studios will host 'The Made in Chalford Christmas Fair'. With last year such an overwhelming success, this year's event hopes to bring even more craftspeople into the limelight showcasing their handmade products. Live music and a bar will also be on hand to add even more festival cheer to your overall shopping experience! Suggested entrance fee is £1 and all proceeds will be split between The Nelson Trust and GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers). Also running at the studios is a 'print your own Christmas' event, the day costs £50 (including materials) and guests can come and learn 'the intricate art of Lino cutting' Fri 6-9pm/Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

facebook.com/VictoriaWorksStudios

STROUD BREWERY WINTER SOLSTICE MARKET

SUN 20TH DEC

London Road, Thrupp

The ever popular local brewery opens its doors for the second year in a row to invite you to its Winter Solstice market and organisers are hoping it will be even better than last year! With music, craft, food, storytelling and workshops on hand to bring you into the Christmas mood, this is definitely worth a visit for everyone of every age. There is even talk of a little bit of a snow magic... 10am- 6pm

stroudbrewery.co.uk

STROUD FARMERS & CHRISTMAS MARKET

FRI 18TH - WED DEC 23RD

Cornhill Market Place

For your last minute shopping needs, pop to the farmers market and pick up something from the local makers! There will be the usual locally sourced delicious cheeses, meat, bread etc. as well as bottle ciders and wines and other thirst quenching treats that have made the Stroud Farmers Market such a familiar and popular treasure for visitors (inside and outside of the town.) As well as this we are promised an abundance of Christmas craft available to purchase on these special dates:

Fri 18th/Mon 21st/Tues 22nd Christmas Gift Market 9am-4pm//Sat 19th – Stroud Farmers Market 9am-2pm//Weds 23rd – Stroud Farmers Market Extra 9am-2pm

fresh-n-local.co.uk

STROUD GOOD WILL EVENING

FRI 4TH DEC

Stroud Town Centre

The Good Will Evening returns with a new theme – SPACE! So get the tin foil ready to adorn your other worldly costumes...As ever there will be arts and crafts from Made In Stroud and Kendrick Street Gallery, numerous stalls, shops opening late (with discounts aplenty), Father Christmas, a rock choir, light sculptures and projections. The highlight is the ever popular lantern procession leaving from the Subscription Rooms at 6pm...4-9pm

facebook.com/StroudGoodwillEvening

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS CHRISTMAS GIFT MARKETS

FRI 4TH & SUN 6TH DEC

Kendrick Street

Find inspiration and temptation at the Subscriptions Rooms this season with hundreds of unique gifts on sale. Call into the ballroom on Stroud Goodwill evening to discover an array of stalls catering to your every need, as well as trendy tipples and delicious food treats available from the Café Bar. The Sunday market takes full swing on the forecourt with local Arts and Crafts, free family entertainment and hot food and drinks Fri 5-9pm/Sun 10am-2pm

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

WINTER WONDERLAND AT THE GOODS SHED

SAT 12TH - MON 21ST DEC

Station Road

Immerse yourself in the Goods Shed winter wonderland. Part installation, part performance space and part market space; this unique program creates an environment filled with creatively imagined stalls where you can find your perfect gift. A caravan print studio, Christmas hampers, Red Heart textiles and brand new SVA t-shirt's will be available to the public, as well as abundance of other fun activities such as carol singing and an alternative Christmas tree competition. The Goods Shed Café & Bar will be open daily serving hot mulled wine and cider, snacks and food, with Bison Kitchen delighting with their mouth-watering cuts straight from the grill 10am- 4pm.

sva.org.uk

Josie Clifford was born in Stroud studied BA Hons degree in Journalism and recently returned after taking some months out to visit Vietnam and Cambodia as a volunteer. She now spends her time working in a local Bistro, going on walks, visiting new places, getting involved in local events and taking photos of her kitten Orla

ART LISTINGS

The Blue Room Gallery

EVERY FRI & SAT

Oliver Vivian: Lucidity

Oliver Vivian's Lucidity Exhibition continues with colourful expressive abstracts in oils on canvas, evoking the primal forces of the natural world. Open for the pre Christmas Open Studios, 4th - 6th (10am - 5pm) and 12th/13th and 18th/19th (10am - 3pm)

GPC Printmakers Gallery

**SAT 5TH/12TH/19TH -
SUN 6TH/13TH/20TH**

Affordable Print Show

Framed and unframed prints, as well as printed gifts (including notebooks, wrapping paper & cards), live print demos and studio visits, along with mince pies & mugs of tea! 11am-5pm

gpchq.co.uk

Kendrick Street Gallery

**SAT 5TH -
THURS 24TH**

John Rodgers

John will be exhibiting charming local watercolour landscapes. He has won many awards including The John Birkhead in Oxfordshire, his paintings can be found in private and public collections, both in the UK and Greece where he lived and worked for many years. Frequently painting 'en plein air', he describes his influences as 'friend and tutor Euan Uglow and the painter Robin Tanner'. Mon-Sat 9:30am-5:30pm/Goodwill Evening 4th Dec 6-7:30pm

kendrickstgallery.co.uk

Lansdown Hall

TUES 1ST - SUN 6TH

Soul Imaginations

A new exhibition of artworks from studio members of Imagine Therapeutic Arts. The community-based project offers an accessible and supportive studio space, where members explore and develop their creativity through painting, drawing and clay sculpture 10am - 5pm

TUES 8TH - SUN 13TH

Eve and Peter Adams:
Heartfelt and Soulwrought

A joint exhibition of Felting And Embroidery by Eve Adams And Paintings by Peter Adams including archetypal themes, celebration of nature through the seasons, owls, trees and the goddess Tues-Sat 10am -4pm/Sun 12-2pm

lansdownhall.org

The Line Gallery – SVA

23RD NOV - 1ST DEC

Sam Marsh

Sam Marsh describes his painting style as a 'soup' of colour. His bold work is often painted on unusually shaped canvases Fri + Sat 10am-5pm

FRI 4TH- THURS 24TH

Nothing But Navy

Returning for its 5th Christmas in Stroud, Nothing But Navy is a brand that sells exclusively Navy products, including stationery, garments, homeware and accessories. Following the success of their first shop in 2011, NBN exists as a pop-up venture hosting events all over the UK. Pop in for the opening on Friday

4th for navy merriment, festive cheer and for food from by Bison Kitchen! Monday-Saturday 10am-7pm/ Sunday 11am-4pm

linegallery.co.uk

Meme

WEDS 9TH

Siobain Drury & Kay McLean

Private view – all welcome! Original work from residents Siobain Drury & Kay McLean, and Winter Arts Sale with gorgeous handmade silver pieces from Amy Curtis plus originals and prints by Nina Feldman and Rachel Oram 6-9pm

memecafebar.co.uk

Museum In The Park

**SAT 14TH NOV -
SUN 6TH DEC**

Sarah Brooker &
Mariette Voke

Sarah Brooker and Mariette Voke share a love of collecting intriguing and quirky everyday objects. They also share a love of museums, especially local museums where stories of everyday life are told through objects from times gone by. This exhibition brings together small, intricately detailed watercolours and larger oil paintings by Mariette and beautiful, colourful hand rolled felt hangings and framed pieces by Sarah. It also includes new work inspired by The Museum in the Park's unique collections Tues-Fri 10am-4pm/Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

museuminthepark.org.uk

Site Festival Presents

FRI 4TH - SUN 6TH

Christmas Open Studios

Looking for gift inspiration? Artists are opening for a special Winter Open Studios weekend where you'll find contemporary hand-crafted unique presents for the upcoming festive season. Featuring a selection of Site Festival Open Studios artists across the district, visitors will be spoilt for choice by the variety of work. An online Open Studios directory showing which artists are open will be available online SVA 4 John St: 4th 6pm-9pm/SVA and various Artist Studios across district 5th-6th 11am - 6pm

sva.org.uk

Subscription Rooms

TUES 2ND - SAT 6TH

Trevor Blundell: Flight

Following on from recent successful wildlife exhibitions on birds and game reserves in Tanzanian, Trevor has prepared a photographic study on Flight around Stroud and beyond. It encompasses the many facets of flight design from the natural world and its translation into everyday life. The contrast from small insects to reusable space shuttles is dynamic. Many photographs will demand close scrutiny 10am-5pm

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

SAT 2ND/12TH/19TH

The Weaving Shed

Sally Hampson, an artist and weaver, is back in SVA's project space at number 29 High Street bringing Weaving workshops and events. Drop in or by appointment

sva.org.uk

Upper Lock Café

**TUES 1ST -
THURS 31ST**

Fiona Sharman

Over the years Fiona has found that she loves to work with two different mediums, acrylic on canvas and stencils with spray paints and recycled wood. Her art has two themes that are an abstract interpretation of seascapes and spirituality and in a way the two are linked. This exhibition will show work that is representative of both of these themes; the spiritual art came about as a result of a commission from a yoga studio and the seascapes through my fascination with the beauty of the sea and its life forms. Fionas work can be viewed on her facebook page at facebook.com/Artfulfi Mon-Sun 8:30am-4pm

upperlockcafe.co.uk

Prema Arts Centre - Uley

**MON 9TH NOV -
SUN 13TH DEC**

Clare Halifax

Clare Halifax's various print techniques have afforded her the ability to portray urban and coastal scenes with an intricacy and opulent detail which demand closer inspection of each individual piece 10am-4pm

**MON 9TH NOV -
SUN 13TH DEC**

Eve Coy

Whilst bringing up her daughters Eve has been constantly illustrating their family life, documenting the magic of childhood as inspiration for children's stories. She joins Prema this autumn as one of our new artists in residence 10am-4pm

**MON 9TH NOV -
SUN 13TH DEC**

Sophie Buckley

Please welcome our second new artist in residence. Sophie is a textiles artist who uses both crochet and needle-felting to re-create animals in miniature, whether making the creature herself, or teaching others in workshop settings 10am-4pm

prema.org.uk

Studio Maru – Dursley

**SUN 1ST NOV -
THURS 24TH DEC**

Maru Christmas Fayre

Featuring arts, crafts, knitwear and jewellery from Nimpy Clothing, Anna Brooke, Jill Hancock, David King and more... Mon-Sat 10am-5pm/Closed Weds & Sun

studiomaru.uk



OUT NOW:

JAMES KRISZYK -

WHEN SPIDER

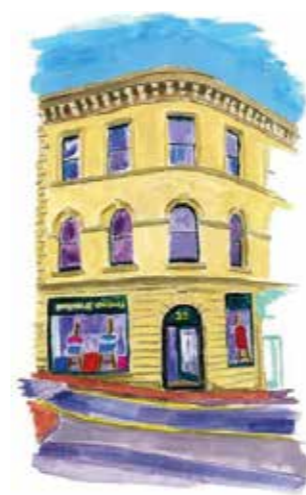
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ANGE MULLEN-BRYAN

"MY PAINTINGS ARE INSPIRED BY THE LAKES, FORESTS AND SKIES OF A VAST SWEDISH LANDSCAPE AND A VERY PARTICULAR AND ILLUMINATING NORDIC LIGHT. THESE PAINTINGS PLOT POINTS ON A JOURNEY; BE IT A PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL ONE. AS IF I WERE LOOKING FOR A MAP TO NAVIGATE MY WAY THROUGH THIS LANDSCAPE, I LET THE ACT OF PAINTING LEAD ME. I GIVE MYSELF UP TO THE CHAOTIC AND EMOTIONAL JOURNEY, COMPELLING AND UNCERTAIN."

Red barns and homesteads; sharp and crackling branches lash against smooth snow with long red shadows and fierce pink skies. Hot lupins, dark pines, slippery, dripping lakes and quiet fires. Distant echoes of the groaning, warping and thumping of a lake trapped under ice. This is a land that becomes something closer to a scene from ancient myth or folklore, where the imagination runs away and the uncanny resides. Where the real and imagined co-exist and are often difficult to determine from one another. Here you find yourself beginning to believe that the little people of folk tales do come out at twilight.

In the wilderness I feel vulnerable in the face of nature and that seems rare and unusual in such a convenient world. You learn to respect nature and listen to it. This is both humbling and profound and it forces you to engage with forgotten instincts. I love feeling that intensity, it reminds me of the ancient nature of our evolution which shapes us.

I work on coloured linens and canvases, leaving vast stretches unpainted, I drip and patch the thin veils and thick strokes of paint together. Colour and form knock, jar and rest against each other, a tangle makes a whole. I invite an escape into a kind of utopia, where you can smell freedom and pine in the air, a place I think I know. Yet I nod to the nagging impossibility of it and remind you that good fairy tales have a lesson within them..."

angemullenbryan.com

Forthcoming Exhibitions

FRI 27TH NOV

Open Studio for
Good Will Night

The Painswick Centre,
Painswick

**SAT 5TH -
SUN 6TH DEC**

SVA Winter Open Studios

The Painswick Centre,
Painswick



TRENCH- COATS FOR GOAL- POSTS

BY SUE FLOOK

MIXING THE BEAUTIFUL GAME
WITH NOTES FROM HISTORY,
SPANIEL IN THE WORKS IS
PRESENTING A LIVELY AND
TOUCHING PRODUCTION IN THE
RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

In the winter of 1914, three players from Forest Green Rovers left home to fight in the front line trenches of France, joining hundreds of other young men from Gloucestershire. Two of the players were killed during the First World War; the other returned home, but died from illness shortly after.

An unusual starting point for a pre-Christmas play? Perhaps. But this is where Stroud theatre company Spaniel in the Works' passion and expertise lies – taking stories from history and making them accessible and entertaining for audiences who may not otherwise go to the theatre. Trenchcoats for Goalposts was first performed at The Prince Albert last Christmas – marking 100 years since the start of the war – and it's been extended for 2015.

The name of the show is in reference to the legendary truce of Christmas 1914, when it is said that a football match took place between British and German soldiers in no man's land. Testimonials from those involved in the conflict show that small-scale truces were fairly common throughout the early months of the war: one aspect has given rise to the term 'machine gun DJs' – soldiers would fire above their enemies' heads during truces, syncopating patriotic songs (they would also have an agreed gun-fire signal to let soldiers know that the generals were ordering them to recommence hostilities). The

idea of this Christmas Day football match has touched our imaginations for generations.

"The show will be poignant but there will be moments of silliness and seasonality – we're going to use tinsel to represent the barbed wire, for example," explains John Bassett, Spaniel in the Works' founder. "We hear so much about the huge numbers of men who were killed fighting during the war; with this show I'm focusing on the soldiers as individuals."

According to the Radical Stroud blogspot, three names on the Nailsworth war memorial match the names of pre-war Forest Green Rovers players – W Brinkworth, E Beale, S Marmont. Football will be at the heart of Trenchcoats for Goalposts. It's a play of two halves – both 45 minutes, naturally – and the stage will separate the audience into Germans and British. We'll follow the players as they leave home and travel to France for training and combat. They meet a world-weary soldier who, as many readers may guess, will be played by Bill Jones (currently known around town for his alter ego Miserable Malcolm). Crispin Thomas, who started Stroud Football Poets, has reworked some of his poems for the event. Also expect to hear contemporary war poems of the time by British authors such as Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, as well as Sir Henry Newbolt's Vita Lampada ("Play up! Play up! And play the game!").

Uta Baldauf and Angela Findlay will lead the singing of Stille Nacht (Silent Night), and extracts from letters written by a German soldier while in the trenches will be read by Angela. Music and football-style commentary will be provided by Crispin Thomas and Jeff the Fuse and the show closes with a moving piece by Jonny Fluffypunk, The Final Scores, remembering the professional footballers who were killed in the war (many

teams throughout the UK were wiped out as a result of so many players being sent away to fight).

Spaniel in the Works itself has an impressive history. Set up 14 years ago, it specialises in "museum theatre", developing and delivering performances for national and local organisations including the Science Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the V&A, Stroud's Museum in the Park and the Gloucester Archives. It's also been involved with street theatre, its charming name born when a show was interrupted by a barking dog.

"One of the most challenging pieces I was asked to deliver was a show about biomimicry – for five-year-olds!" For anyone who's wondering, biomimicry is when humans look to nature for solutions for problems. Bassett found out that trainer soles are based on the spongy properties of hedgehog quills and an engaging show for these youngsters was created.

"We want to bring quality theatrical entertainment to as wide an audience as possible. With Trenchcoats for Goalposts, I'm particularly encouraging teenagers to come along as I think everyone will enjoy the show and will come out knowing something new."

Trenchcoats for Goalposts, Stroud Subscription Rooms, 12 December, 8pm. Tickets are available from the Subscription Rooms (01453 760900) and cost £8 in advance/£10 on the door.

Sue Flook is a Stroud-based copy editor and writer. She has previously worked for Time Out, the Big Issue and The Guardian as well as for national and international charities.



image by James Kriszyk

THEATRE LISTINGS

The British School Hall

TUES 29TH -
WEDS 30TH

Red Dog Theatre Company:
The Crocodile's Gift

When Damura is sent to the river to do the washing, she loses her stepmother's best sarong. She is dismayed, but finds surprising help at hand if only she is brave enough to accept it. Exciting adventures follow, and at last it seems Damura will find the happiness she deserves - or will her jealous stepmother's tricks ruin everything? This beautiful Cinderella story from Indonesia is full of delightful twists and turns, perfect for young children at Christmas time! A relaxed play for children under 7. 2pm & 3:30pm £8.50adv from the Everyman Box Office 01242 572573 or www.everymantheatre.org.uk Or contact info@reddog.org.uk for more information

reddog.org.uk

Lansdown Hall

FRI 4TH

Hexagon Theatre Company:
Pyrenees

In the Pyrenees a middle-aged man is found unconscious in the snow. He has no papers and no memory of who he is. A young woman from the British Consulate is dispatched to his hotel to see if she can establish his identity. As they talk and begin to work out a story for him, they find themselves connecting on a deeper level. But, the arrival of another guest threatens to undermine their conclusions 7:30-10pm £10adv from Subscription Rooms

THURS 17TH - FRI 19TH

Breakout Productions:
Jack and the Beanstalk

Breakout Productions presents its seasonal adaptation of the classic tale in which a young man sells his family's cow for a bag of magic beans from which a magical beanstalk grows 7pm £12adult/£8children/£35family available from Stroud Tourist Information – proceeds to 'Cots for Tots' appeal

lansdownhall.org

Museum In The Park

SUN 6TH

Storybox Theatre Company:
The Snow Queen

There is a world of snow which is beautiful but very cold. Gerda's world is warm and full of flowers. Is she strong enough to find her friend Kay, who has lost himself in the palace of the Snow Queen? Join her as she begins her long journey...

This evocative puppet show retains all the beauty and magic of one of Hans Christian Andersen's best loved tales.

For families with children aged 5 and above, the performance is one hour long with no interval 11:30am & 2:30pm £6adults/£4children Booking necessary, please call on 01453 763394

museuminthepark.org.uk

Subscription Rooms

THURS 10TH

Vienna Festival Ballet:
The Nutcracker

Be swept away on a magical adventure in one of the most famous classical ballets of all time – The Nutcracker. With its combination of enchanting choreography and unforgettable music, this fabulous ballet is a Christmas treat like no other.

Set to Tchaikovsky's sumptuous score, the traditional tale of The Nutcracker tells the story of Clara and her enchanted nutcracker doll. Their adventures see Clara and the Nutcracker combat the Mouse King, and join the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier on a wonderful journey through the glistening Land of Snow to a kingdom made entirely of sweets. Returning by popular demand, Vienna Festival Ballet's production promises to delight audiences of all ages with its festive setting and captivating story 7pm £19.50/£15.50concs/£13.50 12 years and under

SAT 12TH

Spaniel in the Works Theatre
Company: Trenchcoats
for Goalposts

See p18! 8pm £8adv/£10otd

TUES 22ND - WEDS
23RD/CHRISTMAS EVE

Daylight Theatre Company:
Jack and the Beanstalk

The highly acclaimed Daylight Theatre Company return with another fairytale incorporating actors, puppets and audience participation. Jack exchanges Daisy the cow for some magic beans which grow right up to the sky. But who lives in the enchanted castle in the clouds?

Join Jack, his fairy god mother, Wuff the dog, Fluff the chicken and help them climb the magic beanstalk. For ages 5 – 11 and lasting an hour. 22nd 2:30pm/23rd 11am & 2:30pm/Christmas Eve 11am £8/£6concs/family £25

subscriptionrooms.org.uk

THEATRE ON SCREEN

Vue Cinema

THURS 3RD

English National Opera Live:
The Mikado

Set in a quaint seaside town, The Mikado follows the misfortunes of the poor musician, Nanki-Poo. He is secretly the Emperor's (the Mikado's) son in disguise, who left his father's court after he was almost forced to marry an older woman – Katisha – against his will (12A) 7:15pm

SUN 6TH

The Bolshoi Ballet: The Lady
of the Camellias

The Bolshoi breathes new life into John Neumeier's tragic masterpiece, inspired by Alexandre Dumas' novel and accompanied by Chopin's exquisite score (12A) 2:45pm

TUES 8TH

National Theatre Live:
Jane Eyre

Almost 170 years on, Charlotte Brontë's story of the trailblazing Jane is as inspiring as ever. This bold and dynamic production uncovers one woman's fight for freedom and fulfilment on her own terms (12A) 6:45pm

THURS 10TH/SUN 13TH

Royal Opera House Live:
Cavalleria/Pagliacci

Since the late 1800s, these two operas have often been performed together, and come as a pair now in this stunning theatrical event from the Royal Opera House (12A) 10th @ 7pm/13th @ 1:50pm

SAT 12TH

MET Opera: The Magic Flute

The groundbreaking broadcast that launched the Met's award-winning Live in HD series to movie theaters in 2006 (12A) 5:45pm

TUES 15TH

National Theatre Live: Hamlet

Academy Award® nominee Benedict Cumberbatch (BBC's Sherlock, The Imitation Game, Frankenstein at the National Theatre) takes on the title role of Shakespeare's great tragedy (12A) 7:15pm

WEDS 16TH/SUN 27TH

Royal Opera House Live:
The Nutcracker

Dreams, enchantments, and captivating music have helped make The Nutcracker one of the most beloved ballets of all time, brought to you now by the Royal Opera House (12A) 16th @ 7pm/27th @ 1:50pm

THURS 24TH

Kenneth Branagh Theatre
Company: The Winter's Tale

Shakespeare's timeless tragicomedy of obsession and redemption is re-imagined in a new production co-directed by Rob Ashford and Kenneth Branagh, following their triumphant staging of Macbeth in Manchester and Manhattan (12A) 6pm

myvue.com

INDEPENDENT BOOK SHOPS & PUBLISHERS

STROUD'S INDEPENDENT BOOK SHOPS AND PUBLISHERS RECOMMENDING ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT THEY CURRENTLY STOCK OR PUBLISH. IF YOU ARE A BIT STUCK FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA - GET ONE HERE...

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amberley-books.com



SHEPHERD'S HUTS & LIVING VANS BY DAVID MORRIS
"In 1800 a shepherd's hut was an unremarkable sight. Today these collector's items are being renovated and replicated in high numbers to satisfy demand, developing cult status. Beautifully illustrated throughout."



A YEAR ON A DAIRY FARM BY RICHARD CORNOCK
"The farm has been run by the Cornock family in Tytherington, Gloucestershire for nearly 200 years. Featuring the author's stunning photographs, their farm life is chronicled from January to December."

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MARTIN LARGE, PUBLISHER
hawthornpress.com



WHERE ON EARTH IS HEAVEN? BY JONATHAN STEDALL
"According to John Cleese: 'The most annoying book I have ever read, as the author seems to have had a more interesting life than I've had.'!"



FINDUS AT CHRISTMAS BY SVEN NORDQVIST
"Packed with lively illustrations, this heart-warming story follows the fortunes and misfortunes of Findus (a cat) and Pettson (his farmer) as they prepare for Christmas. A tale of kindness."

THE HISTORY PRESS
CAITLIN KIRKMAN, CAMPAIGNS MANAGER
thehistorypress.co.uk



FRITZ AND TOMMY: ACROSS THE BARBED WIRE BY PETER DOYLE AND ROBIN SCHÄFER
"Drawing on letters and diaries this unique collaboration between British and German authors is a refreshing and touching examination of how little truly divided the men on either side of no-man's land during WWI"



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SADAKICHI: THE COLLECTED POEMS OF SADAKICHI HARTMANN
"Sadakichi Hartmann is the missing link in American poetry between Walt Whitman and Ezra Pound. Friend to both, he influenced a whole generation of writers and artists in New York where his exuberance and bohemian lifestyle led to him being crowned 'The First Hippy'. Available in April 2016."

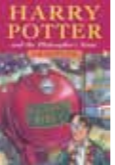


ADA KALEH BY FREDDIE MASON WITH ILLUSTRATION BY ALICE-ANDREA EWING
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ESSAYS BY GEORGE ORWELL
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HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE BY J.K. ROWLING
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CHARLES TONGUE, OWNER
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VILLAGE CHRISTMAS AND OTHER NOTES ON THE ENGLISH YEAR BY LAURIE LEE
"It was partly Laurie Lee's writing that brought me to Stroud so news of a new collection of his unpublished work has to be the most exciting thing this year. I would also highlight a new collection of stories by Rachel Joyce who wrote one of my favourite recent novels; 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'. She is now living locally and so you could say her writing is also being suffused with the spirit of the Five Valleys."



THE BABY'S CATALOGUE BY ALLAN AND JANET AHLBERG
"I was recently chatting with my three daughters about their favourite memories of childhood books. They were unanimous that this was the best and given the store of golden memories I have of sharing it over and over with them, that has to be good enough for me."

THE YELLOW LIGHTED BOOKSHOP - NAILSWORTH
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BEYOND THE FELL WALL BY RICHARD SKELTON
"A beautiful hardback illustrated by printmaker Michael Kirkman, this little gem makes it's starting point a dry stone wall in the Cumbrian valley where the author lives, and uses it to explore the history of that place, and the people, animals and myths that surround it."



WOLF WILDER BY KATHERINE RUNDELL
"By my favourite writer of the moment, this is an epic, gripping, imaginative adventure set in a frozen Russia at the end of Tsars, with revolution, children, lots of wolves, lots of bravery and a wonderful heroine sorting out a well bad baddie."

LITERATURE LISTINGS

Ale House

WEDS 2ND/9TH /13TH/23RD

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

No 23

SUN 6TH

Short Stories for Grown-Ups
Stroud writer Alice Jolly joins host Philip Douch for a warm and friendly evening of beautifully crafted short stories, read to the audience by the writers themselves. One extra story (up to 1500 words) will be chosen at random from any audience member who wishes to bring one along. Why not make an evening of it? You can book a delicious meal to enjoy downstairs before the stories start (call 01453 298525) 8pm £5 To make sure of a seat please book by e-mail: pandjdouch@gmail.com
philipdouch.org.uk

The Retreat

THURS 3RD

Publishers of Gloucestershire Small Business Saturday Event
Organised by Stroud's Out of House Publishing this event is an opportunity for the publishers and publishing professionals of Gloucestershire to meet and get to know each other better in an informal environment. Come join the Out of House Publishing team in The Retreat for drinks and a chat!
oohpublishing.co.uk

Subscription Rooms

FRI 18TH

Stroud Out Loud!
Stroud's monthly spoken word showcase including poetry, storytelling and monologues! Celebrate free speech with this entertaining open mic showcase with food from Fat Toni's Pizzas and Magic Hat Donations for guest performers 7pm (arrive early for a slot: 3 mins if reading; up to 10 mins if no text is used)
subscriptionrooms.org.uk

SVA

FRI 11TH

RiffRaff Poets host John Street Social Club
RiffRaff Poets (originally comprised of Dennis Gould, Ms. PatVT West (d. 2008) and Jeff Cloves) was founded by Dennis, with their first collective performance in 1971. Dennis and Jeff will be performing poems about anarchism, pacifism, feminism, jazz, dreams and much more. Jazz interludes provided by Ella Fantasia on the decks. Bison Kitchen will be keeping you well fed on Friday evenings so you don't need to eat before you come out 7-11pm £1 membership on the door

FRI 18TH

Adam Horovitz hosts John Street Social Club
Have yourself a Blue Christmas with Adam Horovitz's Jazz/Poetry Superjam. Monk, Duke, Mingus and more, plus a plethora of poets on video and even a few poets on stage. The John Street Social Club is a series of Friday night club socials hosted by different artists each week with visuals, archive footage, informative curiosities and audio to share. Bison Kitchen will be keeping you well fed on Friday evenings so you don't need to eat before you come out 7-11pm £1 membership on the door
sva.org.uk

Ruskin Mill - Nailsworth

SAT 19TH

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

The Yellow Lighted Bookshop

FRI 4TH

John Burningham: Champagne
John Burningham's Champagne is a book of pure loveliness, as cheering and restorative as a glass of fizz itself. It is an album, a scrapbook, a potted history and a celebration all rolled into one by the creator of some of the Yellow Lighted Bookshops best loved books for children, also a connoisseur of the 'King of Wines' and how it makes us feel. John is best known as one of the finest children's book illustrators working in the world today. But, as we will discover, he has a hidden side, and something of a taste for the fine things in life. There will be champagne to drink, a beautiful setting, and a wonderful speaker to listen to. Perfect for a winter's evening @ Horsley 3in1 at the Parish Church, Horsley 7pm £10adv (gives you £5 off the book and a glass of champagne)

THURS 7TH

Ian Buxton: 101 Gins To Try Before You Die
Back by popular demand! As part of the promotion of his new book, '101 Gins to Try Before You Die', Ian Buxton will again be visiting Stroud Brewery to provide an evening of gin sampling. Expect unusual and delicious gins in the relaxed deck atmosphere of the Brewery...7pm £5adv
yellow-lightedbookshop.co.uk

New Brewery Arts Centre – Cirencester

TUES 29TH

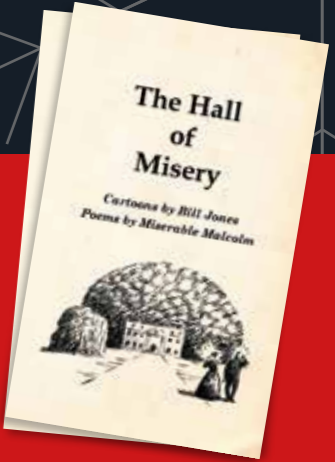
Writers in the Brewery
A regular event that takes place on the last Tuesday of the month in the cafe. Share your work or just sit back, sip your drink and listen to others. Everyone is welcome 7-9pm £4 (inc. free tea and coffee; other drinks at bar prices)
newbreweryarts.org.uk

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COMEDY

BY CHRIS HEAD

HERE ARE FOUR WAYS YOU MIGHT EXPERIENCE COMEDY THIS CHRISTMAS. YOU MIGHT GO TO THE COMEDY ALL STARS AT THE SUBS ROOMS OR THE PANIC BROTHERS AND JOHN MOLONEY AT THE CONVENT (SEE LISTINGS BELOW). YOU MIGHT RECEIVE A STAND-UP DVD. AND YOU WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY SHARE SOME CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKES. FOR THIS FESTIVE SPECIAL COLUMN I WILL BE EXPLORING HOW CRACKER JOKES ARE WRITTEN AND HOW STAND-UP ONE-LINERS EMPLOY THE SAME KIND OF APPROACHES...

Christmas cracker jokes tend to be in the Q&A format and involve wordplay. One kind of simple wordplay is the homophone. A homophone is when two words are pronounced in the same way but differ in meaning or spelling; for example 'bear' and 'bare'. Here's a simple homophone cracker joke:

“WHY DOES SANTA HAVE THREE GARDENS? SO HE CAN ‘HOE HOE HOE!’”

The homophone here being ho/ hoe. For the writer, the joke begins when you notice the homophone, then you have to think of some kind of plausible context where Santa might say 'hoe, hoe, hoe.' A different version of the same gag could be 'What did Santa say to his three gardeners? Hoe, hoe, hoe.' Here's another homophone cracker gag:

“HOW DID SCROOGE WIN THE FOOTBALL GAME? THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PASSED!”

To write a homophone joke think of some Christmas phrases and look for homophones. This writer has spotted Christmas past/passed. Your homophone becomes the punch. Now the task is to write the set-up. This is where the real creativity happens. The words “How did Scrooge win the football game?”sets up the homophone clearly and economically. Here's a particularly neat homophone one:

“HOW DOES GOOD KING WENCESLAS LIKE HIS PIZZAS? ONE THAT’S DEEP PAN, CRISP AND EVEN!”

Few stand-up comedians would deliver this kind of punning Q&A joke on stage. But one-liner merchants like Milton Jones will use homophones. For example: “When our daughter was born she had jaundice. She was small round and yellow. We called her Melony.”

This would have begun with noting the homophone Melanie/melony. Again the task is to write a set-up that prepares the ground for the homophone. And Milton Jones has been ingenious here. In your crackers you will also find a lot of what you might call a near-homophone. The sound is not precisely the same but close enough for the gag to work:

“WHAT DO THEY SING AT A SNOWMAN’S BIRTHDAY PARTY? FREEZE A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW.”

“For he’s” sounding close to “freeze”. One-liner comics too can indulge in near homophones. Here's a particularly off-the-wall one from Tim Vine (you may have to say it out loud.):“My friend told me he was going to a fancy dress party as an Italian island. I said to him ‘Don’t be Sicily’.”

In crackers these near-homophones very often drift into just being rhymes. Here's one based on the word 'cracker' itself:

“WHAT DO YOU GET IF YOU CROSS SANTA WITH A DUCK? A CHRISTMAS QUACKER!”.

And the word 'elf' and it's various rhymes does a lot of work in Christmas crackers. Here are a couple of 'self' ones:

“WHY DID SANTA’S HELPER SEE THE DOCTOR? BECAUSE HE HAD A LOW “ELF” ESTEEM! “

“DID RUDOLPH GO TO SCHOOL? NO. HE WAS ELF-TAUGHT!”

Recall that in writing these jokes the author began with the punch – elf-esteem/ elf-taught – and then worked backwards to write a set-up to fit. There'll be loads more based on the elf/self rhyme. Can you think of one for an 'elf help' book? Another good rhyme with elf is 'health'.

“WHY DON’T YOU EVER SEE FATHER CHRISTMAS IN HOSPITAL? BECAUSE HE HAS PRIVATE ELF CARE!”

Here's one that just occurred to me using that rhyme (I definitely won't be the first person to have thought of this though...)

“WHAT DO SANTA’S HELPERS RELY ON WHEN THEY GET ILL?THE NATIONAL ELF SERVICE.”

Another approach is to take a Christmas or wintery sounding word and find an alternative meaning for it. In the following cracker jokes we have 'frostbite' and 'ice caps.' They have their commonplace meaning but here the joke writers have found alternative meanings and then written a set-up to fit:

“WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A SNOWMAN WITH A VAMPIRE? FROSTBITE!”

“WHAT DO SNOWMEN WEAR ON THEIR HEADS? ICE CAPS!”

Here's a non-festive Alfie Moore one that also finds a different meaning for a commonplace phrase:“I'm in a same-sex marriage... the sex is always the same.”

Another way of finding an unexpected meaning in a phrase is to take one that is normally figurative and take it literally:“Standing in the park, I was wondering why a frisbee looks larger the closer it gets...then it hit me.” Stewart Francis.

The phrase 'then it hit me' means of course a sudden realisation. Stuart Francis would have seen its potential for being taken literally. He'd have then explored situations where he might have literally been hit physically by something. Again the next step is to write the set-up that makes the phrase into a punchline. The cleverness of it is that the punchline has both the literal and figurative meanings operating. As does this one:“I can give you the cause of anaphylactic shock in a nutshell”. Gary Delaney. And finally here's a cracker one that does the same thing:

“WHAT IS THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT IN THE WORLD? A BROKEN DRUM, YOU JUST CAN'T BEAT IT! “

So whether you go and see the gig at the Subs Rooms, the Convent, get a Milton Jones DVD or just groan at a few cracker gags you can see that certain techniques apply across the board when it comes to one-liners.

Chris Head has established himself as one of the UK's leading comedy coaches and has nearly twenty years' experience as a director of live comedy. Visit chrishead.com for further info

Subscription Rooms

THURS 10TH

Comedy All-Stars w/ Andrew Watts, Howard Read and Lateef Lovejoy

The Convent – Woodchester

FRI 4TH

Panic Brothers & John Moloney

Andrew Watts - Has been performing stand-up comedy since February 2006. His defiantly middle-class observational style has endeared him to audiences across the country.

Howard Read - A comic, writer, animator and actor, in that order. He is best known for being one half (and the other half), of the Big Howard/Little Howard, the world's first human cartoon double-act. He is also an acclaimed stand-up comic, writer, author, illustrator and animator.

The Panic Brothers are sharp witted stand-up comedian and songwriter Richard Morton and award winning singer songwriter Reg Meuross. The pair have recently reunited, after a break of 25 years, and are teaming up with some of their most talented friends for a series of cabaret style evenings of music and comedy at the Convent. John Moloney has been a professional comedian for over twenty years, and has entertained audiences

Lateef Lovejoy as MC - An extremely gifted entertainer, who made his show business debut as a witty 12 year old on ITV's famous morning gameshow 'Mousetrap'. After that experience on the big screen he has never looked back. Not many performers can boast of having exceptional skills in all the main areas of the performing arts. Lateef has these multi-faceted skills in abundance! 8pm £10adv/ £14otd Special Offer: Buy 5 advance tickets for the price of 4

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across the globe with his crafted, intelligent and original stand-up routines. Winner of the 'Best Live Performer' award for two years running at the London Comedy Festival and 'Best Live Stand-Up' at the British Comedy Awards John has become one of Britain's most in-demand comedy acts 8-11pm £15

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- 10 SHINE
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- 12 ALBION
- 13 NORTHSYDE
- 18 A CONVENT CHRISTMAS WITH
CARA DILLON & FRIENDS
- 19 JACK OF ALL
- 20 THE DYLAN PROJECT
- 31 A CONVENT NEW YEARS EVE
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