



FOCUS ON FOUR

Showcasing work by Jon Buck,
Terence Coventry, Anita Mandl
and Charlotte Mayer

16th January - 10th March



GALLERY PANGOLIN

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www.gallery-pangolin.com

Images: *Woman on Bench* Terence Coventry,
Thornflower Maquette Charlotte Mayer,
Venus Jon Buck, *Armadillo* Anita Mandl



COVER ARTIST:
Mark Levy

"STROUD HAS A STRONG CONNECTION TO MUSIC THAT IS GROWING EVERY YEAR WITH NEW FESTIVALS, SUCH AS HIDDEN NOTES SELLING OUT WITHIN DAYS. AS THIS MONTH'S ISSUE FEATURES A ROUND UP OF ALBUMS RELEASED IN 2022, I THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY FITTING TO CREATE A COVER SYMBOLISING THE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE THAT IS LISTENING TO YOUR NEW FAVOURITE ALBUM."

MARKLEVYART.COM
@MARKLEVYART

EDITOR'S NOTE

WELCOME TO ISSUE 92.

The first edition with the numbers 2023 printed on its cover.

As well as covering things happening in the first month of the new year this issue features our annual round up of albums and EP's released by local musicians, bands and solo artists (including a Stroud 2022 playlist featuring songs from those releases) and books published by Stroud dwelling authors in the previous year (there was a lot as per usual!)

We have also published the works by the winners of the first ever Laurie Lee Prize For Writing and as ever bring forth a guide to gigs, exhibitions, plays, film screenings, workshops, courses and more taking place across the entire Stroud District....

Looking forward to bringing you another 12 issues this year filled to the edges with words and pictures.

And next month? The Good On Paper Party returns...

See.You.There.

Happy New Year.
Long Live the Printed Word.

Alex Hobbis and Adam Hinks

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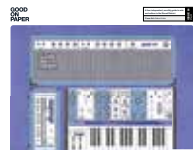
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STEVE QUERALT

BY TOM BERRY
PHOTO BY JULIAN HAYR

IT'S A WELL WORN PATH THAT MANY OF US WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH. A DESIRE TO LEAVE THE CITY, A CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH STROUD, A VISIT TO THE FARMER'S MARKET AND A MOVE WEST. FOR STEVE QUERALT, BASSIST WITH INDIE SHOEGAZE LEGENDS RIDE, COVID WAS THE CATALYST.

It's been eighteen months now since Steve moved to Woodchester and so far, so good. It's a far cry from the heights of a career that has established him as one of the key architects of shoegaze and has seen him headline Primavera as well as play gigs all over the world. The move has, however, enabled him for the first time, to create a project under his own name.

Following the reformation of Ride in 2014 Steve had acquired a wealth of musical ideas which had no home. Lockdown allowed him to immerse himself in these files and his synthesiser collection. He built layers of sound, adding bass and then guitar. He looked for a vocalist to complete the work and Joe Clay from his label Bytes suggested a spoken word artist from Hartlepool called Michael Smith.

Steve was initially sceptical but he sent a track to Michael who sent the track back with his melancholy but uplifting tones. Steve was astounded by the result, "It worked brilliantly" he says "Michael asked me if I had any more tracks and I was only too happy to send them." The duo soon had an EP's worth of material and this formed the basis of Sun Moon Town. The result is astounding, shimmering ambient textures are offset by Smith's reminiscing and his own story of moving from the big city (in his case to St. Leonards in Sussex). The subject matter is diverse – the joy of nature, social media and mental health are all covered in a project that is more than the sum of its parts. Musically the reference points are equally diverse; Boards of Canada, Max Richter and Mogwai are all mentioned by Steve as influencing his sound.

Another musical input was provided by one of his own bandmates from Ride. "I'd used pre-set drum tracks in Logic (a computer based music making programme) on Vespertina but it didn't sound quite right – too clinical". Steve sent the part of the track he wanted to drummer Loz Colbert and he was able to provide the required swing that the track required.

Incredibly, given its coherence, Steve and Michael made the record without actually physically meeting. "We eventually did meet in London one night, because we thought we ought to," says Steve. "It was a really good night, but we've no plans to take the project any further at this stage." I ask about possible live dates but Steve argues

that the material doesn't really lend itself to that. "It would be a bit Pet Shop Boys" he suggests as the subtle shifts in musical tone don't really require a huge amount of on-stage input from him.

It is clear though that the project has achieved what Steve wanted it to. "I did it for me, it has given me confidence to make music outside of Ride". Others clearly agree, Uncut magazine said that Queralt and Smith find a 'beautifully judged space between experimental and warmly welcoming, like something you might chance upon the radio at midnight and then wonder if it was all a dream. More please.'

There are indeed plans for more music in his own name. Steve has an album's worth of material and is currently looking for the right vocalist to bring his ideas to life. This material may well form a deeper project as he feels that this new material would lend itself to playing live. Meanwhile Ride are in the process of completing another LP which should emerge towards the end of 2023 in which Steve suggests will see a further evolution of their sound. Until then we have the small but perfectly formed Sun Moon Town to tide us over...

The four track EP Sun Moon Town by Steve Queralt and Michael Smith is out now, released via the record label Bytes as a digital album and limited edition vinyl. Head to stevequeraltmichaelsmith.bandcamp.com for further info.



TOM BERRY IS A DJ AND PROPRIETOR OF THE INDEPENDENT RECORD STORE SOUND RECORDS. FOR EXCLUSIVE DJ MIXES VISIT MIXCLOUD.COM/MONOBROW73

GOOD
ON
PAPER

VOL. 07

GOP PARTY VOL. 07

VOL
07

(A)

GOP PARTY VOL. 07

04.02.23

THE SUB ROOMS
+ WEVEN
+ TOMARI-GI
STROUD

1.

ANNA MEREDITH.
COSMO SHELDRAKE.
YAMA WARASHI.
ORBURY COMMON.
STONE CLUB.
FT. BOSS MORRIS.

2.

DJ SETS
KLANG TONE RECORDS
THE HIGH PRIEST
KEEP IT COSMIC
BEN WARDLE

3.

BOX OFFICE
BUSKING IN THE BOX OFFICE

4.

ART EXHIBITION
STEAL THIS EXHIBITION
GOOD ON PAPER COVERS

5.

ART EXHIBITION/FILM SCREENINGS/Q&A'S
THE GLOAMING

Compact
Cassette

SABINE KANER



TEXTILE ARTIST SABINE KANER TALKS ABOUT HER NEW EXHIBITION, HAND-STITCHED STORIES, AT STROUD'S MUSEUM IN THE PARK; HER PRACTICE, LIFE EXPERIENCES, AND AN UNUSUAL APPRECIATION FOR THE HOUSEHOLD MOTH.

BY AMANDA WHITTINGON

In *Hand-Stitched Stories*, Sabine Kaner explores the human condition through mixed media textiles. She weaves semi-abstract compositions with layers of texture, colour, stitches and symbols. Her joyous and vibrant compositions can be enjoyed on many levels with deeper meanings beneath the surface.

Drawing on her personal life experiences, Sabine opens dialogue about issues of cultural, social and economic identity, mental health and politics. "As a second-generation immigrant, I very much want to represent people from minority groups. We haven't had much of a voice in the past, but that's improving. I think the more we share things, the more people realise that we're not so separate after all."

Sabine uses hand-stitching, fabrics, print, collage and more recently, glass, to create pieces you want to touch. "I'm a touchy-feely person," she says. "I just love textures!" She touches her green cashmere jumper. "I discovered this morning that the jumper I'm wearing under this one has been eaten by a moth. They're a real problem." Not what you want as a textile artist? Sabine laughs. "No! But it can be fortuitous for me." Indeed, most of the fabric she uses is salvaged from her own clothing or passed down from family and friends, "I have this kind of attachment to the cloth which makes the piece feel more meaningful. I'm also passionate about reinventing fabrics as sadly textile recycling often ends up in the sea."

Sabine moved to textiles from fine art printmaking in 2000. Starting with old sheets, dishcloths, and "anything she could get her hands on," she explored psychological issues through needlework. Her fine art background informs her work which pays special attention to the balance of the composition. From sketching initial designs, she works organically, following a dualistic process of memory and materials. The feel of a fabric can spark a memory inspiring her work, and the piece evolves as different fabrics come along. Every stitch is done by hand. "I'm trying to promote hand-stitch to be used in a fine art way. I'm convinced that everyone can find something to enjoy within

textiles if given an opportunity to explore."

Sabine's son, Matthew is a successful composer. "Listening to his music is really important for my creative process. I can hear Matthew in his music which really inspires me." Her artwork for his album, 'Lines And Music' is on show. Family is a big influence in Sabine's work, from the fabrics she uses, to the stories she tells. 'When The Boats Come In' is a powerful piece she created in response to The Windrush Scandal. It recounts her father who travelled on the first Windrush boat from Jamaica to the UK. On first hearing about the scandal, Sabine recalls: "I was so upset, I really was. I just couldn't stop crying."

Intricate embroidered patterns celebrate colour and diversity with things trapped between; a leaf and butterflies represent the fleeting moments of time. Different coloured hands, symbolising expression and identity, reach up to the majestic looking ship. "I did it as a sort of poster from the 1930s when they said, 'come to the UK, we need you to work for the NHS,' that was behind the way I presented it. Welcoming." Sabine continues, "And then they got here and there was no colour at all... it was pretty foggy and dark. It was horrible." Her father, traumatised by the whole experience, was later found wandering the streets of London, having temporarily lost his memory.

There are accompanying narratives, but Sabine admits there is more. Hidden under an oak leaf is a small veil of netting containing left-over scraps of fabric. She says, "I put that there because my dad, like everyone of any colour, was treated like rubbish."

'The Cold British Landscape' is about immigration to the UK. Navy sleeves point in one direction, representing seaport officials. Sabine says: "They're saying, 'move on. The countryside is out of your reach, just keep going to your allocated place.'"

Sabine's mother was German. 'Blended Cultures' is about absorbing three cultures and reflects her struggles growing up around identity and belonging. Colours from the Jamaican flag are juxtaposed with shades of autumn. "It represents

the divisions between my fragmented identity."

Through a family tree, Sabine discovered that her great, great grandmother was a Zulu Princess, slave-traded to Jamaica. And her Jamaican aunt told her later in life that her grandmother was Jewish. Sabine says: "It was a real eye opener and I found that many Jamaicans can trace their roots back to being Jewish."

Racism was rife in the multicultural area of London where Sabine grew-up. "It was pretty grim," she recalls. "Today, racism and prejudice can be very subtle. Like feeling slightly outside of things. People not including you in their group — not being seen as 'one of us.'"

Sabine uses colour intuitively and to convey subliminal messages. 'Decorating The Cuts' is about mental health distress and self-harm. The red sleeve emphasises 'urgency' and stands out against a dramatic black backdrop. Within the sleeves are cuts, adorned with beautiful colourful hand-stitched patterns. Sabine says: "I was trying to turn it into a positive. Find some joy and hope."

What is it like to work with such complex, and often unspoken, issues? "It's quite an emotional journey. There are certain pieces which are quite..." she stops for a moment, then smiles. "I'm a very emotional person; it's the way I talk, the way I express myself through my art." Is there a release? "For me, it's about representation and inclusivity. This is significant for how we understand ourselves as a multicultural nation and come together. This is what motivates my work."

Sabine Kaner's exhibition *Hand-Stitched Stories* is at the Museum in the Park from 24th January to 26th February 2023, head to museuminthepark.org.uk/hand-stitched-stories and sabinekaner.com for further information.

AMANDA WHITTINGON IS A STROUD-BASED WRITER WITH A BACKGROUND IN PRODUCING AND DIRECTING DOCUMENTARIES. SHE LOVES TELLING PEOPLE'S STORIES AND SPECIALISES IN THE ARTS, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CHARITY SECTORS. AVAILABLE FOR COMMISSIONS: AMANDARWHITTINGON@GMAIL.COM

A YEAR IN MUSIC

2022



EMILY BARKER AND LUKAS DRINKWATER

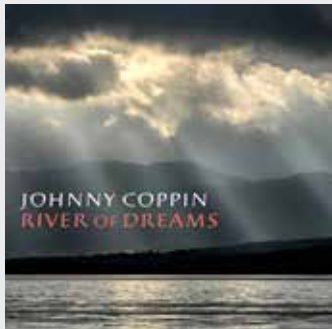
ROOM 882

RELEASE DATE: 13.01.22

An album recorded during a two week hotel quarantine at The Westin in Perth. Room 822 features songs by Australian artists (ten in total) spanning four decades from 'Under the Milky Way' by The Church (1988) to 'Boys Will Be Boys' by Stella Donnelly (2019).

"Fourteen days in one room with no fresh air is not ideal by any stretch of the imagination, but in order to visit my family back here in Australia after almost two years away, my husband Lukas and I decided it was worth the time in quarantine. We thought a good way to kill the hours would be to set ourselves a goal. Lukas suggested recording an album. For a while I'd been thinking of recording some covers of songs written by Australians and Lukas agreed that was a great idea for the album. Choosing which songs to record was tricky - there are so many great songs by Australian artists. It was great to share these songs and artists with Lukas, and get his thoughts on them - turns out that he was also a big Silverchair fan as a teenager."

emilybarker.com/room822



JOHNNY COPPIN RIVER OF DREAMS

RELEASE DATE: 16.02.22

An album of mainly original compositions by the singer/songwriter, composer and poetry anthologist formerly with the folk-rock band

Decameron. Songs about legends, and about separation, ambition, fears and dreams. There are three songs that explore legends: The Bisley Boy, Song of The Severn and The Green Isle. River of Dreams also includes two covers; the Master Calls the Roll by Rosanne Cash and the Greenway, a song by Stroud singer/songwriter Jehanne Mehta.

johnnycoppin.com



JACQUELINE KROFT

PIANO PRELUDES VOL 1

RELEASE DATE: 11.03.22

A five track EP, three years in the making by pianist, singer/songwriter and composer Jacqueline Kroft. The first in what promises to be a series of stripped back solo piano compositions recorded in her own home studio.

jacquelinekroft.com



ORBURY COMMON

THE TRADITIONAL DANCE
OF ORBURY COMMON

RELEASE DATE: 29.04.22

LABEL: PRAH RECORDINGS

Orbury Common's debut release for PRAH Recordings which also featured Bristol artist Tenchpress on the EP's lead single 'The Crooked Bayleaf' and Mermaid Chunky on 'Devil Gurning'. Of the EP, the pair say: "This record is an imagining of how the traditional 'dance' music of Orbury Common would sound: songs to accompany ecstatic ceremonies and strange, fire-side customs. It's a bleary stumble through the nightlife of Orbury Common and

aims to draw parallels between ancient rituals and raves, between holy temples and the dancefloor. It explores the primitive and visceral impulse to dance, and imagines scenes of communal frenzy, flailing limbs and vague humanoid shapes partaking in warped, beat-driven worship in the dark."

orburycommon.bandcamp.com



DMX KREW PARTY LIFE

RELEASE DATE: 06.05.22

LABEL: PERMANENT VACATION

After the re-release of the classic Nu Romantix album, Ed DMX aka DMX Krew returns to Permanent Vacation with his new album Party Life. This time the long-haired UK legend is taking a step back from his trademark Electro and Techno sound and putting on his romancing suit. Ed is crooning over 80's styled Boogie, Disco and Funk tracks in a way only he can do it and that will either make you jump for joy or cruising down the coastal promenade. Party Life is another example why Ed is a master of all crafts in the ever expanding DMX Krew universe.

dmxkrew.com



MARA SIMPSON LAYERS

RELEASE DATE: 12.05.22

An instrumental reimagining of Mara's 2021 album In This Place. "The idea came from having always loved the moments when I'm mixing a piece and hearing different combinations of instruments on their own. I wanted to share these sound-pallets, and reveal the layers behind the 'finished' song.

When I came to produce these tracks into pieces in their own rights, there was a twist; To me, taking away the lyrics and stripping arrangements back in different ways, actually intensified the themes and stories behind the music. Those themes of guardianship, both of the earth and of our children, and the stories behind each song, to me, now feel more elemental, the exposing of LAYERS revealing a deeper essence of these tracks. "

marasimpson.com



FADER QUARTZ

RELEASE DATE: 13.05.22

LABEL: BLANC CHECK RECORDS

Quartz is the third album from Fader, a duo consisting of Neil Arthur and Bengie, whose work includes his own solo albums, co-production with Gazelle Twin and Blancmange, plus being a member of three other critically acclaimed bands - Wrangler, Creep Show and John Foxx And The Maths. As with their 2017 debut First Light, the music for the new album was recorded and mixed at Bengie's Memetune Studios while Arthur worked on lyrics, vocals and some additional sounds in his home studio. Quartz is a reflective, elegiac record that has the elegance of clockwork and a structure where all the parts fit together in subtle detail. There are references to time but the spiralling melodic patterns that form the basis of the songs paradoxically create a sense of timelessness.

fader.tumblr.com



THEE ONES WOLF HUNT EP

RELEASE DATE: 19.05.22

A four track EP of swampy, highly contagious grooves by popular local troupe Thee Ones - a band raised on a diet of Dr John, The Meters and the mighty Captain Beefheart...

theeones.bandcamp.com



PHONSONIC MUSIC BOX

RELEASE DATE: 05.08.22

For his second release of 2022 Phonsonic (aka Alexander Caminada) decided to try a new approach and base the compositions on a Victorian cylinder music box. "This beautifully crafted rosewood and brass instrument had me fascinated for a while, standing in my studio, inviting to be explored. The tunes it plays are not quite perfect as pins are missing from the drum and teeth have broken off the combs. The 'airs' programmed are beautiful but my desire to do something unique got me tinkering with the mechanism. I discovered that all these metal components encased in a wooden box created a whole spectrum of other sounds. Recorded as small fragments and manipulated through various effects into long loops, forming a basis for the tracks with synthesisers, piano, flute and additional field recordings. The album is a celebration of the ingenuity and craft of instrument makers and the inspiration they provide more than 120 years after they created their devices."

Other releases in 2022: Spectral Drift (14.01.22)

phonsonic.bandcamp.com



NATALIE HOLMES VITAMIN BE

RELEASE DATE: 26.08.22

For the last 10 years, Natalie Holmes has been releasing deeply reflective and strikingly vulnerable songs in the form of singles, EP's and self-produced demo albums on Bandcamp, as well as writing and producing monthly demos for her Patrons for the past 3 years. As a result, with her production skills at the strongest they've been, she decided to self-produce Vitamin Be, and the world of sounds you hear is entirely her own...

natalieholmes.co.uk



DELIFINGER SMALL LOVE

RELEASE DATE: 16.09.22

LABEL: LOST MAP RECORDS

Formerly of Bristol's pop-experimentalists OLO Worms, and one half of pastoral folk-tronic duo Grasscourt, singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Matthew Lacey cuts loose with his first full album of intimate songs, and hushed melodic interludes, as Delifinger. Released via Pictish Trail's influential label Lost Map Records.

lostmap.bandcamp.com/album/small-love



BLANCMANGE PRIVATE VIEW

RELEASE DATE: 20.09.22

LABEL: LONDON RECORDS

Neil Arthur and Stephen Luscombe started experimenting with tape loops and kitchen utensils, before discovering electronics and developing into one of the definitive chart-topping British electronic pop acts of the 1980s. Since reforming in 2011 (Luscombe left shortly after for health reasons) Arthur has harnessed a duality of experimentation and seamless pop melody to release a staggering 10 albums in the last decade. Private View captures an artist who is potently in the moment while also being able to draw on 40 years' worth of knowledge, experience and built-in intuition.

The album was released via London Records almost exactly 40 years to the day since they released their debut, Happy Families. This neat, full circle is also reflected in the album itself, being the perfect crystallisation of four decades of Arthur's creativity.

Other releases in 2022: Nil By Mouth IV/V (04.03.22)

blancmange.co.uk



DIANA YUKAWA SPIRALS

RELEASE DATE: 20.09.22

LABEL: LONGBODY MUSIC

Diana Yukawa is an award-winning solo violinist who combines elements of electronica with modern and contemporary classical sound. Her new album Spirals was released on her very own Longbody Music after five solo albums with Sony Music. Spirals is informed by both the global pandemic and her own personal lockdown, where she chose to temporarily step back from music and focus on family life, motherhood and adapting to life in the country.

dianayukawa.com



EMILY BARKER LIVE AT BRUNEL GOODS SHED

RELEASE DATE: 07.10.22

Recorded live at Brunel Goods Shed back on the 15th November 2020 and filmed plus broadcasted as a livestream by Northern Cowboys, the event brought together the full band that recorded the album A Dark Murmuration of Words in the absence of live touring during the Covid lockdown.

emilybarker.com



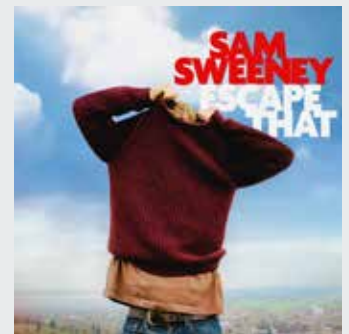
STEVE QUERALT AND MICHAEL SMITH

RELEASE DATE: 14.10.22

LABEL: BYTES

Steve Queralt, bass player of pioneering shoegazers RIDE, and the writer and film-maker Michael Smith join forces for a stunning four-track EP, released on Bytes. Over Steve's exceptional electronic soundscapes, Michael provides spoken-word vocals in his lulling Hartlepool tones, distilling excerpts from his new book to fit with the music.

stevequeraltmichaelsmith.bandcamp.com



SAM SWEENEY ESCAPE THAT

RELEASE DATE: 21.10.22

LABEL: HUDSON RECORDS

Renowned fiddle player and tireless musical adventurer Sam Sweeney returned in 2022 with the passionate, raw and expressive new album 'Escape That'. The record ties together the threads and footpaths of all of Sam's musical loves; an honest and fearless expression of himself, combining pop hooks and aesthetics with his pioneering work in the world of traditional dance tunes. 'Escape That' simultaneously presses the reset button on what a folk record should sound like while marking a major stride forward for Sam into the world of composition. Written without ever touching the violin, Sam retreated to his attic during the lockdowns of 2020-21 and created over twenty pieces of music.

samsweeneymusic.com



CLARE HAMMOND

HÉLÈNE DE MONTGEROULT - ÉTUDES

RELEASE DATE: 04.11.22

LABEL: BIS RECORDS

Hélène de Montgeroult (1764-1836) was a French composer and pianist who lived an extraordinary life. Though only 8 years younger than Mozart, she wrote in an early Romantic style that was decades ahead of her time and has been described as “the missing link between Mozart and Chopin” From her output, Hammond has selected 29 études that highlight the unique talent of this composer whose music is on a par with that by Chopin, Mendelssohn and Schumann, displaying a harmonic audacity, textural complexity and, despite its pedagogical purpose, a singing quality and an expressive depth. Forgotten so comprehensively for such a long time, Montgeroult’s Études deserve a similar renown and popularity as those by her contemporaries.

clarehammond.com



SIMON MCCORRY

MOUTHFUL OF DUST

RELEASE DATE: 18.11.22

LABEL: POLAR SEAS RECORDINGS

Prolific musician and composer Simon McCorry returned to Polar Seas following his beautiful *And Where Are You Really From?* album released in 2021. Gorgeous and mournful compositions for cello and electronics featuring cover photography by Nikoleta Monyok.

Other releases in 2022: *Scenes From The Sixth Floor* (22.10.22), *A Is For Autumn* with Andrew Heath (30.09.22), *Mind Of Winter* with anthéne (08.03.22), *The Failure Of Accuracy* (04.03.22)

simonmccorry.com



EMILY PORTMAN AND ROB HARBRON

TIME WAS AWAY

RELEASE DATE: 25.11.22

‘Time Was Away’ is Emily Portman and Rob Harbron’s debut duo album, comprising eight English folk songs and two 20th century poems set to music. Recorded and produced by the award-winning Andy Bell of Hudson Records, the album is a quietly powerful masterwork that deftly treads the tightrope between contemporary and timeless. Emily (voice, banjo and piano) is best known as an original songwriter and for her work with acclaimed folk band The Furrow Collective. Stroud dwelling Rob (concertina, guitar, voice) tours with Leveret, Fay Hield, Jon Boden and many more, being in great demand as one of the finest multi-instrumentalists in the UK.

emilyandrob.uk



MAJA LENA

PLUTO

RELEASE DATE: 02.12.22

LABEL: CHIVERIN

On new album *PLUTO*, Maja Lena journeys from the pastoral to the cosmic. Her increasing fascination with science fiction and the icy, electronic soundscapes of 1980s Japanese cinema and video game music, particularly that of Joe Hisaishi of Studio Ghibli have been key touchstones on her new material. Whereas the landscapes in her debut album *The Keeper* were inspired by mountains and valleys she’d seen in real life, this one is set in an alternate world close to Pluto and she likes the idea of some parts sounding like creatures from another world in conversation with each other.

majalena.co.uk



LENSMEN

SOMEWHERE SOMEWHERE

RELEASE DATE: 02.12.22

The latest release and first LP from Stroud based quartet Lensmen. A nine track labour of love that saw the band build their own studio and collaborate with the likes of Edward Upton (DMX Krew) and Simon Edwards (Talk Talk, Beth Gibbons). A lock down project that forced the band to creatively work their way around sound engineering and production obstacles to uniquely combine musical motifs with spoken word. All mastered by the Grammy winning Shawn Joseph.

lensmen.bandcamp.com



ANDREW HEATH

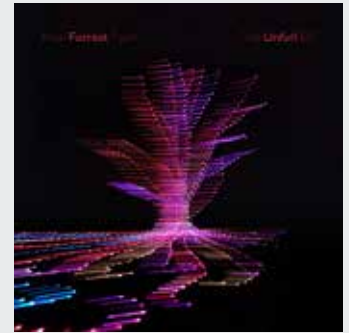
SHORT STORIES

RELEASE DATE: 02.12.22

Short Stories presents a more intimate and inward looking perspective. Originally conceived as a series of piano sketches and experiments, Andrew refined these, adding field recordings and then subtle electronic tonal elements, but always with the intention of keeping the idea of laconic vignettes, of brief glimpses into half crystallised thoughts. Deliberately keeping the arrangements sparse, his signature piano playing is more delicately melodic than previous recordings. There is a sprinkling of melancholia, just as there is with much of Andrew’s work but here there is also a hope and a quietly observed celebration of the human condition. Andrew has also renewed his love of the work of poet, Maria Stadnika in ‘The Poet’s Garden’, spoken in her native Romanian.

Other releases in 2022: *A Is For Autumn* with Simon McCorry (30.09.22), *Once We Were All Here and Nowhere Else* with James Osland (23.07.22), *Dispatches* with Anne Chris Bakker and Mi Cosa de Resistance (04.06.22), *Quiet Noise* (25.02.22)

andrewheath.co.uk



MIKE FORREST FLYNN

THE UNFURL EP

RELEASE DATE: 13.07.22

The *Unfurl EP* is the latest project from bassist, producer, and composer Mike ‘Forrest’ Flynn featuring a cinematic mix of cutting-edge electronica, powerful melodies and gritty jazz improvisation. Drawing together a wide range of textures – from crunching lo-fi beats, bristling synth bass-lines, downtempo and drum’n’bass rhythms – he’s created a highly distinctive sound-world. The EP also features guest musicians including trumpet virtuosos Jay Phelps and Nick Walters, acclaimed keyboardist Rebecca Nash, guitar star Ant Law and leading jazz harpist Alina Bzhezhsinska.

Other releases in 2022: *A Little Stillness* (07.10.22)

mikeflynnmusic.co.uk

STROUD DISTRICT RECORD LABELS:

HYPERLOOP RECORDS

hyperlooprecords.bigcartel.com

HIDDEN NOTES RECORDS

hiddennotes.co.uk/label

DREADWISE MUSIC

dreadwise.com

SITUATIONISM RECORDS

facebook.com/Situation.Sound

FLIPSIDE RECORDS

flipsideuk.com

ROLLERCOASTER RECORDS

rollercoasterrecords.com

STROUD RECORD SHOPS:

SOUND RECORDS

23 George Street

TRADING POST

26 Kendrick Street

KLANGTONE RECORDS

50A London Road

THE LAURIE LEE PRIZE FOR WRITING WINNERS 2022

THE INAUGURAL LAURIE LEE PRIZE FOR WRITING TOOK PLACE EARLIER THIS YEAR, CREATED TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOUR THE WORK OF STROUD'S MOST FAMOUS SON, LAURIE LEE (1914-1997). OPEN TO UNPUBLISHED GLOUCESTERSHIRE WRITERS ACROSS A RANGE OF GENRES THE PRIZE WAS THE IDEA OF BESTSELLING STROUD WRITER, KATIE FFORDE, AND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF STROUD BOOK FESTIVAL WITH THE BLESSING OF LAURIE LEE'S FAMILY, AND HIS LITERARY ESTATE.

The 2022 winners were chosen by judges Katie Fforde (chair), Jessy Lee (Laurie Lee's daughter), Norah Perkins (Laurie Lee's literary agent), and Gloucestershire writers, Jamila Gavin, Adam Horovitz and Jane Bailey with 'Source Material' by JLM Morton winning the non-fiction, over 25 category and Archie Woolls' 'Scarecrow' and 'Snowman' for poetry, under 25. "As the initiator of the Prize, I was anxious that we wouldn't have enough entries, but we had plenty and the standard was high. It was hard to pick winners among so many splendid pieces of work, but I am extremely happy with the winners we have chosen." Katie Fforde

As part of the prize Good On Paper are delighted to be working with the Laurie Lee Prize For Writing team to publish the exceptional and unique winning entries in this month's edition.

By Archie Woolls

SCARECROW

and I have never known desperation like this.
the body is found in the early hours, fresh and plump and ripe
in the cornfield, between the rows of cobs,
we descend from the hedgerows, eager.
land on the checkers of the shirt like targets,
firm flesh yielding beneath talons
we wait, we watch, we want.

the bravest of us begins.

there is no saying grace at this dinner table
the shirt, now torn, shifts to reveal the meat
the skin is easily broken in this cold morning chill.
beaks crack into the rib cage with little resistance
there is no blood, no noise, we dine
share out the feast
we dig into the stomach, deepen the cavity
we excavate, search for hidden treasure
it tastes like striking gold, like silver and copper and quartz
like dirt and rust and sweat

sweeter than any meal we've had
better than any roadkill, any insect
we fight over organs
and when we start on the face
on the hollowed cheeks and sandy hair
we kill over who gets
to eat the
eyes.

Snowman

In a tiny two-bed by the surgery
I watch him watch the world freeze.
Late January or early February;
the annual ice age, white dew
dripping fast down dented drains,
grey-green grass drowned in ice, a film of frost
encasing the earth, a sterile stretch of
untrodden untouched unbroken bliss.
Flakes melt in icy blue eyes, aglow with
untampered unrestrained unbridled glee.
We grab our tools and step into the
snow globe, the operating room,
marking our territory with every shoe
stub stain we leave in our wake. I make the first
incision, gloved hands tearing at unblemished flesh,
sculpting with unpractised ease, inelegance leaving scars,
not that it matters - our Adonis will not last the day. The untamed
breeze sinks its incisors, cold only in the way a blade is cold, woollen
tights pulled taut to trembling knees, he helps me roll the body. The
skin is imperfect, blemishes and blotches, bearded and bedraggled, the earth
pulling up at our feet, paint brush bristles fixed to a canvas, eyelashes to a cheek,
we are destructive in our creation. The sun, our bright white lamp head,
illuminates our errors, bright white snow stained red brown green,
we diagnose the patient: blood clots, rosacea, susceptible to bruising.
Asymmetrical grey-green eyes, crooked smile, curved nose, we
offer up our jawless totem, stepping back from the figure
to take it in, holding my breath for his final verdict.
"Well," he says, after reviewing the evidence
"He has your eyes."

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SOURCE MATERIAL

BY JLM MORTON

WILD

We crested the brow of the hill at dusk and saw the twinkling lights spread out between the vehicles and sound systems down on the common with an electrifying sense of excitement. All talking at once, rolling fags, hanging out of the windows, we found a spot to park up off the B4208 on that evening in May 1992 and entered three days that would change the rest of our lives.

It wasn't the first rave I'd been to – there were a lot of others (Stroud, Lechlade, Acton, names I can't remember) – and it wasn't my last, but immersed in Castlemorton and the spectacular weirdness of the Spiral Tribe sound system, dancing all night to DIY DJ's Digs & Woosh and Circus Warp with a nomadic, open, inclusive community of like-minded souls, my sense of belonging to a wild land beyond the urban normcore was cemented.

Being an old skool raver has been part of who I am for decades now, I admit. I took it with me when I moved away from Gloucestershire in the mid-1990s up to university in Madchester and the club nights then on to the glory days of early noughties Brighton and that infamous Fat Boy Slim beach rave. But it wasn't just the outdoor parties that made me feel part of the wild. I had begun to carry the wild with me as I'd snuck out of the house as a kid in the early hours to go walking in the fields and parks before dawn, later on long nights at country pubs, in the lakes and rivers where we paddled and swam, scooting along the current on tractor inner tubes. The seed of that impulse to be outdoors as much as possible, and the sense of communality that came with it, was sown much earlier by my parents, when we walked the dogs through the feral beechwoods that crest the Cotswold escarpment, on the managed land of Bathurst Park which began more or less at the end of our street or over the freshly ploughed fields on the hills.

I carried the wild with me on nights spent camping in the medieval woods of Estcourt Park, an estate which had been the setting for a now-demolished country house and seat of the Estcourt family since the early fourteenth century. A small group of us sixth formers headed there quietly on the weekends, delighting in the darkness as we jumped over the stones in the young River Avon and boiled up water in a whistling kettle, unfazed by the ever-present sense of generations of ghosts (poachers, maids, gardeners) living in the large conifers and ancient oaks that surrounded us. The Gloucestershire landscape then is much as it is now, shaped by the wealth of the landed gentry that was generated by rental income, inheritance, the historic trade in wool and raw materials from the colonies and slavery overseas. Public access is restricted to a tiny percentage of the local area via the footpaths that by definition curtail adventure. As an adolescent and young adult, I quietly disregarded these man-made rules as my edges became porous, blending with the vibrant matter of marsh marigold, nettle and limestone, with the breeze running through the ash, with the song of the blackbirds. Sometimes – often - it was mind-bendingly boring living in a rural area (some wonder we welcomed rave culture with open arms) but if I were cut in half like a stick of rock with a knife now, I'll wager a ram and a pint of snakebite and black that Gloucestershire is written all the way through.

CHURN

I may not be much of a raver these days but that connection to the land endures, the sense that I belong to a wild, weird, illicit space somehow bound to the seasons yet beyond the confines of linear, conventional timescales and the primness of the chocolate box Cotswolds in the English imagination.

After twenty years away from Gloucestershire, it was death that brought me home when my father passed away. I moved back for good, bringing my partner with me and giving birth to two children at the Royal Gloucester Hospital. True to the saying, no sooner was one child born than another family member died. First my grandmother went with Alzheimer's, then my mother-in-law just after the birth of our second child. Then my sister-in-law died tragically with a brain tumour. Slowly, one by one, our blood family was - is - disappearing.

The desire to live with the irrepressible spirit of the wild drove my impulse to immerse myself in local lakes and rivers. More way of life than a pastime, these tiny adventures into wild water are small slices of epic freedom in the domestic week and an act of reclamation by this female body which has forever been told the outdoors is not a 'safe' space to be. It is also a way of connecting to the past and claiming a sense of belonging that is strongly bound to water and a family history that glistens with tall tales of lives lived on rivers and the high seas: Dad swimming the Channel smeared in goose fat, my lockkeeper grandfather on the Thames at Sonning, uncles working the London docks, others sailing the world in the merchant navy, migrating to Canada to work in fishing. With this inheritance and my love of outdoor swimming all year round to guide me, in 2021 I resolved to swim-walk the River Churn, 23 miles from the source to its confluence with the Thames.

The Churn is my 'home' river, I've known it for over forty years. I played in and around it as a child growing up in Cirencester, watching water voles scurrying along the banks, paddling and fishing for snotty dogs and minnows, riding the current where the flow ran high at the water meadows. Curious to see how it had changed since that time, I made my journey along the river in a haphazard way, swim-walking it in stages, out of order and when arrangements at home allowed.

I set out on an idyllic day by visiting the source of the Churn with my partner, two children and our dog. My youngest child crouched down to watch the lice wriggling in the water up close. My eldest jumped between stepping-stones and we cleared some litter from the area - cans, cellophane, a barbecue charcoal bag. From there, the Churn runs under the A436 and the headwaters empty initially into a pond in the garden of the then-closed Severn Springs pub. It was fenced off and weedy. An inauspicious start.

At Rendcomb, Mum joined us from her home nearby. To have had her and my immediate family - now almost our whole blood family - with me on that first day of swim-walking the river was an unfamiliar joy. The scene was almost a cliché, softly bucolic with the newborn lambs frolicking on the valley slopes and the sun shining brightly in a clear sky. A very warm day, but the wind was cold when it blew, reminding us that April's cruelties were still here.

The first place I was able to access the river was beyond the lamb field after the electrified fence came to an end. In Conigree Wood, where young wild garlic carpeted the floor, I eagerly climbed over the waterfall - a Romantic construction of manmade stone and boulders - and swam under the bridge at the old gatehouse to Rendcomb College in the roiling jade waters. A carved stone Father Thames looked on from the arch of the bridge as I passed below, then walked and swam the river almost to North Cerney. It was shallow in many places - ankle deep - gravelly, irises shooting out of the riverbed. Weeds were beginning to grow at the margins after their winter dormancy. A strong smell of water mint pervaded the air and a young deer drank from the riverbank, leaping away over the field at our approach.

Fencing crisscrossed land and water: the barbed wire was strung between fence posts along each bank and at intervals, it bisected the river itself. Much of the riverbank on the upper reaches of the Churn is not a public right of way, but private land belonging to farmers and agriculture co-ops, Rendcomb College and the Bathurst Estate. This is the norm. Just 3% of England's rivers are legally open rights of way for all. It felt appropriate to be coincidentally walking this forbidden riverbed on the anniversary of the mass trespass of Kinder Scout in 1932, for which around 500 people did a protest walk to secure their right to access open country. By chance, on this day in 2021 all around the UK, groups and individuals were taking action for the 'Right To Roam' and to prevent the impending criminalisation of trespass.

We left the river and climbed the hill up and over to North Cerney. I bought up a climbing rose and a blue lily from a house selling them along the way and stopped at the Bathurst Arms for a drink and packets of crisps for the kids. It was busy - only the second Saturday of opening after lockdown. A huge surreal wigwam had been erected in the garden and decorated with a papier-mache zebra, peacock wall hangings and garlands of fake flowers. We sat by the river and the children played in the shallows. As I watched the kids, I thought of my dad who loved this place and our diminishing family and wondered if perhaps my strong attachment to this place was becoming a kind of precaution against grief. A holding close to permanence.

The following month, I drove over the hills past the rapeseed fields that were in raucous flower, through the beechwoods, tipping my hat at the Lady of Birdlip, a Celtic queen, as I passed. I attempted to park at Slack Cottages by the farm with vast industrial grain silos but was sent back onto the road to park on the verge. It was just me and the dog that day.

As the crow flies, it's a stone's throw between Seven Springs and Coberley but the

same distance on the river, negotiating barbed wire, fallen trees, brambles and a lot of nettles takes time. The river was on its bones, badly in need of rain. Surely, I thought, we must be in drought.

In the distance I could hear shooting - clay pigeon, probably - and the farmer was spraying the land in a field over the way. Two buzzards circled on the thermals. It was May Day, getting warmer by the hour.

Apart from the evidence of an old agricultural sack, a couple of cans in the water, a piece of polystyrene, the river appeared unvisited. After my first trip to the river, I was unsurprised that in the space of three hundred metres on my second, I came across barbed wire blocking my progression as well as natural barriers created by fallen trees. One tree, in particular, must have fallen down some time ago and was blocked up by branches which had come downriver with the wreckage of winter.

Brimstone butterflies, large whites. Pheasant.

My journey got me researching the local history of Gloucestershire. Much of what I had found related to the wool trade and I could no longer see the landscape without being reminded of how much it had been shaped by cloth and colonialism. It was said that 'West is best' when it came to cloth. The fine broadcloths of Gloucestershire clothed the redcoats of empire and the naval explorers, as well as being an important trade cloth in areas such as Hudson Bay. Although the source of much local pride, it is a narrative that made me feel alienated from my home. So I reached further back - and found (Roman) invasion and colonisation, but I also found magic there too in the notion that the ice melt of the river we know now precedes human habitation. The name Churn is pre-Roman, thought to have its origins in the ancient Celtic language spoken by the Dobunni tribe who lived in the area before the first-century Roman conquest. Below Coberley and Coleford, the river runs through Bagendon, thought to be the Dobunni's fortified capital. Evidence has been found along the river of ritual and worship in sacred waters, manifested in a local goddess cult. Following deer desire paths along the bank, my river shoes filled with gravel and mud and my ankles tingled from the nettle stings. I got bogged down in beds of irises below the old poplars not yet in leaf. As I neared St. Giles' Church at Coberley, I was reminded of votive offerings and wondered if this had been a place of pagan pilgrimage thousands of years ago. Stepping onto what I thought was a gravelly area of the riverbed I slid into mud up to both knees and lost my balance, rolling around in the silt and chalky mud. I offered my laughing self up, a sacrifice.

On the stretch from Siddington to South Cerney, public access to the Churn has been minimised, but I was determined to find a way in and wade along the river, bypassing land-based restrictions. It was a beautiful high summer day. After the heavy rains of May, it had been dry for a couple of weeks and very hot. Strange weather. I joined the baked mud footpath near The Dog at Siddington and walked along the Thames and Severn Canal, weaving my way through the long grass and flag iris, past the baby moorhens and the Milk Sheep, eventually reaching the river where it meandered through an acid green field fenced off for grazing.

I paused on the bridge. Soaked up the meandering flow over the gravel bed. The water was fast-flowing, higher than I had anticipated. It was a world of flying things. Common damselflies, beautiful demoiselles. Red admirals, meadow browns, orange tip, small heath. A B52 bomber flew over from an RAF base nearby.

It was also a world of barbed wire and fencing. Signs against entry. Private land. A family had gathered on the riverbank on the other side of the fencing. Smoke from their barbecue rose steadily upward on that windless day. RnB played from their boombox. They eyed me nervously through the tall grasses. I wished I could get to where they were.

Dog rose, speedwell, hogweed. The white fluff of the poplar trees floated through the air - said to be highly flammable, I imagined tiny fires everywhere. Fireflies. Wild fires.

Still, I could not reach the river.

Finally, a right turn, past the alpacas the man in the village had told me about. A long, green pathway down to the meadows. Buttercups! Red and white clover that made me think of my grandfather, who taught me how to suck the sugar from the ends of the tubular flowers. The grass was long, the paths untravellered.

The line of poplars and willow led me to the water. Me and the dog threw ourselves in. The longed-for cold water flash of ice on hot skin didn't disappoint. I waded and swam, and watched the dog paddle out to a plunge pool, trying for a chew on the reeds before returning against the current, to the place where the riverbed rose on a bend. The water was healthy, clean and clear, the banks fizzed with insects. I wallowed and watched. The birds were commonplace: wagtails, crows, blackbirds, wood pigeons. As ordinary to me as home.

My meandering journey along the Churn eventually took me one day to Cricklade where the river met the Thames on private land near a working farmyard. I considered briefly the likelihood of getting stopped if I jumped the fence before clambering over a metal gate and heading for the corner where I could read the line of the bank through the long grass. I walked the field margin, past a pile of rotting cut grass trying to get a clear view of the water and suddenly there was a gap in the undergrowth. I could see the confluence of the Churn with the Thames. The latter was lively and youthful-looking, the Churn listless and filthier than it was upstream. I felt sad momentarily, feeling the age of the water in my body as if watching an elderly relative reaching the end of their life.

I walked downriver towards Cerney Wick over North Meadow, a national nature reserve where the Thames and Churn run in parallel - Churn to the north, Thames to the south. The meadow was thrumming with invertebrates, the grasses were tall and flowering. Afterwards, I looked up their names: cocksfoot, red fescue, quaking grass,

false oat, sweet vernal. The memory of my mum dragging me here to see snakes head fritillaries when I was an indifferent child. Knapweed, buttercups, saxifrage, ribwort plantain, scabious, meadowsweet, meadow vetchling. The Churn here was free-flowing, vigorous and rich with life. I was glad to see the white and yellow flowers of the water crowfoot trailing prettily along the surface.

The A419 roared alongside.

The remainder of the walk that day took me over a bone dry leat from an old mill and over the reconstructed red brick bridge at Latton Junction where the Thames and Severn and North Wilts canals once met. I followed the canal path all the way to Cerney Wick, gazing longingly over the barbed wire to my left and the fields full of long grasses and ox-eye daisies. I could see from the intermittent line of willows where the Churn ran and I could not get there.

Instead, Lake 6 and the exclusive holiday apartments at the Cotswold Water Park loomed up ahead. I felt so conflicted about them – necessary for the local economy, providing funds for wetland management – but I hated their gated exclusivity, their implied hubris. We followed the turn of the path around the lake and arrived through a thicket at the wooden bridge over the Churn. I went down to the water to run my fingers through the river. A trout lingered in the shallows below the bridge and I wanted more than anything to reach out and stroke its head, as if it were a child of my own.

It had been my birthday two days before and it felt right to return to my home territory where the Churn runs parallel to the Roman Whiteway. Without the need of maps, I walked confidently, following paths laid down in the bones of my childhood and fused to my long-term memory. A tiny black moorhen duckling sounded the alarm at our approach. The river ran smoothly over the reeds of summer, through banks of forget-me-not, convolvulus and thistle. My brother, who lived a short way upriver, had warned me off getting in here due to agricultural run-off and recent crop spraying but the water was shallow anyway so there was no swimming to be done. Although the health of the river is improving, there was a discernible difference in the quality of the water on this stretch – silted up and clogged with dirty weeds and scraps of litter: cans, bags, crisp packets.

Cobnuts were emerging tentatively from their husks and the elder was setting tiny perfect green spheres of fruit. Meadow browns and painted ladies fluttered among the grasses. Through the woods, over the field with the Churn to my right, the clover and buttercups were fading.

I followed the cow path through the dung and the dock, down to the watering place and took the breeze block step over the barbed wire fence, into the corner of the water meadow and headed for the stretch of river I know best of all. But there was a man there with his dog throwing a stick in the water. He had the air of someone who lived there and seemed surprised to see me, an intruder.

I walked on to the next meander and, so as to feel the water on my skin, the limestone underfoot, I took off my shoes and walked along the riverbed. Brambles hung down, elegant ash shaded the water, overhanging hawthorn haws were budding, creating a kind of tunnel in which I felt held. Ethereal white plume moths fluttered like phantoms through the grasses at water's edge.

An evening wade up the Churn from the wildlife reserve at the edge of City Bank. I moved on through to where the river runs parallel to Victoria Road and through the Beeches Car Park to the Abbey Grounds, Memorial Gardens and on to the sluice gates by what used to be Laffords petrol station (now Texaco). It was a soft, golden evening – quiet all around as the world seemed laid out in recovery from the last eighteen months of the plague.

Tonight's Churn was a river of shape-shifting trout, gunnera, bridges, rosebay willowherb, a heron taking flight over a pizza van along the A417. I walked through the clean, deep reaches that run behind the houses of Watermoor and on through familiar territory, my memory flooding with images of end-of-term swims across the Abbey Grounds lake, past the 'egg' cold store in the park and the twelfth-century Spital Gate, fishing for bullheads and sticklebacks with a net, cooling our feet on a hot summer's day by the sluice gates at the top of Gloucester Street, back in a time when we were still trying to get rid of American Signal Crayfish with our nets.

This was the longest continuous stretch of the Churn I'd been able to access on my whole journey and it felt like home. The river was prettier than I had expected, the Watermoor stretch was clean and well cared for, but the stretch along Memorial Gardens had been fly-tipped with building materials, broken tiles, fencing and cans and bottles. The riverbed was a grey-brown colour, sludgy underfoot and it smelt sulphurous and disgusting. I was so affronted by the carelessness of this violation, the arrogant nerve of dumping all this waste in our precious, lively river. The housing demographic was different here to the Watermoor stretch where families lived in homes with long gardens backing onto the river. The main residents of Memorial Gardens are elderly people and there's a busy pub backing on to the small estate – perhaps the fly-tippers took a chance that no one would notice or care and were rewarded with free rein to dump their crap.

All these places I had travelled through on my journey had cognate or names related to the Churn: Ciren, Cerney, Corin, Corinium, a blue thread of language tugging me on. At Daglingworth a couple of miles from where I walked that night a carved stone plaque or votive relief with the word 'CUDAE' ('to Cuda') had been turned up in 1690 along a tributary to the Churn. Cuda is one possible name for the mother goddess associated with the local cult and there has been some speculation that 'Cuda' is a predecessor to 'Cotswold,' via coda / cotta / cotts. A temple to the mother goddess was uncovered at Ashcroft in Cirencester in the nineteenth century, along with more stone reliefs and statues of mother goddesses, sometimes depicted with three hooded figures, known as *Genii cuculatti*. Although agnostic by belief and suspicious

of essentialism, as I made my way along that river discovering more about its past and present, I identified with those scuttling guardian-protector figures and with the powerful notion of a mother goddess bestowing good health and abundance on the waterway. Driving home that night under a crescent moon, I listened to whispering Bob Harris's Country Show as the combines baled in the fields by headlight. It struck me that a convergence of my longing for home and the pull of what I had come to know as *genius loci* – the spirit of place – had driven my quest in those efforts to find and follow the river. My own body felt the draw of a mother custodian, real or imaginary, carer of the Churn.

For my final swim-walk, I visited the Churn in winter. Baunton to Perrotts Brook, tying the knot on my journey before year's end with one last fragment. This stretch ran through scrubby meadows crisscrossed by a disused watercourse and the stone remnants of an old water mill. Crab apples and sloes still hung from the branches, a rowing boat was thrown over a ditch, roe deer moved through the thick sedges, pheasants clattered up the vast arable field, there was the thundering flyover of the new bypass and at the end – a shocking apocalypse of trees, a woodland felled and burned on the banks of the river. Black piles of branches smouldered, splintered trunks had been ripped out by machines, and white ash had been strewn by the wind over patches of scorched earth. The decimation was a gut punch as if I had stumbled on the violent assault of a relative. It was not the end to the adventure I'd imagined.

Rivers are unique givers of life, they provide vital habitat for wildlife as well as human livelihoods – in our anthropocentric world, they are far more alive than we often believe. There was reason to be optimistic about the state of the River Churn in some places – particularly in those areas where it flowed through managed reserves such as City Bank and North Meadow. But in others it has been mistreated, undervalued, polluted and dumped upon and, more often than not along its course, it is impossible to get to and monitor. Climate change is putting ever more pressure on our waterways – perhaps we need icons like Cuda now to inspire a greater degree of empathy and custodianship. It only occurred to me as I walked on that last day that I had unconsciously walked in a spiral, slowly but surely circling my way back to my childhood home. Was there something that set me off on a walk towards the sense of family that I craved? In the end, I had found family in the river, carrying it with me. Family, from the Latin *familia*, means a group of people related by consanguinity or affinity; it also refers to servants and those who are 'in the service of.' Family is fluid, in the same way the water runs, in the kinship of the Churn I serve.

RAVE

Two months later and I am sitting alone in the Winstone Learning Centre at the Corinium Museum in the presence of an ancient limestone fragment from a mother goddess statue. My interest in the Romano-British rituals and worship around mother goddesses sparked by my swim-walk along the Churn drew me to the Museum which holds the votive relief on which the name 'CUDAE' is carved, as well as a number of other statues and reliefs. For me, the Museum is a 'thin place' where the veil between this world and other worlds lifts and flutters back and forth, a place of residue and revelation.

Spending time alone in the presence of an almost two-thousand-year-old statue is a uniquely powerful experience: handling the weight of it, feeling the surfaces with my fingertips, and seeing up close the fragments of fossil and quartz held within the oolitic limestone. The head and body of the mother were missing – whether deliberately desecrated by Christians or victim to the ravages of time, we will never know – but it's still possible to clearly make out the heavy draping of fabric over the leg and the shape of the foot. The stone is marked by cuts and paler areas where the surface has worn away from the touch of pilgrims and worshippers. To my agnostic surprise, there was an embodied energy in the figure that it was hard not to respond to.

After my time with the fragment came to an end, I visited the glass cabinet upstairs where the other mother goddess votives are held. Each time I go there I notice a different aspect of the stones – a carving mark here, a detail on a figure there. I took some photographs with my phone and was taken aback at how the frame popped up automatically to frame the faces of the mothers, as if they were real. As if they were somehow reaching into my world from the past.

Max Weber said modernity involves the 'progressive disenchantment of the world.' Re-engaging with the land and the process of secular re-enchantment is an act of defiance and reclamation of a natural relationship that has been damaged and disentangled from all its messy human and non-human *communitas*. Call me mad, call me raving, but my experience of gentle disobedience and trespass in the face of miles of stock fencing and barbed wire was driven by the force of belonging. The Churn is our river and claiming access is a way to reclaim wonder and the forbearance needed to nurture it back to health. If we love a place, surely we will also be driven to look after it with more care?

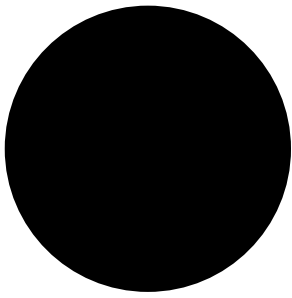
To belong again. A deeply personal impulse that is also a necessary pre-condition for our collective future. To create new stories and characters that articulate our relationship with the landscapes we inhabit in all their beauty and disobliging, furious magic may be essential to our survival.

This magic is an energy I recognise. It's always been there: rural by experience and sentiment, progressive and inclusive in its – sometimes quiet – ambition. It is a bold, wild, come-all bantering force.

Call it rave, like rave is back.

As if it could have ever gone away.

jimmorton.com



RAY MARTIN

BY LAURA CONNOCHIE



What would you do if you lost your marriage, business and father in quick succession? For Ray Martin, originally from Welwyn Garden City but now living in Stroud since 2020, the answer was to ditch his corporate life in London and embark on a 14-year journey of personal transformation that saw him travel the world, become a charity fundraiser and, most importantly, start living life as true to himself as possible. He's now documented his inspirational story in his first book, 'Life Without a Tie', which takes the reader on his journey from 2005 to 2019 and shares the lessons and wisdom he learns along the way.

I meet Martin on a busy Monday lunchtime in the Felt Café in Brimscombe, although after reading his adventures spanning 14 years and 28 countries, it feels like I already know him! He's clear from the start of our interview that this isn't a coaching manual or a book of wisdom, though it certainly contains elements of both. 'Life Without a Tie' is a deeply honest and reflective memoir, where Martin has the generosity of spirit to share not only his learnings but also his mistakes. I'd noticed when reading the book, perhaps in contrast with today's carefully curated world of social media, that Martin isn't afraid to describe the times when he struggles, especially in relationships. He agrees wholeheartedly: "It was very important to me to stay humble in my writing. As a coach, I do a lot of work with my clients on their shadow side and I intentionally did the same when writing this book." The narrative is always real and takes you through not just the highs of his 14-year journey (and there are many, such as trekking to Everest Base Camp in Nepal and completing a 10-day silent meditation with Buddhist monks in Thailand) but also the lows: times when he doesn't follow his intuition, doesn't act in alignment with his higher self, and things don't work out as he hopes. But Martin's willingness to admit his own vulnerability gives this highly personal account a universal appeal – after all, who among us has never made a mistake? We probably just haven't published it in a book – and makes you root for him all the more.

One of the 'plot twists' in 'Life Without a Tie' is that this 14-year adventure starts off as a short sabbatical

from a successful but ultimately inauthentic life as a CEO and business-owner. But then the book becomes a real-life demonstration of how well things work out if you're prepared to let go of certainty, follow your intuition and trust the Universe. Martin leaves the UK in 2005 planning to return 6 months later but, after visiting a friend in Australia who has cancer, and then unexpectedly landing a starring role in a 2-week stage play in Cairns, his perspective changes. He sells his house in London, gives away nearly all his possessions and commits to a 'Life Without a Tie': total freedom from anyone or anything, save for a backpack that weighs no more than 22 kg. What follows is Martin's tale of travelling all over Asia, discovering Vipassana meditation and developing a regular mindfulness practice, all of which helps him define a set of ten guiding principles for life, which he details in the book. After 4 years, he feels called to contribute to some of the charitable causes he's encountered during his first few years of travel in Asia. By chance, he meets a six-time marathon runner in Chiang Mai who offers to help him train for a marathon to improve his physical health and boost fundraising efforts for an elephant sanctuary in Thailand and an orphanage in Nepal. He also starts coaching leaders in Asia, integrating his business experience with his newfound spiritual knowledge, and eventually becomes a certified mindfulness teacher.

And now the adventure is over (for the time being), what about the writing process? Much like his unforeseen life overhaul, Martin didn't plan on becoming an author. Whenever he met people on his travels and told them his story, their response was always the same: "You should write a book!" After hearing this about 100 times, as someone open to signs, he concluded that perhaps the Universe was trying to tell him something. Writing a book would be a great way to expand his fundraising efforts and also allow his life lessons to reach as many people as possible. But where to start? He'd enjoyed writing a travel blog throughout most of the noughties but authoring a memoir required a different approach. In total, it took him about 7 years to write the book, a learning experience which included a 5-day writer's workshop in Chiang Mai, run by New York author and

literary agent Wendy Goldman-Rohm, and engaging the help of two editors to define the 20 chapters and structure his epic story in a way that makes sense to the reader and is easy to follow.

Any plans to write another book? I'm glad to report his answer is an immediate "Yes!" Throughout his coaching career, he's accumulated short stories which help illustrate wisdom in action, so "Storytelling for Coaches" will be a collection of 50 to 60 'fables' that other coaches can draw on to help their clients, plus a useful reference work for coaches.

To end our interview, since he's gained so many insights on his journey, I ask: What would you say to your younger self? In typical coach fashion, rather than giving advice, he responds with a smile and a question: "I'd ask me, 'How can you live your life true to yourself?' Because there's nothing more important." And, as someone who's had the courage to upend his life and follow his heart, all in the name of authenticity, he should know.

If you want 2023 to be the year you start living true to yourself, reading this book and joining Martin on his unforgettable and transformational journey around the world would be an excellent way to start.

Life Without A Tie by Ray Martin is out now, visit lifewithoutatie.com for further info.

LAURA CONNOCHIE IS A FREELANCE COPYWRITER AND PUBLISHED POET, ORIGINALLY FROM CORNWALL BUT NOW LIVING IN STROUD. YOU CAN READ EXAMPLES OF HER POETRY ON INSTAGRAM @AMUSENUT



A YEAR IN BOOKS

2022

FELICITY EVERETT

OLD FRIENDS

PUBLISHED: 17.03.22

PUBLISHER: HQ (HARPER
COLLINS)



Two couples, best friends for half a lifetime, move in together. What could possibly go wrong...? Harriet and Mark have it all: successful careers, a lovely house in a leafy

London suburb, twin boys on the cusp of leaving home. Yvette and Gary share a smaller place with their two daughters in a shabbier part of the same borough. But when the stars align for a collective move north, it means a fresh start for them all. For Mark, it's a chance to escape the rat race; for Harriet, a distraction from her unfulfilled dream of a late third child. Gary has decided to reboot the Madchester band that made him famous, while Yvette hopes it will give her daughters what she never had herself. But as the reality of their new living arrangements slowly sinks in, the four friends face their own mid-life crises, and the dream becomes a nightmare...

harpercollins.co.uk

SARAH STEELE

THE SCHOOL TEACHER OF SAINT-MICHEL

PUBLISHED: 17.03.22

PUBLISHER: HEADLINE REVIEW



France, 1942. At the end of the day, the schoolteacher releases her pupils. She checks they have their identity passes, and warns them not to stop until the

German guards have let them through the barrier that separates occupied France from Free France. As the little ones fly across the border and into their mothers' arms, she breathes a sigh of relief. No one is safe now. Not even the children. Berkshire, present day. A letter left to her by her beloved late grandmother Gigi takes Hannah Stone on a journey deep into the heart of the Dordogne landscape. As she begins to unravel a forgotten history of wartime bravery and sacrifice, she discovers the heartrending secret that binds her grandmother to a village schoolteacher, the remarkable Lucie Laval...

headline.co.uk

MANDY ROBOTHAM

THE RESISTANCE GIRL

PUBLISHED: 31.03.22

PUBLISHER: AVON BOOKS



Norway, 1942: She has lost everything to the Nazis. But now she fights back...

War rages, and, under cover of darkness, Rumi Orlistad and her fellow resistance fighters smuggle

British agents, fugitives and supplies across the North Sea into Nazi-occupied territory. One night, when he braves a storm to complete an ill-fated mission, Rumi's fiancé is lost to the dangerous waters. Broken-hearted, she withdraws from the clandestine group, vowing never to let her loved ones put themselves in the line of fire again.

But months later, Rumi stumbles across a Nazi secret that lays Hitler's plans for Norway bare, and she knows she has no choice but to risk her life for her country once more...

Readers of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and anything by Fiona Valpy will love this heartbreaking tale of the sacrifices ordinary people made to keep friends, family, strangers – and hope – alive.

avonbooks.co.uk

BEN WARDLE

MARK HOLLIS: A PERFECT SILENCE

PUBLISHED: 12.04.22

PUBLISHER: ROCKET 88



In the first complete, in-depth biography of the Talk Talk leader, author and music industry insider Ben Wardle has interviewed scores of Mark Hollis' friends, musicians,

collaborators and record company executives to complete this important and substantial biography. Drawing on extensive original research a perfect silence tells, for the first time, the full, fascinating story of one of the UK's most enigmatic musicians from his earliest beginnings through to his untimely end.

rocket88books.com

SARAH EDGHILL

HIS OTHER WOMAN

PUBLISHED: 05.05.22

PUBLISHER: BLOODHOUND BOOKS



Her husband is with another woman but it's not who she thinks it is, and the results may be more devastating than an affair... Lucy's husband has been missing for

days while she tries to pretend to those around her, including her distracted teenagers, that everything is normal. In desperation she uses a phone app to track him and discovers he's with another woman.

As her life falls apart, Lucy realises nothing is as it seems. There is another woman in her husband's life, but it's someone she has known – and hated – for twenty years. As the story unfolds, including in the national press, the family must pull together before lives are destroyed...

bloodhoundbooks.com

KATE RIORDAN

SUMMER FEVER

PUBLISHED: 12.05.22

PUBLISHER: PENGUIN



Nick and Laura are the hosts: pretending their marriage isn't on the rocks. Madison and Bastian are the guests: neither is remotely who they claim to be. Under the

scorching Mediterranean sun, no secret is safe. No betrayal goes unnoticed. Two couples. But will either survive the summer...

penguin.co.uk

SABRINA PACE- HUMPHREYS

BLACK SHEEP: A STORY OF RURAL RACISM, IDENTITY AND HOPE

PUBLISHED: 09.06.22

PUBLISHER: QUERCUS



Sabrina Pace-Humphreys is a 44-year-old mother of four and grandmother of three, an award-winning businesswoman, an ultrarunner, a social justice

activist and a recovering alcoholic. She is a mixed-raced woman, the daughter of a white Scottish Roman Catholic woman and a Black man. When she was two, her parents separated and Sabrina, her mother and her white-presenting younger sister moved to a small market town where no-one looked like her. From as young as she can remember, she was the subject of verbal and physical racist abuse. In *Black Sheep*, Sabrina reveals how she got from there to here: about growing up in a home, a school and a town where no-one looked like her and her subsequent struggle to understand and find her identity; about her lived experience of rural racism; about becoming a teenage mother and her determination to break that stereotype; about her battle with alcoholism and her mental health; about how running saved her life; and ultimately about how someone can not only survive but thrive in spite of their past.

Sabrina's experience will chime with anyone who has felt like an outsider. Poignant and eye-opening, and exploring themes of trauma, identity, mental health and addiction, *Black Sheep* is a tale of triumph: of grit and determination, of hope over despair.

quercusbooks.co.uk

A.K.KARLA

HARISH HOPE AND THE EARLS OF WISHANGER HALL

PUBLISHED: 14.06.22

PUBLISHER: MATADOR



The merry-go-round of life continues, but a decision to change one's attitude can change everything... After a lifetime of stories about his ancestors

in England, Wishanger Hall, and the lost title that goes with it, Harish Hope Jnr finally confronts his usurper, with Delilah his closest friend by his side. Meera Gupta has dreams of her own, as does her brother Manju, shaken by a chance encounter that could alter his life forever. Newcomer, Mo Meghani, enters the world of the hardware store with consequences beyond his wildest dreams, and Chandu strikes out on a new path after the loss of his wife Babita. In India, Fathers Ryan and Malachy take time to reflect, as does Rani Kapur after a shocking revelation comes to light. Meanwhile the fortune teller continues to sit in the marketplace, sharing his wisdom with those who need to hear it.

troubador.co.uk

JAMILA GAVIN NEVER FORGET YOU

PUBLISHED: 07.07.22

PUBLISHER: FARSHORE



England, 1937. Gwen, Noor, Dodo and Vera are four very different teenage girls, with something in common. Their parents are all abroad, leaving them in their

English boarding school, where they soon form an intense friendship. The four friends think that no matter what, they will always have each other. Then the war comes.

The girls find themselves flung to different corners of the war, from the flying planes in the Air Transport Auxiliary to going undercover in the French Resistance. Each journey brings danger and uncertainty as each of them wonders if they can make it through – and what will be left of the world. But at the same time, this is what shows them who they really are – and against this impossible backdrop, they find new connections and the possibility of love.

Will the four friends ever see each other again? And when the war is over, who will be left to tell the story?

farshore.co.uk

TOM PERCIVAL MILO'S MONSTER

PUBLISHED: 07.07.22

PUBLISHER: BLOOMSBURY



Be open, be honest, be you! Big Bright Feelings for little people. Milo loves spending time with his best friend, Jay. But when a new girl called Suzi moves

in next door, Milo starts to feel left out. The jealous feeling gets stronger and stronger - until suddenly, a GREEN-EYED MONSTER pops up beside him! Soon, the monster is poisoning Milo's thoughts. It won't leave him alone!

Can Milo find a way to free himself from the monster and repair his friendship? Warm and uplifting, Milo's Monster is an inspiring story about dealing with feelings of jealousy. It's the ideal starting point for helping children to build strong friendships and say goodbye to jealous feelings.

bloomsbury.com

TRACEY CORDEROY

SHIFTY MCGIFTY AND SLIPPERY SAM: PIRATES AHOY!

PUBLISHED: 07.07.22

PUBLISHER: NOSY CROW



The detective dogs are back for a swashbuckling pirate adventure!

Shifty and Sam have swapped their life of crime for a career in cupcakes. But

when they're asked to bake for a pirate party, they find themselves caught up in the middle of a robbery. Uh-oh! Captain Sharpwhiskers and his criminal crew have stolen Captain Chucklebeard's treasure! Can Shifty and Sam catch those BAD pirates and bring back the loot? Find out in this hilarious, rhyming picture book adventure! Illustrated by Steven Lenton.

Other books released in 2022: The Story Shop: Blast Off! (03.03.22 Stripes Publishing), The Story Shop: Anchors Away! (04.08.22 Stripes Publishing)

nosycrow.com

ANGELA FINDLAY

IN MY GRANDFATHER'S SHADOW

PUBLISHED: 14.07.22

PUBLISHER: BANTAM PRESS
(PENGUIN)



In 1987, Angela Findlay walked into a prison and instantly but inexplicably felt at home. For years she had wrestled with a sense of 'badness' within her. But working with prisoners was just the

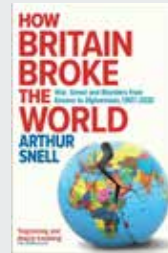
beginning of her search for answers that took her to Nazi Germany and the life of her dead grandfather, who, it emerged, was a decorated general on the Eastern front. In a rare confluence of memoir, psychology and historical detective story, this is Findlay's account of her unflinching quest for the truth about her German family, one that breaks through the silence surrounding many of the Second World War's perpetrators. In My Grandfather's Shadow explores the heritability of unresolved experiences, questions deeply held perceptions of good and bad, and uncovers the lesser-known history of the war's losers, a post-war culture of apology and atonement, and the lingering legacy of shame. Using her own family story to explore an episode in history that continues to appeal and fascinate, Findlay reveals that it is possible not only for the scars of trauma to be handed down through generations, but also for them to be healed.

penguin.co.uk

ARTHUR SNELL HOW BRITAIN BROKE THE WORLD

PUBLISHED: 21.07.22

PUBLISHER: CANBURY PRESS



Turmoil in the 2020s. Russia is destroying Ukraine.

China threatens Taiwan and Southeast Asia. Endless war in the Middle East sends waves of migrants and

terrorists washing around the world. And the biggest nations on Earth cannot agree effective action to stop the worst effects of global heating.

Instead of being a global force for good, Britain has often fostered instability and division. In fact, the UK's careless 'humanitarian' interventions, grandiosity and greed have helped to fracture the global order built after World War II. Is the world so dangerous now?

How Britain Broke the World is by former senior British diplomat Arthur Snell. It critically assesses UK foreign policy over the past 25 years, from Kosovo in 1998 to Afghanistan in 2021, while also scrutinising British policy towards the powerhouses of the USA, Russia, India, and China.

canburypress.com

LAURA CONNOCHIE NO MONEY IN POETRY

PUBLISHED: 25.07.22



Everyone knows there's no money in poetry, so for years Laura Connochie wrote poems in secret as a form of therapy and filed them away. This collection is the first time

many of those archived poems have seen the light of day. Divided into six chapters – Directions, Echoes, Bodies, Breakdowns, Heartbeats and Punchlines – the poems span a range of form and content. Structured sonnets and villanelles appear alongside experimental free verse, and the subjects vary as much as you would expect from someone who writes whatever she observes: from a Freudian dream about an ex to buying a dress for a funeral to a love zombie, a vampire and more. If you want to read a poem set in Oxford's Natural History museum or which explains grief using quantum physics; if you want to know if the fridge light stays on when you close the door; if you want to know the best month for your lover to die (spoiler alert: September), then this anthology is for you.

instagram.com/amusenut

B.A.CIBULSKAS THE INTERLOPER

PUBLISHED: 26.07.22

PUBLISHER: MATADOR



A hilltop village in Southwest France. The view is idyllic, and to an outsider, the lives lived there are too... Suffering from mental illness since a child, retired Russian

scientist, Karolis Dante Valentin, spends his days crafting puppets under the watchful eye of Dr Yves Chéron, who ponders upon his own solitary life. Father Gabriel wants no more than to stay in his beloved church, whilst the mayor, Robert Rousseau, seeks harmony in all things. Clémentine Laffitte spies from her château tower, and local farmer, Lavigne, tends his vines, which produce the earthy wine that sustains them all. Together they weave a rich tapestry of life, but things are rarely what they seem...

troubador.co.uk

RACHEL MARKS HELLO STRANGER

PUBLISHED: 18.08.22

PUBLISHER: MICHAEL JOSEPH
(PENGUIN)



From their very first date, Jamie and Lucy know they've met THE ONE. They're as different as night and day. Jamie's a home bird, while Lucy's happiest on holiday. He has

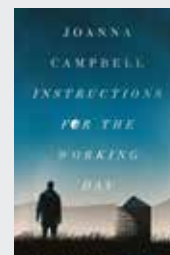
a place for everything - she can never find her keys. Yet, somehow, they make each other happier than they ever thought possible. So why does their story start with them saying 'goodbye'? And does this really have to be the end...?

penguin.co.uk

JOANNA CAMPBELL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE WORKING DAY

PUBLISHED: 31.08.22

PUBLISHER: FAIRLIGHT BOOKS



Neil Fischer owns a village. Having inherited his father's former hometown of Marschwald in East Germany, left to deteriorate since the fall of the Berlin Wall, Neil faces the task of

deciphering his demanding father's last wish and restoring the derelict village to

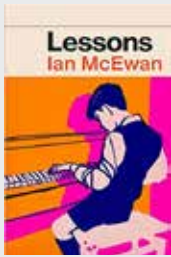
its former glory. But when he travels to Marschwald with plans to renovate and revive it, he is met with hostility, mistrust and underlying menace. His only friend in Marschwald is Silke, who is coming to terms with her traumatic experiences during the Cold War and has recently uncovered a shocking truth, concealed from her for years by her controlling brother. As tensions rise, a series of surreal encounters force Neil to contend with his own troubled past – but in his present, all signs point to danger.

Fairlightbooks.co.uk

IAN MCEWAN LESSONS

PUBLISHED: 13.09.22

PUBLISHER: JONATHAN CAPE
(PENGUIN)



While the world is still counting the cost of the Second World War and the Iron Curtain has descended, young Roland Baines's life is turned upside down.

Stranded at boarding school, his vulnerability attracts his piano teacher, Miriam Cornell, leaving scars as well as a memory of love that will never fade. Twenty-five years later, as the radiation from the Chernobyl disaster spreads across Europe, Roland's wife mysteriously vanishes and he is forced to confront the reality of his rootless existence and look for answers in his family history. From the fall of the Berlin Wall to the Covid pandemic and climate change, Roland sometimes rides with the tide of history but more often struggles against it. Haunted by lost opportunities, he seeks solace through every possible means – literature, travel, friendship, drugs, politics, sex and love. Roland's story asks can we take full charge of the course of our lives without damage to others? And what can we learn from the traumas of the past?

penguin.co.uk

STROUD SHORT STORIES

VOL 3 2018 - 2022

PUBLISHED: 14.09.22



The third anthology of Stroud Short Stories live lit events covers the period from 2018 to 2022. That's seven events and 69 stories written by 48 Gloucestershire

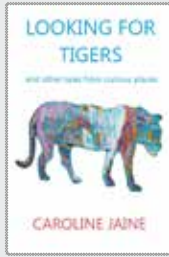
writers – some professional, some amateur – but all inspired by the challenge of creating an exciting and inspirational evening of short stories. Stroud Short Stories organiser/editor John Holland has published a feast of short stories which will in turn thrill, amuse and inspire the reader.

stroudshortstories.blogspot.com

CAROLINE JAINE LOOKING FOR TIGERS

PUBLISHED: 15.09.22

PUBLISHER: ASKANCE PUBLISHING



You might be fooled into thinking these are animal stories – and it's true they do feature baboons, crocodiles, angry elephants, hornets and cobras. But this is

not a book about a search for big cats. And although the stories take us to Sri Lanka – a glorious tropical island full of howling ghosts – and to Pakistan and Iraq and Israel and New York, this is not a catalogue of war stories, nor is it a travel guide. Caroline never describes herself as a tourist – except perhaps in New York where she gets held up at knife-point for a dollar. Although the context of these stories may span the globe, they are much more about love, loss and laughter than about going places. Caroline's wonderfully described curious places are more a state of mind, an openness of being.

askancepublishing.wordpress.com

JANE HARRIS AND JIMMY EDMONDS

WHEN WORDS ARE
NOT ENOUGH

PUBLISHED: 05.10.22

PUBLISHER: QUICKTHORN



Everyone grieves for someone at some point in their lives. But how do we deal with the silence that often surrounds grief? How do we find ways to express painful

feelings when words are not enough? In this deeply personal and beautiful reflection on grief Jane Harris and Jimmy Edmonds draw on their own experience of loss, and how the death of their son Josh has led to a creative response that is more than word bound. The emphasis on 'continuing bonds' and their own way of maintaining a relationship with Josh, is both emotional and practical. Echoed in the other case studies they illustrate how creativity can shape a future where the deceased still play a part even while physically absent and how this is a normal and restorative aspect of the grieving process.

quickthornbooks.com

TONY MEEUWISSEN

THE WORLD OF TONY
MEEUWISSEN: A LIFE
IN ILLUSTRATION AND
GRAPHIC ART

PUBLISHED: 14.10.22

PUBLISHER: PAUL HOLBERTON
PUBLISHING



This stunning book showcases the bold and original work of Royal Designer Tony Meeuwissen. The artist also writes about his life at the drawing board

and the inspiration and ideas behind his imagery.

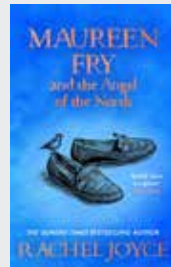
paulholberton.com

RACHEL JOYCE

MAUREEN FRY AND THE
ANGEL OF THE NORTH

PUBLISHED: 20.10.22

PUBLISHER: DOUBLEDAY
(PENGUIN)



Ten years ago, Harold Fry set off on his epic journey on foot to save a friend. But the story doesn't end there. Now his wife, Maureen, has her own pilgrimage to make.

Maureen Fry has settled into the quiet life she now shares with her husband Harold after his iconic walk across England. Now, ten years later, an unexpected message from the North disturbs her equilibrium again, and this time it is Maureen's turn to make her own journey.

But Maureen is not like Harold. She struggles to bond with strangers, and the landscape she crosses has changed radically. She has little sense of what she'll find at the end of the road. All she knows is that she must get there.

penguin.co.uk

JULIET DAVENPORT

THE GREEN START-UP

PUBLISHED: 27.10.22

PUBLISHER: HELIGO BOOKS
(BONNIER)



The Green Start-Up is an essential toolkit for the modern-day entrepreneur. As issues around climate change and environmental impact become more urgent, businesses and start-ups must work

harder than ever before to operate in a greener, more sustainable way, for the benefit of both themselves and the planet.

bonnierbooks.co.uk

KATIE FFORDE A WEDDING IN PROVENCE

PUBLISHED: 10.11.22

PUBLISHER: CENTURY (PENGUIN)



Late summer, 1963. Fresh from London and a recent cookery course, Alexandra has always loved a challenge. Which is why she now finds herself standing outside an imposing

chateau in Provence. Waiting for her inside are three silent, rather hostile children who are to be her charges for the next month. They will soon be more friendly, she tells herself. All they need is some fun, good food and an English education. Far more of a challenge though is their father – an impossibly good looking French count with whom she is rapidly falling in love...

penguin.co.uk

STROUD DISTRICT BOOK PUBLISHERS:

QUICKTHORN

hyperlooprecords.bigcartel.com

HAWTHORN PRESS

hawthornpress.com

AMBERLEY PUBLISHING

amberley-books.com

FONTHILL MEDIA

fonthill.media

DIALECT PUBLISHING

dialectwriters.bigcartel.com

STROUD DISTRICT BOOK SHOPS:

STROUD BOOKSHOP

23 High Street, Stroud

THE YELLOW-LIGHTED BOOKSHOP

17 Fountain Street, Nailsworth

R&R BOOKS

4 Nelson Street, Stroud

FIRESIDE BOOKSHOP

8 Rowcroft, Stroud

COTSWOLD BOOK ROOM

26 Long Street, Wotton Under Edge

LISTINGS

MONTHLY GUIDE TO ARTS & CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE STROUD DISTRICT.

ART + CRAFTS

CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ART

WEDS 4TH JAN - WEDS 8TH FEB

Drawn To Look With Susan Kester

Come to enjoy and learn the skills of drawing. A new subject is provided in each session to encourage observational skills, develop techniques and experiment with materials including pencils, coloured pencils, pastels, pen and ink, and watercolours. Beginners welcome. All materials provided. 10am-12:30pm £112 (6 weeks)

SAT 7TH/14TH/21ST/28TH

Stroud Life Drawing: Drop-in Life Drawing

3hr single pose. Everyone is welcome. 2-5pm, £20 (includes tea & biscuits)

SUN 8TH

Stroud Life Drawing: Clothed Portrait Session

This 3hr session provides an affordable opportunity to draw or paint a portrait from direct observation in a friendly and supportive studio environment. 2-5pm, £20

roomhirestroud.co.uk

GALLERY PANGOLIN

MON 16TH JAN - FRI 10TH MARCH

Focus on Four

Focusing on four artists who have been championed by Gallery Pangolin since its start. Sculpture, prints and drawings by Jon Buck, Terence Coventry, Anita Mandl and Charlotte Mayer. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-1pm

gallery-pangolin.com

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRINTMAKING COOPERATIVE

THURS 8TH DEC - SAT 8TH JAN

First Contact

An International Print Collaboration Between Sweden and the U.K. A chance reunion at the Royal West of England Academy (RWA) Open Exhibition in Bristol between Grafiska Sällskapet member, Jenny Palmer, and an old friend, Dr Wendy Rhodes from the Gloucestershire Printmaking Cooperative (GPC), has blossomed into an exciting international collaboration between the two organisations bringing together 39 printmakers under the project title 'Making Contact/Ta Kontakt'. It draws upon ideas of collaboration, conversation and friendships forged and will culminate in two exhibitions: the first at Grafiska Sällskapet in Stockholm, 27th May - 18th June 2023, and the second at Sixteen Gallery in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, in the U.K. from the 23rd November to the 6th December 2023. This exhibition, First Contact pulls together the collaborative process at a halfway point, where everyone has been in contact and has begun to create work together. The pairs are all at different, exciting stages and will now work towards finished gallery pieces for the exhibition in Stockholm, in May 2023. Tues/Thurs 9:30am-2:30pm

THURS 12TH JAN - THURS 9TH MAR

Screen Printing on Fabric with Anne Haworth

This course introduces you to screen printing on fabric, working with colour and producing textile designs from your own ideas. You will use paper stencils to build up fabric designs in multi coloured layers using pigments and dyes. Starting with simple ideas to understand the process, the studio and equipment you will then build up to more complex design and pattern making, you really have the opportunity to get stuck in and make good use of the facilities. 7:30-21:30pm £215 (8 week course)

THURS 19TH JAN - THURS 23RD FEB

Copperplate Etching Course

Learn a range of essential etching of techniques that will get you started on this enthralling process. You will explore hard and soft grounds, line and tone, open bite and aquatint. Absolute beginners will be guided through every step of the process, whilst those who have experience will be encouraged to work more exploratively. Once you are familiar with the essentials you will be able to work on your own projects at your own pace, with full support, to get the results that you want. This course welcomes all levels. 7-21:30pm £140 (6 week course)

SAT 21ST - 22ND

Two Plate Colour Etching Weekend Workshop

This workshop covers the basics of traditional etching using zinc or steel A6 plates and cover the development of your ideas using 2 plates, experimenting with colour transparencies. We will also use soft & hard grounds and aqua-tint with plenty of time to investigate different techniques and experiment. You will come away with a solid understanding of the etching process including plate location and image transfer for 2 colours. 10am-4pm £130 (weekend workshop)

gpchq.co.uk

IMAGINE THERAPEUTIC ARTS

TUES 10TH JAN - TUES 28TH MAR

Art Mornings

An introductory studio space in which you can try out what it is like being in an art studio. Beginners are welcome. Each month, different art media will be introduced (watercolours, pastels, black and white materials, oil paints, acrylic paints, clay). Places are limited, booking essential. 10-11.30am £10 per session, all art materials are included. No previous artistic experience is required.

MON 9TH JAN - THURS 30TH MAR

Studio Practice Sessions

An open studio space for you to pursue your own artistic process. The group is facilitated by one or two therapeutic art practitioners, who are available to support participants artistically, technically and – if needs be – emotionally. The emphasis is on the members to develop their own work, in a supportive and social environment. Explore a range of drawing, painting, clay sculpture, and collage materials. This is a particularly good space in which to develop a theme or a body of work over a period of time. You can join any time if there is a space, booking essential. Mon



THREE STOREYS - NEXT LEVEL

Three Storeys are launching their first ever exhibition, for young people aged 4-19, living within 10 miles of Nailsworth. The application to the exhibition is free making it as accessible as possible to all young people. It's open now and closes on the 16th January. Head to the website for further info and how to apply.

threestoreys.co.uk/nextlevel

lansdownhall.org

THE MUSEUM IN THE PARK

TUES 24TH JAN - SUN 26TH FEB

Sabine Kaner: Hand Stitched Stories

Hand Stitched Stories' is an exhibition focused on the human condition, told through mixed media textiles. Sabine Kaner's work generates conversations on identity, mental health, memory and personal experiences, using colours, symbols and semi-abstract compositions to create visual narratives and metaphors. Not to be missed!

museuminthepark.org.uk

PEGASUS ART

SAT 14TH

Paint the Aurora With David DJ Johnson

Artist David 'DJ' Johnson is well known for his extreme en plein air paintings – he is an adventurer who likes to climb mountains and paint extraordinary landscapes. He will teach you how to create this aurora effect through a series of guidelines and techniques that he has learnt over the years. Everyone will come home with a finished (or almost finished!) painting of the aurora and mountain scene! 10am-4pm £85

SAT 21ST

Boats In Pen and Wash With Max Hale

This one-day workshop explores ink pen, ink and watercolour washes that make really interesting and beautiful pieces of art. This quick technique is becoming increasingly popular for capturing scenes and palettes in a sketch. Max will show you how, picking out key features without feeling overwhelmed. There is a knack to it! 10am-4pm £85

SAT 28TH

Botanical Painting Workshop In Watercolour: Snowdrops With Karen Green

Working from a selection of snowdrops, you will learn how to compose, draw from observation and paint in detail, using water-colour, to create a finished botanical painting reflecting an understanding of the subject whilst capturing the beauty of the flower. 10am-4pm £85

pegasusart.co.uk

PREMA

WEDS 11TH JAN - SAT 18TH FEB

Anthony Lewis Churchill

2-5pm: Painting/Drawing. Tues 2-5pm: Painting/Drawing/Clay. Weds 7-9pm: Painting/Drawing/Mixed Media. Thurs 10am-1pm: Painting/Drawing/Mixed Media. £7.50/hour, or £20 for a 3-hour session; 7-9pm – £15.00

WEDS 25TH JAN - WEDS 29TH APR

Ageing with Soul

Join us and share what it is like to be growing old in the current time (and we all are growing older!) We work creatively with nature and stories, exploring memories, wishes, and open questions, within a multicultural environment. Our intention is to maintain our spirit young and to value old age, seeing a long life as a gift to share, by developing our imagination. Places are limited, booking essential. 10am – 12.30pm, both groups £240 (concs. £200) for 9 sessions, if paid at the start of term, one session is free; £30 (£25 concs.) each session.

SUN 8TH

From East To West

A fundraising event to welcome in the New Year. A heart-warming evening of sacred, soulful, and seasonal songs interspersed with poetry. Performed by: Liz Leachman (voice, harmonium, and keyboard), Lucy Lidell (voice) and Gopi Sharma (voice). Refreshments will be served in the interval. Admission by donation for the Imagine Bursary Fund, which enables people on low income to join creative sessions in a supportive studio-space. Booking is essential – Robin 07974 674 985 5-7pm

imagine-therapeutic-arts.co.uk

KLANG TONE RECORDS

SAT 10TH DEC - WEDS 7TH JAN

Helen Fox: Directions

An exhibition of a collection of new oil works by local artist Helen Fox. A range of her new direction of crowdscape best described as contemporary Lowry, and a series of music inspired pop art portraits. Weds-Thurs 12-7pm/Fri 12-10pm/Sat 10am-7pm. Private view 9th Dec 5-9pm

instagram.com/klang_tone_records

LANSDOWN HALL

TUES 10TH - SUN 15TH

An Art Trio: Louise Abel, Kirsty Tallon and Brendan Stokes

A collection of work from three unique artists, winners of the Lansdown 'Postcard Exhibition'. 10am-5pm Private View Fri 13th 6-8pm

OPEN CALL

Artist Anthony Lewis Churchill grew up in the South West and throughout his childhood was mesmerised by puppets and looked forward to family holidays to Weymouth where he could watch Punch & Judy on the seafront every day. Throughout the 1970s he amassed quite an impressive collection of Pelham Puppets with which he began his own puppet company, regularly performing at events and parties. In the 1980s and 90s his career took a swerve into the world of visual merchandising for the retail sector but the lure of puppets and theatre was never far away. Prema are thrilled that Anthony's doll creations are joining their showcase gallery for their January/February exhibition.

WEDS 11TH JAN - SAT 18TH FEB
Ange Mullen-Bryan

Ange Mullen-Bryan is a painter living and working near Stroud. She graduated with a degree in Fine Art Painting from Winchester School of Art and has ever since pursued her practice in painting. Her work explores our connection with the natural world and she takes as her muse the landscapes of her beloved Sweden; a place she has spent much time over the last 25 years.

prema.org.uk

RAW UMBER STUDIOS

TUES 3RD/10TH/17TH/24TH/31ST
Drop-in Life Drawing

Tutored long pose work with a wide variety of experienced models, suitable for beginners and experienced artists. 7-9pm, £12 (Stroud Life Drawing)

FRI 27TH - SUN 29TH
Portrait Painting with Anastasia Pollard

Regular BP Portrait award exhibitor Anastasia Pollard will teach you how to paint a portrait, either with a limited 'Zorn' palette or a full colour palette, depending on your goals and level of experience. £300

rawumberstudios.com

STROUD BREWERY

FRI 6TH
Paint and Sip

Painting parties on the first Thursday of the month. All sessions include everything you need and of course a canvas to take home at the end of the night. 7pm £29

stroudbrewery.co.uk

SVA JOHN STREET GALLERY

MON 9TH - SUN 15TH
Residency: It'll Cost You!

Kelly O'Brien comes into residency through a fit of rage to explore some absurdities/obscenities of austerity.

MON 16TH - SUN 29TH
Young Artist Residency #1

The first of three residencies, in which young artists are given the opportunity to take residence in SVA gallery for 2 weeks to make and show new work.

sva.org.uk

THREE STOREYS

WEDS 4TH - SAT 21ST
Three Storeys Winter Exhibition

A diverse mix of works from artists, professional and amateur, all local to Three Storeys in Nailsworth. Mon-Fri 9am-4pm/Sat 10am-4pm/Sun 10am-3pm

OPEN CALL
Next Level Art Exhibition

Open call to all young local artists aged 4 to 19, Three Storeys want to celebrate young peoples' creativity and art. Applications close 16th January. See website for further details on how to apply.

threestoreys.co.uk

TWO BEDFORD STREET

FRI 13TH - SAT 28TH

Bush Tucker: Food Ecocosmologies

An intimate exhibition of indigenous Australian paintings including work by Barbara Weir, Mary Lewis and more. Join Nadia Philips in conversation with Patricia Brien at 4pm on Friday 20th about the food narratives of select paintings in the exhibition as related by the artists. Fri 4-8:30pm/Sat 11am-5pm

VICTORIA WORKS STUDIOS

SAT 7TH

Stained Glass Panel Workshop

Join Glass Artist Sarah Davis and learn how to use traditional stained glass techniques to make a small leaded stained glass panel, which you can hang in your home or stand in front of a window. The techniques that you will learn are those used by generations of stained glass window makers. 10am-4pm £95

SAT 14TH

Mosaic Mirror Workshop

Join mosaic artist Sadie Rowlands for an enjoyable and relaxing day learning the art of mosaic by making a decorative mirror. Learn how to select and cut recycled bone china, ceramic and glass mosaic tile and assemble a design. There will be a choice of mirror size which will be suitable for indoor or outdoor use. You will be taught how to grout and finish the Mosaic. 10am-5pm £65

SAT 21ST

Hedgerow Basket Workshop

Join willow artist and tutor, Helen Lomborg, in a creative day working with willow to make a stunning Hedgerow based basket using locally grown materials. 10am-4pm £75

SUN 29TH

Ring in a Day Workshop

Learn how to Make your very own bespoke silver ring or stacking rings in a day. Enjoy the creative process of experimenting with hammer and punch work and be encouraged to use your creativity with mark-making as you embellish your ring in a unique and personal fashion. You will work your way through each part of the process, using hand held specialist jewellery tools to saw, solder and finish the ring to a beautiful standard. 10am-4pm £90

victoriaworksstudios.co.uk

NEW BREWERY ARTS CIRENCESTER

SAT 18TH

Garden Journaling

In this 10 week course you will have the chance to experiment and create your own garden journal, by merging scrapbooking, sketchbooking and mindful-journaling with botanical illustration and the ins and outs of your garden - whether that's your allotment, balcony, or back garden plot. 1:30-4:30pm (10 week course)

SAT 28TH JAN - SAT 1ST APR
Fibreshed

Fibreshed is a movement. Its goal: the development of systems from 'soil to soil,' where textiles are grown, processed, designed, sewn, sold, worn, and eventually composted. These 'regenerative' processes offer a means of connecting the fashion industry with community, with society and with the environment so that they can all thrive. This exhibition is an introduction to South West England Fibreshed. Mon 9am-5pm/Tues 10am-5pm/Weds-Sat 9am-5pm

newbreweryarts.org.uk

COMEDY

OLD TOWN HALL

WEDS 11TH/18TH/25TH

Improv Comedy and Theatre Classes with Rebecca MacMillan

Powerfully creative, intensely playful and highly enjoyable, improv is comedy and theatre with no script, where anything can happen. Improv can increase your confidence, unleash creativity, hone performance skills and be great fun. These drop in sessions are suitable for everyone. You don't need to feel quick, clever or funny, or have previous experience. Advance booking

recommended! 7-9pm £11

stroudimprov.com

SVA

SAT 28TH

Mr Fluffypunk's Penny Gaff feat. Rob Auton: The Crowd Show

'The Crowd Show' is a comedy/theatre/spoken word show about crowds, people and connection. 'The Crowd Show' is a show suitable for anybody who has been in a crowd or wants to be in the crowd for this show. Hosted by Mr Fluffypunk. 7pm £10adv/£12otd (Goods Shed)

sva.org.uk

DANCE

STROUD BREWERY

WEDS 18TH/25TH

Forro Dancing

Do you like to dance?! Would you like to learn Brazilian partner dance? Denis Veloso is back this week to teach us for an hour..bring your energy and a comfy pair of shoes..beginners are welcome! 7pm £8

stroudbrewery.co.uk

GOOD ON PAPER STROUD 2022 PLAYLIST

A 21 TRACK PLAYLIST FEATURING SINGLES AND SONGS FROM ALBUMS AND EP'S RELEASED BY STROUD DWELLING BANDS AND SOLO ARTISTS IN 2022...

SEARCH ON SPOTIFY FOR 'GOOD ON PAPER - STROUD 2022 PLAYLIST' OR SCAN THE QR CODE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE COLUMN:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Steve Queralt, Michael Smith:
Glitches | 12. Mara Simpson, Poppy Ackroyd:
Traquair |
| 2. Orbury Common:
Playing With Friends | 13. Simon McCorry:
The Sea Of Stories |
| 3. Blancmange:
What's Your Name | 14. Clare Hammon:
Hélène de Montgeroult -
Piano Etude No.62 In E-flat Major |
| 4. DMX Krew:
Show Her Your Soul | 15. Jacqueline Kroft:
Prelude No. Five |
| 5. Maja Lena:
The Stone | 16. Phononic:
Hover |
| 6. Delfinger:
Things I've Seen | 17. Andrew Heath:
The Poet's Garden
(feat Maria Stadnika) |
| 7. Emily Barker, Lukas Drinkwater:
Tomorrow | 18. Fader:
Porcelain |
| 8. Sam Sweeney:
Feet Together Jump | 19. Lensmen:
How Late It Was |
| 9. Emily Portman, Rob Harbron:
The Healths | 20. Philippe Nash:
No Diary |
| 10. Natalie Holmes:
Moon Craters | 21. Mike Forrest Flynn:
Early Bloomer |
| 11. Diana Yukawa:
Isolation | |

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO ACCESS THE PLAYLIST!



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FOR MORE
INFORMATION
VISIT OUR
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UPCOMING

Iyengar Yoga Retreat | 6-8 Jan

Asana, pranayama, philosophy & contemplative practices

The How of Happiness | 6-8 Jan

The science & psychology of wellbeing and how to implement it

Volunteer Week | 20-24 Feb

Do something meaningful & help us develop our place. B&B provided

Screenwriting Workshop | 11 Mar

With Graham Duff. For a novice or seasoned writer

Sketchbooking Your Environment | 26 Mar

Learn illustration techniques using watercolours

Weaving the Line: Vessel & Form | 31 Mar-2 Apr

Create woven samples by manipulating yarns, threads, cloth & paper

Futures Literacy | 3-6 Apr

Reframe how your assumptions of the future affect your present

A Wild Soul Woman | 20-23 Apr

Your instinctual & creative wildness through writing & embodied practices

& MORE



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HAWKWOODCOLLEGE.CO.UK



STROUD FILM FESTIVAL

The Stroud Film Festival will return in 2023, running from the 3rd to the 19th March. The team are keen to hear from the people who'd like to help plan events and shape the future of the festival, as well as for volunteers to contribute with publicity or be front of house at screenings. To get involved please contact info@stroudfilmfestival.org with offers, thoughts or suggestions!

stroudfilmfestival.org

TRINITY ROOMS COMMUNITY HUB

SAT 7TH

French Traditional Dancing

Starts with a beginners/refresher workshop - no need to bring a partner. Learn the Schottische, Waltz, Bouree, Chapeloise, etc. and then dance the night away to the music of Confluence Entry by donation to help cover costs 8pm-11pm

SAT 28TH

Country Dance

A fundraiser for Stroud District Green Party. All welcome at this fun, barn dance-style event, suitable for all ages. There will be a caller, raffle and licensed cash bar. £10/£7concs/under 10's free/£12otd

stroudtrinityrooms.org

FILM

ARKELL COMMUNITY CENTRE

FRI 6TH

Nailsworth Film Club Presents: Wild Men

Martin's mid-life crisis has led him to the mountains of Norway to play out his Viking survival fantasies. After 'accidentally' committing armed robbery he meets up with Musa, a weed smuggler, who has been injured in a car crash. The two of them flee across the mountains pursued by droll police officers, drug runners and Martin's wife. Dead-pan humour and wry insights into contemporary masculinity. 7pm

FRI 27TH

Nailsworth Film Club Presents: The Quiet Girl

'The Quiet Girl' made history at the Berlinale this year for being the first ever Irish Language film to be selected. Set in 1981 rural Ireland, a quiet neglected girl is sent away from her overcrowded, dysfunctional family to live with foster parents for the summer. She blossoms in their care but in their house, where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers a painful truth. The film is based on the renowned story, 'Foster' by Claire Keagan. 7pm

nailsworthfilmclub.co.uk

LANSDOWN HALL

SUN 22ND

Lansdown Film Club Presents: Force Majeure

During a vacation in the French Alps, Tomas runs away leaving his wife to protect their children when an avalanche strikes. However, this incident threatens his relationship with his family. 7:30pm £5/£6

lansdownhall.org

SAT 28TH

The Rhythmic Slingers

A dynamic duo from Gloucestershire that specialise in Country, Swing, Rhythm & Blues and Rock 'n' Roll. Armed with a foot-stomping repertoire of original songs and classic covers, they play an energetic set of rockin' tunes faithful to the spirit of the era. 8:30pm Free

thealehousestroud.com

THE CARPENTERS ARMS

WEDS 4TH

The Bob Porter Project

Bob Porter, vocals and guitar, and Will Mercer, lead guitar, offer up a blend of mellow Alt Country and gritty Roots Rock. They play a mix of originals and covers, with songs influenced by the likes of Ryan Adams, the three Toms (Russell, Waits and Rush) and Bob Dylan. 8:30pm Free

WEDS 11TH

The Dog Poo Fairies

Richard and Jo sing a bit of folk and some Americana, but mainly Richard's humorous songs. Whether it is clearing up after your dog or holes in the roads you are sure to have a good laugh. 8:30pm Free

WEDS 18TH

The Jelly Roll Brothers

The Jelly Roll Brothers are Chris Eatwell on vocals, guitar and ukulele and Graham Harrison on vocals, harmonica and ukulele. They play blues, roots and Americana with a few well known songs thrown in. 8:30pm Free

WEDS 25TH

Debra Hannis and Friends

One of the Carps most popular barmaids, Debra also has the voice of an angel. She has established a reputation as a fine traditional acapella folk singer, but also plays flute and will be accompanied by friends on various instruments in some numbers. 8:30pm Free

thecarps-miserden.co.uk

THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE

THURS 5TH

Rodda's Hairy Craic

Irish acoustic Session. 8pm Free

FRI 13TH

Big Joe Bone

Big Joe Bone plays a mix of fast, furious Delta Blues, Bluegrass, Oldtime, Gospel and Hillbilly music with raspy vocals, hard driving harmonica rhythms, bottleneck slide guitar on steel bodied guitars and fast finger-picked 5 string banjos all held together by a very heavy stomping boot! 8:30pm Free

THURS 26TH

Open Mic Night

Open Mic Night curated by the Reverend Stretch - all welcome! 7.30pm Free

FRI 27TH

Dog Of Man, Cotswold Trash

Dog of Man are a psychedelic punk band from Brighton who have toured in Europe and brought their energetic live show to festivals in the UK, Netherlands and Croatia. They have a novel approach to party music that mixes genres and blends distorted accordion with tight grooves and shredding guitar. With support from Cotswold Trash - a ragtag bunch of moon howling, pheasant

plucking string fiends 8:30pm Free

crownandsceptrestroud.com

THE PRINCE ALBERT

SUN 29TH

Scott Lavene, Ben Pilston

Raised on power ballads, punk and swearing Scott has been in bands since his teens. After travelling about, scratching out a living with deadbeat jobs trying to find something to cling to he spent time in France and New York, even playing at the infamous CBGB's. Now back in the UK he is like something that would have come from Stiff records in the 70/80s with tinges of Dury, as well as Waits and John Grant, Gutter Pop, Punk Ballads and tea cup tales. Great stuff. Singer/songwriter and wordsmith Ben Pilston is an old head on young shoulders. Summoning the vintage spirit of Dylan, Strummer, Dury and Weller via the contemporary influences of the likes of Sam Fender, George Ezra and Jamie T. Ben is a master of electrifying melodies and poetic lyrics full of kitchen sink realism that wouldn't go amiss among the likes of Albarn, Turner and Cooper Clarke. 7pm £10 (Independent Venue Week)

MON 30TH

Jaz Delorean

Jaz Delorean is a London based British singer, with the European touring band Tankus the Henge and also on his own at the piano. He has a colourful past together with a wild and wandering present. The songs that he sings and plays on the piano are tender observations of our fragile and sometimes twisted existence on this planet, taking inspiration from bar-room piano players of the Old West, the mournful melodies of his Cypriot ancestry and a patchwork of comic and tragic stories from growing up around a travelling funfair. 7pm £13 (Independent Venue Week)

theprincealbertstroud.co.uk

STROUD BREWERY

TUES 3RD

Open Mic

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

FRI 6TH/20TH

Folk Music

Local folk group performing on the brewery balcony for the musical pleasure of all within earshot. Grab a pint, sit and enjoy. 3:30pm Free

SAT 7TH

Ben Pilston

A master of electrifying melodies and poetic lyrics full of kitchen sink realism that wouldn't go amiss among the likes of Albarn, Turner and Cooper Clarke. With his debut solo releases, Ben navigates everyday, earthy and currently relevant societal topics through characters and storytelling with exquisitely British eccentricity. 8pm Free

TUES 10TH

Shanties and Folksongs

An inclusive friendly singing circle for those that want to join in, sing, listen, and have fun. All abilities welcome. Some bawdy songs - so not suitable for youngsters! 7:30pm Free



CROWN & SCEPTRE EVENTS THIS JANUARY

SUN 1ST NEW YEARS DAY OPEN AT 3PM
 MON 2ND BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY OPEN AT NOON
 WED 4TH CURRY LOUNGE FROM 6-7 PM
 THU 5TH RODDA'S HAIRY CRAIC LIVE 8PM
 SUN 11TH BLOODY MARY BEEF FROM 1 - 2:30PM
 WED 11TH VIETNAMESE CHICKEN IN BANANA LEAF 6-7 PM
 FRI 13TH BIG JOE BONE LIVE 8:30PM
 SUN 15TH SUNDAY LUNCH ROAST CHICKEN FROM 1 - 2:30PM
 WED 18TH CURRY LOUNGE FROM 6PM
 SUN 22ND SUNDAY LUNCH ROAST LAMB FROM 1 - 2:30PM
 WED 25TH UP THE WORKERS FROM 6-7 PM
 THU 26TH OPEN MIC NIGHT FROM 7.30PM
 FRI 27TH DOG OF MAN & COTSWOLD TRASH LIVE 8:30PM
 SUN 29TH SUNDAY LUNCH ROAST PORK FROM 1 - 2:30PM

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STROUDBREWERY.CO.UK

A BRIEF EDIBLE HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE

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January 21, 1-2:30
£12

Cacao Circle/Coco Caravan
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<https://smallbatcheducation.co.uk/>
nettieatkinson@gmail.com




**CACAO CIRCLE
TWO BEDFORD STREET**

JANUARY 2023

JAN 15	TEA, MUSHROOMS & CACAO RICHARD ENION & JACQUES CÔP £20	2PM - 4:30PM
JAN 19	HAND REFLEXOLOGY Drop-in lunchtime taster session with Julie Blackwell	12PM - 2PM
JAN 20	BUSH TUCKER exhibition Nadia Phillips in conversation with Patricia Brien (free event)	4PM - 5PM
JAN 21	A BRIEF EDIBLE HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE NETTIE ATKISSON £12	2PM - 3:30PM
JAN 29	CACAO CEREMONY & MEDITATION IN JANUARY JU AVILA £20	2PM - 4:30PM

**Cacao Bar opening hours
 from Friday 13 January 2023
 Fridays 4pm-8:30pm
 Saturdays 11am-5pm**

2 Bedford St
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INFO & BOOKINGS:
WWW.COCOCARAVAN.CO.UK




SAT 14TH

DANADRA

A fusion of semi acoustic guitar and dynamic percussion creating a unique and distinctive mix of blues/ latin/ Jazz /indie original material . From solid blues roots and world music influence - up tempo rhythms and melodies are complimented with melancholic soulful numbers to give a vibrant and inspiring set. 8pm Free

SAT 21ST

Texas Tick Fever

Stroud Brewery are delighted to announce the return of Texas Tick Fever. These Hillbilly Hot Shots from The West Country bring moonshine fuelled Americana, contemporary and traditional, for your foot stomping delight. 8pm Free

SAT 28TH

Dave Pilla

A Wirral born singer-songwriter based in Stroud. Drawing comparisons to the likes of Nick Drake, Jose Gonzalez and Damien Rice, Dave performs understated acoustic music that tugs at the heartstrings. With an ability to deliver low-fi, bleak storytelling and catchy hooks, his songs somehow sink in as deeply with the discerning muso as with ears trained on Radio 1. 8pm Free

stroudbrewery.co.uk

THE SUB ROOMS

THURS 19TH

Paul Jones and Dave Kelly

The Blues Band are now retiring from touring - but their two lead vocalists will continue with their acoustic duo concerts. Ruggedly durable and timeless, the Blues is perhaps more popular today than it has ever been. Young musicians still cut their teeth on its enticing, 12- bar appeal, but its real rewards, true virtuosity, poise and knowledge, only come with age. 7:30pm £28

FRI 27TH

The John Martyn Project

The John Martyn Project is a special project comprised of Blythe Pepino, Kit Hawes, Pete Josef, Sam Brookes, John Blakeley and Jon Short, six artists coming together to celebrate the music of John Martyn. Each brings their own story and connection to John's music which adds to the fabric of the overall experience of the project. "This is unlike anything I've heard before" - Folk Radio. 8pm £19.50

SAT 28TH

The Sounds Of Stroud

Come along to 'The Sounds of Stroud' - The Sub Rooms very own local showcasing event. Six lucky bands will take to their main stage in a night chock-

full of entertainment that celebrates Gloucestershire's up and coming musical heroes. Having relaunched as a charity in 2018 the Sub Rooms has hosted some of the biggest names in the music industry, including Squeeze, KT Tunstall, Mavis Staples, Macy Gray, and Roni Size - you could be next! 8pm £12

thesubrooms.co.uk

SVU

FRI 6TH/13TH/20TH/27TH

John St Social

John Street Social is a series of weekly Friday night club socials hosted by different artists each week with visuals and audio to share. 6pm £5otd (John Street)

FRI 6TH

Tuma

Tuma aka Linah Rocio is best known for her spoken word track Love Letter from the album Armour & The Universe. Her solo music is as poetic as her spoken word, mixed with a voice that has often been compared to Björk and Rickie Lee Jones, her music resembling a mixture of Joan As Policewoman, PJ Harvey and Fiona Apple. Because of personal shifts and changes the artist renamed herself TUMA - a name she channelled. Her songs are transformative and powerful, letting the listener dive deep into her being and their own. Her voice fragile and strong, dreamy and crazy. A mixture of beast and fairy. 8pm £6/£8/£10 (John Street)

SAT 7TH

The Uplifter

The Uplifter (Tom Earwaker) lives up to his name with his energetic set that reflects his deep love for Reggae, Dub, Ska and ska punk. 8pm £10-£15 (Goods Shed)

svu.org.uk

UNDER THE EDGE ARTS WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

FRI 6TH

Vinyl Night/UTEA Social

Music based on a loose theme. This month? New Beginnings...Bring your own tracks (CDs also welcome) or just enjoy the music and have a drink, boogie and get to know other UTEA friends and volunteers. 8pm Free

FRI 13TH

SCJC Jam

Bringing jazz to the local community - all welcome! 8pm

FRI 20TH

Friday Night Blues Jam

Come along and join in with this very friendly jam. 7:30pm

SAT 28TH

Moments Of Pleasure: The Music Of Kate Bush

This 5 piece band features the amazing vocals of Lisa-Marie Walters, as seen on BBC, ITV and heard on BBC 5 and various BBC regional stations. Far from being about gimmicks, they perform the songs of Kate Bush accurately and affectionately and with stunning authenticity, capturing the tone and emotion of Kate's songs perfectly. 8pm £15

utea.org.uk

TALKS/ SPOKEN WORD/ LITERATURE

MINCHINHAMPTON MARKET HOUSE

SAT 21ST

Philip Douch: He Does What...?!

Philip Douch reads stories. He chats for a bit, and then he reads you his stories. Disarmingly simple. Probably unlike anything you've seen before. And funny. He performs these warm and witty stories all over the place. Remarkably, people keep inviting him back. And last year somewhat ambiguously his sell-out show closed the Nailsworth Festival. And now mostly fun and sometimes gently moving he's coming to a venue near you. Probably a good idea not to miss him really. 7:30pm £12

minchinhamptonmarkethouse.co.uk

RUSKIN MILL

SUN 22ND

Winter Storytelling Sunday

The first afternoon of stories in the new year. Come and join in around the fire ... enjoy the wonder, wit, mystery and magic of stories from all over the world ...With storytellers Fiona Eadie and Ariane Olnier. 2:30pm £5adult/£4children/£12family (cash otd)

rmt.org

STORY MAGIC

SAT 7TH JAN - 11TH FEB ONLINE

Storytelling Course

Storytelling Course for parents, teachers, caring professions. Email felcejosie@gmail.com for further info.

storymagic.co.uk

UNDER THE EDGE ARTS WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

THURS 26TH

Wotton Area Climate Action Network Talk

Wotton Area Climate Action Network are pleased to be hosting their latest free public speaker event on the subject of 'Generating Local Energy from Solar Power'. Guest speakers will be Rob Jones from Big Solar, a not-for-profit co-op working across the UK, who build and own rooftop solar on commercial and community buildings. 8pm

FRI 27TH

FRED Talks: Debby Watson, Sophie Mather and John Carter

Another three speakers with a local connection and a surprising and varied range of topics, expect the usual buzz of excitement and another stimulating and hugely enjoyable Friday night. Debby Watson has been a researcher

for many years, mostly working with disabled children and based at Bristol University. Her last project focused on playfulness in profoundly disabled children and she will pose the question: 'If children who struggle to walk, talk and even breathe can express playfulness, surely this means that it's of fundamental importance to all of us?'. Sophie Mather is a textile innovator, focusing on solving key sustainability issues. Her Fred talk 'How to reimagine a lost textile industry in Wotton Under Edge' she will explore the core problems faced by the clothing industry, and how these can be turned into inspiration for a new textile future. John Carter will talk about his experience of thirty plus years working in the Probation Service including a spell when he covered the Wotton area. 8pm

utea.org.uk

THEATRE

COTSWOLD PLAYHOUSE

THURS 26TH-FRI 27TH JAN/THURS 2ND -SAT 4TH FEB

The Cotswold Players Presents: Around The World In 80 Days

Laura Eason's adaptation of Jules Verne's classic novel was first seen in Chicago, then transferred to the New Vic Theatre and then to the West End. Packing in more than fifty characters, this imaginative version can now be seen in Stroud and makes the perfect alternative to a pantomime for families looking for a great night out. 7:30pm £13/£8 under 16's

cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

THE SUB ROOMS

THURS 22ND DEC - SUN 1ST JAN

Cinderella

Cinderella, a fantastic family treat filled with festive fun, is brought to you by the same team that produced last year's critically acclaimed production of Beauty and the Beast. Join us at The Sub Rooms as the most famous girl in fairy-tale history rises above the odds, defeats her ugly stepsisters, escapes the shackles of her wicked stepmother, and wins the heart of the impossibly handsome Prince Charming. A must-see theatrical experience for every member of every family in Stroud. 1/5pm £15-£22

thesubrooms.co.uk

BARN THEATRE CIRENCESTER

MON 21ST NOV - FRI 6TH JAN

The True Adventures of Marian and Robin Hood!

A feast of myth, music and mediaeval slapstick, MARIAN AND ROBIN! has it all - magic, acrobatics, Normans with dodgy haircuts - as the eponymous duo bury the hatchet and join forces to thwart the hapless Sheriff and overthrow his evil protector.

MON 30TH JAN - SAT 11TH MAR

Around the World In 80 Days

Three actors play thirteen characters in a laugh a minute family pleaser. Jules Verne's classic features a very English gentlemen and his French valet Passepartout traversing the globe to win a bet, with hysterically funny consequences.

barntheatre.org.uk



INDEPENDENT VENUE WEEK

Independent Venue Week is the UK's annual 7-day celebration of independent music and arts venues and the people that own, run and work in them. It returns for its 10th anniversary from the 30th Jan - 5th Feb with over 200 independent venues taking part including the Prince Albert and the Sub Rooms in Stroud.

independentvenueweek.com

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SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

in collaboration with **Vegan Fairs**

Saturday 28 January, 2023
from 10am to 4pm
Kingshill House Creative Centre
Dursley GL11 4BZ

£3 suggested donation

food market •
educational talks • workshops &
demonstrations • kids activities
• eco-friendly products

RESPONSE/RESPOND
community | learning | sustainability
kingshillhouse.org.uk

Response/Respond is a project generously funded by the National Lottery Together For Our Planet and the Summerfield Charitable Trust

Kingshill House
GL11 4BZ
Registered Charity
No. 1032631

Get Your Words Out!
Winter Poetry Walks
Performing Your Work
Re-Enchanting the Land
& more

Starting
January
2023

DIALECT
writer development

Courses online and in person
Find out more and register:
www.dialect.org.uk

▶ **YOUNG LOCAL ARTISTS** ▶ **AGED 4 TO 19**

NEXT LEVEL

ART EXHIBITION

7th February to 26th February

At Three Storeys we want to celebrate young peoples' creativity, so we are holding an art exhibition just for young people, aged 4-19. Get involved or come and take a look...

www.threestoreys.co.uk/nextlevel
Applications close on January 16th

▶ **YOUNG LOCAL ARTISTS** ▶ **AGED 4 TO 19**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HAWKWOOD CFT

TUES 17TH

UBI Stroud Lab Launch

What is Universal Basic Income, and what could it do for us here in Stroud? Come along for a good meal, insight from the national UBI Lab network and other innovators, and the opportunity to help co-create the future of the brand new UBI Lab Stroud. 6pm Free/£8 with meal

hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

KINGSHILL HOUSE

SAT 28TH

Sustainability Fair

Dursley's first Sustainability Fair here at Kingshill House Creative Centre in collaboration with Vegan Fairs. There will be over 25 food stalls and other vegan products on sale. Some of the stall holders will also be giving talks in the House about how they make their products including local vegan chocolatier, Coco Caravan. Inside the House, there will be different activities throughout the day; children's activities, educational talks from leaders in sustainable living, seed giveaways from Wild Acres CIC, workshops from a local spoon whittler and a soap maker, and demonstrations from Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue. They are also creating a Common Ground style map, where people can mark down any sustainable activity they know about, or are doing, in the local area. From beekeeping to growing vegetables in your garden. This is a great way to meet like-minded

people and explore what else is going on in our area.

kingshillhouse.org.uk

MENTAL HEALTH MATES

SUN 8TH

Mental Health Mates January Walk

Meet 11am at Selsley Common car park (GL5 5LL). Walk and talk without fear of judgement. We'll walk at a gentle pace for around an hour, on relatively flat ground. Everyone is welcome, including your friendly four-legged friends!

Any questions, or to offer/request a rideshare to the common, email Zoe at mentalhealthmates.stroud@gmail.com

STROUD DISTRICT GREEN PARTY CLOUD CAFE

WEDS 11TH ONLINE

Green Money Not Dirty Money

In these days of austerity, the spiralling cost of food and energy and the freeze on pay and benefits almost all of us are concerned about money. Worrying whether we will have enough to keep us warm and fed in the week and pay the rent or mortgage or even put money aside for a rainy day can affect both our physical and mental health. We will hear from speakers knowledgeable in the finance field and discuss what ordinary people can do to avoid supporting unethical banks. Following this, there will be an opportunity for discussion and debate from the audience. The Cloud Cafe is a free on-line discussion forum to which everyone is welcome - so come along and invite your friends, too. Register online. Can't join in on the night? If you register anyway, you will be sent the recording. 7:30pm Free

stroud.greenparty.org.uk



SEND US YOUR LISTINGS

EMAIL:

ALEX@GOODONPAPER.INFO

GOODONPAPER.INFO

3 -19 MARCH
2023

STROUD
FILM
FESTIVAL
2023

STROUDFILMFESTIVAL.ORG





THE
SUB
ROOMS
THESUBROOMS.CO.UK

28TH

JAN 2023

**TICKETS: £12
8PM**

**SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO ENTER**



THE SUB ROOMS PRESENTS
A LOCAL SHOWCASING EVENT

THE SOUNDS OF STROUD

A MUST FOR ANY BAND /
PERFORMER IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ALSO COMING UP THIS WINTER

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Thu 19 Jan | PAUL JONES & DAVE KELLY ACOUSTIC DUO |
| Fri 27 Jan | THE JOHN MARTYN PROJECT |
| Sun 05 Feb | GARY DELANEY: GARY IN PUNDERLAND |
| Sat 11 Feb | CLOUDBUSTING - THE MUSIC OF KATE BUSH |
| Thu 16 Feb | AN EVENING WITH OCEAN COLOUR
SCENE'S SIMON & OSCAR |
| Sat 18 Feb | JEHST |
| Fri 24 Feb | THE SMYTHS |
| Fri 03 Mar | ILLEGAL EAGLES |
| Fri 10 Mar | ROACHFORD WITH SUPPORT FROM
ACANTHA LANG |

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM POSSIBLY THE BEST PUB AT THE TOP OF A STEEP HILL IN STROUD!

**LIVE MUSIC COMING UP BETWEEN
JANUARY - MAY 2023:**

Scott Lavene / Ben Pilston / Jaz Delorean / The Bug Club / Night House / Ellie Ford
The Other Way / Eleanor McEvoy / Will Lawton and the Alchemists / Emily Portman
and Rob Harbron / Sweet Baboo / Annie Dressner / Lucy Grubb / Dan Wilde
Luke James Williams / Alex Garden and Harriet Riley / Beans On Toast / Will Varley
The Galleons / Tarren / Jacken / Jon Wilks / Tyrani / The Good Stuff / Luke Wright...
and much more tbc!

**COME ON UP ALL YEAR ROUND FOR SOME OF THE BEST LIVE MUSIC AND
CHILLED AFTERNOONS IN STROUD. FAMILY AND DOG FRIENDLY...**

THEPRINCEALBERTSTROUD.CO.UK

