

perspectives

CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE

Cheltenham Arts Council: awards_funding_publicity_events listings

GYP Theatre

Why German?

**On remembering but also
forgetting anniversaries**

**Three Cheltenham
Authors**



February-May 2014

RICHARD SMITH

OBITUARY BY GRAHAM LOCKWOOD

Richard Smith, who died in October last year, was well-known for his tireless work for a number of arts organisations in Cheltenham, including the Holst Birthplace Museum, Friends of Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum, Cheltenham Arts Council and Cheltenham Music Festival Society. Tributes have been received by a number of his friends and colleagues in Cheltenham's arts community.

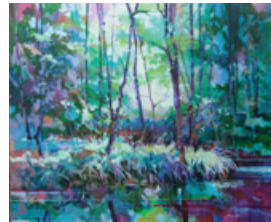
Karen Jones, Chairman of CAC, recalls that in 2012 Richard and Catriona received a Cheltenham Arts Council Award for their dedication, integrity and hard work in the service of the Friends of the Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum. She added that Richard had



Richard Smith receives his award with his wife, Catriona

recently become a member of the CAC Executive Committee, but had already taken a major role in planning the new Cheltenham Arts Council Website. 'Richard's wisdom and experience will be very much missed by all who knew and worked with him.'

19–23 February at
ART
 IN AID OF AIDS



- Demonstrations in water colour, acrylic and collage by well-known artists
- Commission a portrait with specialised artists
- Workshop event for 8 – 12 year olds: be 'wowed' by the resulting canvasses!
- Evening talk: 'Social inclusion through art'



HELPING THOSE
 LIVING WITH HIV/
 AIDS IN THE
 EASTERN CAPE

EXHIBITION, WORKSHOP & DEMONSTRATIONS

- Mornings for demonstrations (pre-booking)
- Exhibition open to all each afternoon.

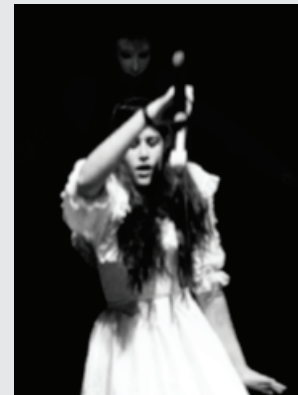
Call 01242 242173 for demonstration tickets

Gardens Gallery, Montpellier Gardens,
 Cheltenham GL50 1UW



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'We do on stage things that are supposed to happen off. Which is a kind of integrity, if you look on every exit as being an entrance somewhere else.'

Tom Stoppard - 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead'

A 'kind of integrity' is surely something worth striving for. Certainly: '... every exit ... an entrance ...' seems a positive way to view the coming year.

Edward Derbyshire (page 2-3) encourages his Gloucestershire Youth Players to view drama as 'a kind of integrity' in that it '... provides young people with many insights and can help boost self-confidence and nurture skills for later on in life ...'

Alice Jolly's thought provoking play, 'Before the Fire Burns Out', premiered at the Everyman as direct result of this kind of encouragement (page 12-13). Through it, Alice explores the challenges faced 'off stage' by traditional Romany Gypsies and addresses questions of cultural survival.



Author Anne Strathie took to the stage at the Literary Festival and found she liked it. Would you? All the world is a stage after all and, according to David Elder's excellent new book 'Literary Cheltenham', the

paving stones of Cheltenham's promenade have a long history as a platform for Society's displays.

For those who prefer a more conventional venue, Cheltenham Arts Council members - The Bacon Theatre, The Everyman, The Parabola Arts Centre and The Playhouse - offer exciting community based opportunities for those who have always yearned to tread the boards. A 'kind of integrity' in tights?

Katherine MacInnes



PERSPECTIVES TEAM

EDITOR Katherine McInnes
 LISTINGS Alice Hodsdon
 TEMPLATE DESIGN Chantal Freeman

COVER: The auditorium of the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2010, GYP Theatre; Portrait by Sheila Bryant, one of the artists offering 'art for AIDS' – an exhibition and sale of works at the Gardens Gallery 19-23 February; Anne Strathie at a book signing.

The next issues will feature:

MUSIC June – September issue

PLASTIC ARTS – October – January issue

Submission (ads and events) six weeks before publication.

Please email event details to perspectives.listings@gmail.com

NOT JUST 'COOL'

IN CONVERSATION WITH EDWARD DERBYSHIRE

What were your principal reasons for founding Gloucestershire Youth Players gyptheatre.org in 2007?

I wanted to provide a platform for all youngsters in the area, regardless of background and income, to be able to engage with Shakespeare and bring that enthusiasm to a wider audience – more than just trying to make Shakespeare 'cool'.

Do you feel that young actors are respected in the general theatrical community?

Not always; they can be applauded but they are not always taken seriously. Often they can interpret roles in a fresh and exhilarating fashion, such as the several young actors in GYP and its predecessor GYST who have played Hamlet or Romeo. Young actors are much more open to new ideas and are much less politically inclined on the whole – they want to get on with the job in hand rather than rule the universe!

Do you think that schools provide children and young adults with adequate opportunities to be involved with drama and channels for dramatic expression?

Often not, sadly. There is a propensity to regard the art form as 'non-academic' (hardly appropriate to the detailed study and interpretation of a complex plot and text), and there is no requirement that drama be properly taught in schools, or taught at all. In fact, drama provides young people with many insights and can help boost self-confidence and nurture skills for later on in life; it also encourages respect for others and tolerance, too. These are all vital tools for the adults of the future.

Do you think that drama is an elitist art form and if so, how can we make it more accessible for those young and talented people who might be slipping under the radar?



The Taming of the Shrew, GYP 2011

Not at all – there's nothing elitist about exposing your vulnerabilities as a performer to others: it's one of the hardest things in the world to do. But it breaks down barriers. Social class should have nothing to do with it. How can we make drama accessible to all? Well, GYP tours many different, even eccentric venues, and we have new members joining every year, some having been reluctant audience members at first. They see what fun we have and how liberating an art form it can be.



Romeo and Juliet, GYP 2012

Gloucestershire Youth Players only performs Shakespeare. Is this a dictum to which you will categorically stick in the future or are you open to other playwrights?

Yes, it is our brand, really. There are only two youth theatre groups in the world which perform only Shakespeare, and I am keen that we show that we are daunted by nothing. I tend to find that the young actors relish these stories and are very rarely put off by the language: when they inhabit the



Much Ado about Nothing, GYP 2013

roles, the characters, then the lines often come naturally. And they provide a great training: I am proud that at least 11 GYPers have gone on to Drama schools or into professional acting over the last four years.

Do you think it is important to view Shakespeare's plays as hermetically sealed objects in their own contexts or is it important that we consider their relevance to the world we (and specifically, your young actors and audiences) live in?

We should always re-assess: Shakespeare would have expected nothing less. Sometimes you form the impression that they were written very much in a rush,

almost on the back of an envelope... and it is this improvisational feel (we know actors at the time changed words liberally) that I like to expose in what we do. We've experimented with Romeo and Juliet set in a turf war between two local environmental companies; Hamlet with just a double bed for a prop; Much Ado on trampolines; the Dream at an impromptu 'tea' party, and much more. Shakespeare was of his time, and would have been performed in modern dress in his time. Nothing has changed!

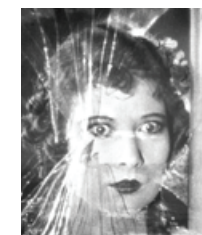
Do your young actors have any particular problems with the Shakespearean language or do they easily slip into its rhythms?

I find that once they are happy with the characters and can play around with those in imaginative ways, the language tends to come quite quickly. I am always there to help explain if need be, but the music within the words and the emphasis on speaking first then naturally finding rhythms and meaning usually does the trick. It's very rare that there's real difficulty because of the text itself: indeed, youngsters pick it up much more easily and quickly than we oldie-mouldies.

Wednesday 19 March, 7.30pm at The Bacon Theatre

"MR. BROWNLOW IS FILM HISTORY" ... MARTIN SCORSESE

In this, the 15th Annual FCAGM de Ferrieres lecture, Kevin Brownlow, with anecdotes and clips, looks back at the strange trajectory of his career in the cinema, from teenage enthusiast to BAFTA and Oscar winner.



TICKETS

Tickets from the TIC@ The Wilson and The Bacon Theatre: £12.

WHY GERMAN?

BY JO DEAN, CHELTENHAM GERMAN CLUB

Why indeed? In my own case it was bordering on essential: for years we had gone regularly to Switzerland for hiking and skiing holidays and were fine with *links, rechts, langsamer* and so on. But what about *nur für Schwindelfreie* or *Lawinegefahr*? Or, in a fairly remote valley, the meaning of *Halt auf Verlangen*? That day we had a very long cold wait for the next train. Of course we'd become brilliant at clownishly miming words – but how DO you mime 'dry' as in dry white wine?

So, off to Gloscol and the endlessly patient Sylvia for German classes. And it was such a fun language to learn that I looked around for more opportunities to hear and speak German – and found, in Montpellier, the very friendly Cheltenham German Club with its programme of lectures and music, parties and conversation evenings.

What we members all have in common is a love of the German language. How can you not smile at a nation which invents words like: *Rindfleischetikettierungsüberwachungsaufgabenübertragungsgesetz* which was introduced after our BSE crisis and refers to the law for the delegation of monitoring beef labelling and which has now, with famous German efficiency, been declared a non-word. Do we do this with obsolescent English words? Don't we, with our famous English tolerance, just let words fester in case someone, Prince Charles say, might wish to continue to deploy them?

Our second love is the culture of Germany, Austria and Switzerland: between them what a stunning array of geniuses they have produced – artists, composers, writers, philosophers, scientists. It means that for every new season at German Club there is

always scope for a fresh look at a great man or a major movement.

So, this season for example, we have had a talk on the Expressionist groups of artists, Die Brücke and Der Blaue Reiter; and on Wagner, his politics, his influence and of course his music. Some of us Wagnerites sat through around 20 hours of his Ring Cycle live from the New York Met at Cineworld. Fabulous!

And thirdly – the lands themselves. What trips and travel possibilities: the great rivers, the Alps, the forests, the Baltic coast, exciting great cities, and perhaps best of all the small towns of Germany. All those crack-pot absolutist princes might have been a frightful trial if you were one of their hapless subjects, but they all went in for competitive building: castles, palaces, galleries, treasuries, lodges, gardens, theatres, opera houses – so Germany is chock-full of beautiful small towns all with moats and walls, pointy castles, turrety towers, fantastically hideous collections of stuff. Perfect – and as German Club members tend to travel a lot, it is fun to hear about trips at our regular *Stammtisch*.

Finally, despite Basil Fawlty, we do Mention the War. Our members include Germans, in fact our Chair, Bärbel, is from Cologne. It matters to all of us to try to understand what took place between 1933 and 1945. Our two nations have age-old ties, there are essential similarities between the German and British temperaments.

The aberrant abomination of the Nazi years must never be forgotten. But how admirable it is that from such utter barbarism Germany has built a tolerant and democratic society.



ON REMEMBERING BUT ALSO FORGETTING ANNIVERSARIES

BY NICHOLAS DODE

Whether by nature or a big circle on the calendar, we're drawn to celebrate anniversaries, be they the 0s and 5s of our family and friends, or, as in the whatever the weather turnout for the 2012 Jubilee, our national institutions.

There is certainly something to admire in the collective efforts that will accompany a number as 'round' as 100: many will have enjoyed CAC member societies' celebrations of Benjamin Britten's centenary in 2013.

The Culture Secretary has recently underlined the role that anniversaries can play, announcing a new £10 million of Heritage Lottery Funding for 'the marking of anniversaries to encourage feelings of national pride and a sense of unity'.

The passing of 100 years since the outbreak of the Great War provides an added impetus not just to remember and reflect but for writers and historians to redouble their efforts to educate and bring new understanding to those who have grown up at decades of distance.

One historical resource, running since 2001 and preparing for extra traffic this year is remembering.org.uk, which documents all War Memorials and Rolls of Honour in the Cheltenham and surrounding area.

It's notable that the site's creators, and the authors of the book on which it is based, sought to shine a light on Cheltonians who lost their lives in WW1 so that relatives and researchers can remember them every day and every month, not just in November or when big anniversaries fall.

Indeed, unearthing and displaying nuggets of our history even when the spotlight of an anniversary isn't shining (or a share of £10 million on offer) is an invaluable skill of local historians. Efforts to preserve our local heritage can't always wait for a major milestone either. Cheltenham Civic Society's fundraising to restore Montpellier Bandstand back in the 1990s is what enables it to reach its 150th this year.

Keeping an eye on the date still brings its rewards though. Only with anniversaries in mind, and the help of Stephen Osmond's and David Hanks' Rough-Guide Timeline of our town did I turn up a detail that might otherwise have passed me by: it's now 200 years since a 5ft parsnip was dug up in the garden of Mr Bachelor at the Greyhound Inn. I can also congratulate the CAC's newest member, Prestbury LHS, which has just turned three.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

Cheltenham Local History Society: cheltlocalhist.btck.co.uk

Charlton Kings LHS: charltonkings.org.uk

Historical Association (GLOS Branch): hagloucestershire.btck.co.uk

Leckhampton LHS: leckhamptonlhs.weebly.com

Prestbury LHS: prestburyhistory.btck.co.uk

Cheltenham Civic Society: cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

Find out more about the Language Societies in Cheltenham at cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk

Events for FEBRUARY – MAY 2014

VISUAL ARTS

Emotions, Lauren O'Neill, Tue 11 Feb–Sat 22 Mar, 10am–4pm Tue–Sat, Holst Birthplace Museum, contemporary installation with a planetary theme.

Half Term Craft 'Drop In', Tue 18 Feb, 10.30am–3pm, children free with paying adult, Holst Birthplace Museum.

Schools' Art inspired by 'The Planets', Sat 29 Mar–Sat 26 Apr, 10am–4pm, Holst Birthplace Museum & The Wilson.

Easter Holiday Craft 'Drop Ins', Tue 15 Apr & Tue 22 Apr, 10.30–3pm, children free with paying adult, Holst Birthplace Museum.

Cheltenham Illustration Awards, Sat 3 May–Sat 21 Jun, 10am–4pm, Holst Birthplace Museum, exhibition by international artists inspired by 'The Planets'.

Cotswold Art Club Annual Painting Exhibition, Wed 21 May–Tue 3 Jun, Lower Slaughter Village Hall.

AT THE GARDENS GALLERY, MONTPELLIER GARDENS:

Student Exhibition, Wed 12–Tue 18 Feb, 10am–5pm.

Art in Aid of Aids, Wed 19–Sun 23 Feb, times & prices vary, see emthonjeni-trust.org.uk, paintings, drawing and 3D work in aid of HIV sufferers in East Africa.

Kevan Heal, University of Gloucestershire, Wed 26 Feb–Tue 4 Mar, 10am–5pm, light paper sculpture,

drawings, paintings, and contemporary student artwork.

Exhibition of the works of Hui Zhao, Wed 5–Tue 11 Mar, 10am–5pm, photography of British, American and Chinese landscapes.

Exhibition of the works of Sian Hemmings, Wed 12–Tue 18 Mar, 10am–5pm, photography.

Exhibition of the works of Carla Draper, Wed 19–Tue 25 Mar, 10am–5pm, modern graphic design prints.

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum event, Wed 26 Mar–Tue 1 Apr, 10am–5pm.

Cheltenham Group of Artists Exhibition, Wed 2–Tue 8 Apr, 10am–5pm, paintings, printmaking, illustrations, sculptures.

Jane Vernon & others, Wed 9–Tue 15 Apr, 10am–5pm, group exhibition with various artists.

Exhibition of the works of Jan Whitton, Wed 30 Apr–Tue 6 May, 10am–5pm, oils and pastels.

Bugatti Owners' Club Photography Exhibition, Wed 7–Tue 13 May, 10am–5pm.

Exhibition of the works of Annette Harrod, Wed 14–Tue 20 May, 10am–5pm, ceramics, printmaking, photographs.

Exhibition of the works of Rupert Aker, Wed 21–Tue 27 May, 10am–5pm, landscape painting.

MUSIC

Cleeve Harmony Ladies Chorus Rehearsals, Every Tue, 7.45–10pm, £3/week (first week free), Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, details from Cleeveharmony.weebly.com or Donna Whitehouse 07737 280336.

Cheltenham Bach Choir Choral Workshop, Sat 1 Feb, 10am–4pm, £15, Christ Church Hall, Malvern Road, tuition partly focused on the Rachmaninov Vespers. Get to know the pleasures of a demanding repertoire: the choir is keen to recruit. Info: cheltenhambachchoir.org.uk

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Sat 1 Feb, 7.30pm, Pittville Pump Room, Mozart Overture to the Magic Flute, Beethoven Violin Concerto (soloist Tamsin Waley-Cohen), Dvorak Symphony No.8.

Old Man Diode, Thu 6 Feb, 7.30pm, £10/£8/£5, Parabola Arts Centre, contemporary Music. Includes poet Rick Holland. Box Office 01242 707338.

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, Sat 8 Feb, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Beethoven, Mozart, Wagner & Dvorak. Conductor: Alissa Firsova, Leader and Solo Violin: George Ewart.

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Sat 8 Feb, 7.30pm, Pittville Pump Room, Tchaikovsky:

Events for FEBRUARY – MAY 2014

Fantasy Overture Romeo and Juliet, Violin Concerto (soloist Tamsin Waley-Cohen), Borodin Symphony No.2.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Death in Venice (Britten), Sun 9 Feb, 3pm, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, dvd of 2008 Venice production.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Boulevard Solitude: Henze (WNO), Wed 26 Feb, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, coach from Cheltenham, Info: cheltenhamoperasociety.org.uk.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Bunyan, King Priam and The Magic Flute, Sun 2 Mar, 3pm, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, talk by member of English Touring Opera.

English Song from Dowland to Britten, Sat 15 Mar, 7.30pm, £15, Holst members £13, Students £5, Christ Church, Malvern Road, James Bowman, counter tenor, presented by the Holst Museum. Tickets from Tourist Info and the Museum.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Nabucco: Verdi, Tue 18 Mar, 7pm, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, talk by Simon Rees (formerly dramaturg, WNO).

Cheltenham Bach Choir, All Night Vigil (Vespers) by Rachmaninov, Sat 29 Mar, 8pm, £25/£20/£10 students, Tewkesbury Abbey, tickets from the Abbey Shop, 01684 276655.

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra, Sun 30 Mar, 3pm, £10/£6, Pittville Pump Room, Overture and Dream Sequence: Humperdinck, Finlandia: Sibelius, Symphony No.5: Sibelius.

Cheltenham Opera Society, ETO recital, Wed 2 Apr, 12–1.15pm, £8, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, with singers from English Touring Opera. Tickets from Tourist Info or at the door.

Gotherington Singers Spring Concert, Sat 5 Apr, 7.30pm, St Peter's Church, Leckhampton, tickets on the door.

Toby Kearney Percussion, Wed 9 Apr, 7.30pm, £10/£8/£5, Parabola Arts Centre, includes works from Philip Glass, Evelyn Glennie and Eric Sannut. Box Office 01242 707338.

Musica Vera, Sat 12 Apr, 7.30pm, Christ Church, Cheltenham, Conductor: David Dewar. Organ/Piano: John Wade. Music by Glos. composers. Proceeds to The Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts.

Cleeve Chorale Spring Concert, Sat 26 Apr, 7.30pm, £10, St Michael and All Angels Church, Bishop's Cleeve, includes Rossini's Stabat Mater, Bach's Jesu, meine Freude. Info 01242 702573 or cleevechorale.co.uk

Cheltenham Opera Society, Benvenuto Cellini: Berlioz, Tue 29 Apr, 7pm, £5

non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, talk by Robert Padgett, Chairman.

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Sat 3 May, 7pm, Gloucester Cathedral, with Glos. Choral Soc, words and music includes Elgar The Spirit of England, Vaughan Williams The Lark Ascending.

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, Sat 10 May, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Ives and Beethoven. Conductor: Toby Purser, Leader: George Ewart.

Blue Moon Harmony Choir Afternoon Tea, Sat 17 May, 3–4.30pm, £7.50, Woodmancote Village Hall, teatime serenade. Booking essential, details from Chris, 07979741120.

Cheltenham Opera Society AGM + Samson and Dalila: Saint-Saëns, Sat 17 May, 5.30pm AGM, 6pm dvd, £5 non-members, supper in interval extra, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, dvd of 1998 Met. Opera production with Placido Domingo and Olga Borodina.

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Sat 17 May, 7.30pm, Pittville Pump Room, Humperdinck Prelude to Hansel and Gretel, Schubert Symphony No.8 (the Unfinished), Brahms Violin Concerto (soloist Tamsin Waley-Cohen).

Events for FEBRUARY – MAY 2014

Charlton Kings Choral Society, Sat 24 May, 7.30pm, Holy Apostles Church, Charlton Kings, Brahms: A German Requiem (in Brahms' own version accompanied by two pianos), Mendelssohn: Hear My Prayer.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Nabucco: Verdi (WNO), Sat 31 May, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, coach from Cheltenham, Info: cheltenhamoperasociety.org.uk.

STAGE & SCREEN

Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society: Pre-auditions for The Full Monty, between Mon 10 and Thu 20 Feb, see codsonline.co.uk

Steve Parrish, Fri 28 Feb, 7.30pm, £20, Bacon Theatre, an evening with the BBC commentator. Ages 14+.

Darkside Pink Floyd, Sat 1 Mar, 8pm, £15 (£12), Bacon Theatre, the tribute band's spectacular live show.

How to Catch a Star, Tue 18 Mar, 10.30am, £8.50 (£7.50) Family £30, Bacon Theatre, Blunderbus Theatre Co. adapt Oliver Jeffers' story. Ages 3-7.

The Showstoppers Improvised Musical, Sat 22 Mar, 7.30pm, £15 (£13), Bacon Theatre, musical comedy, improvised from audience suggestions. Ages 14+.

Cinderella, Vienna Festival Ballet, Sat 29 Mar,

7.30pm, £18.50 (£17.50) Child £13, Bacon Theatre, set to music by Rossini.

A Feast of Stories –Happy Families, Fri 4 Apr, 7.30pm, £10, Prince Michael Hall, Dean Close, local authors read stories on the subject of family, with live music.

Ruby Turner, Lifting the Blues, Sat 5 Apr, 7.30pm, £22, Bacon Theatre, in aid of Maggie's cancer care.

Film: The Croods [U], Tue 15 Apr, 1pm activities, 2pm film, £7 (inc treat), Bacon Theatre, preceded by Easter activities and fancy dress.

Film: Song for Marion [PG], Tue 15 Apr, 7.45pm, £6.50 (£5.50), Bacon Theatre.

Gloucester Gang Show: Gloucester District Scouts & Guides, Tue 22–Sat 26 Apr, 7.15pm (2.15pm Sat mat), £8.50 (£6.50), Bacon Theatre.

Film: Rush [15], Tue 29 Apr, 7.45pm, £6.50 (£5.50), Bacon Theatre, the story of F1 racers Hunt and Lauda.

Voice of the Heart, Fri 9 May, 7.30pm, £18 (£16), Bacon Theatre, celebrating Karen Carpenter.

Film: Blue Jasmine [12A], Tue 13 May, 7.45pm, £6.50 (£5.50), Bacon Theatre, Dir. Woody Allen.

Cotswold Savoyards' 100th Show: The Mikado, Tue 20–Sat 24 May, 7.45pm & 2pm Sat mat. £17-£19, Everyman Theatre, tickets 01242 572573.

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Cheltenham German Club Konversationsabende, Thu's, 7.30pm, Town centre. Info: cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com or contact Jo Dean 01242 245349 robertandjodean@virginmedia.com.

WEA Walking Book Group, Monthly, 2-4pm, further details wea-cheltenham.co.uk or 01242 524621.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle: 'Decadence', Mon 3 Feb, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace. CWC meets every two weeks, encouraging creative writers at all levels. See *online edition* at cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk for full list of dates and themes.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop, Tue 4 Feb, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 subscribers), Parmoor House, Info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cercle Français, L'Aveyron, un pont vers l'Arcadie française, Mon 10 Feb, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road, with Thirza Vallois.

Cheltenham Italian Society, L'Irpinia: castelli, chiese e monasteri nel cuore dell'Appennino Campano, Mon 10 Feb, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt

Events for FEBRUARY – MAY 2014

Terrace, with Davide Ventola. In Italian.

Historical Association (GLOS Branch), The Tube at 150, Mon 10 Feb, 7.30pm, Visitors £3, Up Hatherley Library, with Christian Wolmar. See hagloucestershire.btck.co.uk for season programme.

Cheltenham Civic Society, Old Cheltenham on Film, Tue 11 Feb, 7.30pm, £2, £4 Visitors, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Roger Jones.

Cheltenham German Club, Deutsches Kino im 21. Jahrhundert, Fri 14 Feb, 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Dr David Clarke. Info: cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com or Jo Dean 01242 245349 robertandjodean@virginmedia.com.

WEA: What some Victorians did for us, Mon 17 Feb–Mon 31 Mar, 10.30am–12.30pm, £48, Christ Church Hall, Malvern Rd, with Joan Whiting Moon. Pre-booking essential. Enq: Derek Briggs 01242 234488, wea-cheltenham.co.uk.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 17 Feb, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writers at all levels. Theme: The Prisoner.

Cheltenham Local History Society, A Malting Industry in Cheltenham?, Tue 18 Feb,

7.30pm, Visitors £1, Council Chamber, Council Offices, Promenade, with Amber Patrick. See cheltlocalhist.btck.co.uk for season programme.

Cheltenham Poetry Society: Poetry Reading Group Meeting, Tue 18 Feb, 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Leckhampton Local History Society Open Evening, Thu 20 Feb, 8pm, Visitors £1, Church House, Painswick Road, Research Reports.

Cercle Français, Henri Beyle, dit Stendhal ou l'un des demi-dieux de nos lettres, Mon 24 Feb, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road, with Thierry Viennois.

Prestbury Local History Society, 'Fred Archer', Mon 24 Feb, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, Kevin George on the life of Prestbury's famous jockey.

Charlton Kings Local History Society AGM, Tue 25 Feb, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, Baptist Church Hall, Charlton Kings, with speaker Dr James Hodsdon, Victoria County History.

Cheltenham Poetry Society: First World War Poets, Wilfred Owen, Thu 27 Feb, time tbc, Prince Michael Hall, Dean Close School, Annual Lecture, by Chris Haslam. Info: Sharon

Larkin 07540 329389.

BBC R4 Gardeners' Question Time, Mon 3 Mar, 5.30pm, Bacon Theatre, tickets & info: cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 3 Mar, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writers at all levels. Theme: Anger Management.

Historical Association, Gladstone and the Coming of Democracy, Mon 3 Mar, 7.30pm, Visitors £3, Up Hatherley Library, with Dr Laurence Goldman.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop, Tue 4 Mar, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cercle Français, Le cristal, le verre et les vitraux, Mon 10 Mar, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road, with Joel Binet.

Cheltenham Italian Society, The History of the Jews in Italy – Digressions on a theme, Mon 10 Mar, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Susan Kikoler, Hon. Director British-Italian Society. In English.

Cheltenham Civic Society AGM and Open Forum, Tue 11 Mar, 7.30pm, £2, £4 Visitors, Parmoor House,

Events for FEBRUARY – MAY 2014

have your say on the Society's Work.

Cheltenham Poetry Society: Poetry Reading Group Meeting, Tue 18 Mar, 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor House, Info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Friends of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum: De Ferrieres Lecture 'Not Quite What I Had in Mind', Wed 19 Mar, 7.15pm, £10 Friends, £12 Guests, Bacon Theatre, with Kevin Brownlow –filmmaker and film historian. Tickets from Tourist Info at the Wilson, Bacon Theatre or on the door.

Leckhampton LHS, 'St Peter's Church, Leckhampton', Thu 20 Mar, 8pm, Visitors £1, Church House, Painswick Road, with Eric Miller.

Cheltenham German Club, Österreich Heute, Fri 21 Mar, 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Peter Gieler. See 14 Feb entry for info/contact details.

Cercle Français, Jardins en peinture, une promenade parmi les paysages de l'âme, Mon 24 Mar, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road, with Florence Clarke.

Prestbury LHS, Prehistoric Prestbury, Mon 24 Mar, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, PLHS Chairman Michael Cole shares his

current research.

Charlton Kings LHS, Holst and The Planets Tue 25 Mar, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, Baptist Church Hall, Charlton Kings, with Laura Knight, Curator Holst Museum.

Charlton Kings LHS with John Loosley, Glos. Almshouses, Tue 27 May, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, Baptist Church Hall, Charlton Kings.

Cheltenham Poetry Festival

Fri 28 Mar-Sun 6 Apr, *Full programme available early Feb, see cheltenhampoetryfest.co.uk*

A selection of the events include:

Sophie Hannah & Nic Aubury, Sun 6 Apr, 2pm, Copa.

Peter Wyton & Robin Gilbert, Sun 6 Apr, 3.30pm, Copa, two artful codgers, the former Poet Laureate of Gloucestershire & friend, celebrate the visual arts in poetry.

The Dymock Poets, Sun 6 Apr, 5pm, Copa, A talk by Jeff Cooper of the Friends of the Dymock Poets, with readings of a selection of their work.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop, Tue 1 Apr, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace.

WEA: Digital Photography Day School, Sat 5 Apr, 10am-4.30pm, £25, Christ Church Hall, Malvern Rd, with Brian Swinyard. Pre-booking essential. wea-cheltenham.co.uk. Enq: Derek Briggs 01242 234488.

Cercle Français, Les Hospices de Beaune: plus de 500 ans de l'histoire, Mon 14 Apr, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road, with Dr Catherine Greensmith.

Cheltenham Italian Society, The Piero della Francesca Trail, Mon 14 Apr, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Ursula Gill. Works by the Umbrian painter in Sansepolcro, Aresso, Monterchi, Perugia, Urbino and Florence. In English.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Reading Group Meeting, Tue 15 Apr, 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor House, Info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cheltenham Civic Society Civic Awards Presentation, Wed 16 Apr, 4pm, Cheltenham Town Hall, with Tom Dyckhoff.

Civic Awards Lecture by Tom Dyckhoff, Wed 16 Apr, 7.30pm, Montpellier Hall, St Andrew's Church.

Leckhampton LHS, Pub Signs: From Roman Origins to the Present Day, Thu 17 Apr, 8pm, Visitors £1, Church House,

Events for FEBRUARY – MAY 2014

Painswick Road, with Angela Panrucker.

WEA: Advanced Calligraphy, Tue 22 Apr-Tue 26 Jun (ex.27/5, 3/6, 10/6), 9.30am-12.30pm, £88, Southam Village Hall, with Josie Brown. Pre-booking essential: wea-cheltenham.co.uk. Enq: Derek Briggs 01242 234488.

Charlton Kings LHS, Edward II, Tue 22 Apr, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, Baptist Church Hall, Charlton Kings, with Peter Petrie.

Cheltenham German Club, Regensburg, Fri 25 Apr, 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Sue Zuckerer. See 14 Feb entry for info/contact details.

Cercle Français, La Picardie et les Flandres – pays guerriers, Mon 28 Apr, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road, with John Dixon.

Historical Association, The Act of Union, 1707, Mon 28 Apr, 7.30pm, Visitors £3, Up Hatherley Library, And subsequent Anglo-Scottish relations'. With Dr Clare Jackson.

Prestbury LHS, How the Trams Came to Prestbury, Mon 28 Apr, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, with Lynda Hodges.

WEA: Further your French with Fun, Thu 1-Thu 29 May, 2.15-4.05pm, £37, Christ Church Hall,

Malvern Rd, with Annette Binns. Pre-booking essential: wea-cheltenham.co.uk. Enq: Derek Briggs 01242 234488.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop, Tue 6 May, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

WEA: Medieval Craftsmanship Day School, Sat 10 May, 10am-4.30pm, £25 + £5 bus, Bethesda Church, Great Norwood St then Hailes Abbey and church, with Tim Porter. Pre-booking essential: wea-cheltenham.co.uk. Enq: Derek Briggs 01242 234488.

Cercle Français AGM, Mon 12 May, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road.

Cheltenham Italian Society, Alcuni dei miei edifice preferiti in Puglia & AGM, Mon 12 May, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Dora Romanelli. In Italian.

Cheltenham Civic Society Visit to Madresfield Court, Tue 13 May, nr Malvern, Worcs. Details tbc.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Writing Awayday, Wed 14 May, Annual retreat. Further info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Leckhampton LHS AGM followed by North

Cotswold Villages in the Landscape, Thu 15 May, 8pm, Visitors £1, Church House, Painswick Road, with Dr Nicholas Herbert.

Cheltenham German Club, AGM + Kleines Buffet Mitgliederabend, Fri 16 May, 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, See 14 Feb entry for info/contact details.

Prestbury LHS Research Evening, Mon 19 May, 7.30pm, Visitors £2, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, opportunity for support and exchange for those researching our local history.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Reading Group Meeting, Tue 20 May, 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cheltenham LHS, AGM + The Magic Lantern Tue 20 May, 7.30pm Visitors £1, The Council Chamber, Promenade Patrick Furley provides a history & show using original equipment and slides.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 26 May 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace encouraging creative writers at all levels.

For further event listings see cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk submissions, please, to perspectives.listings@gmail.com

THREE CHELTENHAM AUTHORS

'FROM PAGE TO ...' - BY DAVID ELDER, ALICE JOLLY AND ANNE STRATHIE

David Elder

FROM PAGES PAST

David Elder's new book 'Literary Cheltenham' conjures a magical word picture of our town. Some authors, like Cobbett and Carlyle, expressed their disapproval. Others heaped praise. 'Rarely have I seen such a place that so attracted my fancy,' wrote Charles Dickens to his friend, the actor William Charles Macready after a performance of public readings at the Pump Rooms.

George Orwell (from *The Road to Wigan Pier*, 1937) Who is there who has not jeered at the House of Lords, the military caste, the Royal Family, the public schools, the huntin' and shootin' people, the old ladies in Cheltenham boarding-houses, the horrors of 'county' society, and the social hierarchy generally?

Hugh Casson (from 'Cheltenham: a Regency Town', *The Geographical Magazine*, February 1943) But behind its jerky silhouette of parapet and roof lies the other Cheltenham - a strange, silent, stuccoed, Sitwellian land of parlour-maids, épergnes and chintz, where nothing seems to stir but the leaves of the chestnut trees or a curtain twitched aside in curiosity, and no sound is heard but the tinkle of a teaspoon in a saucer and the bicycle bell of some stray errand-boy.



David Elder



Alice Jolly

FROM PAGE TO STAGE

Five years ago I moved back home to Gloucestershire after many years abroad. I had just published my second novel and that should have been an exciting experience - but it wasn't. No-one in the publishing industry was interested in the nuts and bolts of the book, only in markets and money.

Feeling disorientated and depressed, I turned up at The Everyman one dark winter night for a meeting of the Writers' Lab, a group that supports aspiring playwrights. Immediately I knew that I'd arrived in a better world. At this group everyone was focused on the writing itself, not on its commercial possibilities. The meetings are

chaired by the theatre's Creative Director Paul Milton, who has recently won The Writers Guild of Great Britain Award for the Encouragement of New Writing. For the Writers' Lab, he brings in professional actors to read new scripts. All the members of the group then make comments and suggestions. For writers to get such detailed feedback is rare and vitally important.

Since that first evening, I've had four plays professionally produced by The Everyman. Three of these have also been performed at The Cheltenham Festival of Literature. All of these plays have been about marginalised groups in our community

and so I have had an amazing opportunity to understand and represent people whose voices are seldom heard.

Over time, writers with patience and persistence can see their work brought to life on stage. And overall I can genuinely say that in my life as a writer it isn't the books published, or the plays performed, which have been most important. Instead it's the process of the writing itself, the lessons learned and the friends made.



'Before the Fire Burns Out' by Alice Jolly, performed October 2013.

© Neil Smith, SOS

Anne Strathie

FROM PAGE TO PLATFORM

In 1859 Charles Dickens read to hundreds in Cheltenham's Pump Room. Since 1949 thousands of other authors have entertained audiences of all ages at Cheltenham's Literature Festival. Not all authors step onto the platform as confidently as Dickens, but in today's world of books, a published writer is expected to emerge from years of ideas, notebooks, archives, drafts, re-drafts and proof-reading into a world of book-signings, interviews, talks and festival appearances.

In October 2012, following publication of *Birdie Bowers: Captain Scott's Marvel*, I joined David Wilson, the great-nephew of Cheltenham's Edward Wilson, and others for a panel event at the Literature Festival. The spotlights were dazzling and the audience large as we discussed the men who died on Scott's 1912 South Pole expedition, but thanks to an excellent chair



Anne Strathie, during book signing at Cheltenham Literature Festival

and thoughtful questions from a large, interested audience initial nervousness gave way to engagement and enjoyment. Since then I've spoken to groups ranging from polar enthusiasts to primary school children and find that tailoring material for talks keeps my book (now frozen on the page) fresh for me - while audience questions keep me on my toes!

David Elder (with Dr David Wilson) 'Cheltenham in Antarctica', 2000, Reardon Publishing

Alice Jolly, (novels) 'What the Eye Doesn't See' 2002; 'If Only You Knew' 2006, Simon and Schuster

Anne Strathie, 'Birdie Bowers; Captain Scott's Marvel' 2012, History Press.

Find out more about the Literary Societies in Cheltenham at cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk

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Pictured: Tamsin Waley-Cohen ~ Orchestra of the Swan