

# *perspectives*

## CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE

*Cheltenham Arts Council: awards\_funding\_publicity\_events listings*



THE ART OF POLITICS

PLUS: SNAPSHOT! • LOCAL POETS • CHELTENHAM FESTIVALS

*February - May 2015*



CHEL TENHAM  
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13-21 JUNE 2015

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

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for more information or contact [niki@cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk](mailto:niki@cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk)

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## Celebrating the past, looking to the future

When I was asked to edit Perspectives magazine, I was delighted to take on the role. The magazine is a glimpse into the lively cultural scene of Cheltenham; a vignette of the talent, enthusiasm and creativity that bubbles up throughout the town every day.

My aim as editor is to include just a few things each season that have caught my eye and which reflect the breadth of activity taking place amongst the members of Cheltenham Arts Council.

This edition, we look to the past as Cheltenham Camera Club (CCC)

celebrates its 150 year anniversary. We look to the future, as the new Chief Executive of Cheltenham Festivals,

Louise Emerson, shares her vision for 2015 and beyond. And who knows what the future holds for Cheltenham MP frontrunners, Martin Horwood and Alex Chalk; we chat about what the arts and culture mean to them.

Each edition, we will also showcase local talent and I am delighted to include work by Cheltenham photographers, writers and poets – including a charming, recently unearthed Sonnet dating back to 1919. I am grateful to Charlton Kings Local History Society and Cheltenham Poetry Society for sharing their work and to Ben Vickers, a finalist in CCC's Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year 2014, for the front cover image.

I've always enjoyed reading Perspectives and I hope you will too! Do get in touch if you'd like to comment or add anything: [editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk](mailto:editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk)

Hollie Smith-Charles



CHELTENHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, SEE LISTINGS



CHELTENHAM CAMERA CLUB  
PHOTO: SANDY FOTHERGILL



### PERSPECTIVES TEAM

EDITOR HOLLIE SMITH-CHARLES

LISTINGS ALICE HOODSON

TEMPLATE DESIGN CHANTAL FREEMAN

COVER NEON BY BEN VICKERS, AGE 10

*Perspectives is produced three times a year. The next issue will span June – September 2015.*

SUBMISSION (ADS AND EVENTS) MUST BE WITH US BY THE END OF APRIL FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE NEXT ISSUE. PLEASE EMAIL EVENT DETAILS TO [Perspectives.Listings@gmail.com](mailto:Perspectives.Listings@gmail.com)



## THE ART OF POLITICS

### WHAT MIGHT THE POLITICAL FUTURE HOLD FOR CULTURE IN CHELTENHAM? BY HOLLIE SMITH-CHARLES

**E**lections are not won or lost on arts policy. As reluctant as those of us passionate about the value of the arts might be to admit it, investment in local theatres or festivals is unlikely to swing people's decisions on polling day.

But the arts are a vital part of Cheltenham's soul and – being an island of yellow in a sea of blue – the town is a key battleground for the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives in 2015. So which candidate can truly say he belongs to the arty party? I went to meet the two frontrunners to find out more about their views and experiences of culture in Cheltenham.

#### MARTIN HORWOOD

Martin Horwood, Cheltenham's Liberal Democrat MP, is very knowledgeable and very upbeat about the local arts scene. His own passion, believe it or not, is for comics – he “dabbled” as a political cartoonist before his reputation as a satirist threatened to overtake his profile as an MP and is terribly excited about Cheltenham's latest offering, True Believers Comic Festival, in February 2015.

It is the “new and quirky” success stories that really energise him – the popularity of the Gardens Gallery in Montpellier; the depth of community arts, such as 2014's *Behind Closed Doors*, which worked with residents in one of Cheltenham's most challenged neighbourhoods and exhibited at The Wilson; the support from metropolitan audiences for niche events such as the Design Festival.

Cheltenham is on the edge, he thinks, of having a brilliant cultural offer. He would like to see the town develop a



MARTIN HORWOOD

specialist performing arts venue, perhaps via the new Cheltenham Trust (of which he is a trustee) and he is delighted that the University is re-discovering its rich heritage as a school of art, gradually demonstrating that Cheltenham is also a centre of excellence in the contemporary visual arts.

Culture is a USP for Cheltenham “in quite a serious way”, he says, offering a high level of excellence and significant economic impact. He lobbied hard, and successfully, for the two institutions which receive three-year strategic grants from the Arts Council – Cheltenham Festivals and the Everyman Theatre – to have this funding maintained until at least 2017, going against the prevailing trend. He is riled by the argument that London's world class arts scene deserves the greater public subsidy it continues to receive – what is Cheltenham Literature Festival, Martin points out, if not world class? – and

would like to see regional arts developed further, with Cheltenham leading the way. He is optimistic and believes that if we are serious about developing regional economies to counter-balance an over-heated South-East, then culture is a key part of this conversation.

## ALEX CHALK

It seems mean asking someone with two very young children about his cultural life – as anyone with babies knows, doing anything more sophisticated than CBeebies is a challenge. But Alex Chalk, the Conservative prospective MP for Cheltenham, keeps his hand in with a book of poetry by his bed and regular attendance at Cheltenham Festivals, of which he is a Patron.

A workshop at the Playhouse, aged eleven, sparked his lifelong enthusiasm for the performing arts and, unsurprisingly, he is also passionate about the role of culture in Cheltenham. He brought the Culture Secretary, Sajid Javid, to last year's Music Festival and thinks the Festivals play a big role in putting us on the map. He wants to cement our place on the nation's cultural trail and see the town grow into a cultural destination throughout the year, for example with high profile exhibitions at The Wilson.



ALEX CHALK

All encouraging words, but how does that tally with current Conservative arts policy and funding cuts? For Alex, it's about investment. Culture, he says, is one of the things Britain does best and its economic value is immense. He believes funding levels should remain sufficient to support this economic clout because the sector often has revenue-raising potential in the long-term. He is also keen to encourage a US-style culture of philanthropy in Britain. It's a goal he recognises may be a pipe dream but believes voluntary investment is an important part of the future for the arts.

The parliamentary candidates for Cheltenham 2015, at the time of going to press are:

- Peter Bowman, UKIP
- Alex Chalk, Conservative
- Martin Horwood, Liberal Democrats
- Richard Lupson-Darnell, Independent
- Adam Van Coevorden, Green Party

## SNAPSHOT! CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF CHELTENHAM CAMERA CLUB

BY DAVID ELDER

In 1865, Dr Edward Wilson, father of the famous Antarctic explorer by the same name, helped to co-found Cheltenham Photographic Society. It is Britain's sixth oldest amateur photographic society and with over 140 current members, Cheltenham Camera Club, as it is now known, continues to thrive in today's digital age.



CCC EXCURSION WITH SIR JOHN PACKENHAM

At heart it has always been an amateur club but amended its membership rules in 1936 to allow professional photographers to join, such as Hugo van Wadenoyen whose studios at 79, The Promenade are commemorated by the club with a Civic Society Blue Plaque.

Outings have always featured strongly in the club's calendar, the *Cheltenham Examiner*, for example, reporting on the 1871 excursion to Woodchester Park when "some very good pictures were secured in spite of a rather cloudy day". In 2015, as part of the sesquicentennial celebrations, the club plans to recreate one of the original excursions made to Raglan Castle.

Regular club exhibitions have contributed greatly to Cheltenham's local arts scene. Back in 1896, its first major exhibition attracted 900 national as well as local entries covering "every branch of the art."



CCC OUTING TO CHEDWORTH, 1920S. PHOTOGRAPH BY JEAN KRIER



KUNZ PATISSERIE, THE PROMENADE, CHELTENHAM, 1911. PHOTOGRAPH BY JEAN KRIER



CHELTENHAM CAMERA CLUB OUTING, 1920S. PHOTOGRAPH BY JEAN KRIER

As the club looks optimistically to the future, it is interesting to reflect on the huge technological advances. In 1909, for example, members excitedly looked forward to new advances offered by colour film and slide technologies, whilst 90 years later we began a pioneering new journey into digital photography. I wonder what the



'THE SPA HARP TRIO' BETTER KNOWN AS 'THE THIRSTY THREE', THE PROMENADE, CHELTENHAM, C. 1920. PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC FRANKS

next 150 years might bring!

If you would like to find out about our varied programme and competitions, including Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year, please come along to a meeting at Holy Apostles Church Hall, London Road, Thursdays at 7.30pm from September to May.

WE WELCOME PHOTOGRAPHERS OF ALL AGES, INTERESTS AND ABILITIES WITHIN A FRIENDLY AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.  
VISIT [CHELTENHAMCAMERACLUB.CO.UK](http://CHELTENHAMCAMERACLUB.CO.UK) FOR MORE INFORMATION



## EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY – MAY 2015

## VISUAL ARTS

**Portraiture Children's**

**Activity** Tue 17 Feb, 10.30-3pm, £5 (children free with adult), Holst Birthplace Museum, find portraits of Holst and his family and make your own.

**Easter Boxes Children's**

**Activity** Tue 31 Mar, 10.30-3pm, £5 (children free with adult), Holst Birthplace Museum, make an Easter Box to carry chocolate eggs.

**Art Playground: the Art Maze**

Wed 1- Sun 19 Apr, explore for free, Cheltenham Town Centre, art installation for ages 0-100+. See [artplayground.org.uk](http://artplayground.org.uk)

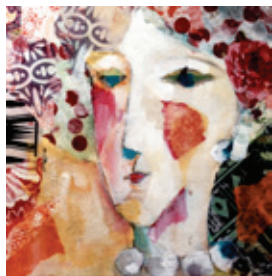
**Regency Silhouettes**

**Children's Activity** Tue 7 Apr, 10.30-3pm, £5 (children free with adult), Holst Birthplace Museum, make silhouette badges inspired by Regency history.

**the open west 2015** Sat 16 May - Sun 28 Jun, The Wilson, contemporary & conceptual art. Deadline for submissions 20 Feb. [theopenwest.org.uk](http://theopenwest.org.uk)

**COS 15: Cheltenham Open**

**Studios** Sat 13- Sun 21 Jun, 200+ artists. To join in visit [cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk](http://cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk)



PASCALE CALOUN AT THE FRENCH CONNECTION EXHIBITION, GARDENS GALLERY 4-10 MARCH 2015

AT THE GARDENS GALLERY,  
MONTPELLIER GARDENS:

10AM-5PM DAILY,  
AS LISTED:

**University of**

**Gloucestershire** Wed 25 Feb - Tue 3 Mar, Year 2 BA fine art photography.

**Pascale Caloun** Wed 4- Tue 10 Mar, French Connection: photographs, illustrations.

**Kerry Halloran** Wed 11- Tue 17 Mar, contemporary graphic design.

**Rupert Aker** Wed 18- Tue 24 Mar, oil paintings of Cotswold landscapes.

**Christine Smith** Wed 25- Tue 31 Mar.

**Emthonjeni Trust: Art in Aid of Aids**

Wed 1- Tue 7 Apr.

**Linda Davies, Sue Durkin & Sallie Taylor**

Wed 8- Tue 14 Apr.

**Cheltenham Art Club** Wed 15- Tue 21 Apr, exhibition of members' work.

**Lois Parker** Wed 22- Tue 28 Apr, glass & mixed media.

**JAZZarte: Cheltenham**

**Group of Artists** Wed 29 Apr- Tue 5 May, exhibition on a Jazz theme to coincide with the Jazz Festival.

**Cheltenham Camera Club**

Wed 13- Tue 19 May, an overview of the club's work.

**Rita Thorn** Wed 20- Tue 26 May, mixed media, pieces on canvas & paper, floral interpretations.

**Nicki Gwynn-Jones** Wed 27 May - Tue 2 Jun, fine art photography.



LINDA DAVIES AT GROUP EXHIBITION GARDENS GALLERY, 8 - 14 APRIL

## MUSIC

**Blue Moon Harmony**

**Rehearsals** every Thu, 7.30pm, Bishop's Cleeve Primary School, friendly mixed chorus recruiting new members. Tel. 01242 251531, [bluemoonharmony.co.uk](http://bluemoonharmony.co.uk)

**Cleeve Harmony**

**Rehearsals** every Wed, 7.30pm, £3, Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, info: 07737 280336 [cleeve-harmony.org.uk](http://cleeve-harmony.org.uk)

**Cheltenham Opera**

**Society: Semiramide** Sat 7 Feb, 2-6.45pm, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Rossini. Dvd of 1990 Met Opera production. Tea in 2nd interval.

**Cheltenham Chamber**

**Orchestra** Sat 7 Feb, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, music by J S Bach, directed by Warwick Cole.

**Cheltenham Music****Society: Prazak Quartet**

Wed 11 Feb, 8pm, Pittville Pump Room, Dvorak, Suk, Smetana.

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



## EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY – MAY 2015

**Cheltenham Opera Society, Pelleas et Melisande** Tue 17 Feb, 7pm, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Debussy. Talk by Simon Rees.

**Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Northern Lights 2** Sat 28 Feb, 7.30pm, £16/14/u-15 free, Pittville Pump Room, Grieg: Norwegian Dances, Piano concerto in A minor, Sibelius: Symph No.1 in E minor.

**Cheltenham Opera Society, The Siege of Calais, The Wild Man of the West Indies & La Boheme** Sun 1 Mar, 3pm + tea, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, talk by English Touring Opera on Donizetti & Puccini operas on at Everyman in Apr.

**Musica Vera 'Come and Sing Day' & Concert** Sat 7 Mar, from 10.30am, concert 7.30pm, Christ Church, workshops on Handel's Israel in Egypt. To take part: 01242 517258. Proceeds to charity.

**Cheltenham Music Society: Tallis Scholars** Thu 19 Mar, 7.30pm, Pittville Pump Room, choral music inc. Allegri's Miserere, Tallis, Cornysh, Byrd, Tavener and Arvo Pärt. [cheltmusicsoc.co.uk](http://cheltmusicsoc.co.uk)

**Churchdown Male Voice Choir** Sat 21 Mar, 7.30pm, St Peter's Gloucester, in support of the Samaritans.

**Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra** Sun 22 Mar, 3pm, £10, Pittville Pump Room, inc. Brahms: St Anthony Variations & Duruflé: Three Dances.

**Cheltenham Bach Choir, French Choral Concert** Sat 28 Mar, 7.30pm, Cirencester Parish Church, Vienne: Messe Solennelle, Duruflé: Unaccompanied Motets Based on Gregorian Chant, Fauré, Poulenc.

**Cheltenham Opera Society & English touring Opera** Thu 9 Apr, 12pm, £8, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, recital of opera arias and duets.

**Great Western Chorus with Cleeve Harmony** Sat 11 Apr, 7.30pm, Pate's Grammar School, tickets in aid of charity, see [cleeve-harmony.org.uk](http://cleeve-harmony.org.uk)

**Cheltenham Choral Society** Sat 18 Apr, 7.30pm, Holy Apostles Church, London Rd, Mozart: Requiem and Vespers.

**Cheltenham Music Society: Parnassius Piano Duo** Thu 23 Apr, 8pm, Pittville Pump Room, Clementi, Shostakovich, Vacchi, Beethoven. [cheltmusicsoc.co.uk](http://cheltmusicsoc.co.uk)

**Cheltenham Opera Society, AGM + Maria Callas film** Sat 2 May, 5.30pm, tea 5pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Callas Assoluta 6pm, followed by buffet and Callas cds/dvds.

**Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts**, Tue 5 - Sun 10 & Tue 12 - Sun 17 May, Town Hall, Bethesda Church, Subtone, a variety of Music, Dance, Speech & Drama.

**Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Northern Lights 3** Sat 9 May, 7.30pm, £16/14/u-15 free, Pittville Pump Room, Nielsen: Overture Helios, Flute concerto FS 119, Sibelius: Symph No.5 in E flat major.

**Charlton Kings Choral Society & Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra** Sat 23 May, 7.30pm, £15/10, Holy Apostles Church, London Rd, Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Sibelius. Tickets 01451 822110.

**Cheltenham Opera Society, Pelleas et Melisande: Debussy** Fri 29 May, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, coach from Cheltenham. See [cheltenhamoperasociety.org.uk](http://cheltenhamoperasociety.org.uk)



ALEXANDRA DARIESCU, SOLOIST WITH CSO, 28 FEBRUARY, PITTVILLE PUMP ROOM

## STAGE &amp; SCREEN

**Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts** Tue 5 - Sun 10 & Tue 12 - Sun 17 May, Town Hall, Bethesda Church, Subtone, variety of Music, Dance, Speech & Drama.

**Sister Act: Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society** Tue 19- Sat 23 May, 7.30pm, 2pm Sat mat., Everyman Theatre.

## EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY – MAY 2015

## POETRY FESTIVAL PREVIEW WEEKEND

### All events at Cheltenham Playhouse, tickets

01242 522852, see  
cheltenhampoetryfest.co.uk  
for events in the festival  
itself: 23 April– 4 May.

#### Joyce Grenfell

**Monologues** Sat 7 Mar,  
2pm, £6/4, Playhouse New  
Drama perform songs and  
sketches.

**John Hegley** Sat 7 Mar,  
4pm, £10/8, fusion of poetry,  
song and stand-up.

**Dead Poets, Live!** Sat 7  
Mar, 6pm, £6/4, Inspired  
Playhouse actors interpret  
popular classic poems.

**Festival Music Hall** Sat 7  
Mar, 7.45pm, £10/8, comedy,  
monologue, poetry, and  
updated singalong songs.

**AF Harrold presents The  
Imaginary** Sun 8 Mar, 11am,  
£6/4, poetry show for kids  
and the young at heart.

**Ann Drysdale: Between  
Dryden & Duffy** Sun 8 Mar,  
2pm, £6/4, a poet renowned  
for captivating readings.  
With Philip Rush.

**Boundless Brothers** Sun 8  
Mar, 8pm, £10/8, ebullient  
British folk-pop.

Church House, Painswick  
Road, détails à suivre.

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

**Cheltenham Poetry  
Society Workshop** Tue  
3 Feb, 7–10pm, £5 (£3  
subscribers), Parmoor  
House, Lypiatt Terrace,  
info: Sharon Larkin 07540  
329389.

**Cheltenham Italian  
Society, Messina: la sua  
storia gloriosa ed eroica**  
Mon 9 Feb, 7.30pm, £3,  
Parmoor House, Lypiatt  
Terrace, with Pina Clarke.  
In Italian.

**Civic Society, Old  
Cheltenham on Film**  
Tue 10 Feb, 7.30pm, £4 (£2  
members), Parmoor House,  
Lypiatt Terrace, Part Two of  
Roger Jones' presentation.

**Cercle Français, Le cliché**  
Mon 16 Feb, 7.30pm, Church  
House, Painswick Road,  
with Tony Callen.

**Cheltenham Writers'  
Circle** Mon 16 Feb, 7.30pm,  
£2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt  
Terrace, encouraging  
creative writing at all levels.  
Theme: No Hiding Place.

**Historical Association,  
Gloucester, the All Golds  
and the path not taken**  
Mon 16 Feb, 7.30pm, £3  
visitors, Teaching Block,  
Park Campus, the social  
history of rugby in the  
South West, with Prof. Tony  
Collins.

**Cheltenham Local History  
Society, Cheltenham:  
the Architecture of a  
Victorian Town** Tue 17 Feb,  
7.30pm, £1 visitors, Council  
Chamber, Municipal  
Offices, with Adrian Barlow.

**Cheltenham Poetry  
Society Reading Group  
Meeting** Tue 17 Feb, 7–10pm,  
£3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt  
Terrace, info: Sharon Larkin  
07540 329389.

**Leckhampton Local  
History Society, Open  
Evening** Thu 19 Feb, 8pm,  
£2 visitors, Church House,  
Painswick Road, research  
reports.

**Prestbury Local History  
Society, Bouncers Lane**  
Mon 23 Feb, 7.30pm, W.I.  
Hall, Prestbury, talk by  
Rebecca Sillence.

**Charlton Kings Local  
History Society**  
AGM + talk, Tue 24 Feb,  
7.30pm, Baptist Church,  
Charlton Kings talk on  
Kings House, Charlton  
Kings, with Peter Granger.

**Cheltenham German  
Club, Paläste des Hauses  
Hannover** Fri 27 Feb, 7 for  
7.50pm, Parmoor House,  
Lypiatt Terrace, with  
Dr Wolf Burchard. Info:  
cheltenhamgermanclub.  
webs.com, or 01242 245349.

**Cercle Français, La Corse,  
une région à part?** Mon 2  
Mar, 7.30pm, Church House,  
Painswick Road, with  
Cédric Cabanne.

**Cheltenham Writers'  
Circle** Mon 2 Mar, 7.30pm,

## LECTURES & MEETINGS

**Cheltenham German  
Club Stammtisch** twice  
a month, for details see  
cheltenhamgermanclub.  
webs.com

**Cercle Français, Soirée  
film** Mon 2 Feb, 7.30pm,

## EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY – MAY 2015

£2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Theme: The Journey.

### Cheltenham Poetry Society Special Workshop,

Tue 3 Mar, 7-10pm, £5, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, led by Guest Poet, Michael Thomas. Info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

### Cheltenham Italian Society, Italian Prisoners of War in Glos 1941-45

Mon 9 Mar, 7.30pm, £3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Ian M. C. Hollingsbee. In English.

### Historical Association, Gladstone and the coming of democracy

Mon 9 Mar, 7.30pm, £3 visitors, Teaching Block, Park Campus, with Dr Laurence Goldman.

**Cercle Français, Toulouse, je te conjurerai au passé, au présent et au futur,** Mon 16 Mar, 7.30pm, Church House, Painswick Road, with Joel Binet.

### Cheltenham Writers' Circle

Mon 16 Mar, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Presentation: TBC.

### Cheltenham Local History Society, New Archaeological Discoveries in Glos

Tue 17 Mar, 7.30pm, £1 visitors, Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, with Tony Roberts.

### Cheltenham Poetry Society Reading Group

**Meeting** Tue 17 Mar, 7-10pm, £3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

### Leckhampton Local History Society, VC Winners in St Peter's Churchyard

Thu 19 Mar, 8pm, £2 visitors, Church House, Painswick Road, with Chris Wesley.

### Cheltenham German Club, Licht in Deutschland, Die deutsche Aufklärung aus englischer Sicht

Fri 20 Mar, 7 for 7.50pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Prof. T J Reed. Info: cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com, or 01242 245349.

### Prestbury Local History Society, The W.I. in

**Prestbury** Mon 23 Mar, 7.30pm, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, inc. AGM.

### Cheltenham Poetry Society, The Musicality of Welsh Poetry

Tue 24 Mar, 6.30-8pm, £3, Pittville Room, Municipal Offices, Annual Lecture, with speaker Sharon Larkin. Info: 07540 329389.

### Charlton Kings Local History Society

Charles Hale: Musician and Town Surveyor, Tue 24 Mar 7.30pm, Baptist Church, Charlton Kings with Carolyn Greet.

### Cheltenham Writers' Circle

Mon 30 Mar, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels.

Theme: Lost and Found.

### Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop

Tue 7 Apr, 7-10pm, £5 (£3 subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

**Cercle Français** Mon 13 Apr, 7.30pm, Church House, Painswick Road, Contributions des Membres, détails à suivre.

### Cheltenham Italian Society, Roma città aperta

Mon 13 Apr, 7.30pm, £3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, il mito della Resistenza nel cinema italiano del dopoguerra. With Paola Nasti. In Italian.

### Cheltenham Writers' Circle,

Mon 13 Apr, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels. AGM & Competition Results.

### Cheltenham Local History Society, The Indefatigable

**Mr Cotham** Tue 14 Apr, 10am, £1, St Luke's Hall, talk on a pioneering priest who built St Gregory's Church, by Joanna Vials.

**Historical Association, Magna Carta and English history** Wed 15 Apr, 7.30pm, £3 visitors, Teaching Block, Park Campus, with Prof. Nigel Saul.

**Glos Gardens & Landscape Trust, Shakespeare and Gardens** Thu 16 Apr, 7pm, £6 (£4 members), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with

## EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY – MAY 2015

Dr Paula Henderson. ggl.org

**Leckhampton Local History Society, Ullenwood Court US Military Hospital** Thu 16 Apr, 8pm, £2 visitors, Church House, Painswick Road, with Michael Cuttall.

**Cheltenham German Club, Bavaria: a personal selection** Fri 17 Apr, 7 for 7.50pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terr, with Gordon McLachlan, in English. Info: cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com, or 01242 245349.

**Cheltenham Local History Society, The Civil War in the Cotswolds** Tue 21 Apr, 7.30pm, £1 visitors, Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, with John Paddock.

**Cheltenham Poetry Society Reading Group Meeting** Tue 21 Apr, 7-10pm, £3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

**Cercle Français, Claude Michelet, auteur contemporain** Mon 27 Apr, 7.30pm, Church House, Painswick Road, with Germaine Jones.

**Cheltenham Writers' Circle** Mon 27 Apr, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Theme: The Locket.

**PLHS, launch of Prestbury: A Walk Through Time** Mon 27 Apr, 7.30pm, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, with Roger Beacham.

**Charlton Kings Local**

**History Society** Gustav Holst and the Holst Museum, Tue 28 Apr 7.30pm, Baptist Church, Charlton Kings with Angela Applegate.

**Cheltenham Poetry Society Festival Performance** Wed 29 Apr, 8.30-9.30pm, venue TBA, info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

**Cheltenham Poetry Society with Jubilate Chamber Choir** Sat 9 May, time TBA, The Chapel, Francis Close Hall, info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

**Cheltenham Italian Society AGM + talk** Mon 11 May, 7.30pm, £3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Signor Domenico Geracitano: Il brigantaggio nell'Italia meridionale del XIX secolo. In Italian.

**Cheltenham Writers' Circle** Mon 11 May, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Theme: Second Chance.

**Civic Society, Robert Stokes: Architect of Pittville** Tue 12 May, 7.30pm, £4 (£2 members), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, talk by James Hodsdon on the architect of Pittville Gates.

**Cheltenham German Club, Generalversammlung** Fri 15 May, 7 for 7.50pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terr, AGM, Kleines Büfett, Mitgliederabend. Info:

cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com, or 01242 245349.

**Cercle Français AGM** Mon 18 May, 7.30pm, Church House, Painswick Road, suivi par une mini-conférence (sujet à préciser).

**Prestbury Local History Society, Prestbury United Reformed Church**, Mon 18 May, 7.30pm, United Reformed Church, talk by Fiona Hall.

**Cheltenham Local History Society AGM + talk** Tue 19 May, 7.30pm, £1 visitors, Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, followed by 'Blood, Guts and a Little off the Top', by John Putley.

**Cheltenham Poetry Society Reading Group Meeting** Tue 19 May, 7-10pm, £3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

**Leckhampton Local History Society AGM + talk** Thu 21 May, 8pm, £2 visitors, Church House, Painswick Road, followed by 'The Cotswold Hunt & Local Smithies' by Amy Woolacott.

**Cheltenham Poetry Society Annual Awayday** Thu 21 May, 9.45-4.30pm, writing retreat. Info, venue, cost: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

**Cheltenham Writers' Circle** Mon 25 May, 7.30pm, £2, Theme 'The Code' Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terr, encouraging creative writing at all levels.



## A WARM AND EXCITING WELCOME

BY LOUISE EMERSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CHELTENHAM FESTIVALS

I arrived in Cheltenham in the dark and just as it started to get very cold; so it was a real pleasure that my first events in the town were the exact opposite.

Within two weeks of starting as the CEO of Cheltenham Festivals, in November 2014, I felt excited and supported by two early events that influenced my first impressions.



LOUISE EMERSON

I had a really warm welcome to Cheltenham at the 'Creativity Rocks the Cotswolds' event in the tastefully renovated Wilson Gallery. Live art, energy and vibrant company were a great introduction to the town.

Happily, the timing of my arrival meant that I could also attend one of our Patrons' events in my second week. I felt fortunate to have such strong support and interest in our advancement from our Patrons in my early days in the job. Our Patrons are so important to the ongoing stability of Cheltenham Festivals.

Cheltenham Festivals are hugely important to the area and to how Cheltenham and Gloucestershire are positioned nationally, bringing unique events – often in intimate settings – opportunities for excellent educational engagement and stimulating debates to thousands of children and adults across the UK and beyond.

It is exciting to arrive in Cheltenham just as the Cheltenham Trust is established, which brings a great opportunity for the Festivals to offer our experience, creativity and knowledge in helping create Cheltenham's cultural future. The development of Cheltenham Festivals as the 'must experience' event in the UK cultural calendar will be an important ingredient in achieving this aim.

There is a lot to do and these are challenging times; however we are committed to tapping into that interest in advancement, ambition and energy I felt in my first few days, ensuring Cheltenham Festivals continues to get better and better.



CHELTENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL

Photograph: McPherson Stevens

CHELTENHAMFESTIVALS.COM

## WISE WORDS

### A SELECTION OF LOCAL POETRY, PAST AND PRESENT

#### CODES OF CONDUCT

There is a code  
Only lovers know,  
A catch of hands,  
A match of looks,  
A particular type of walk.

This will last  
For at least seven years,  
Until the familiar  
Stultifies.

There will be arguments,  
Reconciliations.  
Men grow into marriage,  
Women grow out of it.

There is a code  
Our elderly use,  
That is nearer acquiescence  
Than true romance,  
And yet signifies  
Fifty years together,  
A kind of universal happiness.

© Michael Newman

#### AT THE PALACE

The doors open by magic  
as I wheel my silver chariot  
into the great glass palace.

I pass the uniformed guards  
and make bee-line for the bananas.  
Then it's the Everyday Saver yoghurt,

a Hovis Wheatgerm loaf,  
a pack of four battered portions of cod  
and the cat food.

At the checkout  
a Renaissance Virgin asks  
if I am all right with the packing.

© Roger Turner

#### CACTUS BOWL

A full moon, huge in a violet sky,  
beams out between rust-hued mesas.  
Saguaro giants thrust up in the Sonora  
desert where the obligatory coyote,  
head flung back, jaws open wide,  
howls at the lemon yellow moon.

No sun here. She plants her garden  
in miniature - opuntia, mammillaria -  
scatters grave grit on the bowl's surface.  
Wilderness will flower, barrenness  
banished in this northern window  
where a woman mourns for a golden sun.

© Sharon Larkin

## CHELTENHAM POETRY SOCIETY

TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT [CHELTENHAMPOETRYSOC.BLOGSPOT.CO.UK](http://CHELTENHAMPOETRYSOC.BLOGSPOT.CO.UK)

## POETRY FESTIVAL PREVIEW WEEKEND 7-8 MARCH

ALL EVENTS AT CHELTENHAM PLAYHOUSE, TICKETS 01242 522852

SEE [CHELTENHAMPOETRYFEST.CO.UK](http://CHELTENHAMPOETRYFEST.CO.UK) FOR EVENTS IN THE FESTIVAL ITSELF: 23 APRIL - 4 MAY.

SEE LISTINGS ON  
PAGE 8 FOR FULL  
DETAILS

## TADDINGTON, JANUARY

Verges churned by 4 by 4s  
 fight back with old CDs wired to stakes,  
 designed to glint in headlights.  
 They tinkle as we pass.  
 At the bend in the lane,  
 Pauline's Veg, still unshuttered,  
 houses sprouts and leeks,  
 guaranteed freshness.  
 Three discarded tractor tyres  
 serve as outsized tubs -  
 robbed now of the begonias  
 that shout us down in August.

Beyond the village,  
 permissive pathways  
 point to ancient tures,  
 link to dewponds in stands of ash.  
 Tractor-patterned land,  
 scuffled to a tidy tilth, falls away  
 from unfenced roads, undulates,  
 yearns for the return of larks.  
 Copper-coloured slopes glimmer  
 and dim as clouds eclipse sun.  
 Lumpen with lamb, sheep feed  
 on beets. Their coats assume

an amber glow at sun-sink.  
 A kestrel stoops,  
 puts up a flock of fieldfare  
 from berried, wind-bent thorn.  
 No yellow-hammer calls now,  
 no swift or swallow dives,  
 just blackened skeletons  
 of cranesbill, knapweed,  
 willowherb, propped up  
 by post or drystone wall  
 holding hope that summer  
 might one day come again.

© Sharon Larkin

## SONNET

All through these happy, youthful days,  
 I will be wise, and build within my mind  
 A treasure chamber, filled with every kind  
 Of lovely light and sound I find worth  
 praise.  
 So when the unrelenting hand of age  
 Must rob my body of its activeness,  
 I shall not know resentment or distress,  
 For there my soul shall find a hermitage  
 And, drawing from that undecaying store  
 Where memory retains no power to sting,  
 Will see earth's glorious pageantry once  
 more  
 And hear the matins of the birds in Spring,  
 So, though all else about me may be poor,  
 I shall be rich in my imagining.

Isabel Jessie Scrivens, June 1929

**JESSIE SCRIVENS** was born in Charlton Kings in 1900 and died there in 1984. Five of her poems, written 1929-1931, were recently unearthed by David O'Connor of Charlton Kings Local History Society. Her story and poetry (including the Sonnet above, for which she collected an award at the Royal Albert Hall) feature in the Society's 2015 Research Bulletin, out March 1st.

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