

perspectives

CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE

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**CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL
PLUS: THE CHELTENHAM TRUST · FILM SOCIETY · SHOPS WITH SOUL**

Pictured: Allan Vallis, stacking rings

October 2015 – January 2016

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CONTENTS

LITERATURE FESTIVAL	2
THE CHELTENHAM TRUST	4
LISTINGS	5
CHELTENHAM FILM SOCIETY	10
SHOPS WITH SOUL	12

Welcome

Autumn and winter in Cheltenham may bring frosty mornings and grey evenings, but the town's programme of art and culture remains warm and welcoming.

The colossus that is Cheltenham Literature Festival dominates our cultural activity this season. With hundreds of events from which to choose, we hear from the Head of Programming, Nicola Tuxworth, about the key topics from their 2015 theme, Defining Moments.

the town's programme of art and culture remains warm and welcoming.

A defining moment for Cheltenham took place last October when The Cheltenham Trust was born. A spin-off by the council of the arts, heritage, sport and tourism, it is led by Director, Julie Finch. We discuss the progress made in the first year and her vision for how the Trust can help ensure Cheltenham remains a vibrant place in which to live and work.

From the new to the old, as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of Cheltenham Film Society, one of the oldest and arguably the largest of its kind in the country and a beacon for fans of independent cinema.

And we salute the entrepreneurial spirit of our artists and craftspeople, as we meet the teams behind three unique High Street shops, all run by creative collectives.

Do get in touch if you'd like to comment or contribute: editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk

Hollie Smith-Charles



IMAGE: JULES BERESFORD



COVER IMAGE: ALLAN VALLIS. THE ARTIST'S WORK IS ON SALE AT THE GUILD AT 51. SEE PAGES 12 & 13 FOR DETAILS.



PERSPECTIVES TEAM

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Perspectives is produced three times a year. The next issue will span February - May 2016.

SUBMISSION (ADS AND EVENTS) MUST BE WITH US BY THE END OF NOVEMBER FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE NEXT ISSUE. PLEASE EMAIL EVENT DETAILS TO PERSPECTIVES.LISTINGS@GMAIL.COM

CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL

DEBATING AND CELEBRATING OUR DEFINING MOMENTS BY NICOLA TUXWORTH, HEAD OF PROGRAMMING

Every year, the Literature Festival team and our advisory group of leading literary voices choose a theme to guide the creation of a fresh and engaging programme for our audiences.

For 2015 we consider *Defining Moments*: the pivotal occurrences that conclusively alter life as we know it, be they global, cultural, social or personal. We examine not only historic turning points but also consider the *Defining Moments* the future might bring.

Our list is proudly both subjective and, of course, non-comprehensive but we hope that it is above all interesting.

We consider global terrorism, asking what the future holds for Western democracies as they scramble to respond to the march of fundamentalism.



MATTHEW BOURNE:
THE CHOREOGRAPHER
DISCUSSES HIS
GROUND-BREAKING
INTERPRETATION OF
SWAN LAKE.

We explore the arts and celebrate astonishing moments such as the controversial yet beautiful all-male Swan Lake, the rise of pop art and the profoundly emotional effect of protest songs.

We ask how reunification has changed Germany and whether Angela Merkel will preside over the end of the European integration dream.

Closer to home, we examine the Votes for



JOANNA TROLLOPE:
THE BEST-SELLING,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE-
BASED AUTHOR
DISCUSSES THE LEGACY
OF HER ANCESTOR,
NOVELIST ANTHONY
TROLLOPE.

Women campaign and also ask where the new battle lines are drawn in the fight for equality.

The Internet has impacted modern life to an almost unimaginable degree and we explore, in a series of debates, the as-yet-untapped potential of connectedness.

Defining Moments punctuate our own lives too. How can you find solace after the loss of a child? What is it like to hear for the first time after a life of silence? How does facing death unlock a flowering of creativity? And how important is it for us all to maintain the right of free speech? Books can of course change the way we look at the world and we consider four notable examples: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Bookseller of Kabul*, *The Slap*, *The Tin Drum*.

As ever our programme is unique, broad, entertaining and inclusive so do join us for our ten-day celebration of great writing and ideas.



CAITLIN MORAN: THE
AUTHOR AND TIMES'
COLUMNIST SHARES THE
JUICE FROM HER WITTY,
WEEKLY 'CELEBRITY
WATCH' OBSERVATIONS.



BARONESS REBUCK,
CHAIR OF THE
FESTIVAL

What does the Literature Festival mean to those taking part, whether on stage or behind-the-scenes? What are their top tips for visitors? We asked some Festival insiders to share their thoughts:

"We've created a broad and inclusive programme for audiences and, as ever, it's packed full of bestselling authors and emerging talent. We are passionate about curating unique events featuring imaginative and surprising pairings; unusual meetings between thinkers and writers that can only be found during the ten extraordinary days at Cheltenham. We're not shy about tackling controversial topics, prompting fresh and lively discussion. Our hope is that visitors will arrive curious and leave inspired."

BARONESS GAIL REBUCK,
CHAIR OF THE FESTIVAL

"As both Volunteer and Patron, I get to see the great Cheltenham Literature Festival from two important perspectives. Bringing authors and their audiences together to share stories and ideas in a friendly village type environment in the middle of Cheltenham town – perfect. Whether you are visiting it for the first time or a seasoned literature fan this Festival inspires and entertains at all levels. Great writing from poets and scientists, lyricists and comedians, novelists and environmentalists, this makes for a great Cheltenham Literature Festival."

**JEREMY LEWIS, FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER
AND PATRON**

"I'm thrilled to be guest directing at Cheltenham this year. This will be my opportunity to discuss some pressing social issues, all in the context of our education system. To explore these ideas creatively at such a legendary literature festival is the stuff of dreams – wish me luck!"

GEORGE THE POET, GUEST DIRECTOR



GEORGE THE POET, GUEST DIRECTOR

"Volunteering at Cheltenham last year was a magical experience. The other staff were fantastic and we were really well looked after. I saw so many varied authors and poets that I'd never expected to see, from finding myself translating Latin poetry with Mary Beard to hearing Brian Blessed competing with a thunderstorm to be heard. The audiences were thoughtful and responsive and it was wonderful to share ten days with them. I can't wait for Lit Fest 2015."

ALI TREACY, FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER

The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival takes place from 2nd – 11th October. The full line-up is available at cheltenhamfestivals.com

WHAT NEXT FOR CULTURE IN CHELTENHAM?

INTERVIEW WITH JULIE FINCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE CHELTENHAM TRUST

The Cheltenham Trust – Cheltenham’s Ministry of Fun – was set up a year ago, in October 2014, with the task of overseeing and driving forwards the town’s culture and leisure facilities. A broad and daunting portfolio, this includes Cheltenham Town Hall & Pittville Pump Room, The Wilson, Leisure at Cheltenham and The Prince of Wales Stadium. At its helm is Julie Finch, who swapped the heady climes of Western Australia, where she spent a year writing the blueprint for their State Museum, for Cheltenham and arguably her most ambitious position to date. When we meet, she is fired up about the Trust and its role in Cheltenham’s cultural future.

The Trust is unusual in fusing culture, leisure and tourism – other local authorities have spun off their museums or sporting facilities, for example, but rarely have they been put under the same umbrella. Julie argues this model works well on the scale of Cheltenham though, because it’s not too big and unruly, each part plays a role in contributing to the Trust’s vision and, crucially, it helps to balance the books, with profit-making sports facilities supporting heritage buildings and community based activities. They have received a “massively warm reception” from government agencies and local businesses during their first year and the ten-year “Decade

of Development” masterplan is now underway.

So with all eyes on the Trust, what is its vision? Their job, she says, is to unlock Cheltenham to as many people as possible, to enrich lives by reaching more people, more of the time. Their goals are threefold: social, cultural and economic. The town is “fantastic” but to maximise its potential, there needs to be a greater understanding of what’s available to everyone. You sense a fear that Cheltenham is in danger of resting on its laurels and avoiding some hard truths. As Julie puts it, “Cheltenham is a great place to retire, but how can we compete if we’re not attracting new jobs and retaining talent? The cultural infrastructure is vital to this... Sport and culture are critical to [Cheltenham] being a vibrant place.”

Central to this challenge is talent development. It weaves through all of the Trust’s activity but you get the feeling Julie isn’t convinced that the town is doing all it can to nurture the next generation. “How,” she asks, “can Cheltenham be the birthplace of new bands, comedians, musicians? Where will that happen?” The vibrancy of our community, she argues, is dependent on creating a buzzy place, retaining graduates, offering interesting jobs and giving young people the space to build ideas and develop their skills. The Trust is exploring how it can celebrate and invest in Cheltenham’s young talent, working in partnership with the Arts Council and Gloucestershire’s Local Enterprise Partnership to create more opportunities, and publicly debating the future of Cheltenham Town Hall, which could itself become a hub for talent development.



JULIE FINCH

PHOTO: THOUSAND WORD MEDIA

The other key facet is audiences – whether from Gloucestershire or beyond. Julie is fascinated by how museums, in particular, can open up worlds to people and connect them to places and objects. She wants to “bring people out of their postcodes” and make them aware of what is happening. She has seen the positive effect of focussing on “what audiences can get out of a venue – not on what the venue can get out of them”. As Director of the National Football Museum in Preston, she doubled visitor numbers in a year by attracting more families and young children. And in Bristol, she oversaw the development of MShed, the hugely popular museum charting the story of the city and its people. There is simply no point, she thinks, in art and museums

without audiences and her feeling is that culture is much more democratic now: “people want to engage, but don’t know how. It’s our job to show them.”

A year into its journey, the Trust has a bright future and is building the profile of culture and sport in the town. But how this vision is translated into action will depend not only on its own activities, but also on the ideas and feedback from Cheltenham’s people. As Julie puts it, “Cheltenham is predicated on learning and enjoyment... There is nothing stopping [its] development, except our imaginations.”

By Hollie Smith-Charles

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CHELTENHAM TOWN HALL PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND THE WORK OF THE CHELTENHAM TRUST, VISIT CHELTENHAMTRUST.ORG.UK

EVENTS DIRECTORY OCT/JAN

VISUAL ARTS

Will Cheung, The Photographer’s Photographer, Sat 24 Oct, 7.30pm, £12, Bacon Theatre, tickets from Town Hall, an inspiring evening with a world renowned photographer. Part of Cheltenham Camera Club’s 150th celebrations.
AT THE GARDENS GALLERY, MONTPPELLIER GARDENS:
10am-5pm daily, as listed,
Janet van Rensburg, Wed 7- Tue 13 Oct.
The Wilson, Wed 14- Tue 20 Oct.
Cheltenham Art Club, Wed 21 - Tue 27 Oct, exhibition of members’ work.

Janet James, Wed 28 Oct - Tue 3 Nov, land & seascapes, mixed media, acrylic.
Pam Johns, Wed 4- Tue 10 Nov, oils, acrylic & watercolour paintings.

Molly Abbott, Wed 11- Tue 17 Nov, ceramics, paintings & drawings, mixed media.
Nigel Westaway, Wed 18- Tue 24 Nov, paintings, drawings, sculptures.
Lucy Poulton, Wed 25 Nov- Tue 1 Dec.
David Pugh, Wed 2- Tue 8 Dec, collages and photographs.
Conrad Clarke, Wed 9- Tue 15 Dec, landscapes by local young artist.
Tracey Turner, Rebecca Morris, Emmy Franks, Wed 16- Tue 22 Dec, paintings, feltwork, screen printing.
Jan Whitton Pastel Workshops, Wed 3- Fri 5 Feb, see www.janart.org.uk

MUSIC

Cheltenham Opera Society, I Puritani (Bellini) by WNO, Sun 4 Oct, 4pm, coach 10.30am, Wales

Millennium Centre, Cardiff.
Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, Tue 6 Oct, 7.30pm, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall, British Jazz, Kevin Menzies. Further details: Jenny 01242 582470.
Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Sat 17 Oct, 7.30pm, £15, £7, u-15 free, Pershore Abbey, Smetana, Mozart, Beethoven. In aid of Farmers Overseas Action Group, tickets 01905 570540.
Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, Tue 20 Oct, 2.30pm, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall, Weather Depicted in Music, Terence Gilmore-James. Further details: Jenny 01242 582470.
Busch Ensemble, Wed 21 Oct, 7.30pm, £15-19, Pittville Pump Room, Piano Trios by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Dvořák.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Pelléas and Mélisande (Debussy), Thu 22 Oct, 7.30pm, Festival Theatre, Malvern, by ETO.

Plus: The Tales of Hoffmann (Offenbach), Fri 23 Oct, 7.30pm, Festival Theatre, Malvern, by ETO.

Cheltenham Bach Choir, Tragic Heroines, Sat 24 Oct, 7.30pm, Parabola Arts Centre, Dido and Aeneas: Henry Purcell, Jephthe: Giacomo Carissimi.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Werther (Massenet), Sat 24 Oct, 7.30pm, Festival Theatre, Malvern, by ETO.

Churchdown Male Voice Choir, Sat 31 Oct, 7.30pm, Winchcombe School, for Royal British Legion.

Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, Tue 3 Nov, 2.30pm, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall, The Esterhazy Legacy, Ted Pezarro. Details: see p.5 listing.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Die Tote Stadt (Korngold), Wed 4 Nov, 6.30pm, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, DVD of 2011 Venice production.

4 Girls 4 Harps, Thu 5 Nov, 7.30pm, £10, Prince Michael Hall, Dean Close, Sophia Guistina Corri, Henriette Renié, Rachmaninov, Shostakovich, Tarrega, Adie & specially commissioned work by four British composers.

Blue Moon Harmony Choir Charity Concert, Sat 14 Nov, 7.30pm, £10, All Saints' Church, singing and Jazz in aid of Niemann Pick Disease.

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, Sat 14 Nov, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Fauré, Vaughan Williams, Poulenc. Cond. Toby Purser.

Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, Tue 17 Nov, 2.30pm, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall, It's Time for the Ladies. Further details: Jenny 01242 582470.

Cheltenham Opera Society, The Force of Destiny (Verdi) by ENO, Wed 18 Nov, 7pm, coach 9.30am, London Coliseum.

Arcadia Quartet, Tue 24 Nov, 7.30pm, £18-22, Pittville Pump Room, String Quartets by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Bartók.

Charlton Kings Choral Society, Sat 28 Nov, 7.30pm, £15, Pittville Pump Room, Charpentier: Messe de Minuit; Saint-Saëns: Oratorio de Noel. Cond. John Wright.

Cheltenham Choral Society, Handel: Messiah, Sat 28 Nov, 7.30pm, £15, St Matthew's Church.

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Sat 28 Nov, 7.30pm, Town Hall, Verdi, Shostakovich & Brahms Piano Concerto No.2 with Peter Donohoe.

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra: An afternoon of Russian music, Sun 29 Nov, 3pm, £12, Pittville Pump Room, Borodin, Rachmaninov, Kalinnikov.

Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, Tue 1 Dec, 2.30pm, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall, Somehow

Otherwise, Terry Jones. Details: see p.5 listing.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Ernani (Verdi), Tue 1 Dec, 6.30pm, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, DVD of 1983 Metropolitan Opera production. Wine & mince pies in interval.

Cheltenham Choral Society Christmas Concert, Tue 8 Dec, 7.30pm, £10, Pittville Pump Room.

Musica Vera Concert and Carols, Sat 12 Dec, 7.30pm, £10, u-16 free, St Peter's Church, Leckhampton, Lobet den Herrn: J.S.Bach, Messe de Minuit pour Noël: Charpentier. Proceeds to Cheltenham Community Projects.

Churchdown Male Voice Choir Christmas Concerts, Mon 14- Wed 16 Dec, 7.30pm, £8, Churchdown Community Centre.

Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, Tue 15 Dec, 2.30pm, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall, Music and Mince Pies or Cake. Details: see p.5 listing.

Carducci Quartet with Julius Drake (piano), Wed 16 Dec, 7.30pm, £18-22, Pittville Pump Room, String Quartets by Haydn & Shostakovich.

Blue Moon Harmony Choir Christmas Concert, Thu 17 Dec, 8pm, Broadway Vill' Hall.

Gotherington Singers Christmas Concert, Fri 18 Dec, 7.30pm, Bethesda Methodist Church.

Charlton Kings Choral

EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2015 – JANUARY 2016

Society Carol Concert, Sat 19 Dec, 7pm, St Mary's Church.

Cheltenham Bach Choir Christmas Concert, Sat 19 Dec, 7.30pm, Town Hall, with the Flowers Band.

Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, Tue 5 Jan, 2.30pm, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall, Malcolm Arnold, Neglected Genius, Tim Porter. Details: see p.5 listing.

Joo Yuen Sir (violin) and Irina Andrievsky (piano), Thu 14 Jan, 7.30pm, £15-19, Pittville Pump Room, Bach, Grieg, Poulenc, Igor Frolov.

Cheltenham Opera Society, The Marriage of Figaro (Mozart), Mon 25 Jan, 7pm, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, talk by Simon Rees.

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Russia- Revolution & Romance, Sat 30 Jan, 7.30pm, £16-14, Pittville Pump Room, Shostakovich, Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, with pianist Anna Shelest.

STAGE & DANCING

Guys and Dolls, Sat 3- Sat 10 Oct (ex. Sun 4), 7.45pm, 2pm mat. Sat 10, Playhouse, a Cheltenham Operatic & Dramatic Society production. 01242 522852.

Young Promenaders: Alice The Musical, Mon 19-Tue 20 Oct, 7pm, £10, £6, Parabola Arts Centre, 01242 224144.

The Cotswold Savoyards: Follies, Fri 20-Sat 21 & Wed 25- Sat 28 Nov, 7.30pm, 2pm mat. Sat 21, £14, Playhouse, Sondheim's musical. 01242

522852.

Jack & the Beanstalk, Wed 20- Sun 24 Jan, 7pm, 2.30pm mat. Sat-Sun, £10, Bacon Theatre, traditional panto from Promenade Productions. 01242 224144.

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Cheltenham German Club Stammtisch, twice a month, town centre, for details: cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com or Greg Arnold 01684 772966.

WEA Walking Book Group, monthly, 2-4pm, Pittville Park, info: wea-cheltenham.co.uk or 01242 524621.

Cercle Français, Les Huguenots, Mon 5 Oct, 7.30pm, Church House, Painswick Rd, with Chantal Witchalls. cercle-francais-cheltenham.webs.com

Historical Association, Indian Ocean Slave Trade, Mon 5 Oct, 7.30pm, £3, Teaching Centre, Park Campus, with Prof Glyn Campbell.

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 6 Oct, 10.30am, St Luke's Hall, A Historical Tour of Gotherington, Geoff Newsum & Caroline Meller.

Cheltenham Civic Society, Lost the Plot, Tue 6 Oct, 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, the history of allotments, with Fiona Warin, CBC.

Cheltenham Italian Society: The Accidental Masterpiece, Mon 12 Oct, 7 for 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace,

Leonardo and the painting of The Last Supper, with Dr Ross King. Info: cheltenhamitaliansociety.webs.com or John Sheppard 01242 243167.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 12 Oct, 7.30pm, £2, Playhouse Theatre, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Theme: The Shadow.

British Association of Friends of Museums Conference: Does the past have a future?, Fri 16- Sun 18 Oct, eminent and entertaining speakers explore how to engage the next generation.

cheltenhammuseum.org.uk

Cheltenham German Club: Das europäische Parlament, Fri 16 Oct, 7.15 for 7.45, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Quasselbude oder echtes gesetzgebendes Gremium? With Philip Cole. Info: Greg Arnold 01684 772966.

Cercle Français, Les Images de Napoléon, Mon 19 Oct, 7.30pm, Church House, Painswick Road, with Nicole Mezey.

Historical Association, Marcus Garvey: Foolish Fanatic or Great Leader?, Mon 19 Oct, 7.30pm, £3, venue tbc, with Prof Neil Wynn. Tel. 01242 574889.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Reading Group Meeting, Tue 20 Oct, 7-10pm, £3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, info: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2015 – JANUARY 2016

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 20 Oct, 7.30pm, Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Childhood Employment in Gloucestershire, John Loosley.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 26 Oct, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Theme: Beyond Reasonable Doubt.

Prestbury Local History Society, Prestbury on DVD, Mon 26 Oct, 7.30pm, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, with Lynda Hodges.

Charlton Kings Local History Society, The Queen's Hotel Story, Tue 27 Oct, 7.30pm, Baptist Church, Charlton Kings, with Aylwin Sampson.

Cercle Français, Visages et couleurs de la France, Mon 2 Nov, 7.30pm, Church House, Painswick Road, with Daniel François.

Historical Association, ANZAC perspective of Gallipoli, Mon 2 Nov, 7.30pm, £3, Teaching Centre, Park Campus, with Robert Fleming.

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 3 Nov, 10.30am, St Luke's Hall, Ramblings of a Blockhead, Aylwin Sampson on his life in print.

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

Cheltenham Italian Society: Sardinia, Mon 9 Nov, 7 for 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Robert Andrews. Info: cheltenhamitaliansociety.webs.com or John Sheppard 01242 243167.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 9 Nov, 7.30pm, £2, Playhouse Theatre, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Theme: Someone Like Me.

Cheltenham Civic Society, Work of Development Task Force, Tue 10 Nov, 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, annual update from Jeremy Williamson.

Cercle Français, L'Islam en France, l'Islam de France?, Mon 16 Nov, 7.30pm, Church House, Painswick Road, with Cédric Cabanne.

Historical Association, Agincourt 1415-2015, Mon 16 Nov, 7.30pm, £3, Teaching Centre, Park Campus, the legacy of the battle, with Prof Anne Curry.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Reading Group Meeting, Tue 17 Nov, 7-10pm, £3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace. Details*

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 17 Nov, 7.30pm, Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, The Mills of the River Chelt, Ray Wilson.

Cheltenham German Club Mitgliederabend, Fri 20 Nov, 7.15 for 7.45,

Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Vorträge von je 10-15 Minuten. Info: cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com or Greg Arnold 01684 772966.

Isabel and Gustav Holst: an equal partnership?, Fri 20 Nov, 7.30pm, The Phoenix Centre, Winchcombe St, with Philippa Tudor. Info and tickets: Holst Birthplace Museum 01242 524846.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 23 Nov, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Theme: The Club.

Prestbury Local History Society, The Burgage, Mon 23 Nov, 7.30pm, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, with Margaret Davies.

Cheltenham Poetry Society AGM & Writing Group Meeting, Tue 24 Nov, 7-10pm, £3, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace. Details*

Charlton Kings Local History Society, John Bellamy (1803-1893), Tue 24 Nov, 7.30pm, Baptist Church, Charlton Kings, the story of a Gloucestershire travelling showman, with Steven Blake.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Christmas Social, Tue 1 Dec, 7-10pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Details*

Charlton Kings Local History Society Christmas Party, Tue 1 Dec, Baptist Church Lounge, Charlton

EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2015 – JANUARY 2016

Kings.

Living Buildings: Paterson Memorial Lecture, Wed 2 Dec, 7.30pm, Harwood Hall, Christ Church, with Sir Donald Insall, conservation architect. cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

Glos Gardens & Landscape Trust: Rediscovering Preben Jakonsen, Thu 3 Dec, 7pm, £4/£6, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, illustrated talk by Karen Fitzsimon. See gglt.org

Cheltenham German Club: Weihnachtsfeier, Fri 4 Dec, 7.15 for 7.45, Copa, Buffet, Quiz, Tombola, Lieder. Info: cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com or Greg Arnold 01684 772966.

Cercle Français, Soirée amicale, Mon 7 Dec, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road, de la musique, un quiz, un jeu, de bons plats.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 7 Dec, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Theme: Christmas Party.

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 8 Dec, 7.30pm, Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, P.O.W. Camps and Hostels of Glos, 1939-48, Ian Hollingsbee.

Cheltenham Italian Society: La mia Siracusa, Mon 14 Dec, 7 for 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Susan Kikoler, in Italian. Info:

cheltenhamitaliansociety.webs.com or John Sheppard 01242 243167.

Historical Association, History of Pantomime, Mon 14 Dec, 7.30pm, £3, Teaching Centre, Park Campus, with Prof Jim Davis.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 21 Dec, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace. Theme: Christmas Readings: Own/Other People's.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 4 Jan, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace. Theme: The Grapevine.

Cheltenham Italian Society: Roma città aperta, Mon 11 Jan, 7 for 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, il mito della Resistenza nel cinema italiana del dopoguerra. With Dr Paola Nasti, in Italian. Info: cheltenhamitaliansociety.webs.com or John Sheppard 01242 243167.

Cheltenham German Club: Zur Idylle in der Goethezeit, Fri 15 Jan, 7.15 for 7.45, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, with Elystan Griffiths. Info: cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com or Greg Arnold 01684 772966.

Cheltenham Writers' Circle, Mon 18 Jan, 7.30pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, encouraging creative writing at all levels. Theme: Coming of Age.

Historical Association, The Armenian Genocide, Mon 18 Jan, 7.30pm, £3, Teaching Centre, Park Campus, with Dr James Derounian.

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

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 19 Jan, 7.30pm, Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Research & Display Evening.

Prestbury Local History Society, Early Development of Prestbury, Mon 25 Jan, 7.30pm, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, with Norman Baker.

Charlton Kings Local History Society, Development of Cotswold villages, Tue 26 Jan, 7.30pm, Baptist Church, Charlton Kings, with Nicholas Herbert.

CHELtenham WEA COURSE LISTINGS: Details wea-cheltenham.co.uk or Derek Briggs 01242 234488. Please enrol online: wea.org.uk or tel. 0845 458 2758

Bad Science, Bad Philosophy, Thu 1 Oct - Thu 19 Nov (ex. 29 Oct), 2-4pm, £56, St Mark's Meth' Church Hall, C3526409

Floristry, Mon 5 Oct - Mon 23 Nov (ex. 26 Oct), 2-4pm, £56 + £42 for flowers, St Mark's Meth' Church Hall, C3526415

Martin Luther King and the American Civil Rights

Movement, Fri 9 Oct - Fri 20 Nov, 11am-1pm, £56, Christ Church Hall, C3526482

Calligraphy Taster Day School

Sat 10 Oct, 10am - 4pm, £30 + £5 materials, St Mark's Meth' Church Hall, with Andy More, Guild of Glos Craftsmen, C3526788

Day School - British Painting:

the inter-war years, Sat 14 Nov, 10.30am-4.30pm, £30, St Mark's Meth' Church Hall, C3526553

Further your French with Fun

Thu 7 Jan- Thu 14 Apr (ex. 18 Feb + 10,24,31 Mar), 2-4pm, £88, Christ Church Hall, C3526577

The Late 1950s

Tue 12 Jan - Tue 29 Mar (ex. 16 Feb + 22 Mar), 10.30am-12.30pm, £84, Christ Church Hall, C3526570

Byzantine Art & Architecture: Rome, Constantinople and Ravenna

Tue 12 Jan - Tue 23 Feb, 2-4pm, £56, St Mark's Meth' Church Hall, C3526798

Calligraphy for Beginners

Mon 18 Jan - Mon 7 Mar (ex. 15 Feb), 10.30am-12.30pm, £56 + £5 materials, The Wilson, C3526799

Famous Women Poets

Wed 20 Jan - Wed 9 Mar (ex. 17 Feb), 2-4pm, £56, Christ Church Hall, C3526481

Women Thinkers: Ethics, Politics and Philosophy

Thu 21 Jan- Thu 10 Mar (ex. 18 Feb), 2-4pm, £56, St Mark's Meth' Church Hall, C3526567

20th Century American

History, Fri 22 Jan - Fri 4 Mar, 11am-1pm, £56, Christ Church Hall, C3526590

Exploring Colour & Drawing

2 Fri 29 Jan - Fri 18 Mar (ex. 19 Feb) 10.30am-12.30pm, £56, The Wilson, C3526474

ARTHOUSE MOVIES FOR EVERYONE

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHELTENHAM FILM SOCIETY BY JOHN MORRISH

Cheltenham Film Society celebrates its 70th anniversary this autumn. Arguably the largest film society in the country, its programme runs from September to April and is usually over-subscribed. If you are reading this and have already signed up, you're in for a treat; if you've missed the boat but are interested in becoming a new member, do keep an eye on their website for details of the 2016/17 season.

Cheltenham Film Society began with a public meeting in March 1945, followed by the adoption of a constitution in the last days of the war in Europe. From the beginning, the society's purpose was to show films not available in the town's commercial cinemas. Then there were five, now there is one, but the task remains the same.

The society's first film was *Alexander Nevsky*, the Eisenstein historical classic,

shown in July 1945. Some 450 Cheltonians attended the screening at what is now The Daffodil restaurant. In that first season,



there would be shows at The Ritz (now the Ace Bingo) and Poole's Coliseum (most recently the Springbok bar, demolished in 2011). Later it added a separate season of 16mm films at the School of Art in the Lower High Street and then the Playhouse.

In its first three seasons, the society had 1,100 members, making it the fifth largest society in the country. In common with other clubs and societies, however, CFS suffered badly when television (commercial television particularly) arrived. It responded by switching to the yearly subscription still used today, and introduced its ratings system to discover which films were popular with the audience. Apart from one disastrous year in the 1980s, it has prospered ever since. It now has a membership of over 500, which we believe makes it the largest film society in the country.

There are many reasons why that should be the case, not least the fact that Cheltenham lacks a venue for the showing of foreign films, independent films and "art" movies. In this respect, the town falls short of Gloucester (with The Guildhall) and Tewkesbury (The Roses). But the society's committee also works hard to create a programme each season that will please its loyal audience and attract newcomers to the town.

Programming begins a year before the start of each season: for instance, we are currently looking at films we can show in September 2016. Members of the viewing panel (any member is entitled to join) will watch anything up to 40 films each and award them A to E grades. In the spring, the panel will meet with lists of their favourites, then discuss them over several hours until a consensus emerges.

When choosing the films we look for strong stories, often from unexpected places, with appealing direction, cinematography and production design. We see film as offering an invaluable insight into other societies, and for that reason we aim to include a range of languages and geographical settings. We also try to maintain a balance between powerful, moving drama and lighter



subject-matter across the season, which runs from September to April. In addition, we like to choose films that will provide good talking points for the post-screening wine & cheese events that take place three times in each season.

Looking to the future, the society is keen to bring in younger people. We worry that the habit of sitting quietly in the dark and watching subtitled movies may be lost, given the myriad distractions available in the modern world. This is not yet a problem for CFS: our membership is consistently over-subscribed. But film clubs everywhere are wondering what the future holds.

One effort in that direction comes with our relationship with the film production department at the University of Gloucestershire. We have in the past contributed to the cost of editing and post-production software, and we currently provide bursaries to several deserving students to offset the costs of their projects. We also give a prize to the best short film produced by the students each year and show a number of them before our main films. Some of these students will go on to be the independent film-makers of tomorrow.

Membership film societies are an essential part of the eco-system of cinema in this country and Cheltenham Film Society intends to go on playing its part.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT CHELTFILMSOC.ORG.UK

SHOPS WITH SOUL

HOW COLLECTIVE WORKING IS HELPING CHELTENHAM'S ARTISTS BRING ART WITH A HEART TO OUR HIGH STREET

As any artist will tell you, it's tough making a living from art. Getting to grips with your creative process is only the start of the journey to becoming a professional artist. It's then a real challenge to find a market beyond your immediate family and friends, and to find space to sell your work. On-line platforms, such as Etsy or Not On The High Street, have huge reach but can be tricky to navigate and might feel rather

With the Christmas shopping season creeping ever closer, we spoke to three collectives about how they are working together to bring beautiful, hand-made objects to our local shopping malls. When it comes to Cheltenham, it turns out it actually IS On The High Street.

Additional text by Hollie Smith-Charles

THE GUILD AT 51

In 2013 the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen, a registered charity with about seventy professional designer-makers and a trading arm, opened its new shop next to The Wilson. This was part of an exciting and appropriate partnership: the Gloucestershire Guild, founded in 1933, developed out of the Cotswold Arts and Crafts Movement in the early 20th century and many of the Guild's founder members, such as the potter Michael Cardew, are featured in the museum's Arts and Crafts Movement gallery.

The Guild at 51 stocks the work of members who in return provide support in the shop on a daily basis. They enjoy meeting the public, talking about craftwork and exchanging ideas. We also have occasional displays spotlighting the work of invited makers – up-and-coming talent and well-established figures bring the best and brightest of contemporary craftwork to Cheltenham.



The Guild works in partnership with the museum running a programme of one-day craft skills workshops led by Guild members and also organises exhibitions, workshops and demonstrations throughout the county. For over 80 years it has supported craftsmen and women, giving them a voice locally and nationally, providing them with opportunities to exchange ideas, solve problems and promote their work.

Mary Greenstreet, Chair, Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen

distant for a solo artist working away in their studio or at their kitchen table.

So how have local artisans tackled this challenge? As with so many creative activities, working together has been the secret to their success. From one-off pieces by established designer-makers to cute home accessories inspired by Kirsty Allsopp or Cath Kidston, there is now a hearty range of products to be discovered in Cheltenham.

CHELTENHAM COLLECTIVE is a shop full of wonderful items created by the people who designed and/or made them. All of us are local to the area and some can often be found at local events and markets too. We are based in a shop in Regent Arcade, which is owned and run by four directors.

Having a group of local artisans together gives us a unique opportunity to sell in such a prestigious setting as central Cheltenham, which wouldn't otherwise be possible.

We have about 24 artisans renting space in the shop ranging from handmade candles, jewellery, home furnishing, artwork, pottery, bags, glass work, pens, photography and more. Most of us also work in the shop, which is fab for us and the customers, who have the opportunity to meet the artisan that created what they are buying. Everything in the shop is individual and some items can also be personalised making them that bit more special.

Becky Jones, Cheltenham Collective



CHELTENHAM COLLECTIVE

ARCADE ARTISANS is a shop with a soul – bringing together gifted local artists and craftspeople in a friendly, creative environment to showcase their work in Beechwood Shopping Centre.

Six years ago the shop's predecessor, By Local, opened in Regent Arcade, with a host of enthusiastic makers, each based within Gloucestershire. This artist-led initiative was originally expected to last just 6 weeks, instead it continued successfully for four and a half years, moving around several times. Shortly after it closed, Arcade Artisans was formed by the artists and craftspeople involved, opening in Beechwood Shopping Centre in May 2014.

A strong commitment to quality workmanship, and a belief in the rich talents often hidden within Gloucestershire has kept the standards high throughout the shop's history. Customers can browse through a wealth of pottery, paintings, cards, silver jewellery, fused glass, textiles, photo-art, turned and carved wood, mosaics, porcelain and more, all lovingly hand-crafted within the county.

Arcaide Artisans has been important to the artisans involved. Not only do they have a lovely retail outlet in the heart of Cheltenham to sell their wares, but they are also part of a caring and lively community of makers, which is supportive of every creative soul involved.

Trudi Hayden, Arcade Artisans



ARCADE ARTISANS

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15 October

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6 November

Orchestra of the Swan

26 November

Oxford Philomusica

3 January

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (Matinée)

17 January

Philharmonia Orchestra (Matinée)

19 February

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

12 March

BBC National Orchestra of Wales

23 April

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

25 May

Hallé

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