

An impressionistic landscape painting of a river valley. The sky is filled with thick, textured brushstrokes in shades of blue, grey, and white, suggesting a cloudy or overcast day. The middle ground shows a wide river or valley with rolling hills and fields, rendered in soft, blended colors of green, brown, and blue. The foreground features a dark, possibly stone or concrete structure, perhaps a bridge or a wall, with more textured brushwork. The overall style is expressive and atmospheric.

perspectives

CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE

Cheltenham Arts Council: awards_funding_publicity_events_listings

June – September 2019

*Every One a Winner • Gloucestershire Boys' Choir
Photographic Exhibitions • Women in Aviation*

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Submissions must be with us by the following dates for consideration

for the next issue:

End of November deadline for Feb/May Issue

End of March deadline for June/Sept Issue

End of July deadline for Oct/Jan Issue

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COVER IMAGE: ABIGAIL WADDELL, COS 2019
– SEE LISTINGS



LEE CREW, COS 2019 – SEE LISTINGS



PERSPECTIVES TEAM

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LISTINGS ALICE HODSDON

TEMPLATE DESIGN CHANTAL FREEMAN

Dear Readers

Welcome to another bumper edition of Perspectives, where the theme of enthusing and encouraging the next generation of musicians and artists is very much in evidence. We start with a report on the highlight of Cheltenham Arts Council's year – the Annual Awards Ceremony held at The Playhouse Theatre in March. This is always a highly enjoyable occasion where we recognise and celebrate – along with friends, family and fellow members – the excellence, achievements and commitment of the award winners across a wide spectrum of artistic and cultural activity in Cheltenham. The report gives information about the awards and award winners this year, complete with photographs taken by Martin Fry. We were delighted that The Mayor of Cheltenham, Bernard Fisher, attended the ceremony, presenting the awards, celebrating the winners and speaking on the importance of the arts to the town.

The Joyner Cup, for the year's most outstanding award winner, was presented to Ben Sawyer, nominated by the Oriel Singers. Ben does an enormous amount to encourage and promote choral singing in the town and wider afield. Please read Ben's article about his new initiative – the Gloucestershire Boys' Choir – aimed at encouraging more boys to sing in choirs, and hence encouraging the tenors and basses of the future.



SHARON LARKIN

With the younger generation of singers in mind, a special mention should also be made of Eleanor O'Driscoll, who was presented with the Elizabeth Webster Cup – awarded specifically to a young person under 18 who has excelled in the arts.

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra's conductor, David Curtis, tells Perspectives of his pleasure as the orchestra marks its 50th anniversary (1969 – 1919). The orchestra also places great value on nurturing the next generation of musical talent, offering a concert platform to the winner of the Gloucestershire Young Musicians Competition, and also instigating the Young Composer Competition.

For another great source of encouragement for young practitioners

Perspectives is produced three times a year. The next issue will span October 2019 – January 2020.

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

in the arts, please read Martin Fry's report on the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year Exhibition, held alongside Cheltenham Camera Club's Annual Exhibition, at Chapel Arts in May. As always, the standard of photography in these collocated exhibitions was extremely high.

Cheltenham Silver Band also spans the generations, from 8 to 80, and has had a tremendous year, with its first-ever tour – a memorable visit to Belgium last summer. This included a moving performance of 'In Flanders Fields' by Gavin Somerset, marking 100 years since the end of World War I. This highlight was followed, in the autumn, by the Silver Band playing in Cheltenham's own remembrance parade and service in November, this year made even more special by a performance in The Everyman Theatre, marking the Centenary of the Armistice.

With the World Wars in mind, Sally Ferrers takes us on a visit to the Women in Aviation Exhibition at The Jet Age Museum, featuring Gloucestershire's own Amy Johnson, Mary Ellis and Joy Lofthouse, whose contribution to aviation we salute. This exciting exhibition tells the wider story about the exploits of female pilots and pioneers, bringing us right up to date, with the women jet pilots of the present day.

Perspectives is also honoured to include in this edition a tribute to our former President, Graham Lockwood, provided by Christopher Cook, former Chair of The Music Festival.

Regrettably this is my last 'performance' as Perspectives editor which I have been proud to lead into the 'e-zine era' along with Alice Hodsdon who compiles the Listings, together with Chantal Freeman of Diva Arts who formats Perspectives for reading on-line. I am now handing over editorship to CAC's Honorary Secretary, Rachel Tedd, who, I know, will take the magazine forward with enthusiasm and flair. I also vacate the Chair of Cheltenham Arts Council at the AGM at the end of May, and wish my successor, Sue Silcock, every success and satisfaction in the role. Sue, in turn, hands over her position as CAC Treasurer to Dr Steve Steinhardt, whom we welcome to Cheltenham Arts Council, with our appreciation and good wishes.

Thank you to everyone who has inspired, supported and encouraged me in leading the CAC Executive Committee over the last three years, and especially to Sue Silcock who led on essential constitutional changes and the establishment of the Trustees. CAC has consequently been re-set on firmer foundations in terms of Charity Commission-compliant policies and procedures, all thanks to Sue. I hand over to her, certain that CAC cannot be in better hands. It just remains for me to applaud every member of the Executive Committee for their time, commitment and brilliant ideas, and to thank CAC President Edward Gillespie and Vice President Terry Moore-Scott for their guidance and wise counsel.

Sharon Larkin,

FORMER CHAIR AND PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

EVERY ONE A WINNER

SHARON LARKIN LOOKS BACK AT THE ANNUAL AWARDS

The Cheltenham Arts Council Awards Ceremony is the highlight of CAC's year, when we join together with outstanding artists, musicians, performers and practitioners across a wide spectrum of the arts in Cheltenham to recognise and celebrate excellence, achievement and commitment.



Seven award-winners were celebrated at this year's ceremony, held as in previous years, at The Playhouse Theatre. The auditorium was filled with family, friends and representatives of CAC's member organizations, and the lounge bar was abuzz beforehand as award winners, guests and nominators gathered for a celebratory reception.

CAC President, Edward Gillespie, welcomed The Mayor of Cheltenham, Bernard Fisher, who presented each of the awards to the winners, following the reading of their citations. After presenting the awards, The Mayor spoke in recognition of their achievement and of the importance of the arts and culture in the life of Cheltenham. The following awards, including cups and framed certificates, were conferred this year.

The Joyner Cup, for the most outstanding of the year's award winners, was won by Ben Sawyer in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the cultural life of Cheltenham, developing skills through inspirational teaching, directing local choirs, including The Oriel Singers, establishing new initiatives and partnerships, championing local musicians and composers, nurturing young talent, and encouraging adult singers. In the next article in this edition of Perspectives, Ben outlines his initiative to encourage more young boys to sing, hoping to attract and retain their talent, enthusiasm and commitment, as the tenors and basses of tomorrow..



**BEN SAWYER,
WINNER OF THE
JOYNER CUP, WITH
THE MAYOR OF
CHELTENHAM**

The Elizabeth Webster Cup – awarded to a young person excelling in the arts – was won this year by Eleanor O'Driscoll (pictured overleaf) for her dedication and outstanding contribution to music and theatre in Cheltenham. Eleanor was congratulated for her many achievements and accomplishments. Highly active in the field of music, Eleanor sings in a number of choirs, performs on stage and in festivals, and has excelled in examinations.



ELEANOR O'DRISCOLL, WINNER OF THE ELIZABETH WEBSTER CUP, WITH THE MAYOR OF CHELTENHAM

The Cheltenham Opera Group Cup for 2019 was awarded to David Crown for his outstanding contribution as Music Director of Cheltenham Bach Choir, raising standards and improving performance, extending the choir's repertoire, substantially increasing membership, and leading a highly successful twin-town visit by the choir to Göttingen, Germany.



DAVID CROWN, WINNER OF THE OPERA GROUP CUP, WITH THE MAYOR OF CHELTENHAM

The Visual Arts Cup, new for 2019, was awarded to Des Ward AFIAP in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Cheltenham Camera Club, as a former Chairman, using his exceptional skills to modernise and innovate, playing a major part in establishing the Cheltenham International Salon of Photography and supporting members in achieving success nationally and internationally.



DES WARD AFIAP, PRESENTED WITH THE VISUAL ARTS CUP BY THE MAYOR OF CHELTENHAM

Jonathan Cardale received an Arts Award in the form of a framed certificate for his unstinting support to Cheltenham Bach Choir, as a member, concert manager and ambassador, visiting venues in advance, advising conductor and members about stage positions, arrangements and timings of rehearsals and performances, and ensuring that concerts run smoothly.



JONATHAN CARDALE PRESENTED WITH HIS ARTS AWARD BY THE MAYOR OF CHELTENHAM

Dr Frances Wilson-Copp was unable to attend the ceremony but was awarded an Arts Award, a framed certificate, for her knowledge and enthusiasm, benefitting students at school, college and university, and supporting Cheltenham Art Club for many years, serving as its President, inspiring members to develop their art and enhancing their awareness of art history and the wider world of the visual arts.

The Charles Irving Sponsorship Award was again won by Helene Hewett of The Suffolk Anthology Bookshop in recognition of the many ways in which the bookshop supports the arts in Cheltenham, acting as a hub for writers and artists, including The Writers and Directors Workshop, supporting local authors and hosting workshops, masterclasses, talks, seminars and book launches. The Bookshop had already won the award in 2017 but the CAC Awards Sub-Committee were unanimous that the Charles Irving award should go to Helene and The Suffolk Anthology Bookshop again in 2019.



HELENE HEWETT AND THE SUFFOLK ANTHOLOGY BOOKSHOP RECEIVED THE CHARLES IRVING SPONSORSHIP AWARD FOR THE SECOND TIME.

CAC would like to thank Bernard Fisher, The Mayor of Cheltenham, for presenting the awards and speaking at the event. CAC is also indebted to The Playhouse Theatre's

Manager, Paul Scott, and staff for hosting the Arts Awards Ceremony again this year. The auditorium is the perfect setting for the occasion and the lounge bar ideal for a celebratory reception beforehand. A particular 'Thank you' also goes to CAC Treasurer, Sue Silcock, and Executive Committee Member, Martin Fry. Sue arranged for all the cups to be engraved, including the new Visual Arts Cup, sponsored by Martin who also designed and ordered the banner which provided an excellent point of focus on-stage. CAC also thanks Martin for the photographs taken at the event, including those in this report. Niki Whitfield is also due CAC's thanks for preparing the award certificates, and Martin – again – for expertly printing them.

Finally, many congratulations to all the award winners and a huge 'Thank you' to everyone who attended the ceremony, ensuring that this year's event was a successful – and most enjoyable – occasion.



CAC CHAIR, SHARON LARKIN (LEFT), BERNARD FISHER – THE MAYOR OF CHELTENHAM, AND CAC PRESIDENT EDWARD GILLESPIE (RIGHT) WITH ALL THE AWARD WINNERS AT THE CEREMONY



THE CAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH THE MAYOR OF CHELTENHAM

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOYS' CHOIR

ENCOURAGING THE TENORS AND BASSES OF TOMORROW

Ben Sawyer writes: It is no secret that amateur choirs are finding the recruitment of tenors and basses a challenge. I conduct three amateur choirs of varying abilities and styles and this is a perennial issue. I co-direct Gloucestershire Youth Choir and the ratio is heavily weighted towards girls. This got me thinking of ways to encourage more boys to join the Youth Choir, and create a line from unchanged voices, through voice change and into singing tenor and bass in this choir and through to adulthood.

This is where Gloucestershire Boys' Choir comes in. Inspired by a visit to a concert given by the National Youth Boys' Choir of Great Britain in Banbury in April 2018, I decided to create a new choir just for boys, starting with boys aged between 8 and 13, with unchanged voices. The reasoning behind this was to start with a base of young singers from which the whole choir could grow. With the practical help of Gloucester Academy of Music and Gloucestershire Music, and financial support from the Brimpsfield Music Society, I was able to hold a Taster Day in January 2019. This was a free event and was attended by around 35 boys, a very

encouraging number.

With so many different commitments affecting family life, I made the decision to start with periodical rehearsals as opposed to weekly ones. Of the 35 that attended the Taster Day, 18 continued to our next session on 3rd March. This was particularly special as it included the choir's first public performance in the form of their entry for 'Music For Youth', a youth event held annually and the biggest event of its kind in the world. The boys performed two of their three songs from memory, and sang with great character and energy. We have just had the third session, in preparation for a planned inaugural concert at the end of June. 23 boys were in attendance.

This new initiative has been greeted with great enthusiasm. It comes at a time when there is much discussion in the cathedral world about Girls' and Mixed 'front rows' in Cathedral Choirs. However, this choir stands alone, singing a range of music, largely non-religious, with the overall aim to engage more boys with singing, to see them through voice change, and to encourage them to continue singing, at any level, into adulthood.



BEN SAWYER CONDUCTS THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOYS' CHOIR

For more information, visit www.bensawyermusic.co.uk/boys-choir, or follow the dedicated Facebook page.

CHELTENHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, 1969 – 2019

50 YEARS OF WONDERFUL MUSIC

CSO conductor David Curtis records key developments in the history of the Orchestra.

A symphony orchestra is an extraordinary creation, representing one of humanity's crowning achievements, and the Cheltenham Symphony (CSO) is, I believe, an exemplar of the tradition of the non-professional orchestral sector in the UK.

Just imagine suggesting that 70 or so people from diverse backgrounds, ages, income, interests, jobs and technical ability should meet once a week to rehearse and then perform some of the most demanding repertoire composed; to attract some of our finest soloists and to give occasional tours abroad. It would seem an impossible task, yet that is the achievement of the

The strength of the CSO lies in its origins – the Cheltenham Sunday Players, formed by Douglas Smith, with the intention of performing Mozart Piano Concertos, purely for the pleasure of rehearsing and performing as friends. The Sunday Players evolved into the CSO under its first regular conductor, Mark Foster, giving its first concert in January 1969. Mark retired in 1999 and passed the baton to me, and I hope and believe that we have stayed true to the origins of this remarkable group, making music purely for pleasure – for our own, our fine soloists' and a growing and enthusiastic audience's enjoyment. It is a testament to their founder that we still have some original Sunday Players with us today!



CHELTENHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT THE TOWN HALL: PHOTOGRAPH – PHIL HARRISON

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, which I have been privileged and delighted to conduct since October 1999. So, I am now approaching my 20th anniversary which itself seems barely credible.

Since I have been principal conductor, the orchestra has continued to go from strength to strength and credit must be given to the CSO Committee. A programme of eight or so concerts every season, co-ordinating with venues and soloists, sourcing music



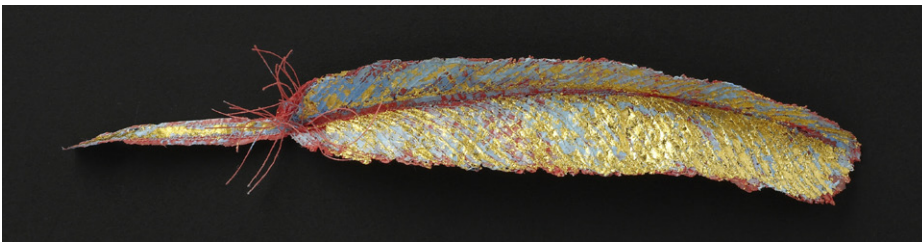
CHELTENHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT THE TOWN HALL: PHOTOGRAPH – PHIL HARRISON

and planning tours doesn't 'just happen' ... and the CSO Committee is dedicated and highly professional.

Since 1999, there have been so many highlights that it is difficult to choose just a few. Performing Britten's *War Requiem* was certainly one of the most moving musical experiences, and working with soloists of the calibre of Peter Donohoe, Julian Lloyd-Webber, Tamsin Waley-Cohen and Michael Foyle has been wonderful for the orchestra and our audiences. It is extraordinary that the orchestra has players of the calibre of Peter Kerr and Janet McKechnie who can perform as soloists ... and three members – Jessica Philips, Andrew Chapman and Tom Kane – have composed for the orchestra. That is quite an achievement!

The CSO also places great value on nurturing the next generation of musical talent and I'm delighted that the orchestra offers a concert platform to the winner of the Gloucestershire Young Musicians Competition, and has now instigated the Young Composer Competition.

The CSO is a true 'amateur' orchestra – musicians who meet to share their mutual love of music-making – and it's a constant delight for me to be able to rehearse and perform with such a talented and generous group. Long may they continue to delight us all with such fine and committed performances.



CAROLE BURY, COS 2019 – SEE LISTINGS

CHELTENHAM CAMERA CLUB & YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

RECENT EXHIBITIONS

Martin Fry, Chair of Cheltenham Camera Club reporting ...

The Cheltenham Camera Club Exhibition was held at Chapel Arts in May. This annual event brought together over 200 prints by members, covering all aspects of photography from Street Photography to Portraiture, Nature to Creative. The club was formed over 150 years ago, in the pioneering days of photography, by

the eminent Dr. Wilson, and is the sixth oldest camera club in the UK. Today, it is acknowledged as one of the leading clubs in the country, with many members receiving awards in international exhibitions around the world. This year's CCC Exhibition was judged by Richard Speirs from Cumberland, who commented on the high standard of the work, assessing many images as very powerful. They challenged, inspired and engaged the viewer, which made for an excellent exhibition.



GOTSWOLD RURAL SCENE. FIRST PRIZE: MISTS FROM COALEY PEAK BY MARTIN FRY



NATURE. FIRST PRIZE: BEE EATER DISPUTE BY KARIN WILSON



TRIPTYCH PRINTS. FIRST PRIZE: THE EYES HAVE IT BY NORMAN EVANS

Cheltenham Camera Club meets on Thursdays at Holy Apostles Church Hall, Charlton Kings.

New members are always welcome. For further info contact: chair@cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk

Alongside members' work, over 100 selected prints by pupils from Gloucestershire Schools were also on display. Organized by Cheltenham Camera Club, the 16th annual Gloucestershire Young Photographer Competition attracted nearly 1,000 entries from 50 schools across Gloucestershire. This year, Cheltenham schools took the major honours, with Deri Watkins from

Bournside School winning the major award in the Secondary section with 'Forbidden Fruit' and Zakariya Khan from Rowanfield Junior winning the Primary section with 'Get the washing in quick!' Bournside also won the Best Secondary School entry, with John Moore Primary School, Tewkesbury, receiving the Best Primary School entry.

Linda Kirkhope, who oversees the competition, observed "I am always amazed how pupils capture the world; they are so creative."

The GYP exhibition is supported by Cheltenham Arts Council.



SECONDARY. FIRST PRIZE: FORBIDDEN FRUIT BY DERI WATKINS OF BOURNSIDE SCHOOL



PRIMARY. FIRST PRIZE: GET THE WASHING IN QUICK! BY ZAKARIYA KHAN

LISTINGS: EVENTS DIRECTORY JUNE SEPTEMBER 2019

VISUAL ARTS

Cheltenham Open Studios COS19, Sat 8- Sun 16 Jun, a celebration of the visual art being made in our area, see the work of 200+ artists on an open-door-to-door trail of 79 venues. Meet the artists, view their work, learn about their practice. See Tourist Info or cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk for venue guide.

Cotswold Art Club Demonstration: Phil Madley, contemporary encaustic wax artist, Sat 15 Jun, 2.30-4.30pm

The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, info and updates: cotswoldartclub.com

Cotswold Art Club Demonstration: Mike Duckering, architecturally influenced acrylic artist, Sat 21 Sep, 2.30-4.30pm

The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, info and updates: cotswoldartclub.com,

AT THE GARDENS GALLERY, MONTELLIER GARDENS:

10am - 5pm daily, as listed:

Cheltenham Open Studios COS19, Wed 5 - Tue 18 Jun cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk

Luba Arnold
Wed 19 - Tue 25 Jun

Paul Ayres
Wed 26 Jun - Tue 2 Jul

Derek Harrison
Wed 3 - Tue 9 Jul



DINNY POCOCK, COS 2019 - SEE LISTINGS

Wild and Abstract: Leanne Courtney-Crowe, Sue Jolley, Patricia Courtney, Wed 10- Tue 16 Jul, various mediums including acrylics, oils, coloured pencil, watercolour and mixed media.

The Wednesday Group, Wed 17 - Tue 23 Jul, an exhibition of work by a local group of watercolour artists.

Nick Sargeant
Wed 24 - Tue 30 Jul

Feymer Designs and Friends
Wed 31 Jul - Tue 6 Aug

Vivien Townsend
Wed 7 - Tue 13 Aug

Douglas Forbes
Wed 14 - Tue 20 Aug

Tony Davie
Wed 21 - Tue 27 Aug

Susan Durbin
Wed 28 Aug - Tue 3 Sep

Carolyn Sibbald
Wed 4 - Tue 10 Sep

Cheltenham Art Club
Wed 11 - Tue 17 Sep

Cotswold Art Club Summer Exhibition, Wed 18- Sun 22 Sep, members' work including that of local amateur and professional artists. Work is in a variety of mediums, sizes and prices with all works for sale. The club has been established since 1931 and we encourage new members to our monthly meetings. cotswoldartclub.com

MUSIC

Cheltenham Choral Society Choral Classics, Sat 22 Jun, 1pm Gloucester Cathedral, admission free, with retiring collection.

Cheltenham Bach Choir: Cool Classics for a Summer Night, Sun 23 Jun, 6pm, Pittville Pump Room, info: cheltbachchoir.com,

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra 50th Anniversary Concert, Sat 29 Jun, 7.30pm, £17/£14, students 50%, u15 free, Town Hall, Wagner: Prelude to Act 1 of Lohengrin, Mozart: Piano concerto No.19 in F K459 (played by the founder, Douglas Smith, at the orchestra's first concert in 1969), soloist Daniel Lebbardt, Rachmaninov: Symphony No.2 in E minor.

EVENTS FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2019



PJ CROOK, COS 2019 - SEE LISTINGS

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra: Animal Magic, Sun 30 Jun, 3pm, £12/£6/£3, Town Hall, John Williams: Suite from Jaws, Hans Zimmer: Suite from The Lion King, Stravinsky: Circus Polka, Mancini: Theme from The Pink Panther, Coates: The Three Bears, Patterson: Red Riding Hood.

Cheltenham Music Festival, Fri 5- Sun 14 Jul, major world premieres, world-leading ensembles, Festival debuts and much-loved regulars. cheltenhamfestivals.com/music

Cleeve Chorale Summer Concert, Sat 6 Jul, 5pm, £5, inc. refreshments, u16 free, Grangefield School, Bishop's Cleeve, performed with Grangefield pupils: The Bard & Beyond, with Songs and Sonnets by jazz legend George Shearing, Elizabethan madrigals, and songs inspired by poets. Tickets from George Lewis Footwear, on the door or 01242 674114.

Musica Vera: Music from the West Country, Sat 6 Jul,

7.30pm, £12, u18 free, St Mary's Church, Prestbury, dir. David Dewar. Elgar, Parry, Vaughan Williams, Gurney, Holst, Brewer. Info: musicavera.eu

Gotherington Singers Summer Concert, Sat 13 Jul, 7.30pm, £8, St Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, supporting FOCUS cancer support, tickets 01242 620775.

STAGE & DANCE

Cheltenham Operatic & Dramatic Society: The Producers, Tue 4- Sat 8 Jun, 7.30pm + 2pm Sat, Everyman, codsonline.co.uk

Promenade Productions: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Wed 17- Sat 20 Jul, 7.30pm + 2pm Sat mat., £16, Playhouse, there's 'Something for Everyone' and 'Comedy Tonight' in Sondheim's fast-paced romp through ancient Rome. Tickets 01242 522852, cheltplayhouse.org.uk

LECTURES & MEETINGS

WEA Walking Book Group, monthly, 2-4pm, Pittville Park, info: marketingsouthwest@wea.org.uk

Cheltenham German Club Stammtisch, twice a month the Bank House pub, for details: cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com or Greg Arnold 01684 772966.

Cheltenham German Club Daytime Conversation Group, first Thursday of the month, Everyman, details: hazelpanson@googlemail.com

Guten Montag German Discussion Group, Mondays, 11am-12.30pm, £7, Global Footsteps Café, Portland Street, cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com/events.htm

Regency Cheltenham Tour and tea with Captain Skillicorne, Tue 4 Jun, 2pm, £16, members £14, from Parmoor House, take a leisurely promenade around Regency Cheltenham Spa with Henry Skillicorne, the man who put Cheltenham on the map. Details: cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

The Arts Society Cheltenham: Canal History and Heritage, Tue 11 Jun, 7.40pm, guests £6, Sacred Hearts Hall, with Roger Butler, preceded by AGM. Guests please book via Mary Wright 01242 582202. theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk

Cheltenham Poetry Society Reading Group Meeting, Tue 18 Jun, 7-10pm, £3 inc. refreshments, Rosalind Room, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, further info: 07540 329389, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com

Civic Day, Sat 22 Jun, celebrating where

EVENTS FOR JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2019

we live. For events, see cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

Prestbury Local History Society, Mon 24 Jun, 7.30pm, Prestbury W.I. Hall, Prestbury Policing, with Mark Williams.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Members' Writing Group Meeting, Tue 25 Jun, further info: 07540 329389, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com

Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop, Tue 2 Jul, 7-10pm, £4 inc. refreshments, Rosalind Room, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, further info: 07540 329389, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com

Holst Birthplace Museum: A Victorian Childhood, from Sat 20 Jul, 10.30am-4pm Tue-Sat, glimpse young 19th century lives through objects from the time, including those from Gustav Holst's own childhood. holstmuseum.org.uk

Cheltenham Poetry Society Members' Writing Group Meeting, Tue 30 Jul, further info: 07540 329389, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com

Cheltenham Poetry Society Reading Group Meeting, Tue 20 Aug, 7-10pm, £3 inc. refreshments, Rosalind Room, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, further info: 07540 329389, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com

Cheltenham Poetry Society Members' Writing Group Meeting, Tue 27 Aug, further info: 07540 329389,



IMOGEN HARVEY LEWIS, COS 2019 – SEE LISTINGS



LO COLE, COS 2019 – SEE LISTINGS

cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com
Cheltenham Italian Society: La Cena Annuale, Mon 2 Sep, 7pm, Annual Dinner, not only for members, guests will be most welcome. Details tbc, info: cheltenhamitaliansociety.org.uk or Penny McCracken 01242 321497.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop, Tue 3 Sep, 7-10pm, £4 inc. refreshments, Rosalind Room, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, further info: 07540 329389, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com

The Arts Society Cheltenham: New Lights, British Stained Glass 1918-2018, Tue 10 Sep, 7.30 for 7.55pm, guests £6, Sacred Hearts Hall, with Adrian Barlow. Guests please book via Mary Wright 01242 582202. theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk

Cheltenham Heritage Open Days, Fri 13- Sun 22 Sep, see cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk and heritageopendays.org.uk

Cercle Français: Charles Aznavour, Mon 16 Sep, 7pm, St Luke's Hall, opening meeting begins with a glass of wine, talk by Vincent Raymond-Barker starts at 7.30pm. cercle-francais-cheltenham.webs.com

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 17 Sep, 7.30pm, Municipal Offices, A History of Policing in Gloucestershire, with Tim Brain.

Prestbury Local History Society, Mon 23 Sep, 7.30pm, Prestbury W.I. Hall, Rosehill and neighbours, with Val Porter.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Members' Writing Group Meeting, Tue 24 Sep, further info: 07540 329389, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com,

Charlton Kings Local & Family History Society, Tue 24 Sep, 7.30pm, Baptist Church, Charlton Kings, The Glosters at Waterloo, with Andy Mellor.

CHELTENHAM SILVER BAND REMEMBERS

NICOLA WEBB LOOKS BACK ON A MEMORABLE YEAR

Cheltenham Silver Band began life as the works band of the Dowty company in 1937, and in the ensuing 80 years has remained a vibrant contributor to the music scene in the Cheltenham area. Despite a national downturn in the popularity of brass bands, Cheltenham Silver Band has continued to experience as much success as ever, with 2018 standing out as an exceptional year in the band's history.

With members aged from 8 to 80, many of whom had been playing with the band for many years, CSB were riding high following a promotion to Second Section, and celebration of their 80th anniversary. And so it was that one Friday morning last July, a coach left Cheltenham with over 50 band members, all their instruments, including full percussion, and a not insignificant number of family supporters.

Belgium was the destination for this first-ever tour by Cheltenham Silver Band. The programme ranged from *Bohemian*

Rhapsody to Mr Sandman – with many other pieces in between, including several by the band's composer, Adrian Jowett. Members were relieved and delighted by the overwhelming welcome they received for their first concert of the tour, in the Market Square, Oostende.

With confidence running high, the band began their second concert on the sea front in Nieuwport. They were thrilled at how many people put their Sunday morning plans on hold to stop and listen to the whole concert, and grateful to those who took time to come over and give such positive feedback. The band's afternoon in Bruges, enjoying the architecture, beer and chocolate, was a well-deserved reward.

The next day, Monday, will surely stay in the memory of everyone on the tour for years to come. The band had been granted permission to play at the Tyne Cot War Cemetery and the piece chosen was *In Flanders Fields* by Gavin Somerset. Members of the band report



CHELTENHAM SILVER BAND IN YPRES, JULY 2018



TYNE COT WAR
CEMETERY

that it is a tough call trying to play a brass instrument while becoming choked with emotion; as the band played, the youngest and oldest players laid poppy wreaths. There was then an opportunity for members of the band to spend some time walking between the rows of white headstones, in bright sunlight.

From there, it was a quiet coach trip to Ypres, where CSB played their final concert of the tour – with another exceptional audience.

The rest of the day was spent enjoying Ypres and visiting the *In Flanders Fields* museum. After the evening meal, band members were again moved, witnessing *The Last Post* played at the Menin Gate. The first-ever CSB tour was a success on every level, cementing bonds between players of all ages.

Reunited for the autumn season, the band began preparing for their second Showcase, held in October. This event gave members the opportunity to play a piece – as a solo, or in small groups – in front of an appreciative audience, rather than before a panel of judges. Hence, no competition pressure – simply fun, applause and lots of cakes!

For many years, CSB has led the remembrance parade outside the Municipal Offices in The Promenade. In 2018 the band was also asked to play during

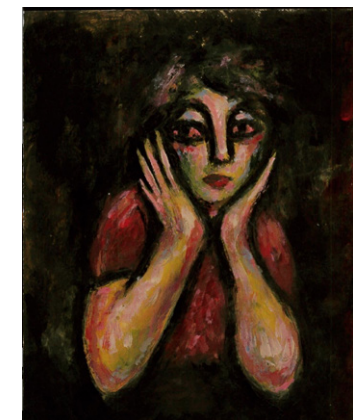
REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICE,
PROMENADE, CHELTENHAM

the remembrance service, as well as performing at the Everyman Theatre as part of a music and drama spectacular, marking 100 years since the guns fell silent. This was a 'Maining Band' event, the term CSB use for when their two sections come together. It was a long day – but rewarding, thought-provoking, and humbling on many levels – and the band were grateful for the exceptional feedback they received.

As 2018 drew to a close, CSB enjoyed an outstanding Christmas season, with two full-band concerts which were unique, not least because their Musical Director was dressed as a zebra during the first half of the concerts! If readers are intrigued, please note that Cheltenham Silver Band are already making plans for the 2019 winter season!



PETER GARRARD, COS 2019 – SEE LISTINGS



KIERA HARMER, COS 2019 – SEE LISTINGS



CAROLE BURY, MEDIEVAL FIGHT FEATHERS – SEE LISTINGS

WOMEN IN AVIATION EXHIBITION AT THE JET AGE MUSEUM

A REPORT BY SALLY FERRERS

As a volunteer at the Jet Age Museum (on the boundary of Gloucestershire Airport), Sally Ferrers was Exhibition Lead for a unique event held there in May – ‘Women in Aviation’. Here, Sally reports on the outstanding role of women in aviation, from World War I to the present day, including three remarkable women from Gloucestershire.

It is perhaps surprising to know that women were heavily involved in the fledgling aviation industry during WW1. They covered the airframes with special linen fabric sewn with huge Singer sewing machines, then used highly flammable ‘dope’ to stiffen and protect the fabric. ‘Dope’ was a serious risk to their health and required two weekly health checks. Later in WW2 women became pilots with the Air Transport Auxiliary, delivering Spitfires, Hurricanes and bombers from factory to squadron. They used a single book containing instructions for all types of aircraft! Mary Ellis and Joy Lofthouse lived in Gloucestershire and both died recently aged over 100. But sadly 10% of the women lost their lives as ATA pilots.

In 1991 the first woman flew with the RAF and today they are welcomed into the forces as pilots of fast jets and helicopters. Now, in the 21st century, one female pilot has flown with the Red Arrows and is part of The Blades aerobatic team. The May exhibition ‘Women in Aviation’ had many wonderful speakers. A front-line fast jet Typhoon pilot, a civil airline pilot, a woman who flew with Bewick swans to study their decline, a Schneider Trophy winner, an Army Air Corps military helicopter pilot – and many more. I was amazed at how willing all these women were to give their time for these presentations – but undoubtedly they wanted to tell the story of their success in



JOY LOFTHOUSE, LIVED IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

what has historically been a man’s world. Sacha Dench worked with Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust on the decline of Bewick Swans. She flew 5,000 miles across Russia following their migration route. Using a paramotor, and slung under an aerodynamic parachute, she was open to all weathers and nearly froze. Bewick swans had been found with shot in their bodies so, each time Sacha had the opportunity, she asked if shooting them could be stopped. There is already good news that the decline might be slowing, if only because, as she was told, ‘they don’t taste very good’.

A static exhibition was an important part of ‘Women in Aviation’ with 24 storyboards illustrating all their achievements. One focus was on Amy Johnson who lived locally in Stoke Orchard and made an epic



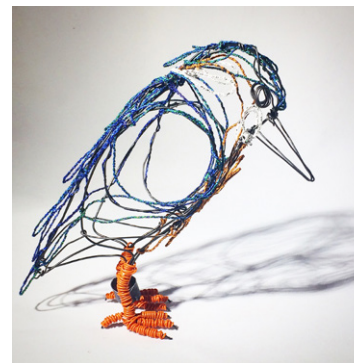
Air pioneer
loved her quiet home in county

AMY JOHNSON LIVED IN STOKE ORCHARD

solo flight to Australia in 1930. Heroic maybe, but it could also be described as sheer madness! She flew 11,000 miles in an open cockpit aircraft, 9,000 of which were over virtually uncharted territory, using a series of maps on her lap. She was extremely lucky to survive. However, her luck ran out in 1941 when, flying an Airspeed Oxford from Blackpool to Kidlington, she crashed into the Thames estuary. An officer from a nearby naval vessel attempted to save her but sadly both died.



MIKE DUCKERING, COS 2019 – SEE LISTINGS



RACHAEL THOROGOOD, COS 2019 – SEE LISTINGS

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REMEMBERING GRAHAM LOCKWOOD

FORMER PRESIDENT OF CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

Chrisopher Cook, former Chair of Cheltenham Music Festival, paid tribute to Graham Lockwood, former President of Cheltenham Arts Council, at an event at Pittville Pump Room in March to commemorate Graham's life. Perspectives is pleased to be able to repeat the greater part of that tribute here.

When I first met Graham I was holding a cup of tea in one hand and a generous slice of cake in the other. It was a tea party to celebrate the start of the 2003 Cheltenham Literature Festival. This was not the most elegant way to be introduced to the man who had effectively entrusted me with running the Literature Festival for a year while Sarah Smythe was on maternity leave; but, without a word, Graham took my cup of tea and shook my hand, welcoming me to Cheltenham.

Graham had an unrivalled knack for turning what might have been a social disaster into a success. And it was in great measure because he possessed that rare gift of being able to put himself into another person's shoes. He could see at a glance where you were coming from, and how to make you comfortable. And when he had worked his sympathetic magic, there was always that broad conspiratorial grin that encouraged you to feel that you were a privileged insider.

Appearances can be deceptive. Graham's easy kindness with strangers masked three deep passions within him that characterised his Cheltenham years, once he had retired from the hurly burly of a hugely successful business life. The first was a passion for the arts, the second a deep love of music, which meant that the Cheltenham Music Festival was always very



close to his and to Eileen's hearts, and the third was a commitment to the community.

It was a while before I understood how deep these passions ran in Graham's life. My first impression of him, after he had saved me from the perils of the tea table, was as the Chair of Cheltenham Festivals. I marvelled at the good humoured way in which he managed what was then an 'elephant' of a meeting with not only the Festival trustees, but also the local council officers and good many former chairs of festivals, and the board, in attendance - and then the men and women who were currently programming and selling Music, Literature, Science and Jazz. Graham, courteous and concerned to the last, was determined that everyone who had something to contribute should have their say. Meetings could be long - indeed I soon lost count how often the Chair had to request an extension of time to complete the business in hand. But everyone was heard, and for Graham the meek and humble were as important as the mighty.

As for understanding what he really cared about, I remember a board meeting when the future of the Jazz Festival, which Graham had helped to create, was on the

agenda. The Festival was losing money and common sense suggested that it was time to call it a day, to stop pouring good money after bad. Quietly but with great passion Graham defended the Festival, not as 'his' festival but as an essential part of what Cheltenham offered its citizens and visitors. Inch by inch, he coaxed the board back from what he surely saw as the brink. For him the Jazz Festival mattered - he believed in it - and it complemented everything else that was on offer in the three other festivals that he was responsible for. Of course history has proved Graham right, with Jazz now a jewel in Cheltenham Festivals' crown.

He cared equally strongly about the Music Festival. Indeed, if Eileen was his right hand staff and rod through a well-lived life, then music took his other hand. And above all, it was music in performance that delighted him. He was modest about his own skills as a pianist, but when you asked him what he had been playing, it was an unnecessary modesty. But he delighted in other people's virtuosity.

I recall an afternoon in the Pump Room - a Sunday, I seem to remember. The Canadian pianist Marc-André Hamelin played Charles Ives Concord Sonata in the first half. A performance that laid bare the bones of that extraordinary piece of music. Graham was positively bouncing with pleasure at the interval.

However, when we returned for a performance of another pianistic juggernaut, Alkan's *Symphony for Piano*, the audience had quite simply melted away. I think we were probably only just into double figures. But it was a bravura performance and 'we few, we happy few'

rose to our feet as one. I was embarrassed that so many people had made their excuses and left, but Graham was in his element, beaming with delight. This was great music-making and what mattered was that it had been heard at Cheltenham. If festivals didn't take risks then what were they for? And as an actuary, Graham knew more about risks than most people.

As Cheltenham Festivals evolved, Graham was concerned for the future of the Music Festival. He was no longer a trustee, but the Chair of the greatly revived Friends of the Cheltenham Music Festival. And here he displayed great vision, firstly by turning the Friends into a charity. But Graham's vision for the Festival was more than strategic. He persuaded his committee to support Meurig Bowen when he commissioned new music, knowing that this was the lifeblood of any festival worth its reputation. And I recall his saying after one meeting, that Cheltenham had a reputation to live up to, offering its citizens and its visitors the best of the past and the best of the present. Once again, it was the idea of serving the community that underpinned Graham's thinking.

Off-hand, I cannot think of a better homage to that idea of a town and its people in love with good music as an essential part of their lives, than Graham's last book *Concordant Cheltenham: the making of a musical town, 1716-1944*. Handel, who came here in 1744, would surely have agreed. Indeed I rather like the idea of Graham Lockwood and George Friedrich Handel talking together about music at Cheltenham. Maybe they are indeed seated together at a pair of celestial harpsichords as we celebrate a very special Cheltenham life.