



perspectives

CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE

Cheltenham Arts Council: awards_funding_publicity_events listings

June - September 2021

*Cheltenham Children's Choir
Church Recording • Gloucestershire's Forgotten Legend
Local events and festivals*

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Please contact editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk for more information.

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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*Perspectives is produced three times a year.
The next issue will span October 2021 - January 2022.*

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

COVER IMAGE: CHELTENHAM ILLUSTRATION AWARDS
2019 SUCCESSFUL ENTRANT LU CHENE
@LU_CHENE1013

AN EXHIBITION OF THE 2019 CIA ENTRIES WILL BE HELD AT CHAPEL ARTS FROM 9TH-26TH JUNE, THE DEADLINE FOR 2021 ENTRIES IS 16 JUNE.

VISIT CHELTENHAM-ILLUSTRATION-AWARDS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

RIGHT: ILLUSTRATION BY CARLY GILLHAM,
UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE ILLUSTRATION
STUDENT AND CHELTENHAM ILLUSTRATION AWARDS
2019

SUCCESSFUL ENTRANT.
WWW.CARLYSTRATION.COM



PERSPECTIVES TEAM

EDITOR RACHEL TEDD DESIGN CHANTAL FREEMAN
LISTINGS ALICE HODSDON ART CONSULTANT NIKI WHITFIELD

Dear Readers

The first week of June 2021 is National Volunteers' Week (www.volunteersweek.org) - a chance to recognise the fantastic contribution of volunteers to our communities and to say thank you. Where would CAC's 50-odd member organisations be without volunteers? Over the last 18 months or so, it has been particularly hard to keep things going, to maintain enthusiasm and a sense of community, so thank you and congratulations to all volunteers as we finally emerge blinking into the sunshine after a long period of gloom. There is a lot to look forward to! As I write, the Jazz Festival is starting its online event, and the Music and Literature Festivals have some wonderful programmes planned for us later in the year (www.cheltenhamfestivals.com). September's Heritage Open Days, with the theme of Edible England, will also be a highlight (www.heritageopendays.org.uk). Best of all, the Listings section of Perspectives, which has been rather empty in the

last few issues, is starting to fill up again - hooray! We have another great selection of articles for you in this issue, including the tale of a forgotten hero of Cheltenham, and a fascinating item about Church Recorders in this area (and no, that doesn't mean schoolchildren playing hymns on a plastic descant...)

There's some exciting news from the Holst Museum, plus four new radio plays from Parrot Productions and a host of activities being organised by the Christian Arts Festival. There's also news of a competition from the Gloucestershire Writers' Network - the deadline is the end of June, so get writing!

Our "Meet the Members" section this time features the Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust, and we also hear from CAC's newest member organisation, the Cheltenham Children's Choir.

Alongside the announcement of the date of our AGM is some good news

about grants, so watch out for further information on that.

Our very best wishes for a happy and fun-filled summer. If only CAC could influence the weather...

Rachel Tedd

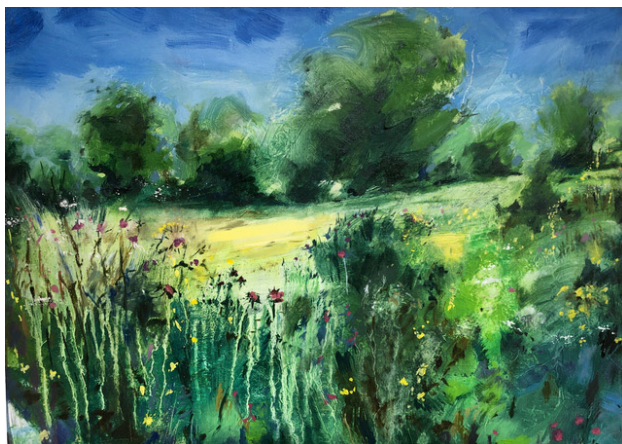
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk





LAURE FILHO



GABRIELLE MOULDING



LELLA DEY

Some recent work by Cheltenham Open Studios artists



LAURE FILHO

GABRIELLE MOULDING

CHELtenham CHILDREN'S CHOIR

AN UPDATE FROM OUR NEWEST MEMBER ORGANISATION

Cheltenham Children's Choir is an open-to-all children's community choir, welcoming all young people who love to sing.

The choir is split into three choirs - Little Lyrics (5-8 year olds), Vocalise (8-11 year olds) and Harmonise (11-14 year olds). From the moment the children walk through the door, we aim for everyone to feel happy, welcomed and at ease, whether you are an old friend or a newcomer.

Throughout the challenging year that we have had, the Children's Choir has continually adapted and enjoyed singing together each week, thanks to the use of technology. The children were able to see their friends, albeit on screen, chat, have fun and sing. As one parent said, "Their smiles lit up the screen and our lounges".

In Summer 2020, we held movie nights (via Zoom) to showcase the children's work. Everyone had submitted videos which we collated into a fantastic evening! Dressed up and popcorn at the ready, we all watched the children perform on screen.

Christmas came round and the Children's Choir took part in a musical advent calendar, were chosen to launch BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Virtual Christmas Market, and were part of a national virtual Choir Show.

As life enters a new phase, we have made some wonderful memories of our lockdown year - so far we have not mentioned our 'Zoom bake-off', Zoom-bingo or our Saturday Spotlight. Although apart, Zoom Choir allowed the children a sense of normality, and the families got an insight into the Choir fun.



HARMONISE CHOIR IN REHEARSALS

We are delighted to report that Cheltenham Children's Choir are now back to in-person Saturday morning rehearsals. With efforts put in to always keeping the children safe, we are working towards a very exciting new venture, this time, live on stage! (See Listings for more information).

To sum up our year, one parent said, "The sense of CCC community has grown through 2020 and we have loved being part of it!".
Amber Smith, Choir Leader



VOCALISE CHOIR IN REMOTE REHEARSAL

<https://www.cheltenhamchildrenschoir.co.uk>

TWENTY YEARS OF CHURCH RECORDING IN CHELTENHAM

PAUL FOSTER OF THE ARTS SOCIETY TELLS US MORE

When I told a friend I was a church recorder, he asked if it meant playing Vivaldi at evensong. But my fascinating hobby over the past twenty years has been to research and document the contents of historic local churches. This is the story of the Cheltenham Church Recording Group.

... beautiful carving, ranging from medieval work to Arts and Crafts. Textiles range from home-made kneelers to elaborate vestments...

The background: the Victoria and Albert Museum and The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS) have a nationwide programme to produce detailed “church records” for the libraries of the V&A, the Church of England and Historic England as well as for county archives and the churches themselves. Nearly 2,000 such records have been produced, and the programme has just migrated to a dedicated Church Recording Society with the same aim: recording the riches within local churches.

After a few years with the Painswick group, which worked on churches such as Avening and Winstone, I joined the Cheltenham Group which started life some twenty years ago and cut its teeth on small churches at Shipton Sollers and Whittington. At the time we were preparing to tackle the very large parish church at Bishop’s Cleeve. Since then we have worked on churches at Guiting Power, Tredington, Swindon Village and Dumbleton. You may judge the effort we put into this work from the fact that the Bishop’s Cleeve record had some

250 pages of text and the other records about 150 pages - plus lots of photos. Each record took two or three years - except for Bishop’s Cleeve, which at times we thought we’d never finish!

We were able to specialise in a variety of subjects. Church memorials may entail studying family history or heraldry back to the Tudors, on one occasion consulting a (very helpful) member of the Heraldry Council; and a knowledge of Latin is handy. There is fine old silverware, some of it kept in the Cathedral Treasury for security. In stonework and woodwork one finds beautiful carving, ranging from medieval work to Arts and Crafts. Textiles range from home-made kneelers to elaborate vestments. Stained glass windows may be very old or very new, and they often tell a family story in their dedications. Then there are organs, tower clocks, mass dials, wall paintings, bells and peal certificates and the parish papers held in Gloucester Archives. We have both struggled with new technology and benefitted from the growing online records available.

The highlights? At Guiting Power, we were bowled over by a beautiful but decaying Victorian altar frontal and through the Arts Society’s Heritage Volunteers scheme we formed a team of embroiderers to restore it to its former glory. At Bishop’s Cleeve, we were able to capture the details of the layout church during the major reordering of recent years. But just spending time with the many precious old objects has been a tonic in itself.

The team will take a break now and switch to more informal and varied projects as Arts Society’s Heritage Volunteers. And I shall do something different!

Paul Foster

GLOUCESTERSHIRE’S FORGOTTEN LEGEND

A TALE BY PHIL JONES (CHELTENHAM WRITERS’ CIRCLE)

The horseman, no ordinary horseman, leant from his highly-strung cob to wave to the pikerwoman at the gate on the toll road up Cleeve Hill and then proceeded on up at a walking pace. He’d been to the market in Cheltenham and was riding back towards Emblem Cottage, his house high on the hill. Fate, however, had decreed that he was never to make it safe home.

Just as he reached the Rising Sun Hotel, his hat blew off. A young lad ran to get it and, as he passed it back, the horse panicked. It turned and set off back down the hill, once again passing the pikerwoman but, this time, at a crazy gallop.

The rider clung on until the animal’s mad charge ended when it caught its foot in a drain at Southam and fell, throwing its rider. The horseman’s head hit a stone, fracturing his skull. The people who went to his aid carried him into Mrs Villar’s farmhouse across the road. Afterwards they carried him home where he died 24 hours later, leaving a widow and a son of twelve years.

Thus, in a freak accident, the world lost George Stevens, one of its greatest ever jockeys. Stevens still holds the record for the greatest number of wins in the Grand National, although few seem to have heard of him today.

George Stevens was born in Cheltenham in 1833. His first job was as a barber but racing seemed to be in his blood. He was soon accepted to train as a jockey by William Holman’s racing stable on Cleeve Hill.

He learnt quickly, particularly from ‘Black Tom’ Oliver, another Cheltenham jockey who, before Stevens, was the only one

to win the Grand National two years in succession. Black Tom’s thesis was that ‘the post is the place to win; lie away from the other horses’.

George won the Grand National for the first time in 1856 riding Free Trader, a 25-1 outsider. He claimed victory at the post in line with Black Tom Oliver’s guiding principle. A bonfire was lit on Cleeve Hill, a gesture that was to be repeated each time he won.



Between George’s first and second wins times were changing. Steeplechasers had always been hunters or cavalry horses but now people were beginning to introduce horses that had originally been bred for the flat. Stevens’ second win was in 1863. He rode a little mare called Emblem that was owned by the Earl of Coventry. Lord Coventry had faith in his horse and bet heavily on her. Emblem was the 3-1 favourite before the race but, when the punters saw how ‘small and scratchy’ she was, the odds lengthened and she started the race at 7-2 second favourite. Lord Coventry, however, had the last laugh as he watched Emblem come in 20 lengths ahead of her nearest challenger, easing up at the line. His Lordship pocketed £4,000 pounds as a result.

The following year, Stevens rode Emblem’s sister Emblematic. This was another lean, fit little mare dubbed ‘a rat’ and ‘a wretch’ by the gamblers on the course. Once again they got it wrong. Emblematic won by three lengths. Once again, Lord Coventry’s judgement was rewarded and he won big sums of money by the standards

of the time. This year though, he gave a significant portion of his winnings to George Stevens as a reward. Stevens chose to invest the money in a smallholding on Cleeve Hill and established his own racing stable there at Emblem Cottage.

Not long after this, the Earl and the jockey parted company. The Earl considered that Stevens had lost his nerve and the jockey was never to ride in Lord Coventry's colours again. Stevens said, though, that he would give his eye-teeth to prove his Lordship wrong. It would be five years before he could do that.

Stevens married into a horseracing family and one of his wife's uncles not only owned a racing stable in Shropshire but also a steeplechaser named The Colonel. George Stevens went over to the stable to train the horse. In 1869, The Colonel started the National as a mere 13-1 fourth favourite but George took him through in the last mile to win at a canter by three lengths. The Sporting Life reported that, "Never was there more elation on a jockey's face than George's as he passed the post."

The next year, the Cleeve Hill connection was even stronger. A horse called The Doctor was being trained at Holman's stables and it rapidly emerged as favourite. A great race was in the offing and the crowd weren't to be disappointed. The Colonel

was last at Beechers the first time round with Stevens playing his usual waiting game but this time George Holman on The Doctor was being just as canny. These two horses, along with a mare called Primrose, were neck-and-neck as they came to the last. Primrose clipped the fence and the other two fought it out along the flat. There were never more than a few inches in it but Stevens' strength and timing enabled him to bring The Colonel home by a neck in one of the finest finishes ever seen at Aintree.

It was George Stevens' fifth victory, adding to the impressive total achieved by Cheltenham jockeys. Between them, Tom Oliver, William Archer, father of Fred, William Holman, Tommy Pickernell and George Stevens rode twelve Grand National winners. A year later, in 1871, George Stevens won the Licensed Victuallers Plate in the Cheltenham Grand Annual Meeting in what was to be his last race. Six weeks after that Stevens was dead, killed in that fall from his horse.

So there you have George Stevens, arguably one of the finest steeplechase jockeys of them all, and all but forgotten today. He rode in fifteen Grand Nationals without falling once, he won five times and was, ironically, killed at the age of 38 in a freak accident riding home one evening from Cheltenham market.



CHELTEMHAM ILLUSTRATION AWARDS 2019
SUCCESSFUL ENTRANT
MY STORIES OF INQUIETUDE BY HENG ZENG
WWW.HENGZENGILLUSTRATION.COM

2021 COMPETITION: SIGNPOSTS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WRITERS' NETWORK

The challenges of the last twelve months have seen us taking more advantage of the great outdoors to jog, to mountain bike, to hill run, but above all to walk, trailing the parks, tracks and bye-ways of our beautiful county.

Research has shown that walking in particular is hugely beneficial to our mental health, thought processes and imagination because when we walk, it seems we can adjust our pace to match that of our thinking, something which is more difficult at a faster speed. Perhaps it was not by chance that so many of our great poets and writers were also enthusiastic ramblers. People are unique in their view of the world, what grabs their attention and the significance they attribute to it and so we are hopeful that this time spent in contemplative strolling will provide you with the inspiration to enter our competition and that your interpretations of the theme 'Signposts' will be as varied and wild and individual as the landscapes and urban scenes that you have encountered.

THEME	Signposts
POETRY JUDGE	Carrie Etter
PROSE JUDGE	Debbie Young
FIRST PRIZE	£200 in each category
	Runners up prizes: 3 runners up in each category will receive a £20 book token

Prize-winners and highly commended entrants will be invited to have their entries published in the competition anthology. All winners and highly commended will receive a copy of the anthology.

CLOSING DATE	Midnight, 30 June 2021
ENTRY FEES	£3 one entry £5 two entries £7 three entries

For further details please see our website

www.gloswriters.org.uk

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
CHELTEMHAM
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Good Luck!

ALL CHANGE AT THE HOLST BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

AN UPDATE FROM MIKE JENKINSON

After lots of market research and a fair amount of internal debate, the Holst Birthplace Trust has embarked on an exciting transformation of four Clarence Road into the Holst Victorian House.

As the only Victorian house in Cheltenham open to the public, we are reaching out to a wider audience of those interested in Victorian social history, while retaining the key attraction of Holst and his music. We hope to provide a more immersive experience for visitors, with narratives around the residents who lived in the house, including the Holst family. The aim is for visitors to feel that they are stepping back in time into a real Victorian home.

There is much to do, but thankfully Covid-19 has actually given us the space to think about the change and plan properly. It's an ambitious project, so we won't be delivering it in one go. We have scheduled some infrastructure work for next year, depending on external funding. However, we will be launching the first phase to coincide with Heritage Open Days (10-19 September). There will be lots of events at that time: in the Museum, in public spaces (pandemic permitting) and also online; I think we are all now quite used to talks given via Zoom!

So what changes can you expect? At launch we will have a new logo and branding; new interpretative material and visitor guide; a redesigned website; a changed visitor pathway passing through a succession of period rooms; and new films which set the scene and showcase some of our key exhibits. We are also working on a redecoration of the house exterior, returning the front door and



railings to their original colours.

Next year we hope to return the hallway to its original look and feel, install period lighting and soundscapes, revamp the Holst Museum rooms on the ground floor, and provide an audio-visual virtual house tour that visitors can access on a phone or tablet. Visitors will also have better access to Holst archive material using smart digital technology.

Given these uncertain times it is a mark of the confidence and energy of the Trustees, Staff and Volunteers that we have pushed ahead with the project. We hope that we can count on your support by spreading



the word, attending our events, and coming to explore the Museum in the autumn. We'd be delighted to see you there.

Meanwhile, you can keep in touch by following us on Twitter, Facebook or the Website. We are reopening on 19 May. You can also support us by becoming a Volunteer at the Museum. If you'd like to know more please email us at volunteers@holstmuseum.org.uk.

Thank you.



@HolstMuseum



HolstMuseum

WEB

www.holstmuseum.org.uk

AGM

Cheltenham Arts Council will be holding its AGM at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th June 2021, and it will be by Zoom videoconference again.

Member organisations will receive an email with the details and joining instructions soon.

Grants from both the Trafford Memorial Fund and Cheltenham Borough Council will be available to successful applicants immediately after the AGM and will be transferred electronically wherever possible.

We are also pleased to say that there will be another round of grant applications this autumn – watch out for further details in August.

LISTINGS: EVENTS DIRECTORY JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2021

VISUAL ARTS

Cheltenham Open Studios COS Group Show,

Fri 4- Sun 13 Jun, Gardens Gallery, Montpellier, with the postponement of the main art trail until September, COS members host a group show this June. For more info about COS, please visit cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk

Cotswold Art Club, please see cotswoldartclub.com for details of the restart of Saturday artist demonstrations

Sea Nature Exhibition, Leanne Courtney-Crowe,

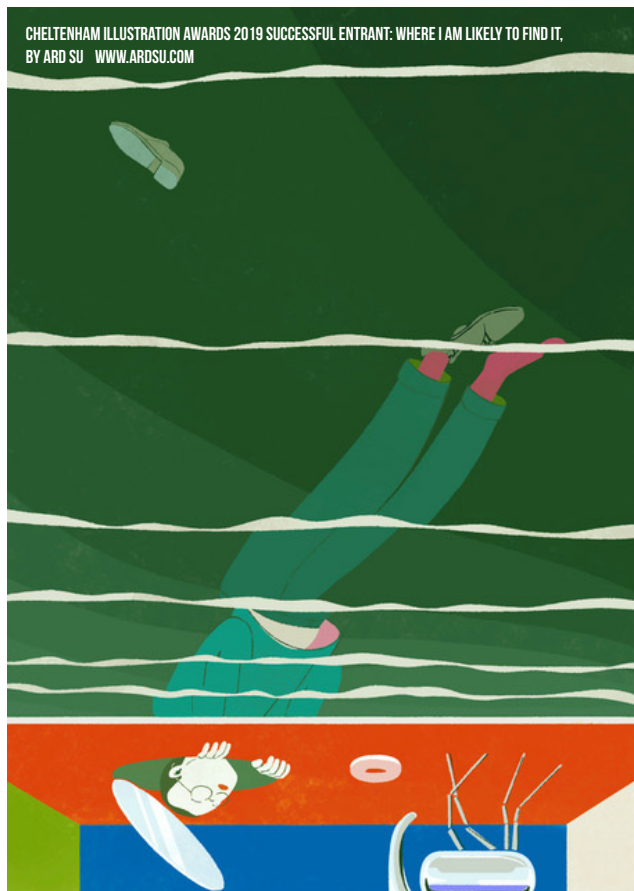
Fri 11- Thu 17 Jun, 9.30am-5pm daily (closing 1pm on 17th), Dove Gallery, Winchcombe, selection of work by local artist with inspiration based on nature. Floral, sea work and abstracts in various sizes and mediums. www.wildandabstract.com

Cheltenham Open Studios21, Sat 25 Sep- Sun 3 Oct, artists open their doors to the public in this celebration of the visual art being made in the area. Meet the artists, view their work, learn about their practice. Now a biennial event, COS has

become an important part of the cultural landscape for artists and art lovers alike, engaging people with the original art made here. For more info about COS, please visit cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk

At The Gardens Gallery, Montpellier Gardens: 2pm-5pm on Wednesdays, from 10am Thu-Mon, closed on Tuesdays, gardensgallery.co.uk

Unity: Into a New Chapter 2021, Wed 16- Mon 21 Jun,
Andrew Dawes & Michael Paul: Space and Faces, Wed 23- Mon 28 Jun,



Molly Abbott & Jill Hamilton Wed 30 Jun- Mon 5 Jul,

Claudia Araceli, Wed 7- Sat 10 Jul,

Emma Yorke, Sun 11- Mon 12 Jul,

Nigel Calvert: Art-Glass, Wed 14- Mon 19 Jul,

Christine Hobson: Wednesday Group, Wed 21- Mon 26 Jul,

Junction 12 Art Group, Wed 28 Jul- Mon 2 Aug,

Abigail Scriven: A Brush With Watercolours, Wed 4- Mon 9 Aug,

Caroline Hill: Diverse Image and Form, Wed 11- Mon 16 Aug,

Bob Meredith: Old and the New Arts and Crafts, Wed 18- Mon 23 Aug,

Anthony Davie, Wed 25- Mon 30 Aug

Claudia Araceli, Wed 1- Mon 6 Sep

Cheltenham Art Club, Wed 8 - Mon 13 Sep

Jan Whitton: Pastel and Brush, Wed 15- Mon 20 Sep

Cheltenham Group of Artists Autumn Exhibition, Wed 22 - Mon 27 Sep

Caroline Hill: Workshop Portraiture and Sculpture, Wed 29 Sep- Sat 2 Oct



ANTHEA MILLIER, [CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK](http://cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk)

MUSIC

Cheltenham Children's Choir, now back in person after singing together online, three groups, please see cheltenhamchildrenschoir.co.uk for details

Cleeve Harmony Rehearsals, Wednesdays, via Zoom, 7.30pm, a fun, friendly ladies' a cappella choir. Our songs can be learnt by non music readers and range from old ballads to modern hits. New members welcome. We're planning our safe return to our regular

RACHAEL THOROGOOD, [CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK](http://cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk)

rehearsal space at the Tithe Barn, Bishop's Cleeve, please see www.cleeveharmony.org.uk for latest or search CleeveHarmony on Facebook
Cheltenham Opera Society: Der Rosenkavalier, Wed 9 Jun, time tbc, Zoom lecture by Simon Rees, for further info see cheltenhamoperasociety.org.uk



CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL.CO.UK

Cheltenham Children's Choir: Summer Showcase

Sun 20 Jun, 6pm, streamed from The Bacon Theatre with a virtual audience, please book tickets at <https://amber-smith.co.uk/summershowcase/>

Cheltenham Opera Society: Garsington Opera, June, various dates, Der Rosenkavalier, ticket allocation tbc, for further info see cheltenhamoperasociety.org.uk

Cheltenham Bach Choir, Sat 3 Jul, 7.30pm, Tewkesbury Abbey, a selection of choral favourites from Handel to Rachmaninov. Admission free but tickets must be booked in advance, retiring collection for local charities. See cheltbachchoir.com for details

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, Sat 18 Sep, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Baroque music including Vivaldi's Four Seasons. www.cheltenhamchamberorchestra.org.uk

Holst Birthday Concert, with the Oriel Singers, Sat 25 Sep, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, for confirmation and details see holstmuseum.org.uk

STAGE

Tuckwell Open Air Theatre Festival, Tue 3- Sun 15 Aug, Tuckwell Amphitheatre, cinema, theatre, music and family show favourites. Tickets online at bacontheatre.co.uk or call 01242 258002

Promenade Productions, details of pre-audition rehearsals for The Snow Queen (opening night 31 Jan 2022) will be posted on the society's website www.promenadeproductions.co.uk from September onwards

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Friends of the Wilson, Mon 21 Jun, 10.30am, Zoom talk: Herbert Ponting: Scott's Antarctic Photographer and Pioneer Filmmaker, with Anne Strathie, £5, see <https://www.friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/>

Friends of the Wilson, Mon 5 Jul, 10.30am, Zoom talk: Battle of Tewkesbury anniversary, with Steve Goodchild, £5, see <https://www.friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/>

Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop, Tue 6 Jul, 7-10pm, Rosalind Room, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, further

info: 01452 627811, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com

Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop, Tue 3 Aug, 7-10pm, Rosalind Room, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, further info: 01452 627811, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com

Cheltenham Civic Society: Heritage Open Days, September, this year's national theme is 'Edible England'. Please see chelcivicsoc.org for details

Holst Birthplace Museum: Conversation Piece? A double Holst Portrait, Tue 7 Sep, 6.30pm, talk by Adrian Barlow. Keep an eye on our website for details: holstmuseum.org.uk

Cheltenham Poetry Society Workshop, Tue 7 Sep, 7-10pm, Rosalind Room, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, further info: 01452 627811, cheltenhampoetrysociety@gmail.com

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 21 Sep, 7.30pm, Young Zamiel Gripeall: Cheltenham's 'crafty, crabbed, selfish' newspaper proprietor and hotelier, Samuel Young Griffith, with Mark Davies. See cheltlocalhistory.org.uk/meetings.html

ON THE VERGE

A QUARTET OF NEW RADIO PLAYS BY PARROT PRODUCTIONS

Local theatre fans may remember previous plays by Parrot Productions, which have included Lou Beckett's *Bletchley Girls* (previously called *Secrets, Lies and Spies*), *Rotten Luck*, and *The Parrot, The Poet and The Philanderer*, and David Elder's *The Making of Miss Brown*.

Bletchley Girls stage production was cancelled due to Covid, but an audio version was included in the 2020 Gloucester History Festival, where it was listed as one of the Festival's highlights. *The Making of Miss Brown* was premiered in the 2020 Stroud Film Festival where it was well-received (see article in Spring 2021 issue of Perspectives).

This year Parrot Productions are producing four short (10-minute) radio plays which, despite comprising different topics, have a common theme of 'On the Verge' that links them together. They comprise:

1. *Forbidden Music*, by Lou Beckett. The play explores how the Nazis lost the war but still had a major influence in repressing many 20th century composers. One man tries to redress the wrong but to do it he has to convince a major music label to take on a series of composers who are now dead and whom most people have never heard of.
2. *We Can't Be*, by Lou Beckett. This play, closer to home, tells the story of two young women who decide Cheltenham needs a statue of a woman and the lengths they'll go to achieve that.

3. *Face the Music*, by David Elder. This play, set in 1908, tells the story of a difficult period in the life of the composer Gustav Holst. Having just received the results of a prestigious music competition, Gustav hopes this will be the major break-through he's been looking for.
4. *Big Blue Things*, by David Elder. Set in the aftermath of the devastating Gloucestershire floods of 2007, this play tells the story of two Cheltenham residents who try to cope with the 'new normal', making daily trips to collect water from those "big blue things" that have suddenly appeared on the town's streets. However, while carrying on with their new routines, a different type of challenge suddenly arises.

The plays, which have received financial support from the Cheltenham Arts Council, are expected to be made available during this summer both as podcasts and via local radio community channels.

Further details will be posted on the Parrot Productions websites

WEB www.loubeckett.com

WEB www.davidelder.net

CHELTENHAM CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

CREATIVE ARTS FOR EVERYONE

There's nothing like abstinence to remind us of what we took for granted! But we're getting back on track – how thrilling to be able to offer live experiences once again, to challenge, entertain, celebrate and engage.

We are hugely appreciative of an award from Cheltenham Arts Council, which we don't take for granted! The funding is supporting our textile banner project (pictured).

Challenge: for our textile banner project, many people are immersed in making eye-catching banners with fabric, stitching and recycled bits and pieces, portraying messages of hope and raising questions.



What is beauty? Who cares and why? How can destruction lead to hope? Have you got a vision of how the world can be restored? The project aptly reflects our

2021/22 theme: "Eden, Restoring Paradise: Beauty, Care, Destruction, Restoration". It will continue until November 2021 to mark the International Climate Conference. Five exhibitions are being planned to exhibit the banners both in Cheltenham and around the country from July 2021.

Entertain: As restrictions continue to be lifted, we are remaining positive that our Festival of Stars (Recreational Land, Whaddon), can take place on Saturday 4 September 2pm – 10pm. How exciting to be able to stage a live, fresh air, green space music and comedy festival with choirs, arts and sports activities, Caribbean food, groups such as Folk



CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL TEXTILE BANNER

On and The Bean Baker Band, and an Open Mic Competition. The Open Mic Competition is for music and comedy acts and is open to everyone, all ages. Or is there another performance you could bring to the mic? There will be prize money and an opportunity to perform live on stage. Contact nikki@christianartsfestival.org

Celebrate: By the time you read this, we will have celebrated with different audiences the 'new freedom' in our glorious Cheltenham parks with Music in the Park, Comedians in the Sunshine and Arts Extravaganza and Demos. How amazing for our creatives to once again share the skills which have taken years of practice to refine. Our hope is that having been tucked away for so long with cancelled events and exhibitions, lockdown will have awarded them the gift of time to explore new and fresh expressions of creativity which they may not otherwise have developed.

A new departure for us is the privilege of collaborating with the University of Gloucestershire during this summer term as part of their Students Union



"Destresstival" programme, offering live music at lunchtimes on campus for the enjoyment and relaxation of staff and students during the pressurizing exam period.

Engage: Nothing has stopped us reimagining how we do things. The "Inspires Sessions" and Octopus Creative Workshops, live-streamed through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, are proving a great success and are available via our website: www.christianartsfestival.org. Also, it's not too late to be enlightened and encouraged by our Sermon Slam where five finalists came head to head online with a 3 Minute Message for our judges. See if you would have chosen the winner of the first prize and the People's Vote! <https://linktr.ee/cheltchristianarts>

EVENTS

Other events include

Nature's Gallery

Saturday 26 June 3pm, Barnwood Park, Gloucester Arboretum - a creative stroll with Forest Church to focus on art that is nature through willow windows.

Cheltenham Open Studios

We will also be part of Cheltenham Open Studios, 25 September – 3 October 2021, at the Hub Gallery, Christ Church, Cheltenham

Christian Arts Festival

We are planning the Christian Arts Festival 2022 launch at Cheltenham Town Hall on Sunday 27 March 2022.

We continue to need donations especially for our online workshop leaders - donate: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/christianartsfestival>

MEET THE MEMBERS

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE GARDENS AND LANDSCAPE TRUST

The Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust was founded in 1991 as a charity aiming to raise awareness of the immense value of the historic landscapes, parks and gardens in the county for the benefit of present and future generations, and of the risks to their continued existence for our delight. How prescient considering how greatly we have valued our local parks during the past year! The Trust seeks to support the protection and conservation of these sites throughout the county, both through research and by establishing close cooperation with owners as well as local and national bodies concerned with historic gardens and designed landscapes. As an affiliated member of The Gardens Trust, expert members of GGLT are in a position to study and comment upon planning applications which impinge on historic sites in Gloucestershire.

Our regular newsletter keeps members abreast of developments and our beautiful journal, *The Wider View*, now appears annually offering in-depth articles by members of GGLT and others. The Trust is an important sponsor of a recently published book by



GLOUCESTERSHIRE GARDENS & LANDSCAPE TRUST
championing gloucestershire's gardens & designed landscapes

Dr Anthea Jones, one of our members, which reproduces with commentary the 18th century engravings of Gloucestershire country houses by Johannes Kip.

During the winter, several lectures are held at St Luke's Hall, Cheltenham, or via Zoom as appropriate, whilst in the summer members can apply to join group visits to private gardens often not normally open to the public. Our research team, which meets regularly at Gloucester Heritage Hub, very much welcomes new members with an interest in contributing to research into one of the wonderful historic gardens or designed landscapes in the county. GGLT is a very friendly organisation and we are, of course, always delighted to welcome new members or guests to our lectures.

Elise Forbes

Details of our organisation and events can be found online –

WEB www.gglt.org

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