



perspectives
CHELTENHAMARTSCULTURE

Cheltenham Arts Council: awards_funding_publicity_events listings

October 2021 – January 2022

*Performing Arts • Gloucestershire Writers' Network
Opera • Film • Nethra Academy*

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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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COVER IMAGE: CERAMIC BY JO MILLAR, @JOMILLARART
A MEMBER OF COS AND EXHIBITING IN THIS YEAR'S TRAIL.

WWW.CHELtenhamOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



PERSPECTIVES TEAM

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LISTINGS ALICE HODSDON ART CONSULTANT NIKI WHITFIELD

Dear Readers

Welcome to the latest Perspectives – it's quite a bumper edition! I hope it's not tempting fate to say that, at long last, things seem to be getting back to normal. The listings section is full again, and hopefully our diaries are filling up with concerts, exhibitions, rehearsals etc. As I write, Cheltenham Arts Council is about to host over 20 of its member organisations on stalls on The Promenade in Cheltenham, all of whom hope to encourage new members and promote their various artistic endeavours. More about that, and some photos, in the next edition.

Two of our member organisations celebrated their 75th anniversaries during lockdown – Cheltenham Art Club and Cheltenham Film Society – and Cotswold Art Club is currently celebrating its 90th. Many congratulations to all of them! You can find out more about the former two later in the magazine. Their longevity is a testament to the importance of voluntary arts to society.

We also have articles from several sources that show how imaginatively organisations and individuals are using the grants available from Cheltenham Arts Council. An up-and-coming jazz singer, a ground-breaking audio-described film, a graduation show for fine arts students and an anthology of the written word have all benefited.

The Meet the Members slot in this edition is filled by the Nethra Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA), which

promotes classical Indian performance both in dance and music. Find out all about their successful Guinness World Record attempt!

That's not all, though. Make yourself a cuppa (or pour something stronger) and have a browse through articles from the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts, Cheltenham Opera Society, Musica Vera choir, Parrot Productions and The Arts Society Cheltenham.

On a sombre note, we would like to pay tribute to Christine Chambers and Christopher Lammiman, both of whom sadly passed away recently. Both were former Chairs of CAC. Christopher was also a chair of Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival at one time, and Christine was a stalwart supporter of Cheltenham Literature Festival. Our thoughts and sympathies are with their family and friends.

By the time you read this it will be October, and Christmas will be just around the corner. I hope that your autumn will be full of mellow fruitfulness (to borrow a phrase), and I wish you a happy and peaceful festive season.

Rachel Tedd

PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

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*Perspectives is produced three times a year.
The next issue will span February - May 2022.*

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

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CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

CARRYING ON DESPITE COVID, THANKS TO A GRANT FROM CAC

My fellow trustees and I were delighted to be chosen to receive a grant from the Trafford Memorial Fund.

The money helped us to pay for the extra costs of staging the 2021 Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts during the COVID lockdown: hand sanitisers, face masks and visors, plastic screens, etc. It also greatly helped to minimise the financial loss that resulted from our decision not to charge admission, this year, to the parents, friends, and teachers of our young performers.

Despite having to reduce the number of spectators, the Festival provided the first opportunity for live, public, indoor performance in Cheltenham since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown. To ensure social distancing on stage, we had to limit this year's Festival to solo performances only. However, more than 1400 performances of Dance, Music, and Speech & Drama took place over the twelve days and we received many messages of thanks and appreciation.

The Trafford grant helped, hugely, to make the Festival happen and was greatly appreciated.

Brian Harding, Hon Secretary, CFPA

Visit www.cheltenhamfestivalofperformingarts.co.uk



ROGER MATTHEWS
A MEMBER OF COS AND EXHIBITING IN THIS YEAR'S TRAIL. WWW.CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

CHELTENHAM ART CLUB

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF ENJOYING ART TOGETHER

Cheltenham Art Club is now 75 years old. It was founded in 1946 by a few people from the drawing office at Dowty Rotal.

They first met in rented rooms above shops or in basements, but in 1977 a lease was taken on the ground floor of Acton House in Suffolk Square, which offered better

are in daily use for like-minded groups to concentrate on portraiture, life-drawing, still life, landscape, the use of different media, or simply to paint what takes their fancy. There is no formal tuition but advice is freely given and received. Workshops are run by professional artists, who also give demonstrations or talks on techniques or



accommodation for their easels, tables and chairs and a library of books and videos. This remained the headquarters until 1990, when the building was put up for sale and the club moved to a former car showroom in Townsend Street.

The club's newsletters record the varied activities enjoyed by members, who range from absolute beginners to professionally trained and practising artists. The studios

the work of the great masters, while at other times experts offer critiques of members' work. During the summer, groups visit local places of interest for en plein air sessions. Members' work is regularly displayed in exhibitions held both in the studios and in more public settings, such as Cheltenham Art Gallery (before it became The Wilson), and more recently in the Gardens Gallery. The latter is an especially appropriate

setting, as it was the pet project of the club's chairman, the late Hazel Kitchin, when she also chaired Cheltenham Arts Council. Under her direction the club's official name was changed to Cheltenham Art Society, as a limited company, putting its affairs on a more business-like footing. Most activities were suspended when COVID struck. However, members have kept in touch through the internet and have submitted

digital versions of their latest paintings, in a monthly competition, to be viewed and voted for on the club's website. The suggested subject of 'Signs of the Times' inevitably attracted paintings related to COVID, such as the ones shown here. An on-line exhibition received a number of visits from the general public and resulted in several sales.

COVID came at a most inconvenient time for the club, as its lease in Townsend Street had expired and once again it

had to search for suitable alternative accommodation. Happily, a near-perfect solution has been found – a suite in Normandy House in the High Street. Since May it has been possible to use it for painting groups and workshops, subject to the usual precautions. In September the club took part in the Cheltenham 'Open Studios' event, when the public was able to visit an exhibition of members' work held in Normandy House.

When the club celebrated its 40th anniversary it held a lunch at the Savoy Hotel at which the guest of honour was the noted pastels artist Ernest Savage, who had been a founder member. It is hoped that later this year restrictions will be relaxed sufficiently to enable the 75th anniversary to be marked in fitting style.

Eric Miller



SIGNS OF THE TIMES BY MICK WALSH

<https://cheltenhamartclub.co.uk>

Cheltenham Local & Family History Centre &
Gloucestershire Archives
hold many of the club's records & newsletters

CHELTENHAM FILM SOCIETY

A NEW SEASON OF FILM BEGINS - SIGN UP NOW!

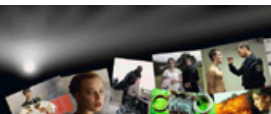
Cheltenham Film Society (CFS) is gearing up for its 76th season having survived the many challenges posed by the pandemic in what was meant to be a special anniversary year.

Despite the lockdowns and the restrictions of social distancing etc., CFS was able to screen eight in-cinema films at its temporary home of The Cheltenham Playhouse, along with 12 online films as part of a new venture in conjunction with YourScreen.

For the new season, CFS is planning to return to its normal home of The Bacon Theatre at Dean Close School. An exciting programme of 18 films, including some of the best films that could not be shown last season, has been put together – full details are available on the CFS website.

Membership of the Society (just £34 for the full year) is now open to all, subject to space – the CFS website has details of the application process.

**CHELTENHAM
FILM SOCIETY**



<https://cheltenhamfilmsociety.com>

Mozart CBC
Ave Verum Corpus
Great Mass in C Minor
Symphony 41 (Jupiter)

Saturday 23rd October 2021
Cheltenham Town Hall
at 7.30pm

Cheltenham Bach Choir
Musical & Amicable Society
Baroque Orchestra

Harriet Burns soprano
Hannah Davey soprano
Liam Bonthroné tenor
James Atkinson baritone
Conducted by **David Crown**

Tickets available from the 1st September
£20, £15, and £10 - Children and students free.
0844 576 2210
Cheltenham Town Hall box office and website
cheltbachchoir.com

Come and hear Cheltenham Bach Choir in their first concert since March 2020, when they will be joined by the Musical & Amicable Society Baroque Orchestra in performing Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor. Considered to be one of his greatest works, Mozart composed it between 1782 and 83 when he moved to Vienna from Salzburg following his marriage. The work embodies the pomp and solemnity associated with the Salzburg traditions of the time, but also anticipates the symphonic masses of Joseph Haydn in its solo-choral sharing. This all-Mozart concert will include his ever-popular Ave Verum Corpus and the Jupiter Symphony.

Other concerts planned for the choir's 2021-2022 season include:

"A Christmas Cracker" with the Flowers Band and the Beauregard Choir in Cheltenham Town Hall on Tuesday December 21st

Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in Tewkesbury Abbey on Saturday 2nd April 2022

CHELTENHAM OPERA SOCIETY

MALCOLM KELSALL SHARES PLANS FOR THE NEW SEASON

We re-opened in July! And it was a wonderful re-opening, with collective picnics at Garsington Opera.

For those who have not shared the experience: the glass theatre at Garsington seems to have floated into the landscape park like a bubble and has touched down in the flower garden beside the lake among the grazing deer. The picnic tents spread over the park, like an Ottoman army camped for the night, and as twilight settles in, the camp fires blaze along the pathway leading to the way home.

Our committee re-convenes in September to plan the Autumn season. We are already in process of booking for the Welsh National Opera who are staging *Madam Butterfly* and *The Barber of Seville* – ever popular choices – and we have re-opened contact with English Touring Opera who are emerging from lockdown. Their work with local music societies and schools has

been very special, and we hope to see their *La Bohème* soon in Cheltenham.

For our regular monthly meetings in St. Andrew's, we plan to complete *The Cheltenham Ring* with a DVD of the Met. production of *The Twilight of the Gods*, and have already booked a lecture on Wagner's musical motifs. We have hopes of a Society supper to celebrate a return to normality – and our usual Christmas 'Festive Evening' – but should we still need to persevere with social distancing, there is ample room for spaced meetings in our venue.

Opera is no longer an 'elite' entertainment and our members have the pleasure of going to the theatre with a large, social group of friends as well as regularly meeting for talks and opera screenings. Membership is £20 for individuals and £35 for couples. As soon as we are able to finalise dates the latest information will be available on our website.



ENGLISH TOURING OPERA'S PRODUCTION OF LA BOHÈME, 2015:
PHOTO: HUBERT SMITH

www.cheltenhamoperasociety.org.uk

FEEDBACK FROM A GRANT RECIPIENT

DAISY HOULDER - JAZZ MUSICIAN

I am a Cheltenham-based vocalist who graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2020.

I am currently working as a vocal teacher, and am passionate about creating opportunities for young people to get involved with music. As a performer I take inspiration from the soulful voices of jazz greats such as Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, and Billie Holiday, and after developing my voice compositionally in recent years I have decided to release an



album of original contemporary jazz music later this year.

Before my time at University I was a keen jazz musician, performing with Gloucestershire Youth Jazz Orchestra at the MFY youth proms, and my school Big Bands (Pates Grammar School and Denmark Road High School) at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival. I have since also appeared with the Cotswold Big Band as a featured vocalist, and sung in small combo bands for functions and events across Gloucestershire and Birmingham.

In addition to performing as a solo artist, I have also founded a number of musical groups, for example Mamma Jamma, an

all-female jazz collective comprised of young musicians based in Birmingham, and a vocal group called Sisterhood Vocal Ensemble, which aims to give an open creative space to female jazz musicians, performing contemporary compositions and arrangements by primarily female composers and arrangers, as well as members of the group.

Although performing is my main focus, I have also found a passion for teaching music. I am currently working as a freelance vocal teacher, vocal tutor at Pittville School and Services for Education music service in Birmingham, and a teaching assistant at Cheltenham Ladies College. I have also worked as a vocal tutor for THSH JazzLines, which provides free jazz workshops for children in Birmingham.

The project that is being supported by Cheltenham Arts Council is a 'Live Session' video that will be released onto YouTube and social media platforms. The funding will help me create professional standard content of my own original compositions, with high-quality audio and visual elements. The aim of this is to create highly engaging content for my audience, generating a wider reach. This project will also hopefully contribute to the image that Cheltenham is an active centre for jazz music, and is a supportive community for young women in jazz.

I am enormously grateful to Cheltenham Arts Council for their support as it has allowed me to take on a project which otherwise would not have been financially possible.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WRITERS' NETWORK

A THANK YOU TO CAC

Early civilisations embraced the arts. They made music, danced, painted, decorated and adorned themselves and their tools beyond what was needed for practicality alone. They did it because it was instinctive, because it was joyful.

There is now a wealth of evidence on the benefits of engaging in creative activities, to our physical, mental and psychological health, to our communities, to those afflicted with dementia, to intelligence outcomes and behaviour issues in our children etc. The list of gains is endless but, somehow, perhaps distracted by our busy lives, lack of funds or access to them, the arts are often no longer a priority.

We are lucky then, to have organisations like Cheltenham Arts Council who still embrace them, who blaze a trail of promotion and celebration.

Earlier this year, The Gloucestershire Writers' Network received a grant from CAC. It will go towards producing our anthology. Last year it funded one of the judges for our competition. A small organisation, it allows us to continue.

So, as we try to provide information about all things writing in the county, to share its particular instinctiveness and joy, we would like to say thank you, CAC, for your support.



gloswriters.org.uk

LISTINGS: EVENTS DIRECTORY JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2021

VISUAL ARTS

COS21:

Cheltenham Open Studios

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. To browse venues and an interactive map and artists living and working locally, please visit cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk

Holst Victorian House

Children's Craft Day:

Clay Lanterns Tue 26 Oct, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, free with valid museum ticket, half term craft, contact enquiries@holstvictorianhouse.org.uk



JOHN HENRY COELHO
A MEMBER OF COS AND EXHIBITING IN THIS YEAR'S
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AT THE GARDENS
GALLERY, MONTPELLIER
GARDENS:

10am-5pm, closes at
lunchtime on Tuesdays

Caroline Hill: Workshop
Portraiture and Sculpture

Wed 29 Sep- Sat 2 Oct
**Cheltenham Literature
Festival Exhibition**
Thu 7 - Mon 18 Oct
**Rupert Aker: Cheltenham
and The Cotswolds** Sat 23 -
Tue 26 Oct
**Skaya Marina: Body In
Motion**

Wed 27 Oct - Tue 2 Nov
Robert Goldsmith
Wed 3 - Tue 9 Nov
**Wendy Rochefort:
Abstractions**
Wed 10 - Tue 16 Nov
Adele Riley
Wed 17 - Tue 23 Nov

Katie Engelke

Wed 24 - Tue 30 Nov
**David Pugh: Collages &
Paintings**

Wed 1 - Tue 7 Dec

Rosemary Frith

Wed 8- Tue 14 Dec

Jane Brighton: I Consider
A Tree

Wed 15- Tue 21 Dec



NATASHA HOUSEAGO
A MEMBER OF COS AND EXHIBITING IN THIS YEAR'S
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CAROLINE MCCATTY
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TRAIL. WWW.CHELTHENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

MUSIC

**Charlton Kings Choral
Society**, from Wed 8 Sep,
St Philip and St James'
Church, Leckhampton,
rehearsals begin for our
November concert, new
members welcome, please
see ckcsonline.org.uk
**Blue Moon Harmony
Choir**, a mixed voice choir,
we welcome new voices
and in particular younger
members. If you would
like to come along to a
rehearsal or want more
information please contact
us so that we are ready to
welcome you: bluemoon-harmony.co.uk
**Chapel Arts and
Cheltenham Music
Festival Society (CMFS)**
present: **Daniel Johnson**,
Fri 8 Oct, 7pm, this up and
coming pianist will perform
some piano classics and
some works of his own
composition. For details
see thechapelarts.com
**Cheltenham Music
Society: Busch Trio**, Thu
14 Oct, 7.30pm, Pittville
Pump Room, Schubert,
Shostakovich, see
cheltmusicsoc.co.uk

Chapel Arts and CMFS,
Fri 15 Oct, illustrated talk
by Chris Cope, Chair of the
Holst Society. For details
see thechapelarts.com
**Chapel Arts and CMFS
present: Union of Strings**,
Fri 22 Oct, 7.30pm,
featuring Chris Ongers
and David John Lloyd on
guitars. For details see
thechapelarts.com
**Cheltenham Bach Choir
with the Musical &
Amicable Society Baroque
Orchestra**, Sat 23 Oct,
7.30pm, Town Hall, Mozart:
Great Mass in C minor
and Jupiter Symphony,
cheltbachchoir.com
**Cheltenham Music
Society: The Hermes
Experiment**, Sat 30
Oct, 3.30pm, Bethesda
Methodist Church,
harp, clarinet, voice and
double bass, part of the
Contemporary Concert
Series, see cheltmusicsoc.co.uk for details
Musica Vera, hoping
to hold a concert in
November, please see
musicavera.org/concerts/
for latest
**Chapel Arts and CMFS
present: The Beauregard
Singers**, Fri 5 Nov, for
details see thechapelarts.com

Cleeve Chorale, Sat 6
Nov, 7.30pm, St Michael
& All Angels Church,
Bishop's Cleeve, Vivaldi
Gloria, further info at
cleevechorale.co.uk
**Cheltenham Philharmonic
Orchestra Autumn
Concert**, Sun 7 Nov, 3pm,
Pittville Pump Room,
Sibelius: Finlandia,
Shostakovich: Cello
Concerto No.1, with
Rebecca McNaught,
Sibelius: Symphony No.2.
cheltenhamphilharmonic.co.uk
**Chapel Arts and CMFS
present: Leo Saunders
and Friends**, Fri 12 Nov,
7pm, a welcome return
to Chapel Arts from the
singer-songwriter, visual
and recording artist and
guests, for details see
thechapelarts.com
**Cheltenham Symphony
Orchestra**, Sat 13 Nov,
7.30pm, £17/14, students
50%, 18 and under
free, Pittville Pump
Room, Rossini: Barber
of Seville Overture,
Schubert: Symphony No.8
'Unfinished', Brahms:
Symphony No.4
**Cheltenham Music
Society: Carducci
String Quartet**, Tue 16
Nov, 7.30pm, Pittville
Pump Room, Beethoven,
Shostakovich, Dvořák, see
cheltmusicsoc.co.uk

Chapel Arts and CMFS present: Megan Strachan, soprano, Fri 19 Nov, for details see thechapelarts.com

Chapel Arts and CMFS present: The Kassia Trio, Fri 26 Nov, 7pm,

versatile string trio performing new music and arrangements of repertoire from the past, for details see thechapelarts.com

Charlton Kings Choral Society, Sat 27 Nov, St Philip and St James' Church, Leckhampton, programme to include Vivaldi's Gloria and Haydn's Little Organ Mass, further info: ckcsonline.org.uk

Cheltenham Music Society: Perpetuo String Trio, Thu 2 Dec, 7.30pm, Pittville Pump Room, Schubert, Adrian Sutton, Sibelius, Martinů, Mozart, see cheltmusicsoc.co.uk

Cleeve Chorale Christmas Concert, Sat 4 Dec, 7.30pm, St Michael & All Angels Church, Bishop's Cleeve, further info at cleevechorale.co.uk

Cheltenham Choral Society Christmas Concert, Thu 9 Dec, 7.30pm, Pittville Pump Room, choruses from Handel's Messiah and traditional carols, also featuring Beauregard

Youth Choir, The Boyregards, and Prestbury St Mary's Junior School **Cheltenham Children's Choir Christmas Concert**, Sat 11 Dec, St Philip and St James' Church, Leckhampton, full details available soon at chelttenhamchildrenschoir.co.uk

A Christmas Cracker: Cheltenham Bach Choir, the Flowers Band and the Beauregard Choir, Tue 21 Dec, 7.30pm, Town Hall, cheltbachchoir.com

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, Sat 8 Jan, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, see chelttenhamchamberorchestra.org.uk for details

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Sat 15 Jan, 7.30pm, £17/14, students 50%, 18 and under free,

Pittville Pump Room, Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture, Bruch: Violin Concerto No.1, soloist Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux, Sibelius: Symphony No.2 **Cheltenham Music Society: Takács Quartet**, Sat 22 Jan, 4pm, Pittville Pump Room, Haydn, Dutilleux, Dvořák, see cheltmusicsoc.co.uk

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra Winter Concert, Sun 23 Jan, 3pm, Pittville Pump Room, Brahms: Hungarian Dances and Double Concerto for Violin and Cello, Dvořák: Symphony No.6. chelttenhamphilharmonic.co.uk

PJ CROOK - EXHIBITING AT THE COS TASTER AT CHAPEL ARTS VENUE 13. WWW.CHELTEHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



STAGE & DANCE

Promenade Productions: Dick Whittington auditions pre-audition rehearsals Wed 15 Sep, 7.30pm, Emmanuel Church Hall, auditions scheduled for Tue 21 Sep at Swindon Village Hall. Production dates 3-6 Feb 2022 at The Playhouse. More details: promenadeproductions.co.uk

Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society: The 39 Steps Fri 8- Sat 16 Oct, 7.45pm, 2.30pm Sat matinee, Playhouse, see codsonline.co.uk for details

Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts deadline online entry opens Wed 1 Dec, closes Tue 1 Feb, visit chelttenhamfestivalofperformingarts.co.uk for syllabus

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Cheltenham French Circle: Joséphine Bonaparte Mon 4 Oct, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, ce que retient l'histoire de cette femme au destin exceptionnel, with Maryse Wright. chelttenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Cheltenham Local History Society Tue 5 Oct, 10.30am, The Royal Progress though Gloucestershire 1535, with Alan Pilbeam, see <https://www.cheltlocalhistory.org.uk/> for details

Holst Victorian House: Knit Your Bit Tue 5 Oct, 2-4pm, free with valid museum ticket, our popular crafting circle is back, see holstvictorianhouse.org.uk/knit-your-bit/

Cheltenham Italian Society, Mon 11 Oct, 7.30pm, new season of meetings begins, please see chelttenhamitaliansociety.org.uk

The Arts Society Cheltenham: In Paynted Pots is hidden the Deadliest Poison Tue 12 Oct, 7.15pm, members and first-time guests free, repeat guests £7, Jurys Inn Hotel, Gloucester Road, English Delftware Drug Jars, with Briony Hudson. Full info: theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk

Holst Victorian House: Victorian Book Group Wed 13 Oct, 10-11.30am, free with valid museum ticket, see holstvictorianhouse.org.uk/victorian-book-group-is-back/

Cheltenham French Circle: Chanel Mon 18 Oct, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, with Germaine Jones. chelttenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Cheltenham Local History Society Wed 20 Oct, 7.30pm, 'Booze, Balloons and Burials', with Neela Mann, see <https://www.cheltlocalhistory.org.uk/> for details

Holst Victorian House Children's Craft Day: Clay Lanterns Tue 26 Oct, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, free with valid museum ticket, half term craft, contact enquiries@holstvictorianhouse.org.uk

Cheltenham French Circle: Visions de la Tunisie Mon 1 Nov, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, de Gustave Flaubert à Isabelle Eberhardt (Milieu du XIXème - Début XXème siècle), with Dr Bernard Sasso. chelttenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Holst Victorian House: Knit Your Bit Tue 2 Nov, 2-4pm, free with valid museum ticket, see holstvictorianhouse.org.uk/knit-your-bit/

**The Arts Society
Cheltenham: American
Mansions and their
links to Great Britain**

Thu 4 Nov, 10am, Unwin Pavilion, Cheltenham Bowls Club, Suffolk Square, Day of Special Interest, with Mark Meredith. Booking required, full info: theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk or contact studydaykj.cheltenham@theartssociety.org

Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust

Mon 8 Nov, 7.15pm, St Luke's Church Hall, Gail Stoten from the Pegasus Group UK discusses issues surrounding planning, development & heritage sites. New members and guests very welcome, for more information please contact Elise Forbes 01242 580352

The Arts Society Cheltenham: The GPO Film Unit & the Avant Garde

Tue 9 Nov, 7.15pm, members & first-time guests free, repeat guests £7, Jurys Inn Hotel, Gloucester Road, This is the Night Train..., with John Francis. Full info: theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk

Holst Victorian House: Victorian Book Group

Wed 10 Nov, 10-11.30am, free with valid museum ticket, see holstvictorianhouse.org.uk/victorian-book-group-is-back/

house.org.uk/victorian-book-group-is-back/
Cheltenham French Circle: La Publicité Mon 15 Nov, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, with Dr Catherine Greensmith. cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Cheltenham Local History Society Wed 17 Nov, 7.30pm, The perils of speculation in 'Regency' Cheltenham: the rise and fall of the Honourable Miss Monson, with Steven Blake; see <https://www.cheltlocalhistory.org.uk/>
Cheltenham French Circle: Soirée amicale Mon 6 Dec, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Holst Victorian House: Knit Your Bit Tue 7 Dec, 2-4pm, free with valid museum ticket, see holstvictorianhouse.org.uk/knit-your-bit/

Cheltenham Local History Society Tue 7 Dec, 7.30pm, A Gloucestershire Christmas, with John Putley, see <https://www.cheltlocalhistory.org.uk/>

Holst Victorian House: Victorian Book Group Wed 8 Dec, 10-11.30am, free with valid museum ticket, see holstvictorianhouse.org.uk/victorian-book-group-is-back/

Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust

Mon 13 Dec, 7.15pm, St Luke's Church Hall, we're delighted to celebrate Christmas with a lecture by Timothy Walker, the well-known speaker on all things garden related and former director of The Oxford Botanical Garden. New members and guests very welcome, for more info please contact Elise Forbes 01242 580352

The Arts Society Cheltenham: Bruegel's Winter Scenes Tue 14 Dec, 7.15pm, members & first-time guests free, repeat guests £7, Jurys Inn Hotel, Gloucester Road, with Amy Orrock. Full info: theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk

The Arts Society Cheltenham: The Empty Chair in Art, Van Gogh to Ai Weiwei Tue 11 Jan, 7.15pm, members & first-time guests free, repeat guests £7, Jurys Inn Hotel, Gloucester Road, with Angela Findlay. Full info: theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk

The Arts Society Cheltenham: Cultural travels from home Tue 18 Jan, An Armchair Walk by Zoom, full details tbc on theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk

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MAKING FILMS SPEAK

WITH INTEGRATED AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Cotswold-based filmmaker, writer and audio describer Jane Devoy was grateful to receive support from the Trafford Memorial Fund alongside Arts Council England for her short film "Chatter".

The film is set during the peacefulness and sunshine of Lockdown 1. A young girl hears insects and trees talking in the countryside near her home. She uses this discovery to entice her older sister out of a depression. "Chatter" is a creative collaboration which will result in a short film with integrated audio description (AD), aiming to expand the creative potential of AD.

In 2020, Jane led a series of Zoom creative writing workshops with visually-impaired writers Tanvir Bush, Riley Yeomans and Vivienne Coxhead. Selected short stories produced by the writers were adapted by Jane into a short screenplay.

The initial stories and workshops concentrated on experiences of and ideas around the unique time of Lockdown 1 in April/May 2020 when the sun shone, the cars had stopped and we all became more attuned to nature. Many people also suffered, and continue to suffer, mental health challenges exacerbated by isolation and stress. This family and this story is a microcosm of observations and feelings that many people experienced during this time. The film was shot in Stroud (in particular Oakbrook Community Farm)

a year later and the team were blessed with the same balmy weather. Jane is currently editing the film and will soon be recording the audio description voice over for integration into the sound design.

The cast are from one very talented family, who also happen to be in the same bubble (helpful for Covid-security!)

Audrey Smith plays Hetty, a young girl dealing with the isolation of lockdown and its consequences for her family. Laura Ashcroft plays the mother, and Gemma and Mia Ashcroft play older sister Jess.

Having worked as both a filmmaker and a professional audio describer, Jane felt compelled to find more creative and integrated ways to use AD in film and TV. This is being explored in other art

forms such as theatre and dance but is new ground for fiction filmmaking. The film is intended to be accessible and enjoyable to people of all sight experience and Jane hopes to enable a visually-impaired person and their partner, friend or family member to be able to sit down together and watch it on an equal footing, without the need for any additional apparatus or soundtrack.

Once post-production is complete, the film will be entered into film festivals worldwide. Following the festival circuit, the film will ultimately be available online for home viewing.



MUSICA VERA

GETTING BACK TO SINGING AT LONG LAST

For months now, members of Musica Vera choir have been longing for the day when we can return to choral singing.

We had hoped to start socially-distanced rehearsals in the summer 2021 term, but at the last moment our hopes were dashed when only six singers were permitted to rehearse at a time.

We were so keen to sing that even this did not stop us. Our musical director, Matthew Clark, rehearsed us one voice part at a time between June and July to keep our numbers down to permitted levels.

Finally, after the summer break we shall be able to rehearse as a full choir again at our new venue, St Mary's Church, Prestbury. We have a concert planned (also at St Mary's Prestbury) for 13th November, with a Remembrance theme. The first half will include works by Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Parry and other British composers. The second half will be devoted to the Fauré Requiem, with soloists Evie Hawes-Nunn and Nicholas Perfect.



MEET THE MEMBERS

NETHRA ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

Nethra Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) was founded in January 2018 as a cultural organisation to promote Indian classical performing arts – Bharatanatyam (Dance), Carnatic Vocal and Instrument (Mridangam) – in Gloucestershire.

The main ethos of the academy is to raise the profile of Indian classical performing arts and to help individuals connect with the Indian culture which has a rich history and tradition in dance and music. NAPA's



founders are Dr Gayathiri and Thrinethra Gowri Shankar; it is their interest and passion in the art form that inspired them to start this academy which is dedicated to providing a quality education and training to the local community at a minimal fee. Its main objectives are to mentor and coach current and future generations in

the performing arts, bring communities together, and involve communities and individuals of all background, colour, and race.

NAPA is a relatively young academy that started out with just a handful of students and now we have more than 50 students learning dance and music by following a structured syllabus from a reputed board, OFAAL, which is OFQUAL registered. The students of NAPA range from ages from four to fifty, all of whom come from different religious groups and backgrounds.

NAPA's areas of interest include:

Arts event organiser: NAPA has organised several events in Gloucester/Cheltenham to create a platform for their students and other local artists to show their talent to the wider communities and to build up their confidence. NAPA's gurus performed in various venues to raise funds for local community / charity organisations, schools and churches, raising over £10,000 between 2018 and 2020. In August 2021, they performed a fast-paced 30-minute Varnam, composed about the Tamil language on a virtual platform along with 860+ Bharatanatyam dancers from all around the globe, raising £10,000 for Tamil Nadu Covid Relief Fund in South India whilst simultaneously entering for the Guinness Book of World Records 2021. This Guinness Record attempt was approved at the end of August and consequently both gurus will be receiving their respective certificates soon.

Arts Award: NAPA delivers Arts Award; this is the only organisation in Gloucestershire to do so for Indian performing arts. Thrinethra was the first Bharatanatyam performer in the UK to



receive her Gold Arts Award in 2016. She talks about the importance of Arts Award in the following video – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhhdJKttFA> NAPA's Guru, Dr Gayathiri G Shankar is a trained Arts Award Adviser for Discover, Explore, Bronze and Silver.

During the pandemic, Shashish (age 11) worked on his Bronze Arts Award for Mridangam and received his certificate in

July 2021. He started on his Silver Arts Award journey.

Classes: NAPA classes are held at weekends at Stroud, Gloucestershire Academy of Music in Gloucester and on virtual platforms.

NAPA founders, Dr Gayathiri and Thrinethra Gowri Shankar

Please contact: admin@nethraacademy.co.uk for more details about the classes, Arts Award and performance bookings.

ON THE VERGE: NEW AUDIO PLAYS

AN UPDATE FROM PARROT PRODUCTIONS

In the summer 2021 issue of *Perspectives*, a quartet of new audio plays called 'On the Verge' was announced by Parrot Productions.

In each of these short plays (all less than 20 minutes long), characters face a major decision point and have to decide how to proceed. The plays will be available on Spotify, Cheltenham Radio and the Parrot Productions websites (see www.loubeckett.com/ and www.davidelder.net/) from 30 September 2021.

They comprise:

Forbidden Music, by Lou Beckett. The play

played by Rob Keeves, and Roy by Philip Douch. Sound is by Paul Hamblin with thanks to Boom sound studios. This play will be part of the 2021 Gloucester History Festival and will be available on their web site. On 10 September, Lou interviewed Michael Haas, the lead character in this tantalising true story of a young man who faces down both sexual harassment and power politics as he pursues his dream.

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 this time it shouldn't be another scantily clad nubile

young thing. (Astra is played by Samantha Thomas, and Pen by Ariani Anindita. Sound is by Paul Hamblin with thanks to Boom sound studios.)

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 breakthrough he's been looking for. The play is directed by Marianne Gaston. Gustav Holst is played by Ian Kubiak, and Isobel Holst by Claire Tucker. Sound is by David Holland, with thanks to the Cotswold Listener studios.

Big Blue Things, by David Elder. Set in the aftermath of the devastating



"FACE THE MUSIC" BEING RECORDED AT THE COTSWOLD LISTENER STUDIO

explores how the Nazis, despite losing the war, had a major influence in repressing many 20th century Jewish composers. One man tries to redress the wrong but to do it he has to first convince his boss, who demands a rather high price. Michael is



DOING THE ONLINE RECORDING FOR "FORBIDDEN MUSIC"

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 play is directed by David Elder. Sima

is played by Rishika Daswani, and Pete by Ian Kubiak. Sound is by Cam Shand www.camshand.co.uk

Parrot Productions is grateful for the financial support from the Cheltenham Arts Council.

THE CHELTENHAM ARTS SOCIETY

NEW SEASON, NEW VENUE, & ARTS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL TERM

After gathering for very many years to hear our monthly lectures in the hall at Sacred Hearts in Charlton Kings, the regulations around the COVID-19 pandemic have prompted us to seek a change of venue.

We are delighted to be launching our new season of lectures on 14th September at Jurys Inn Cheltenham. This is a very exciting move for TASC and one which is designed to appeal to our current members as a convenient and attractive alternative to our previous venue, as well as prompting new members to come and join us for our monthly lectures, given by Arts Society accredited experts and covering a fascinating and diverse range of arts related topics.

Jurys Inn provides us with a comfortable meeting room equipped with the latest audio-visual technology, as well as offering members a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere in which to meet and chat over a glass of wine or a cup of coffee before or after the lecture, and the chance to enjoy a meal beforehand in the Burford Restaurant. Lectures take place at 7.15 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Full details of our programme of lectures, study days, visits and virtual

tours are to be found on our website (<https://www.theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk>) and we are also on Facebook and Instagram.

However delightful our new venue may be, members of TASC do not wish to keep the joy of the arts to themselves! Arts Volunteering seeks to encourage an appreciation of all aspects of the arts within the wider community, so we shall also be helping St John's Primary School in Cheltenham to start their school year in style with "It's a Wonderful World", a day of international arts activities for the whole school on 16th September. Thanks to generous support from CAC, we shall offer pupils an exciting day of activities ranging from Caribbean drumming and storytelling to Spanish Flamenco and Chinese drama and folk tales, visiting several other countries in between, and with the chance to enjoy performances at the end of the day! Arts Volunteering plays a role in the activities of every local branch of The Arts Society and we welcome suggestions for potential collaboration with other organisations involving any age group.

Elise Forbes



UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE FINE ARTS

OVERCOMING THE ODDS TO PRESENT A LIVE GRADUATION SHOW

Fine Art Graduates at the University of Gloucestershire made history recently, creating a unique and generous response to coming out of lockdown: a blended graduation showcase for the students of both this year and last.

Through sheer hard work and determination, they were able to raise funds, design and create not only a physical open gallery exhibition, but

also a full colour professional catalogue, documenting each artist's work and a brief precis of their individual practices.

Preparations began on 1st June, when the art students cleared, cleaned and completely redecorated what had previously been their studios. Next, all the show participants delivered work to the studio, where it was curated and installed. This whole process took around three



RECEIVING OUR CATALOGUES HOT OFF THE PRESS

weeks to complete and then the students left the space to be assessed by their tutors as well as an external moderator, as this would make up part of their final degree grading.

Once the assessment was completed, on Friday 25th June the space came alive, with a private viewing for the families, friends and guests of the students coming together at last to see the culmination of three years' hard work. The evening was well-supported and a great success. As part of the evening, the PJ Crook Awards were announced and the two winning students were Chloe Tosh, for the 2020 year group, and Lewis Waring for 2021.

The show offered a diverse range of artistic works, from portrait paintings to sculpture, diorama and miniatures, to pyrography, ceramics and large-scale installation pieces. Each work was beautifully curated to connect with another in a bright open airy space. Alongside, there was a live performance by Nicola Wilson, hanging delicate

porcelain vessels onto a washing line, accompanied by a live trumpet player. There were also film installations

including a relaxing swing to drift away and imagine oneself in a bluebell wood. The exhibition continued outside with sculptures planted amongst a wildflower meadow.

Following the opening night, the show continued and was open to the public until Sunday 4th July. What the fine art students

achieved here, against all odds, was quite remarkable and a testimony to their tenacity and skills. Art has proven benefits and never more so than in these difficult past months. We wish the graduates of 2020 and 2021 every success in their future endeavours and are grateful for the support of sponsors such as the Cheltenham Arts Council, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Ally Goff, BA Fine Art (Hons)

