



# *perspectives*

**CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE**

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

*February - May 2023*

*Angelica Kauffman comes to The Wilson  
Cheltenham Choral Society  
'Elements' book of poetry release • Youth Musicians*

# Advertising Charges

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Please contact [editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk](mailto: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: FROZEN ANEMONES - MARGARET  
MACEVOY  
CHELTENHAM CAMERA CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION,  
GARDENS GALLERY 1 - 7 FEBRUARY 2023  
[WWW.CHELTENHAMCAMERACLUB.UK](http://WWW.CHELTENHAMCAMERACLUB.UK)



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*Perspectives is produced three times a year.  
The next issue will span June - September 2023.*

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



## PERSPECTIVES TEAM

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

## Dear Readers

Welcome to the Spring issue of Perspectives! It may be midwinter as I write this, but the days are very gradually getting longer, the sun is streaming through the window and my snowdrops are coming along nicely, so it feels quite spring-like already.

One of the main events for CAC each Spring is the Awards Ceremony. This year it has been provisionally scheduled for the early evening of Wednesday 1st March at The Playhouse in Cheltenham. All CAC member organisations will be receiving details of how to nominate someone for an award, so please keep an eye open for an email and mark the date in your diary.

Once again, we have a great selection of articles for you, starting with a report on the successful Celebration of the Arts event organised by Cheltenham Arts Council last September. CAC Chair Sue Silcock, who wrote the article, has also written about Cheltenham's Culture Board and the work it's doing to promote Cheltenham as a hub for culture of all kinds.

You can also find out about developments at The Wilson, encompassing the building itself, forthcoming exhibitions, and the recent acquisition of an important artwork. There are updates from several local choirs, including the visit of a twin choir from Germany. Instrumental music also features, with articles from Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra and Cheltenham Music Festival Society. The Poetry

Society has contributed several poems and news of its latest anthology, and Gloucestershire Writers' Network tells us about the winners of last summer's competition. In addition, there's news about this summer's vibrant GOSPEL 2023 festival organised by the Christian Arts Festival.

This is my last issue as editor of Perspectives; after three years or so, it is time to hand over the reins to someone new, and that someone is Elise Forbes. Welcome Elise! I am very grateful to her for volunteering for the role, and wish her every success. Being the editor has been great fun and very rewarding, so thank you to everyone who has contributed. Thanks also to Sue Silcock and the CAC executive committee for their support, and of course to the rest of the fantastic Perspectives team, Chantal Freeman, Niki Whitfield and Alice Hodsdon, without whom there would be no magazine.

**Rachel Tedd**

PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

[editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk](mailto:editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk)





## CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

### CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS - OUR STALLS DURING HERITAGE WEEK

Sunday September 11th dawned dry, fairly warm and slightly overcast. This was not going to affect the groups of eager stall holders arriving on the Promenade to set their stalls up for the day. There was a sense of déjà vu, as the event had had its inaugural occasion the previous year. The difference was that this year it was a Sunday rather than a Saturday. Eighteen of our stalls were manned and we welcomed Cheltenham Festivals to join many groups who had experienced the occasion last year. Stalls were set up, decorated and prepared for the public who were expected to be enjoying their Sunday shopping and experiencing Heritage Week.



The occasion was made sombre by the fact that we were mourning the death of the late Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September. The Royal proclamation of her passing and the accession of Charles III to the throne was, in fact, to be made that afternoon outside the Municipal offices. It was quite an occasion to hear this being proclaimed by the Town Crier. Our stalls were the centre of considerable interest both before and after the event to the encouragement of stall-holders.



Indeed, most stallholders voted the day a success. There was good interest shown in the number and range of our societies. Several societies gained new members and many were able to publicise their programme for the coming season. Many



thanks must go to Martin Fry of CAC and the Camera Club for liaising with the Council and the stall owners. Martin is also to be commended for the lively and informative photos of the event you see displayed in my article.

**Sue Silcock – CAC Chair.**

## ANGELICA KAUFFMAN COMES TO THE WILSON

### FRIENDS OF THE WILSON CELEBRATE AN IMPORTANT ACQUISITION

**T**he Pandemic years were difficult for art galleries and museums everywhere and presented huge challenges to those who ran them. This was no less true in Cheltenham than anywhere else. Indeed, The Wilson had to wait more than two years, until July 2022, before it was able to reopen. And

when it did, visitors saw some significant changes. These included the refurbished ground floor café area, the new Irving Community Gallery, a much-praised redisplay of the Arts & Crafts collection and a radical re-hang in the Friends' Gallery.



For the Friends themselves, the extended closure was a frustrating time, with talks having to take place via Zoom, and outings inevitably cancelled. But there was one achievement during the Covid crisis that the Friends have only recently been able to mark: their role in bringing to The Wilson an outstanding 18th century

painting, significant both for the history of Cheltenham and for its enhancement of The Wilson's fine art collection. At the end of November last year, the Friends hosted a special Reception to mark the acquisition of Angelica Kauffman's 1794 portrait in oils of John Rushout, 2nd Baron Northwick.

It was John Rushout who, after succeeding his father as Lord Northwick, created at Thirlestaine House a gallery to house his own art collection (one of the largest private collections in England) and then opened its doors to the public. This was a very unusual move at the time and helped to establish Cheltenham's reputation as a centre for the arts just at the critical moment when its reputation as a Spa town was beginning to fade.

As a young man, Rushout had spent time in Europe, first on the Grand Tour and then as an attaché to the British Ambassador in Naples, Sir William Hamilton, who encouraged his interest in Italian art. It was during this period that, as a rather diffident 24-year-old, he was painted by Angelica Kauffman.

The Reception, held appropriately in the Friends' Gallery, was intended both to thank all those who had made the acquisition possible and to celebrate the acquisition of such a significant portrait. Guests were welcomed first by Ro Kaye, Chair of the Friends, and then by Lisa Edgar (Head of Culture at the Cheltenham Trust) on behalf of The Wilson. Laurie Bell (CEO of the Cheltenham Trust) explained the Trust's ambition to make The Wilson a vibrant cultural hub at the centre of the town.

Adrian Barlow (Chair of the Friends 2018-2022) next outlined the strange circumstances in which the Friends had been able to act on behalf of the Cheltenham Trust to raise, in less than three weeks during October 2020, the money needed to ensure the picture came to Cheltenham. He thanked all those, individuals and funding bodies alike, who had made the purchase possible. Charles Sebag-Montefiore, on behalf of the Society of Dilettanti Charitable Trust and Tessa Jackson OBE, a trustee of the Art Fund, each emphasised the importance of the portrait as an addition to The Wilson's fine art collection and stressed their pleasure at knowing the portrait had



found a permanent home in Cheltenham.

Kirsty Hartsiotis, one of The Wilson's senior curators, emphasised the significance of this portrait by a woman who had been one of the founding members of the Royal Academy in London and whose reputation as a leading European artist of the Neo-Classical movement had survived to the present day. She invited the audience to consider how appropriate it was to be celebrating this fine portrait by a female artist at a time when not only the Chair and Head of Culture at the Cheltenham Trust were women, but so too were the Chair and President of the Friends. She looked forward to exhibitions in the future that would focus on recognising the essential contribution of women in art.

It seemed entirely right that the final speech should be made by PJ Crook, President of the Friends, one of whose paintings currently hangs close to the Kauffman portrait in the display of notable Cheltenham people. She thanked the guests for coming to the Reception and picked out especially Martin Beisly, of Martin Beisly Fine Art (London), who had acted on behalf of the vendor of the Kauffman portrait, doing much to ensure the sale went through smoothly. It had been the specific wish of the vendor, a private collector, that the portrait should find a permanent home at The Wilson and this Reception, she concluded, had signalled in style the fulfilment of that wish.

## MEET THE MEMBERS

### CHELTENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY 1938 - 2023

**W**e at Cheltenham Choral Society are celebrating our 85th Anniversary year in 2023 and now seems a good time to look back at some of our more recent achievements as well as looking forward to the future.

Over the years, many successful concerts have taken place at various venues in Cheltenham (most frequently in the Town Hall and Pittville Pump Room). We have been fortunate to collaborate with some wonderful musicians and vocal soloists including our very own President, soprano Dame Felicity Lott. Our performance of Karl Jenkins' *The Peacemakers* at Pittville Pump Room in 2018, supported by an orchestra of special instruments, was one of the most memorable for us in recent times.

In the past CCS have performed in Bath Abbey and Worcester Cathedral and even sang the national anthems at Kingsholm at the Tonga v Georgia Rugby World Cup match in September 2015!

Taking part in choral rehearsals from home over Zoom was unthinkable before 2020 but many members embraced the

new technology during the Coronavirus pandemic, encouraged by our new young dynamic Musical Director, Alexander Thacker.

For several years we have invited youngsters to join us for our annual concert 'A Tapestry of Christmas Music' each December. This concert gives over 70 children the opportunity to perform in front of a large audience and have a taste of what they can look forward to if they keep singing.

In March 2022 we sang the choruses in the English Touring Opera's dramatic production of *St John Passion* at the Town Hall, in German, and an invitation to sing with them again in May 2023 at the Everyman Theatre is another exciting prospect.

On 12 November 2022 we sang Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and Schubert's *Mass in G* at a new venue for us: St Philip and St James - we were delighted by the sound we made and provoked spontaneous applause at the end of one of the Rossini choruses.





At the Remembrance Sunday service on the Prom the next morning we joined the Cheltenham Silver Band in leading the hymn singing for the first time.

For our Anniversary year, we start with The Messiah on 1 April at All Saints Church, another new venue for us. This will be the 71st time CCS has performed this work in Cheltenham and gives us the chance to sing with an orchestra again, and most of us know the music well.

Another of our 'home' venues is Gloucester Cathedral, where we have a lunchtime

concert each summer, which in the past has included celebrations for the Queen's Jubilees, both Platinum and Diamond. The Cathedral will be the focus for our 85th Anniversary concert on Saturday 3 June 2023.

On 25th November 2023 we will be travelling to Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff to perform Vaughan Williams' 'A Sea Symphony' in collaboration with Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society, who will also be celebrating their 85th Anniversary.



## **ALWAYS WANTED TO SING?**



### **ALL WELCOME - NO AUDITIONS**

Cheltenham Choral Society is looking for new members who love to sing!

- Friendly, amateur choir with a long-standing reputation for providing a top-quality experience for both audiences and singers.
- We are a non-audition choir of around 60-80 members.
- Our concert programmes are drawn largely from the standard Classical, Romantic, and Twentieth-Century choral repertoire, and are accompanied by piano, organ, or chamber orchestra.

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We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:30pm to 9:30pm

St Andrews Reformed Church, Montpellier Street,  
Cheltenham, GL50 1SP

contact us by email - [info@cheltchoral.org.uk](mailto:info@cheltchoral.org.uk), or message us on facebook:  
[@cheltenhamcs](https://www.facebook.com/cheltenhamcs) or Instagram [@cheltenhamchoral](https://www.instagram.com/cheltenhamchoral)





## THE ELEMENTS

### CHELTENHAM POETRY SOCIETY'S NEW BOOK

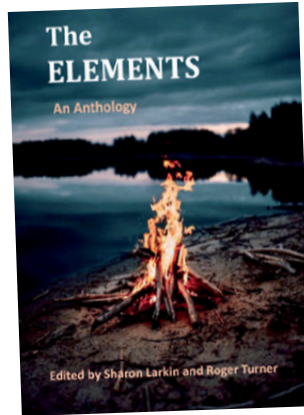
The poets who attended Cheltenham Poetry Society's Awayday writing retreat in May 2022 (reported in *Perspectives*, October 2022 – January 2023) have celebrated the publication of their latest anthology, *The Elements*, comprising 59 poems, illustrated with over 30 photographs.

Co-edited by CPS Chairman Roger Turner and former Chair, Sharon Larkin, the anthology is the culmination of writing initiated during the *Awayday*, on the themes of earth, air, fire and water. The book contains poems by David Ashbee, Catherine Baker, Annie Ellis, Gill Garrett, Robin Gilbert, Christine Griffin, Penny Howarth, Penny Lampport, Sharon Larkin, Iris Anne Lewis, Michael Newman, Stuart Nunn, Belinda Rimmer, Alice Ross, Sheila Spence, Roger Turner and Gill Wyatt.

Poet and former Chair of Gloucestershire Writers' Network, Rona Laycock, describes the anthology as "impressive" adding that "The editors have achieved the no small feat of creating clever groupings of poems that ensure the whole is definitely more than the sum of its parts." Poet David Clarke describes the poems as "Keenly observed and strikingly expressed" further noting that "These are poems of memory, poems of meditation, poems of belonging, but also writing that speaks to our current ecological crisis, warning us against humankind's hubris in the face of elemental forces."

*The Elements* was published in November 2022 by Eithon Bridge Publications [www.eithonbridge.com](http://www.eithonbridge.com)

PENNY HOWARTH, IRIS-ANNE LEWIS, ROGER TURNER, SHARON LARKIN, PENNY LAMPFORT, BELINDA RIMMER, CHRISTINE GRIFFIN.  
FRONT ROW: ANNIE ELLIS



COVER PHOTO: [HTTP://UNSPLASH.COM/7ADMSJAD0YSKI](http://unsplash.com/photos/7ADMSJAD0YSKI)

A sample of poems from *The Elements* –

#### Reprive – by Michael Newman

Rain-revived,  
Weeds take over  
The flower borders,  
And survive  
Kneeling mat and gloved fingers.  
Nothing for it  
But to get out the trusty spade,  
A necessary aid  
To weed-free culture.

Pity the centipede  
Scurrying away, its future  
Uncertain.  
Spade versus spineless interloper?  
Who would dare place bets.

I stay my hand.



### Titan Asleep – by Robin Gilbert

We have tamed it to our will,  
made it, we suppose, our willing slave  
trained to pander to our needs,  
to warm the cockles of our clever toes,  
to sleep when we sleep.

Fools! The lazing lapdog  
that lies dreaming at our feet  
has in its genes a raging wolf,  
may when least expected  
rise snarling  
to consume our all.

### Needing Air – by Roger Turner

My mother needed air.  
Growing up in a cliff-side, sea-fringed town,  
she had all the space and wind and sky she  
could want.

Transplanted to a valley town, married  
among tall architectural terraces,  
high leafy plane trees and flowering  
chestnuts,  
she found it suffocating.

Let's go up on the hill, she'd say.  
So on a Saturday we'd look down from a  
height  
on all the church towers in our town.  
Larks sang, and Mother breathed in deeply  
the scented wind and air,  
cowslips, wild roses, mignonette.

But later,  
when I too said I needed air and wind and  
sky,  
she pressed her lips together,  
drew the curtains, lit the fire, told stories  
and held the house key  
firmly between her thumb and fingers.  
Spoke of her grief  
when finally the lark took flight.



PHOTOGRAPH: ROBIN GILBERT

### Cher Monsieur Cousteau – by Sharon Larkin

Most famous plongeur of the diverse divers  
who bubbled and gurgled their murky way  
into our dingy sitting room chaque dimanche  
in over a hundred documentaries  
to share your *Secrets of The Deep*.

Jacques, mon brave, in your *Undersea World*,  
seldom without breathing tube and aqualung,  
forever falling backwards off the side of a  
boat  
on our twelve-inch black and white TV  
screen,

mon célèbre, ancien officier de marine,  
you never lost your accent, your Gallic  
charme,  
and so I cannot speak your name without a  
pout.

Mes épisodes favoris will always be  
Octopus, Octopus and Night of the Squid.



DAVID ASHBY, MICHAEL NEWMAN, ROBIN GILBERT, ROGER TURNER, SHEILA SPENCE,  
STUART NUNN, GERALD O'SHAUGHNESSY, GILL WYATT

## CMFS AUTUMN YOUNG MUSICIAN CONCERTS

A FANTASTIC SERIES OF PERFORMANCES



**V**ery sadly Chapel Arts closed its doors at the end of July 2022, but after discussions with The Cheltenham Trust six dates were agreed for a series of School and Young Musician Concerts at Pittville Pump Room.

Starting in October, the wonderful concerts were performed by Bournside School, Djordje Radevski (piano) from Serbia, Dalia Obretin (flute) from Romania and Winnie Chan (piano) from Hong Kong, Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham Ladies' College and finally Tsukushi Mitsuda (piano) from Japan. Concerts were well attended and audiences grew whilst the series continued, concluding with c.60 persons for the super recital by Tsukushi in December. She was a regular performer at Chapel Arts when a pupil at Bournside School but now studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Djordje Radevski's pyrotechnics on the magnificent Pump Room Steinway was a dress rehearsal for participation in an International Piano Competition in Paris in early November, in which he was placed but did not win ... this time!

It had been hoped to continue these CMFS Concerts with a return to Chapel Arts as

the venue, and the possible new owner has been most welcoming to the idea of supporting young people making music in the community by giving these free concerts. However, at the time of writing (just before Christmas) negotiations for the purchase of Chapel Arts have become complicated, and the splendid Yamaha piano has gone to The Playhouse Theatre. There have been meetings with The Playhouse Theatre and The Cheltenham Trust. However, discussions about continuing in Pittville Pump Room will need to take into account an increased hire charge for the New Year, and then a further increase after Easter.

As Chairman of the Cheltenham Music Festival Society I would like to sincerely thank The Trafford Memorial Fund which made some funding available for the Autumn Series. Retiring collections from the audiences have also been necessary to help offset costs. As indicated above, I hope to be able to continue arranging these free Young Musician concerts in the New Year, and would welcome any suggestions how to attract sponsorship in order to continue the concerts without the necessity of charging admission.

**Andrew Auster**

NAPA (Nethra Academy of Performing Arts) and  
CAC (Cheltenham Arts Council) invite you to

**An Evening of Music, Drama, and Indian Dance  
at The Playhouse Theatre  
on Saturday 11th March  
at 5:00pm**

to raise money to support the arts education  
of young local Ukrainian refugees.

## GOSPEL 2023

### CELEBRATIONS, COMPETITIONS, ART, DRAMA AND MORE!

**W**ith seven years' experience, Christian Arts Festival will celebrate 'Christianity and Creativity' this summer with **GOSPEL 2023** - a diverse, mixed arts festival. Through the lens of **GOSPEL 2023**, participants will explore fresh perspectives and questions, and be open to unexpected discovery through competitions, workshops and performances.

Events will promote deeper understanding of the Gospel truth through 'New Life' - a themed art competition with the opportunity for representation at a Cheltenham gallery. A Gospel song-writing competition will encourage involvement with the unique cultural roots of Gospel music and its sounds, with the opportunity to record the winning song and premier it at a concert performed by The London Community Gospel Choir (LCGC) at Cheltenham Town Hall (23 April 2023)

Highlights will include a Literature Day with theologians and populist authors: the Right Reverend Rachel Treweek (Bishop of Gloucester), Sam Wells, John Pritchard, Sarah Meyrick, Gemma Hunt (Gem from CBeebies' Swashbuckle) and more in the newly refurbished worship/arts/community space at Pip & Jim's Church. From January, a new study group will explore Dante's Divine Comedy, a classic work often misunderstood. Anyone is welcome to join!

There will also be a new drama by Saltmine Theatre, "The Liberator", which will offer a passionate retelling of the life and teaching of Jesus. Told in a modern idiom, this is a gospel at once faithful and utterly fresh. And the good news is there are 50 free tickets for young people 12 - 18 years.

A GOSPEL-themed Art Exhibition will take place over Easter at The Gardens Gallery, which features Faith Exhibit, the Garments of Gethsemane. On Sunday 23 April at Cheltenham Town Hall we celebrate GOSPEL with Meditation from the School of Contemplative Life; Dr Mark Vernon: Dante's Divine Comedy; workshops in mixed-media journaling; masterclass singing by LCGC and spoken word performance by Dai Woolridge of Scripture Union, culminating in the Finale with London Community Gospel Choir.

Creative activities such as singing, writing or making art at Cheltenham Town Hall are therapeutic, restorative and uplifting in challenging times. The events are designed to build relationships amongst churches, reaching across faith divides. People will learn to express themselves through art, skills acquisition / development and public performance. Young people, through the Cheltenham Education Partnership, are a priority - the future of the faith and church. Opportunities to do creative arts workshops help them grow in confidence and build cross-generational connections.

Open Category  
Enter by 17 February 2023  
christianartsfestival.org

**GOSPEL SONGWRITING COMPETITION**

CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

Cheltenham Education Partnership

Winning song performed by **LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR** in Cheltenham Town Hall, Sunday 23 April 2023 plus **Studio Recording Session**

**KEY DATES 22 & 23 APRIL 2023 CHELTENHAM TOWN HALL. FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.CHRIANARTSFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.CHRIANARTSFESTIVAL.ORG)**





# GOSPEL 2023

CHRISTIAN  
ARTS FESTIVAL

## PERFORMANCES, WORKSHOPS AND COMPETITIONS

**MARCH – APRIL 2023**

**10 March** **GOSPEL Song Writing Competition**  
(Entry deadline: Open Category 17 February / Students 10 March)

**30 March – 5 April** **GOSPEL, The Garden's Gallery Art Exhibition**

**20 April** **New Life Visual Arts Competition Awards,**  
**Queens Hotel**

**22 April** **Literature Day, Pip & Jim's**

**23 April** **GOSPEL, Cheltenham Town Hall**

- London Community Gospel Choir
- Workshops: Singing, Spoken Word and Mixed Media Bible Journaling
- Drama: The Liberator by Saltmine Theatre Company
- School of Contemplative Life: Meditation as a way of liberation, wholeness and peace

**And more... [christianartsfestival.org](http://christianartsfestival.org)**

**VISUAL ARTS**

**BOOKS**

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

**MUSIC**

**DRAMA**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

## LISTINGS: EVENTS DIRECTORY FEBRUARY - MAY 2023

## VISUAL ARTS

AT THE GARDENS  
GALLERY, MONTPELLIER  
GARDENS:

core hours 10am-5pm

Martin Fry

Wed 1-Tue 7 Feb

Petya Stoeva: *The Joy of Living*

Wed 8-Tue 14 Feb

Ellie Thomas

Wed 15-Tue 21 Feb

Sammi Fletcher

Wed 22-Tue 28 Feb

Liubov Arnold

Wed 1-Tue 7 Mar

Gillian Cox

Wed 8-Tue 14 Mar

Jackie Cox

Wed 15-Tue 21 Mar

Nick Sargeant

Wed 22-Tue 28 Mar

Leah Marshall: *Finding Joy*

Wed 29 Mar-Tue 4 Apr

Cheltenham Christian  
Arts: *Gospel*

Wed 5-Tue 11 Apr

Jane Few

Wed 12-Tue 18 Apr

Jazz Festival Exhibition

Wed 26 Apr-Mon 1 May

Thomas Gowen

Wed 10-Tue 16 May

Sarah Goddard

Wed 17-Tue 23 May

Sylvia Wadsley

Wed 24-Tue 30 May

Shaina Stoer

Wed 31 May-Tue 6 Jun

## MUSIC

Cheltenham Choral  
Society Rehearsals,

Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm,

St Andrew's Church,

Montpellier, a friendly,

amateur choir with a

long-standing reputation

for providing a top-quality

experience for both

audiences and singers.

Further details on the

choir and its activities:

[cheltchoral.org.uk/](http://cheltchoral.org.uk/)

## Cleeve Harmony

## A Cappella Chorus

Rehearsals, Wednesdays,

7.30-10pm, Bishop's Cleeve

Tithe Barn, new members

welcome! See [cleeve-](http://cleeve-harmony.org.uk)[harmony.org.uk](http://harmony.org.uk) or enquiriesto [md@cleeve-harmony.org.uk](mailto:md@cleeve-harmony.org.uk)

uk

## Musica Vera Rehearsals,

Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm,

St Mary's Prestbury, we

have vacancies in all voice

parts. Please contact the

secretary, Lesley Nicholls,

01242 222853 or email

[nicholls186@yahoo.com](mailto:nicholls186@yahoo.com). See[musicavera.org](http://musicavera.org)

## Cheltenham Music

## Festival Society Lunchtime

Concerts, 1pm, free, Pittville

Pump Room, further dates

and details tba

The Oriel Singers: Come  
and Sing William Byrd,

Sat 11 Feb, 10am-5pm,

£25/£12.50 students, Christ

Church, further details and

registration at [orielsingers.org.uk](http://orielsingers.org.uk)

## Cheltenham Chamber

## Orchestra, Sat 11 Feb

7.30pm, Pittville Pump

Room, Mozart, Glazunov,

Martin Butler, Haydn. Cond.

Toby Purser, Saxophone

Rob Butler

## Cheltenham Music

## Society: Jubilee String

Quartet, Thu 16 Feb,

7.30pm, Pittville Pump

Room, four musicians from

four homelands with a

fascinatingly cosmopolitan

approach to chamber

music. Webern: *Langsamer*Satz, Haydn: *String Qt in**G maj op.77 no.1*, Schubert:*String Qt in G maj D887*,[cheltmusicsoc.co.uk](http://cheltmusicsoc.co.uk)

## The Oriel Singers: Holst

## Society Concert, Sat 11 Mar,

4pm, St Philip and St James

Church, [holstsociety.org](http://holstsociety.org),[orielsingers.org.uk](http://orielsingers.org.uk)

## Cheltenham Chamber

## Orchestra, Sat 11 Mar,

7.30pm, St Andrew's Church,

Montpellier, Fauré, Debussy,

Ravel and Bizet. Cond.

James Ham

### Cheltenham Music Society: Charles Owen and Katya Apekisheva, Tue 21

Mar, 7.30pm, Pittville Pump Room, highly-acclaimed piano duo, founders and Artistic Directors of the London Piano Festival. Mozart: Sonata in B flat maj K358, Schubert: Rondo in A maj D951, Lebensstürme D947, Debussy: Petite Suite, Stravinsky: Cinq pièces faciles, Mozart: Sonata in F maj K497, cheltnmusicoc.co.uk

### Cheltenham Bach Choir: St Matthew Passion, J.S. Bach, Sat 25 Mar, 6.30pm,

Tewkesbury Abbey, Dir. David Crown, Soloists Mark Wilde and Markus Matheis, with the Musical and Amicable Society Baroque Orchestra

### Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra: From the Romantic, Sun 26 Mar,

3pm, £16/students £8/U16 free, Pittville Pump Room, Schumann: Manfred Overture, Liszt: Piano Concerto No.1 with Marcel Zidani -Piano, Brahms: Symphony No.1. Tickets 01242 528764, cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk or in person at Leisure at Cheltenham

### Cheltenham Choral Society: Handel's Messiah, Sat 1 Apr, 7pm, All Saints Church, 85th anniversary concert, Cond. Alexander



JAMES DE COURCY - 'FADE TO FOG' WWW.CHELTEHAMCAMERACLUB.UK

Thacker, Sop. Alison Shone, Alto Nicole Boardman, Tenor Derek Webb, Bass Brian Pursey, Harpsichord James MacDowell Scott, Organ Alison Howell

### Cheltenham Music Society: Consone Quartet, Thu 20 Apr, 7.30pm,

Pittville Pump Room, known for beautifully crafted interpretations of classical and early romantic repertoire, they offer an intriguing mix of the familiar and the new. Haydn: String Qt in E flat maj op.64 no.6, Onslow: String Qt in E flat maj op.10 no.3, Chevalier de Saint-Georges: String Qt op.1 no.3, Mozart: String Qt in D min K173, cheltnmusicoc.co.uk

### Cleeve Chorale Spring Concert, Sat 29 Apr,

7.30pm, St Michael & All Angels, Bishop's Cleeve, inc. choruses from The Messiah and Handel's Coronation Anthem No.4 to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, info and tickets: clevechorale.co.uk

### Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra

Sat 13 May, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Brahms: Violin Concerto, Mendelssohn: Symphony No.4, Italian. Violin: George Ewart

### The Oriel Singers: Brahms' Requiem, Sat 20 May,

7.30pm, Pittville Pump Room, orielsingers.org.uk

## STAGE &amp; SCREEN

**Promenade Productions:  
Joseph and the Amazing  
Technicolor Dreamcoat  
Pre-Audition Rehearsals**

February, for the July production, further info: [promenadeproductions.co.uk](http://promenadeproductions.co.uk)

## LECTURES &amp; MEETINGS

**Cercle Français: Invasions polaires et baleines bavardes**, Mon 6 Feb, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall  
nouvelles avancées des sciences marines, Dr Philippe Blondel, [cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk](http://cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk)

**Cheltenham Local History Society**, Tue 7 Feb, 10.30am, St Luke's Church Hall, Aristocrats, Admirals and an Architect: Glimpses of early 19th century Cheltenham Social History, with Neela Mann, [cheltlocalhistory.org.uk](http://cheltlocalhistory.org.uk)  
**Cheltenham Italian Society: The Italian guitar in the world**, Mon 13 Feb 7.30pm, Zoom, words and music, with Maestro Giuseppe Maria Ficara, [cheltenhamitaliansociety.org.uk](http://cheltenhamitaliansociety.org.uk)  
**The Arts Society, Cheltenham: How to get down from a yak**, Tue 14 Feb, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £7, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Adventures in Central

Asian Nomadic textiles, with Chris Aslan. See [theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk](http://theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk) or email [info.cheltenham@theartssociety.org](mailto:info.cheltenham@theartssociety.org)

**Cheltenham Local History Society**, Wed 15 Feb, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, Cheltenham's Poet Laureates, with David Elder

**Cercle Français: L'esprit français**, Mon 20 Feb, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, with Germaine Jones, [cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk](http://cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk)

**Cheltenham German Club: Baseler Fasnacht**, Fri 24 Feb, 7 for 7.30pm, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, with Lucienne Landmann, for details see [www.cheltgesell.uk](http://www.cheltgesell.uk) or email [club@cheltgesell.uk](mailto:club@cheltgesell.uk)

**Prestbury Local History Society: Winchcombe and the Lost Abbey**, Mon 27 Feb, 7.30pm, W.I. Hall, Prestbury, with David Eldred, [prestburyhistory.com](http://prestburyhistory.com)

**Cercle Français: Maurice Ravel et son univers: la musique et ses sortilèges**, Mon 6 Mar, 7.30pm, Zoom, with Emilie Capulet, [cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk](http://cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk)



FRAN REILLY - CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS MEMBER [WWW.CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK)



**The Arts Society,  
Cheltenham: Art &  
Imagination: creativity &  
fantasy from the Brontes  
to Beatrix Potter**

Thu 9 Mar, 10am-3pm  
members £30, non-  
members £35, Cheltenham  
Bowling Club, Suffolk  
Square. Study Day  
comprising three lectures  
by Elizabeth Merry, see  
theartsocietycheltenham.  
org.uk or email  
studydayva.cheltenham@  
theartsociety.org

**Cheltenham Italian  
Society: Four Inspiring  
Italian Women of  
Yesterday and Today,**

Mon 13 Mar, 7.30pm,  
Zoom, with Chiara  
Pasqualetti-Johnson,  
cheltenhamitaliansociety.  
org.uk

**The Arts Society,  
Cheltenham: Rosa  
Bonheur 1822 -1899, a  
bicentenary celebration,**

Tue 14 Mar, 7.15pm,  
members free, visitors  
£7, The Pavilion,  
Hatherley Lane, with  
Dr Lois Oliver, see  
theartsocietycheltenham.  
org.uk or email  
info.cheltenham@  
theartsociety.org

**Cercle Français: Les  
Anglais en Algérie,** Mon  
20 Mar, 7.30pm, St Luke's  
Church Hall, milieu du  
XIXème siècle aux années

20, Dr Bernard Sasso,  
cheltenhamfrenchcircle.  
co.uk

**Cheltenham Local  
History Society,** Wed 22  
Mar, 7.30pm, St Luke's  
Church Hall, The History  
of the Cheltenham Charity  
Organisation, with Polly  
Baynham

**Cheltenham German  
Club: Frankesche  
Stiftungen zu Halle,** Fri 24  
Mar, 7 for 7.30pm, The New  
Club, Montpellier Parade  
with Bärbel Hewett,  
for details see www.  
cheltgesell.uk or email  
club@cheltgesell.uk

**Prestbury Local History  
Society: The Grotto,** Mon  
27 Mar, 7.30pm, W.I. Hall,  
Prestbury, with Roger  
Beecham, prestburyhistory.  
com

**Cercle Français: A la  
conquête du Mont-Blanc!,  
Mon 3 Apr, 7.30pm, St  
Luke's Church Hall,**

with Thierry Viennois,  
cheltenhamfrenchcircle.  
co.uk

**Cheltenham Local  
History Society,** Tue 4 Apr  
10.30am, St Luke's Church  
Hall, Go West! The A40,  
with Sean Callery  
**Cheltenham Italian  
Society: Rome, its  
monuments and the  
emperors who built  
them,** Mon 10 Apr,  
7.30pm, St Andrew's  
Church Garden Room,  
with Dr Paul Roberts,  
cheltenhamitaliansociety.  
org.uk

**The Arts Society,  
Cheltenham: Cracking  
Glass,** Tue 11 Apr, 7.15pm,  
members free, visitors £7,  
The Pavilion, Hatherley  
Lane, an overview of  
Britain's 'Big Four' post-  
war glass companies,  
with Mark Hill. See  
theartsocietycheltenham.  
org.uk or email



PETYA STOEVA THE JOY OF LIVING 8 - 14 FEB, GARDENS GALLERY



UTILITY SHED - LANSDOWN ART STUDIOS  
@UTILITY\_SHED

info.cheltenham@  
theartsociety.org

**Cercle Français: Le salon des Stein à Paris au début du XXème siècle, pépinière de talents,**

Mon 17 Apr, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, with Brigitte Thibaut, cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

**Cheltenham Local History Society,**

Wed 19 Apr, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, The History and Development of the Winston Churchill Memorial Garden, with Rob Rimell

**Cheltenham German Club: Die Lausitz,**

Fri 21 Apr, 7 for 7.30pm, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, with Greg Arnold, for details see www.cheltgesell.uk or email club@cheltgesell.uk

**Cheltenham Poetry**

**Festival 2023, Thu 20**

Apr - Sat 29 Apr, can you support our activities, and help us to keep providing a feast of live literature events through the community? Any size donation is very welcome: www.cheltenhampoetryfestival.co.uk

**Cheltenham Christian Arts: Literature Day,**

Sat 22 Apr, 10am-8.45pm, St Philip and St James Church, with The Right Rev. Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, Sam Wells, John Pritchard, Gemma Hunt (Gem from CBeebies' Swashbuckle) and more, see www.christianartsfestival.org

**Cheltenham Christian Arts: GOSPEL,**

Sun 23 Apr Town Hall, Spoken Word Workshop Artist Dai Woolridge, Dr Mark Vernon Dante's Divine Comedy, School of Contemplative Life, Jenna Burne Art Journaling Workshop, Saltmine Theatre Company The Liberator, 'New Life' Art Competition Winners, details from christianartsfestival.org

**Prestbury Local History Society: Over the Hill**

Mon 24 Apr, 7.30pm, W.I. Hall, Prestbury,

with Michael Cole, prestburyhistory.com

**Cheltenham Italian Society: Roma Città**

**aperta,** Mon 8 May, 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Garden Room, with Paolo Guiliani, buffet and drinks, cheltenhamitaliansociety.org.uk

**The Arts Society, Cheltenham: Lake**

**District Artists, Beyond the Canon,**

Tue 9 May, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £7, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with David Cross. See theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org

**Cercle Français:**

**Assemblée générale,** Mon 15 May, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Hall, suivie d'une mini-conférence

**Cheltenham Local History Society,**

Wed 17 May 7pm, St Luke's Church Hall, AGM, followed by The Spirax Sarco Story, with Greg Godfrey-Williams

**Cheltenham German Club: Weltkulturerbe**

**Völklinger Hütte,** Fri 19 May, 7 for 7.30pm, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, with Peter

Sands, Deutsch/English, for details see www.cheltgesell.uk or email club@cheltgesell.uk

## FUNDING HELPS TO BRING HISTORY AND HERITAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

### AN UPDATE ON THE WILSON FROM THE CHELTENHAM TRUST

**T**he Cheltenham Trust ended 2022 with the good news that The Wilson had been awarded national arts funding to complete the refurbishment of the art gallery and museum. The award from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and from The Wolfson Foundation's Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund is for The Wilson's Making Connections project to refurbish and re-open the Victorian wing of the museum. The funding has been enhanced thanks to generous support by The Friends of The Wilson, and a contribution of £47,500 from Cheltenham Borough Council.

The funding will enable the space to be transformed to improve the experience of visitors and local communities through new accessible spaces, sharing Cheltenham's story and offering new perspectives on The Wilson's historic collections, with greater opportunities for learning and participation. Improved storage will unlock access to objects within Cheltenham's collections and, in turn, enable displays to be dynamic and responsive to audience feedback, making greater connections between the people of Cheltenham, their collection and their rich and varied cultural history.

The redevelopment project will take place between April 2023 and April 2025, welcoming visitors back in summer 2025.

The Wilson's current exhibition, **Clear of People**, by Michal Iwanowski closes on 5 February 2023. It will be followed by **The Printed Line**, which runs from 18 February to 14 May 2023. This Art Council

Collection exhibition explores how artists have used a variety of printmaking techniques to exploit the potential of the printed line since the beginning of the 20th century.

**Zeros and Ones** will open on 27 May and will run until 17 September 2023. The exhibition will be a creative exploration of codes, patterns and data visualisation told by objects from The Wilson collection, GCHQ and contemporary artworks.

Also in 2023, The Wilson will be hosting a programme of community exhibitions in the Sir Charles Irving Community Gallery, opening a new **Cheltenham Untold** exhibition that has been voted for by visitors; and offering an exciting programme of talks and workshops, curator-led tours and talks; children's activities and events and more both in the galleries and The Wilson Kitchen arts café.



ZEROS AND ONES



Keep up to date with what's happening at The Wilson at  
[www.cheltenhammuseum.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhammuseum.org.uk)

## THE CHELTENHAM CULTURE BOARD

### AN INTRODUCTION FROM CAC'S SUE SILCOCK



**A**s Chair of Cheltenham Arts Council, I first realised that the Borough Council was working to create a Culture Strategy for Cheltenham when I was approached by Creative Tourist, a firm of consultants engaged by the Borough Council in February 2020, to discuss CAC. The pandemic interfered with the work of the consultants, but I was able to put forward CAC's aims, purposes, and achievements in a lengthy telephone conversation.

Fast forward to July 2020 and Cheltenham's Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) organisation held a meeting to discuss culture and recovery strategy and in particular applications to small charitable organisations. Creative Tourist had produced their report and the existing Culture Board, consisting of representatives from the Borough Council, The Cheltenham Trust, Cheltenham Festivals, and the Everyman Theatre, decided that their scope and membership should be widened.

A considerable amount of discussion went on in the pandemic between the Culture Board, VCS, and other interested parties and by 8th July 2021 an extended group of around 20 representatives met for the first meeting of the Cheltenham Culture Board. Representatives came from the Borough Council, The Cheltenham Trust, Cheltenham Festivals, theatres, the cyber sector, the University, Cheltenham Education Partnership, Marketing Cheltenham, and Cheltenham BID as well as from smaller organisations and interest groups based on visual arts, heritage, festivals, music, dance and performing arts, voices of the community, and cultural support organisations.

It was agreed that Cheltenham is already a great place to live, work, play, and invest. The town continues to be rated as one of the best places to live and bring up a family in the UK, with high-performing schools, an extensive cultural scene including the world-renowned Cheltenham Festivals, and with its extensive stunning regency buildings. Further, Cheltenham is a place with powerful cultural and heritage assets and ambitions that need to be celebrated and nurtured.

But what also emerged very powerfully from our consultations was the need for a cultural ambition that requires Cheltenham to really shift gear in its approach to developing and deepening the cultural offer; establishing Cheltenham as a truly innovative creative place and destination; fostering creative expression across the town; and encouraging much greater community engagement.

To meet this cultural ambition the board agreed a vision for Cheltenham and six strategic objectives to provide the focus for a strategy:

**Vision:** Cheltenham is a vibrant place and cultural destination where the fusion of arts, digital and heritage innovation fosters creative and inclusive communities where everyone has the chance to thrive.

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Forge partnerships and collaboration across the heritage, cultural and digital sectors.
- Use culture and creativity to improve the life chances of our young people.
- Promote equity of opportunity to help build inclusive and creative communities.



- Celebrate and nurture our community, grass-roots creative talents and ambitions.
- Drive our visitor economy and our wider place brand.
- Use culture, creativity, and innovation to contribute to the Cheltenham Zero and work creatively to address the climate challenge.

The vision and strategic objectives were tested via an on-line survey carried out over the summer which had over 900 responses.

Meetings of the Board have been held approximately every 2 or 3 months at various venues, extending knowledge and appreciation of local artistic centres. Subgroups have been set up to facilitate action. The data from two surveys, one for the general public about culture in Cheltenham, and one directed at visual arts practitioners, have been analysed and the learnings fed into the strategy.

The main priorities for 2023 were agreed at the meeting in November 2022:

- The Culture Board webpage will be up and running with a clarity of purpose and structure.
- The Strategy will be developed, with 5-year targets and accompanying action plans.
- Communication about cultural opportunities in the town will be reviewed and improved led by Visit Cheltenham.

From my perspective and that of CAC, it is encouraging to see the efforts being put in on behalf of all the organisations in Cheltenham in all their variety. The opportunity to meet representatives of different aspects of heritage, culture and creativity in the town has been greatly appreciated. I have also gained knowledge of more areas of expertise than I could have imagined. This work is very much in its infancy; let us all hope that it will continue and grow.

If readers have any comments or questions, please get in touch with Sue Silcock via [chair@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk](mailto:chair@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk)

<https://marketingcheltenham.co.uk/cheltenham-culture-board/>

Sue Silcock, (Chair of CAC), Ali Mawle (Chair of the Cheltenham Culture Board), Richard Gibson (Cheltenham Borough Council)

## *Your help is needed!*

CAC needs an honorary secretary. We have been looking for the last six months with no success and the situation is getting dire.

The duties are minimal. The Hon. Sec. is a trustee of CAC, should attend the executive committee meetings of which there are 6 during the year, and there is also some administration.

Please get in touch with me, Sue Silcock, as Chair of CAC, via the website [www.cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk) for further details.

## A SUNRISE AND A REQUIEM

### VISIT OF THE GÖTTINGER STADTKANTOREI TO CHELTENHAM

**Y**ou can't turn into Dunalley Street from Swindon Road, because it's one-way, and what's more, there's a big sign saying so. But if you've got a big, red, state-of-the-art, coffee-machined, tinted-glassed, cinema-and-sauna-equipped 100-seater German touring bus under your right foot, that's no obstacle and so the Stadtkantorei's driver expertly reversed against the lights, the traffic, and half the Highway Code in order to park neatly right outside the hotel entrance. And the bus wasn't even an Audi, let alone a BMW. I was quite impressed.

Göttingen, as 'Perspectives' readers will know well, is Cheltenham's Twin Town, and this was the Stadtkantorei's first visit to Cheltenham since 2014, the longest gap ever (because of Covid, in case you needed to ask) in over 60 years of visits back and forth between our two towns by them and by the Cheltenham Bach Choir. As on previous visits they joined forces with us in CBC for a joint concert, which this time was in Tewkesbury Abbey. We began with a sunrise – the 'Sunrise Mass' by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo (Yay-Lo, not J-Lo), which gradually evolves musically from the ethereal to the solidly grounded. This music was an eye- (or ear-) opener for many of us; a recent addition to the choral repertoire with a better chance than many of standing the test of time. And in the second half came the Requiem – Mozart's, in this case; taken at a healthy lick, it's fair to say, and as exciting as that suggests. For the first time in these exchanges, each choir's Musical Director conducted one half of the concert. Seeing the Abbey almost full, with an audience stretching right back to the Great West Door, it felt as if Covid had loosened its grip.



So much for the music – a particular feature of these Twinning visits is the social and person-to-person aspect. Around 120 of



us were at a barn dance at St Edward's School – to whom much thanks for everything from rehearsal venues to a place where the Germans could park their bus (making a change from their own 18-yard box, ho ho). Barn dances may be iffey from a Covid perspective (all that holding hands, dancing about and whatnot) but everyone gets to meet everyone, without language being a barrier. The Germans loved it. However the real connections are made by the way so many visiting singers stay as guests in the homes of the other choir's members, often many times over the years, creating friendships and cultural understanding. This is all the more important these days, given a UK government that has decided to put road-blocks in the way of anything like that and blows raspberries at the rest of Europe instead. But music knows no boundaries, or so the saying goes. Grateful thanks must go to Annette Wight, Diggory Seacome and the rest of the Borough Twinning Committee, for their practical and financial support. [Andrew Gummer](#)

## A NOTE FROM CHELTENHAM'S TWINNING ASSOCIATION

### DIGGORY SEACOME

**I have been to Göttingen many times as a member of the Cheltenham Twinning Association, most recently in my capacity as Chairman of Twinning.**

The meetings between citizens of both towns are always joyous occasions, with old friendships being rekindled and new ones established. The involvement of the Cheltenham Bach Choir with the Göttinger Stadtkantorei has one great advantage for us members of the Committee, and that is that all the arrangements, hosting, accommodating, entertaining are taken care of by members of the Choir! This year it was the Barn Dance, with food and wine provided,

on the evening before the concert in Tewkesbury Abbey!

The concert itself revealed a new work (but not its first performance) to the choirs and audience, a work which Andrew Gummer rightly suggests will establish itself in the choral repertoire. I must admit to even more involvement with the concert, as it is my responsibility to 'fix' the performers for the concert, as well as play the timpani. The evening was a great success, and was a fantastic example of the 'Twinning Spirit', still a force to be reckoned with in post-Brexit Britain.

## CLEEVE CHORALE: FLOURISHING AGAIN AFTER THE PANDEMIC

### CHAIR PHIL APLIN TELLS US MORE

**In September 2021 Cleeve Choral emerged from the pandemic and started rehearsing for two concerts.**

**The first featured Vivaldi's Gloria together with a selection of bits and pieces including Gershwin, Sullivan and some madrigals which we had been rehearsing by Zoom during the pandemic thanks to our Musical Director Heather Parker.**

The second concert was a Christmas Celebration, which we performed free in gratitude for having survived the pandemic. Because Covid was still around, we supplied liberal amounts of hand gel and masks to protect ourselves and the audience. The audience all wore masks in which they had to sing - not what we were used to. I think, however, we were all grateful to be singing again after two years of lockdown as far as singers were concerned.

Last week we performed another Christmas Celebration with our new

Musical Director, Dominic Hawley, and what a difference a year makes! There were no restrictions, although some of the audience chose to wear masks, and whereas last year we had an audience of about 50, this year we filled St. Michael and All Angels Church in Bishop's Cleeve with over 100 people. We featured Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols supported by a wonderful harpist, Vera Khait, thanks to a generous Trafford Memorial Fund grant. It has been our tradition to serve mulled wine and mince pies at the Christmas concert but we couldn't do that last year for obvious reasons. This year we could and they brought to a conclusion a very successful evening.

We now look forward to our Spring concert on 29th April which will include choruses from The Messiah and, in the week before the coronation of King Charles III, Handel's Coronation Anthem No. 4.

**CLEEVE**  
**CHORALE**

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE WRITERS' NETWORK

### COMPETITION WINNERS FROM 2022, AND A LOOK FORWARD...

**G**loucestershire Writers' Network hold a poetry and prose short story competition every year supported by The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival. We ask that entrants live, work, or study in Gloucestershire or South Gloucestershire and that their writing is connected, however tenuously, to a theme. The winners are invited to read their entries at the festival.

The theme in 2022 was Voices, the judges, Adam Horovitz (poetry) and Kate Frost (prose), and on a warm October evening we gathered in a beautiful room at The Queens Hotel to listen to the winning entrants.

#### Winning Prose Piece

In Captivity by Philip Douch

#### Prose Runners-up

Bind Us Together by Rebecca Klassen

Exposed by Marilyn Timms

Please Leave a Message by Christine Griffin

#### Winning Poem

The War against Speech by Frank McMahon

#### Poetry Runners-up

The Displaced Child by Kathryn Alderman

St Olaves by Jean Cooper Moran

The Conservation of Difficult Birds by Rose Lennard

They did not disappoint, the interpretations as diverse as the urban and rural landscapes of the county, the occupations, and the lives of the people who live here. The stories and poems were augmented by their authors' readings. Together with samples of the judges' work and the warmth and support of the audience it all made for a very good evening.



A comment by a volunteer helper as we were winding up perhaps best summed up the atmosphere of the event: "Do you all know each other?" The aim of the network is to share information of a writing-related nature, anything that might nurture an interest, encourage, support, or provide an opportunity for a person to write. We want our endeavours to be inclusive and accessible to everyone and hope that we are in some small way all getting to know each other.

We were delighted with all the entries - so many voices. Thank you to everyone who submitted their work, to the winners and the judges who read on the night and to the Cheltenham Literature Festival and the staff at The Queens Hotel who worked so hard to make it a success. Our thanks too, as always, to CAC and Liggy Webb for their continued sponsorship.



But now we look forward. This year the theme is Journeys. Where will you take us? We wait intrigued.

If you would like to help or find out more information about what we do or perhaps would like to buy the anthology follow this link <https://gloswriters.org.uk/competition>

With best wishes, The GWN Team.



## CHELTENHAM CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

CONCERT REVIEW, SEPTEMBER 2022

**C**heltenham Chamber Orchestra (CCO) returned to the Pittville Pump Room for their concert on 24 September 2022, under one of their regular Guest Conductors, Timothy Carey. The Orchestra was in excellent form with beautifully blended string tone and some wonderful solos from the wind players.

The programme opened with Mozart's Overture to The Magic Flute. The talented young piano soloist, Adam Heron, gave a very accomplished performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No 20. Adam is swiftly earning a reputation as one of the most innovative pianists of his

generation. Winner of the 2020 Harriet Cohen Bach Prize, he rose to prominence following his television debut in 2018 as a BBC Young Musician piano finalist. Through his unique artistry, coupled with an innate public appeal and flair for communication, he has become a leading ambassador for classical music across the UK and abroad.

The concert finished with Beethoven's Symphony No 5, which received a standing ovation from the audience. The CCO is grateful to Cheltenham Arts Council for their generous support for this concert.

[Angela Walker](#)





## Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra

was founded in 1966 by Laurence Hudson to harness the talents of exceptional musicians in the local area. With Meurig Brown as President, the CCO continues to sustain its reputation for bringing a wide variety of music to its audiences, from the 17th Century to the present day. As well as working with established artists, the Orchestra has a policy of providing a platform for talented young musicians.

In 2023, the Orchestra has four exciting and varied concerts:

**Saturday 11th February**, 7.30pm Pittville Pump Room. Music by Mozart, Glazunov, Martin Butler and Haydn.

**Saturday 11th March**, 7.30pm St Andrew's Church, Montpellier. Music by Fauré, Debussy, Ravel and Bizet.

**Saturday May 13th**, 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Montpellier. Brahms Violin Concerto and Mendelssohn Symphony No 4 "Italian".

**Saturday 23rd September**, 7.30pm Pittville Pump Room. Music by Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven.

For more information about the CCO visit  
[www.cheltenhamchamberorchestra.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamchamberorchestra.org.uk)

## THE HOLST SOCIETY

[www.holstsociety.org](http://www.holstsociety.org)

Hammetts, Kings Nympton  
Devon EX37 9ST  
T 01769 580041 (daytime)  
E [chairman@holstsociety.org](mailto:chairman@holstsociety.org)



### Holst Society AGM concert

As usual, the Holst Society's AGM will take place at the Church of St Philip and St James in Leckhampton. This is scheduled next year on 11th March 2023. Following the AGM, there will be a concert at 4pm to be given by the Oriel Singers who are based in Cheltenham, under their conductor Ben Sawyer.

#### The programme will include:-

William Byrd – Laudibus in Sanctis

Ralph Vaughan Williams – Three

Elizabethan Folk songs

Charles Stanford – On Time, op.142

Imogen Holst – Hymne to Christ

Gustav Holst – Nunc Dimittis

Gustav Holst – Rig Veda 3rd group

Gustav Holst – Rig Veda 4th group

Gustav Holst – Ave Maria

Benjamin Britten – The Ballad of

Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard

Gustav Holst – 5 Part-Songs

Please note that this concert is open to the public.

Tickets can be obtained in advance by contacting the Holst Society  
– [chairman@holstsociety.org](mailto:chairman@holstsociety.org) or telephone 01769 580041