



perspectives

CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE

Cheltenham Arts Council: awards_funding_publicity_events listings

October 2023 – January 2024

*Cheltenham Orchestras • Local Choirs
Scottish Country Dance • The Holst Society
German Club • The Holst Victorian House*

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£25 for CAC members or £75 for non-members

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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:

Mid December deadline for Feb/May Issue

Mid April deadline for June/Sept Issue

Mid August deadline for Oct/Jan Issue

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COVER IMAGE BY JESSICA BLEASBY,
PLEIN AIR COMPETITION, PITTVILLE PARK,
WTSCOLLECTIVE.CO.UK

*Perspectives is produced three times a year.
The next issue will span February - May 2024.*

Submission (ads and events) must be with us by mid December for consideration for the next issue. Please email event details to perspectives.listings@gmail.com



PERSPECTIVES TEAM

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Dear Readers

Welcome to the Autumn issue of Perspectives and my thanks to all who have contributed this time. Is this really the end of Summer, I wonder? We certainly had a late blast of warmth, but that may be difficult to recall by the time this issue lands in your inbox!

By complete chance, since the flavour of each Perspectives depends entirely on the contributions you send in, this issue is predominantly concerned with music, which for many of our members could be considered the lifeblood of Cheltenham. So, it is particularly apt that we have a guest contribution from the Holst Society, with news of the coming celebrations of Holst 150 in 2024 and the Society's hopes for a bumper year for Holst. Appropriately we also have news from the Holst Victorian House about the acquisition of a fine period piano. A perfect excuse for a first visit to the house or to renew your acquaintance with one of Cheltenham's treasures.

Chris Cope mentions the Holst Society's hopes for performances of Holst's music at next year's BBC Prom and Cheltenham Silver Band's "Brass in the Park" brought a flavour of the Last Night of the Proms to Hatherley Park on a glorious day in April. Abby Brook has given us a wonderful taste of a great afternoon, during which the band members were glad to use equipment funded by grants from Cheltenham Arts Council.

Several other music societies have contributed to this issue, either in celebration of many years of music making, as with Cheltenham Choral Society or, in the case of Cheltenham

Symphony Orchestra, giving us a foretaste of what is to come in the 2023/24 season. The stars of tomorrow feature in the CSO's programme and in Andrew Auger's article about the lunchtime concerts at Pittville Pump Room, which begin again on 26th September, showcasing musicians from various Cheltenham schools and others. Further encouragement for young performers comes from Tapestry Choir, introducing themselves as new members of Cheltenham Arts Council and looking forward to joining with others in the musical life of the town. Writing about the activities of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Lesley Taylor promises a cheerful evening of Scottish music and dance for those for whom concert going is not enough!

Members of Cheltenham Poetry Society have generously offered us poems, some of which stem from their recent writing retreat at Dumbleton Hall. Richard Woolley writes enthusiastically about the German Club's programme for 2023/24 and David Elder brings us news of a Heritage Open Day event. Whether or not you caught the Parrot Productions plays, the story and images alone are entertaining!

I hope all of you find something of interest in this issue, and perhaps some of you may decide to write a piece for the next one, reflecting your own interests and activities this autumn.

Elise Forbes

PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk

CHELTENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY 1938 – 2023

EIGHTY FIVE YEARS OF SONG

Members of Cheltenham Choral Society (CCS) are celebrating our 85th Anniversary year in 2023. So far it has been a very successful year, but not without its challenges.

In May 2022 we were delighted to be invited to sing two choruses in the English Touring Opera's dramatic production of the opera *Giulio Cesare* in Italian at the Everyman Theatre. Sixteen of us, four in



GLoucester Cathedral, 4th June 2023

We started our celebrations with *The Messiah* on 1st April at All Saints, a new venue for us. This was the 71st time CCS had performed this work locally and it gave us the welcome chance to sing with an orchestra again. There was a rather unexpected and dramatic setback in that our Musical Director Alex Thacker suffered injuries in a road traffic accident on his way to Cheltenham on the morning of the concert and was unable to conduct us. We were extremely fortunate to secure the services of John Wright, MD of Charlton Kings Choral Society for both the rehearsal and the performance, and it was a wonderful concert.

each SATB part, were sitting amongst the audience in the Dress Circle and surprised those around us by suddenly standing up and singing, conducted by a cast member on the stage.

We performed a very enjoyable free lunchtime concert at Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 3rd June 2023. The performance included Vivaldi 'Gloria', and Sumsion 'They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships', all very ably conducted by our temporary MD Shaun Pirttijarvi, and featuring our own amazing accompanist Alison Howell on the organ, and soloists Cara Nichols and Bethany Evans.



L. BETHANY EVANS, R. CARA NICHOLS

With the change of circumstances, since Alex Thacker's new personal and professional commitments in Kent have made it difficult for him to continue, we are now in the process of recruiting a new Musical Director.

Much as we miss Alex, we look forward to starting to work alongside someone new. Watch this space for news of a new appointment in September/October 2023.

We will no longer be joining Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society in Cardiff for the proposed Vaughan Williams concert in October but will instead be singing at All Saints on Saturday on 11th November 2023 – Vivaldi Gloria (a different and lesser-known version), Fauré Requiem and Haydn Little Organ Mass, this time conducted by Carleton Etherington who has kindly been

taking our rehearsals since the beginning of June.

At the Remembrance Sunday service on the Prom the next morning (12th November) we will be joining the Cheltenham Silver Band in leading the hymn singing for the second year running.

This year's 'A Tapestry of Christmas Music' concert is going to be at Christ Church Cheltenham on Monday 18th December and will feature singers from The Beauregard Academy and St Mary's School, Prestbury as usual. Book early to avoid disappointment as tickets always go very fast for this concert.

It's been another very busy year for us, and we have much to look forward to in 2024. Our choir numbers are still increasing but we always have room for more! If you are interested in singing with us, please do get in touch and come along for a 'taster' session one Wednesday evening. We have a keen Publicity team, and it is worth checking our Facebook and Instagram accounts as well as our new website to see what we have been up to.

Nikki Stephens

www.cheltchoral.org

info@cheltchoral.org

Facebook: @cheltenhamcs

Instagram: @cheltenhamchoral

CHELTENHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PLAYING WITH THE STARS OF TOMORROW

After a successful 2022/23 concert season partnering with such internationally acclaimed soloists as Peter Donohoe and Emma Johnson, the Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra has a new focus for its upcoming season. The orchestra will be drawing on the wealth of homegrown talent right on its doorstep, working with three young soloists from Gloucestershire, and supported by a grant from Cheltenham Arts Council.



ADAM HERON

The Orchestra hopes to showcase the incredible musicians that our local area has produced and inspire budding artists in the audience. “We’re really looking forward to playing with some of the stars of tomorrow” says David Curtis, the conductor of Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra. “If young people are able to see musicians who attended the same school as them, or perhaps had the same instrumental teacher as they did, it makes this level of performance seem more attainable and the dream seem more achievable. It really can make all the difference.”

All three artists, Adam Heron, Rebecca McNaught and Darcy Beck, are previous winners of the prestigious Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year contest and have gone on to begin successful careers as professional musicians. The Orchestra itself is made up of amateur, student and professional musicians, who all have a huge passion for playing orchestral music and bringing it to audiences in and around Gloucestershire.

These wonderful young performers are featured in three of the six eclectic concerts in the 2023/24 season, which begins in October, with Adam Heron performing Schumann’s Piano Concerto in January 2024. Adam was a piano finalist in the BBC Young Musician competition in 2018 and has since gone on to perform all over the world. The Orchestra is delighted to welcome him back for this concert, which also includes Nielsen’s Helios Overture. .and Rachmaninov’s Symphony No. 1.

Booking for every concert in the new season is now open and tickets can be purchased easily online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheltenhamsymphonyorchestra, where you will also find details of the other concerts the Orchestra will be giving throughout 2023/24.



CHELTEMHAM
Symphony Orchestra

In May 2024 the Orchestra will be collaborating with cellist Rebecca McNaught in a programme to celebrate some of England's finest composers. The concert will include works by Cheltenham's own Gustav Holst and will feature the hugely popular Elgar Cello Concerto. With both of Rebecca's parents performing as members of the orchestra, this promises to be a real family affair!

The final concert of the season in July 2024 will be in support of Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG), with the spotlight on Darcy Beck performing Emmanuel Séjourné's Marimba concerto. This, set against the backdrop of the magnificent Pershore Abbey, and coupled with the famous Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 (the Organ Symphony), should be a spectacular evening of French music.

Katie Haslam



DARCY BECK



**REBECCA
MCNAUGHT**



CHELTENHAM SILVER BAND

A BLAST AT “BRASS IN HATHERLEY PARK”

On the afternoon of Saturday 24th April, we were thrilled to partner with the Friends of Hatherley Park to put on a free concert featuring a very wide variety of music in this beautiful venue.

The theme of the concert was “Last Night of the Proms”, and CSB had plenty of mini Union flags to give out, although some people had come prepared with red-white-and-blue, the event having been well-advertised.

Both groups had put in much preparation, and the audience of over 500 in the well-tended park showed by their enthusiasm, as well as their generous donations, just how much they enjoyed all of the following:

- Fantastic music
- Popular face-painting from Emily Rogers, with many children queuing patiently for this.
- Refreshments, including the Hatherley Park bakers’ delicious home-made cakes.
- “Have a go” at basic cornets, instruments – not the ice creams, during the interval and at percussion instruments from triangles to bongo drums.

We could not predict whether we’d be suffering a heatwave, torrential rain or enjoying conditions in-between these extremes, so we were very grateful for the grant from Cheltenham Arts Council that allowed us to hire a marquee, which provided welcome shade during a wonderfully hot, sunny afternoon. The music stands purchased with a previous grant from CAC were also invaluable during this concert, as indeed they had been in all our other performances.

Particularly vigorous flag-waving accompanied “Rule Britannia”, for which we were delighted to be joined by talented singer Adena Cahill, who also led the audience’s vocal efforts in Elgar’s stirring “Land of Hope & Glory” and in the “Fantasia on British Sea Songs”. The traditional brass band offerings included “633 Squadron”, the late Cornish composer Goff Richards’ “A Special Place” and “In Light Spirits”, a composition by the band’s own Musical Director, Adrian Jowett.

Less traditional brass band pieces, however, were very well-received, including the “Disney Fantasy” and “Swingtime Religion”, which drew many very young audience members very close to the marquee where they performed impromptu dances. “Blaydon Races” featured the smooth tones of Rob Folland on euphonium, and the rhythmic playing and clapping in “The Wellerman” certainly encouraged foot tapping and singing around the park.

The most unusual piece was surely “Helter Skelter” which featured the incredible virtuosity of Henry Pawley on xylophone and drew fascinated children even closer!

We were glad of the opportunity to introduce ourselves to such a varied audience, some of whom may not have heard a live brass band before. One result has been new enquiries from children and parents keen to start learning to play a brass instrument, or indeed resuming to play, by coming along to either our Learner or Training Bands. Some of the donations we received this afternoon will go towards the purchase of new instruments, which will be available for learners to borrow.

Abby Brook



CLASSICAL CONCERTS IN CHELTENHAM

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL'S VIEW

It will not have come as too much of a surprise that the Town Hall subscription concert series for 2023-2024 is not on offer. Audiences since Covid, and in particular for the 2022-2023 series have been poor. This has not been because of the quality of the concerts on offer. As a subscriber to the concert series for several years, I can vouch that the concerts offered by visiting orchestras were of an exceptionally high standard. I have heard comments attributing the lack of support to difficulties with publicity and with buying tickets. Many of these difficulties have now been resolved.

Publicity via What's On is up and running. You can register on the Trust's website to join their email list and receive What's On and all other information online. The Trust did publish about 1000 copies of What's On which they are distributing via their cafes near the Town Hall and the Pump Rooms. Do go and pick one up if they are still available. Tickets are now available online via www.cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk - access the relevant event and follow the instructions. There is also a telephone number to ring - 01242 528764.

For a town such as Cheltenham, the lack of orchestral concerts in a wonderful space such as our Town Hall is most disappointing. It is up to us as citizens to persuade the Cheltenham Trust that these concerts must be re-instated. Our first opportunity will be a concert by the Concerto Budapest orchestra on September 15th. It is hoped that with more publicity from interested parties, including CAC, that the audience for this concert will vastly outnumber those from last year.

Even if there are no more professional orchestral concerts in the Town Hall on the schedule, there are chamber concerts in the Pittville Pump Rooms. These must also be supported if we are to stand any chance of encouraging full orchestras back to Cheltenham. A few of the delights on offer in the Pump Rooms are shown on the listings pages. Go to the website for the Cheltenham Trust for more details and to book your tickets. It is up to us as classical music fans to show the Trust that Cheltenham is a vibrant place and that citizens will come and support concerts provided that they know they are happening and that they can purchase tickets easily.

INTRODUCTION TO TAPESTRY CHAMBER CHOIR

NEW MUSICAL MEMBERS OF CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

Members of Tapestry Chamber Choir are delighted to join the Cheltenham Arts Council and look forward to working with other groups on cultural events in our hometown.

Tapestry was founded in March 2019 by Musical Director Sandra Burne, with a philosophy of taking music seriously, without taking ourselves too seriously. It quickly grew in its first year until Covid-19 brought activities to a screeching halt. As many choirs did, we pivoted to Zoom rehearsals and remote recordings to keep us occupied - each project gaining in complexity, both musically and in the accompanying videos, thanks to the collaboration between Sandra as Musical Director and Mark Harmer, our Audio/Visual wizard. These videos can be seen on our website at tapestrychamberchoir.co.uk

Once Covid restrictions were lifted, the choir was inspired by meeting together again and has grown to about 25 members with a varied repertoire of both sacred and secular music. We sing at a variety of events such as concerts, weddings, funerals, fundraising events, and parties. We also travel to provide a Sung Evensong in village churches where there is no choir - getting a very positive response from the congregations and allowing us to sing in a variety of beautiful old churches.

Our first foreign tour was to The Hague in April this year. We performed two concerts; the first was in the main auditorium of the European Patent Office, and the second was a joint-concert with a Dutch choir, The New Choral Singers, in the Elandstraatkerk, a very large Roman Catholic church. We were privileged to be able to sing a newly



composed piece by Cheltenham based composer, and Tapestry bass, Rob Grady - a setting of part of Psalm 65 called "You Care for the Land". We are looking forward to hosting The New Choral Singers when they visit Gloucestershire in 2024 (watch out for details!). We hope 2024 will also see Tapestry embark on their second foreign tour - this time to the Rheinland.

We are passionate about encouraging young people to develop their singing skills and to that end we are offering two Choral Scholarships worth £100 per term to singers aged between 16-25 in the Academic Year 2023/2024. More details are in our advert in this magazine - please mention this to any young singers that you know!

Simon Burne

DOUBLE BILL IN CELEBRATION OF CHELTENHAM'S HISTORY

PARROT PRODUCTIONS' THEATRICAL TREAT

On 16th September this year, Cheltenham's Heritage Open Days events will see a double bill of live play performances taking place at Cheltenham Spa Bowling Club. The two short plays, 'The King's Message' by David Elder and 'A Rose by Any Other Name' by Lou Beckett provide a welcome return to live performances by the Parrot Productions group since the interruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

'The King's Message' takes place against the backdrop of King George III's visit to Cheltenham in 1788 when Colonel Stephen Digby, the Queen's Vice-Chamberlain, and Fanny Burney, diarist and Keeper of the Queen's Robes, are having an affair. However, it is a humbler character, Hannah Forty, a pumper at the spa, who becomes centre stage when she is summoned to the Royal Court to answer questions about why she received a personal letter from the king and what it contains.

Without giving too much away, the main plot of the play then centres around the attempts made by Colonel Stephen Digby, played by Edward Derbyshire, and Fanny Burney, played by Cathie Rolinson, to discover the letter's contents, and why Hannah Forty, played by Marianne Gaston, is so unwilling to divulge this. Inspired by and partly adapted from real events, the play reaches a surprising and amusing climax.

In 'A Rose by Any Other Name', a literary journalist, Frances, is prodded by her friend Skylar, to investigate who wrote the Shakespeare plays. Like most good English literature graduates, Frances believes Shakespeare wrote the plays attributed to him. Her boyfriend, David, a Shakespeare scholar, adamantly believes the Bard



wrote the plays. As Frances and Skylar dig into the evidence they find some odd discrepancies in the historical story, and there the trouble begins.

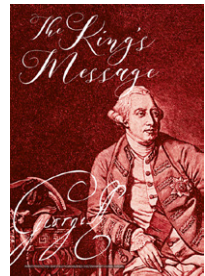
The play relies on evidence from a number of reliable sources, including the New Oxford Shakespeare: Modern Critical Edition. Taya Peacey and Nicola Rainford respectively play Frances, the young literary detective and her friend Skylar. Rob Keeves plays David, a Shakespeare scholar, and John Bassett plays a Shakespeare professor who sets out to debunk the competing theories.

Parrot Productions is most grateful to several local organisations for providing support. They include funding from Cheltenham Arts Council, venue hire from Cheltenham Spa Bowling Club and graphic design by Art Works. (artworks-design.co.uk)

David Elder



CATHIE ROLINSON AS FANNY BURNEY



A CREATIVE WRITING EXPERIENCE AT IDYLIC DUMBLETON HALL

POEMS FROM CHELTENHAM POETRY SOCIETY

Sixteen poets attended Cheltenham Poetry Society's 9th Annual Awayday writing retreat in May 2023, at the idyllic location of Dumbleton Hall on the Gloucestershire/Worcestershire border. Guest leaders this year were Patricia and Michael Henry, founder members of Cherington Poets, published by Flarestack and Enitharmon respectively. Writing workshops on the themes of morning and night-time – the *Aubade* and the *Nocturne* – inspired a wealth of first drafts from the poets attending.

Aubade

David Ashbee

The morning tasted different.
 Light was silver on the hill.
 A gauze of mist obscured the view.
 Was I still asleep
 or more awake than ever
 when I saw The Queen of Hearts stride by
 with all her retinue?

Some of the following poems originated at the CPS Awayday writing retreat in May 2023. Others are earlier poems, included here since they have similar themes or are pertinent to the season.

Sunrise over the Grand Canyon

Sheila Spence

After the alarm rips us from sleep
 we scurry under a lightening sky.
 Wind knives through layers of fleece,
 darkness lingers in gorges and hollows.

One cliff glimmers as if in response
 to the opening notes of a prelude,
 night, diffused in silver and turquoise
 withdraws before fiery rose.

We quieten, breath held, as the glow in
 the east
 intensifies, warms, a crescendo of light.
 Tips and edges ignite, shadows drain
 down the slopes,
 and day unveils pinnacles, columns and
 plateaus.

The Grand Canyon's dawn is a blink in
 its life,
 and we are as tiny as ants on a ledge,
 clicking our cameras, chattering and
 posing –
 but just now, for a moment, we stand
 bathed in light.

Entre Chien et Loup

Sharon Larkin

Between thunderstorms,
dog and wolf are facing up
on separate shores.

In its dim mirror,
the lake attempts to make sense
of shapes in the gloom.

Mountains frown, glower
as torrents clatter and dash
their way to the sea.

The house sweats and stews,
throbbing like a red hotel
in the dripping green.

We must chance a snarl
if we are to break the spell
of this plastic trance.

First published in *Dualities*,
Hedgehog Poetry Press, 2020

Cold Front

Michael Newman

Ink-black,
The clouds mass
In the east.
There is a short interval,
A gloom to reset afternoon.
Then the first spots
Poke eye-holes in the dust.

Drenched and cleansed,
The patio swills, spills over
With burst-bank potential.

Water-laden,
The sky sags across the Vale.
World's End beckons,
Somewhere to the west
Of Bredon.

Travelling with Bellini

Roger Turner

They sweep towards me
in a primeval, seemingly eternal shoal,
fish with luminous eyes in the emerald
darkness.

My eyes dazzle,
creased and watery, as I trail
the shadowy, red-tailed creatures steady
ahead of me.

The disembodied voices
of two hapless lovers float along with me,
the soaring cries of La Sonnambula keep
me awake.

Addio! Addio!

Relentless in pursuit, another horde
behind me
bears down on helpless and complicit me.

No common purpose unites
this neon murmuration in mutual-
mindedness,
only the roaring in unison of randomly
mingled individuals.

The stream-way narrows
and we fish must stutter and squeeze
between
the stumps of dumpy orange stalagmites.
The lovers

fall silent and at last
I reach the ominous slipway, the more
solitary
darkness, the lonelier lanes that lead
beyond Exit 13.

First published in the anthology
Inspired by Music, 2021

I
Robin Gilbert

I am not I.

There is the one
whom others see, that I pretend
to be, lest their disappointment
should become my own. There is the one
whose virtues my midnight musings
subconsciously usurp, to whom
a penitent world belatedly
pays honour. There is the one
a soulless state encapsulates
in barren facts that tell
no truths. Between them all
the true I rises like summer heat
invisible and barely there.



JANET JAMES

SPRING GALLERY -
PAINT AND CLAY
CAMILLA WARD & JANET JAMES
18TH - 24TH OCTOBER 2023

LISTINGS: EVENTS DIRECTORY OCTOBER 2023 JANUARY 2024

VISUAL ARTS

Holst Victorian House: Making, Marking, Mending, until Sat 3 Feb, 10am-4pm, discover the fascinating needlework produced by young women from the Cheltenham Female Orphanage Asylum in the first ever exhibition about this significant institution. See holstvictorianhouse.org.uk/events/exhibition-making-mending-marking/

AT THE GARDENS GALLERY, MONTPELLIER GARDENS:

Core Hours 10am-5pm

Literature Festival Exhibition,

Fri 6 - Sun 15 Oct

Nick Sargeant,

Wed 25 - Tue 31 Oct

Judit Torok,

Wed 1 - Tue 7 Nov



JANE SASANOW,
CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS

Jaceline Harrison,
Wed 8 - Tue 14 Nov

Alison Woodhead,
Wed 15 - Tue 21 Nov

Nine Artists Collective,
Wed 22 - Tue 28 Nov

Jan Petrie: Landscapes of the Memory, Wed 29 Nov - Tue 5 Dec, art inspired by nature and landscape, mainly in oils, sometimes with copper, gold or silver leaf

Robbie Chapman,
Wed 6 - Tue 12 Dec

Soon Pitkanen,
Wed 13 - Wed 20 Dec

Bob Gower,
Fri 19 - Sun 21 Jan

Jonathan Oakes,
Wed 31 Jan - Tue 6 Feb

MUSIC

Charlton Kings Choral Society Rehearsals,

Wednesdays, 7.30pm, St Philip and St James, Leckhampton, further info: cksonline.org.uk.

Cheltenham Choral Society Rehearsals,

Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, welcoming new members, see cheltchoral.org for details

Cleeve Harmony A Cappella Chorus Rehearsals,

Wednesdays, 7.30-10pm, Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, new members welcome! See cleeve-harmony.org.uk or enquiries to md@cleeve-harmony.org.uk



LISA LAVERY, CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS

Events for October 2023 – January 2024



ISABEL DE CORDOVA,
CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS

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. See musicavera.org

Charlton Kings Choral

Society Workshop, Sat 7 Oct, 10am-4pm, St Peter's Church, Leckhampton, led by the international tenor, James Gilchrist, further info: ckconline.org.uk.

Cheltenham Music Society:

Leonoro Quartet, Tue 17 Oct, 7.30pm, £26/£21/U-26 £5, Pittville Pump Room, Schubert: String Quartet in G minor D173, Janáček: String Quartet No.1: The Kreutzer Sonata, Beethoven: String Quartet in F major Op 59 No.1: Razumovsky. See cheltmusicsoc.co.uk, booking cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk



CAMILLA WARD
SPRING GALLERY - PAINT AND CLAY
CAMILLA WARD & JANET JAMES, 18TH - 24TH OCTOBER 2023

Cleeve Chorale Come and Sing: Fauré's Requiem

Sat 21 Oct, 10.30am-3.30pm, performance 2.45pm, £5, on TryBooking, St Michael & All Angels, Bishop's Cleeve, music supplied, bring your own lunch. Details at cleevechorale.co.uk. Free entry for audience members

Cheltenham Music Society: Michael Gurevich (violin), Ashok Gupta (piano)

Wed 8 Nov, 7.30pm, £26/£21/U-26 £5, Pittville Pump Room, Dvořák: Violin Sonata in F major Op 57, Pauline Viardot: Six morceaux, Clara Schumann: Three Romances for violin and piano Op 22, Brahms: Violin Sonata No.1 in G major

Op 78. See cheltmusicsoc.co.uk, booking cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk

Cheltenham Choral Society 85th Anniversary Concert

Sat 11 Nov, 7pm, All Saints, Haydn: Little Organ Mass, Fauré: Requiem, Vivaldi: Gloria RV 588 (the 'other' one!), see cheltchoral.org

Cheltenham Bach Choir

Sat 11 Nov, 7.30pm, Cirencester Parish Church, Pēteris Vasks: Missa, Ralph Vaughan Williams: Five Mystical Songs, Gabriel Fauré: Requiem, with the Regency Sinfonia, see cheltbachchoir.com

Events for October 2023 – January 2024

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra: Reflections on war and conflict, Sun 12 Nov, 3pm, £16, students £8, U-18 free, Pittville Pump Room, Holst: Somerset Rhapsody, Farrar: Heroic Elegy, Sutton: Suite from War Horse - Music from the original Play, Prokofiev: Symphony No.5. Box office 01242 528764, cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk or in person at Leisure at Cheltenham

Cleeve Harmony: Love to Sing four-week course, Wed 15, 22, 29 Nov and Wed 6 Dec, 8-9pm, only £10 for all four sessions, Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, learn more about technique, plus singing in four-part harmony in a women's

choir, lts@cleeve-harmony.org.uk

Musica Vera: Luigi Cherubini's Requiem, Sat 18 Nov, St Mary's Prestbury, advance tickets will be available in due course on www.3choirs.org, by telephone 01452 768928 or on the door, further info: musicavera.org

Charlton Kings Choral Society Concert, Sat 25 Nov, St Philip and St James, Leckhampton, J.S. Bach: Christmas Oratorio, see ckcsonline.org.uk

Cheltenham Music Society: Jeneba Kanneh-Mason (piano), Wed 6 Dec, 7.30pm, £26/£21/U-26 £5, Pittville Pump Room, Shostakovich: Prelude



JONATHAN OAKES HALF-MOON DISTANT TOWN, WWW.ART40KA.COM

and Fugue in D major Op 87 No.5, William Grant Still: Three Visions, Prokofiev: Sonata No.7, Beethoven: Piano Sonata No.7 in D major Op 10 No.3, Debussy: Estampes. See cheltnmusicoc.co.uk, booking cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk

Cleeve Chorale Christmas Celebration, Sat 9 Dec, St Michael & All Angels, Bishop's Cleeve, for details, see cleevechorale.co.uk

Handel: Messiah, Fri 15 Dec, 7.30pm, £35/£45/£65/U-25 £10, Parabola Arts Centre, Wild Arts presents the iconic oratorio, directed by Orlando Jopling, performed on period instruments, wildarts.org.uk

Cheltenham Bach Choir: Joyful Sounds of Christmas, Sat 16 Dec, Town Hall, with Blackweir Brass and Claire Alsop (organ), for details, see cheltnbachchoir.com



JAYNIE TRICKER – ON THE DAY, PLEIN AIR COMPETITION, MONTPELLIER GARDENS WTSCollective.co.uk

Cheltenham Choral Society: A Tapestry of Christmas Music, Mon 18 Dec, 7pm, the choir are joined by the Beaugard Academy and the choir of St Mary's CoE Primary Prestbury, see cheltchoral.org for details

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, Sat 13 Jan, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, music by Rameau, Berlioz, Debussy and Haydn

Cheltenham Music Society: Belcea Quartet, Thu 25 Jan, 7.30pm, £26/£21/U-26 £5, Pittville Pump Room, Beethoven: String Quartet in C minor Op 18 No.4, Bartók: String Quartet No.1 Op 7 Sz 40, Beethoven: String Quartet in E flat major Op 127. See cheltmusicsoc.co.uk, booking cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra: Celebrating the music of women composers, Sun 28 Jan, 3pm, £16, students £8, U-18 free, Pittville Pump Room, Judith Bailey: A Period of Summer, Florence Price: Mississippi River, Amy Beach: A Gaelic Symphony. Box office 01242 528764, cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk or in person at Leisure at Cheltenham

STAGE & DANCE

Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society: Little Women, Fri 13 – Sat 21 Oct, 7.30pm, + 2pm Sat matinees, £20, Cheltenham Playhouse, an energetic and heart-warming take on Louisa May Alcott's much loved story, see cheltplayhouse.org.uk

Cotswold Savoyards: Into the Woods, Tue 14 – Sat 18 Nov, 7.30pm + 2pm Sat matinee, £20, Cheltenham Playhouse, Sondheim and James Lapine's musical follows the topsyturvy journeys of familiar fairytale figures who seek to fulfil their deepest wishes, see cheltplayhouse.org.uk

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Prestbury Local History Society: Anglo-Saxon Gloucestershire: Life & Landscape, Mon 25 Sep, 7.30pm, Prestbury W.I. Hall, with Dr Simon Draper, see prestburyhistory.com

Cercle Français: Vizille – un château et une révolution, Mon 2 Oct, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, Zoom talk in the hall, given by Thierry Viennois, see cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 3 Oct, 10.30am, St Luke's Hall, Making a Living on the River Severn, with Dr Simon Draper

Cheltenham German Club: Deutsch-russische Beziehungen: Von der Kooperation zur Katastrophe, Fri 6 Oct, 7 for 7.30pm, guests £5, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, with Professor Helmut Hubel, in German, see

cheltgesell.uk

The Arts Society Cheltenham: Gone in a Flash? A History of Firework Display from the Renaissance to the Age of Electricity, Tue 10 Oct, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £3.50, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Timothy Wilcox. See theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org

Cercle Français: Les Comédiens du cinéma français, Mon 16 Oct, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, with Annie Kean, see cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Cheltenham Local History Society, Wed 18 Oct, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, Faith in Stone: Gloucestershire's Historic Churches, with Dr Timothy Brain

Prestbury Local History Society: Tolls and Turnpikes, Mon 23 Oct, 7.30pm, Prestbury W.I. Hall, with Nicholas Herbert, see prestburyhistory.com

Cercle Français: Les Gaulois, Mon 6 Nov, 7.30pm, Zoom to members at home, with Fabienne Manèle, see cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Gloucestershire Gardens & Landscape Trust, Mon 13 Nov, 7.15pm, members £5, visitors £10, St Luke's Hall, come and hear our new Patron, Lucy Abel Smith, introduce herself by talking about her life and fascinating career to date

The Arts Society Cheltenham: The Art of State Ceremonial Music, Tue 14 Nov, 7.15pm, members free,

visitors £8, students £3.50, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Graham Jones. See theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org

Cheltenham Local History Society, Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, General Sir Charles Harington and the Chanak Incident: 100 years on, with Philip St Lawrence

Cheltenham German Club: Das Oldenburger Globe: Zwischen Ablenkung und Unterhaltung für britische Soldaten, Fri 17 Nov, 7 for 7.30pm, guests £5, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, Dr John Goodyear, in German, see cheltgesell.uk

Cercle Français: Edgar Degas, Mon 20 Nov, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, with Catherine Greensmith, see cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

The Arts Society Cheltenham Special Interest Day: Art Deco: Inspiration and Intrigue, Thu 23 Nov, 10am, The Bowling Club, Suffolk Square, exploring the art, design and textiles of this fascinating period, with Pamela Campbell-Johnson. See theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org

Prestbury Local History Society: The Cotswold Way: 100 miles of history, Mon 27 Nov, 7.30pm, Prestbury W.I. Hall, with Dr Steven Blake, see prestburyhistory.com

Cercle Français: Soirée film, Mon 4 Dec, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, see



HELEN NORMAN
CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS

cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Cheltenham Local History Society, Tue 5 Dec, 10.30am, St Luke's Hall, "Am I not a man and a brother?" – Cheltenham and the slave trade, with Neela Mann

Cheltenham German Club Weihnachtsfeier, Fri 8 Dec, 7pm, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, see cheltgesell.uk

Gloucestershire Gardens & Landscape Trust, Mon 11 Dec, 7.15pm, members £5, visitors £10, St Luke's Hall, speaker tcb, gglt.org

The Arts Society Cheltenham: A Tudor Christmas, Tue 12 Dec, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £3.50, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Siobhan Clarke. See theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org

The Arts Society Cheltenham: Insiders/ Outsiders: refugees from Nazi Germany and their contribution to British visual culture, Tue 9 Jan, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £3.50, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Monica Bohm-Duchen. See theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org

Cheltenham Local History Society, Wed 17 Jan, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, Victorian and Edwardian Buildings of Birmingham and the West Midlands, including some Cheltenham Buildings, with Tim Bridges

Cheltenham German Club: Rudi Dutschke: ein behinderter Revolutionär im britischen Exil, Fri 19 Jan, 7 for 7.30pm, guests £5, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, with Frau Dr Katharina Karcher, in German, see cheltgesell.uk

CHELTENHAM GERMAN CLUB'S YEAR AHEAD

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR SPRACHE UND KULTUR

The German Club's monthly programme of events extends annually from August to the following May. Most meetings feature a talk given by a guest speaker specialising in a subject of great interest. This is usually related to the cultural life or history of one of Europe's German speaking countries, or perhaps a look at the pleasures of visiting one of these countries.

We usually start in August with our annual walk and tea together. This year it centred on the battlefield of Tewkesbury. September's meeting is devoted to our AGM, followed by a German-related quiz to enliven the formalities.

On 6th October this year, Professor Helmut Hubel, former Chair of the Department of Foreign Affairs at the University of Jena, will speak on German-Russian relations - From Co-operation to Catastrophe.

The next talk, on 17th November, will be given by Dr John Goodyear of the University of Birmingham about a particularly interesting German cinema - the Oldenburger Globe. Oldenburg is a city of some 170,000 people lying to the west of Bremen in North Germany. During its period of responsibility in the area after 1945, the British army built a cinema there. The building had a glamorous hall with 400 seats, a 100 square meter stage and an orchestra pit! Dr Goodyear will speak of the building's story and its conservation.

The Christmas party follows on 8th December. It is usually great fun and accompanied by some highly polished in-house entertainment!

Rudi Dutschke (1940 - 1979) was a German sociologist and political activist who, until severely injured by an assassin in 1968, was a charismatic leading figure within the Socialist Students Union in West Germany and in that country's broader "extra-parliamentary opposition".

Frau Dr Katharina Karcher also of the University of Birmingham will give a talk about his life and activities on 19th January 2024.

We are still fascinated by stories of life in the former German Democratic Republic. Another Professor from Birmingham, Prof. Sara Jones will talk to us on 16th February 2024 about the relationship that existed between women writers in the GDR and the Stasi.

Exiled literature from yesterday and today will be the fascinating topic of a talk to be given on 22nd March 2024 by Dr Steffan Davies of Bristol University

Bristol University also provides our speaker on 19th April 2024 when Dr Nicholas Martin will address the subject of certain gaps which exist in the way in which Germany looks back on the First World War.

To finish off the year, on 17th May 2024, architect Michael Kozdon will discuss the Tugendhat Villa in Brno, designed by the architect Mies van der Rohe, known as the architect of 'less is more'. This house is regarded as an outstanding example of the international style in the modern movement in architecture as it developed in Europe in the 1920s.

Full membership of Cheltenham German Club gives access to our events and is

open to all. Guests are also most welcome, although we do ask a fee of £5 per event.

'Pub chats' for keen German speakers are held regularly in certain pubs in the town centre.

Richard Woolley

To keep abreast of what is going on at the German Club do visit our website
<https://www.cheltgesell.uk>



JANE SASANOW
CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS

TIMELY NEWS FROM THE HOLST SOCIETY

HOPING FOR A 'BUMPER YEAR' 2024 FOR HOLST 150!

Just returned from the Three Choirs Festival at Gloucester! This year we had three works by Holst, namely the Short Festival Te Deum (1919), the Lyric Movement – a mini-violino concerto dating from 1933 towards the end of Holst's life, and the Ode to Death (unfortunate title for programming) also dating from 1919.

The performance of the Festival Te Deum was in the relatively new arrangement for organ by Iain Farrington of the original work for chorus and orchestra.

The Ode to Death was given in its original arrangement for chorus and orchestra. Iain has also arranged the work for chorus and organ.

The Ode (which lasts just 12 minutes) is one of Holst's most sublime works. It was dedicated to all his former students and fellow musicians who were killed in World War I. It is very much a work composed 'for those who fell'.

The Holst Society is very keen for the Ode to Death to become as well-known as, for example, the St Paul's Suite. But, with its title, this is likely to be a difficult challenge.

It has, however, occurred to us that the Ode would be an ideal choice of anthem for Remembrance Sunday. At 12 minutes, it is not too lengthy, and there is now an arrangement for choir and organ available. Nevertheless, it is a difficult work for the performers, which is perhaps why performances should be tackled only by cathedral choirs and large parish churches with excellent singers.

We will be putting the suggestion to directors of music at cathedrals

and churches in early September. So, do look out for the Ode to Death on Remembrance Sunday. Incidentally, both arrangements have been recorded.

Next year is Holst 150. Many choirs and orchestras have already made plans to include Holst's music in next year's programme. The Three Choirs Festival will take place in Worcester, where there will be performances of Holst's Hymn of Jesus (1917) and the recent arrangement of The Cloud Messenger (1909/10) for reduced orchestra and chorus. Hopefully, there will be other works too.

I had a useful meeting in March with David Pickard, the director of music at the BBC Proms. He seemed very enthusiastic to be celebrating Holst at next year's Proms. In recent years, the only work by Holst at the Proms has been The Planets, cementing the Society's fear that before too long, Holst will be regarded, like Paul Dukas (The Sorcerer's Apprentice), as a one-work composer.

Last year, the BBC Proms celebrated RVW 150 with ten works by Vaughan Williams, Britain's leading composer. This year (Rachmaninov 150) will see 12 works composed by the great Russian.

So, we live in hope that 2024 will be a bumper year for Holst, both in the Royal Albert Hall and throughout the year.

Chris Cope
Chairman of the Management
Committee
The Holst Society

MORE EXCITING NEWS FROM THE HOLST VICTORIAN HOUSE

A BEAUTIFUL 1870S PIANO FOR THE DRAWING ROOM

The re-imagining of the drawing room at the HVH has already attracted many favourable comments, and now the authenticity of its 1870s makeover has been enhanced by the acquisition of a beautiful upright piano from that period. Gary Branch, an expert on early keyboard instruments who has played recitals on Holst's piano, sourced the instrument for us and this was an opportunity too good to miss. It was made by Avill and Smart, who built pianos in London from around 1865. It is a fine example of its era, with beautiful, polished casework, tracery on the front and, yes, the essential pair of candlesticks! We were keen that it should also be playable, and so funds were found to have it restored by the suppliers, Coach House Pianos in Swansea.

Three technicians worked on cleaning the instrument inside and out, and careful adjustment of the hammers and strings. The restoration revealed some fine workmanship and a piano in remarkably good condition for its age. Although this is a delicate instrument, with a wooden (rather than iron) frame, and is tuned to a slightly lower pitch than is used nowadays, with careful planning there is much music that can be performed on it. It had its first public playing on July 7th, when Gary entertained visitors at the reopening event with music by Holst and Mendelssohn. Coming from a bygone



era when upright pianos were made in great profusion to satisfy the needs of Victorian society, where they became symbols of class and status, particularly attracting young women to learn to play, 150 years later we can still enjoy this perfect example of a period instrument, both aesthetically and musically.

As an independent museum we receive no public funding apart from a small grant from Cheltenham Borough Council and we have only two paid staff – a part-time Curator and an Operations Manager – so we rely on volunteers to keep our doors open and to provide the warm welcome which is so highly valued by our visitors. If you are interested in joining our friendly team, please email or 'phone and we can talk about what's involved over a cup of coffee.

Steve Kleary

www.holstvictorianhouse.org.uk 4 Clarence Road, Pittville, Cheltenham, GL52 2AY

Email: enquiries@holstvictorianhouse.org.uk Telephone: 01242 524846

Charity number 1078599

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING IN CHELTENHAM AND BEYOND

ALL THE FUN OF THE DANCE!

Picture this...

A cold and dark January evening, inside Cheltenham Town Hall the chandeliers are ablaze and there is a buzz of excitement as 100 dancers take to the floor, men in kilts, women in evening dress.

The band is poised. They play a chord, and... so begins the first dance of the evening! What follows is four hours of absolute joy as we reel and turn, skip, twirl and set, all to the sound of the most wonderful, lively Scottish tunes.

Our Ball is the calendar highlight of the Cheltenham branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS). We meet every week for classes to try to improve our dancing technique but also to enjoy an evening of dancing together. We also hold informal dances throughout the year. There are many other clubs in the country who do the same and we all welcome each other to our events so there is always a dance to go to at the weekend! In addition, some clubs organise weekends away and Scottish Country Dance holidays.

Scottish Country dancing has its origins in the 18th century, drawing on the traditions of English and French dance, but it is constantly evolving, and new dances are being devised every year - there are thousands of dances in the repertoire. In 1923, the Scottish Country Dance Society was formed by Miss Jean Milligan and Mrs. Ysobel Stewart, aiming to standardise



and preserve dances as well as to establish formal teacher training.

In 1947, our late Queen Elizabeth II became patron of the Society, which then became the Royal SCDS, and remained as our patron until her death last year. There is much anecdotal evidence of the Queen's love of Scottish Country Dance.

2023 saw several celebrations marking the centenary of the Society. One hundred years on, the aim of the society is to continue to promote and develop Scottish Country Dance and music. Every year the RSCDS runs a Summer School in St Andrews that attracts people from all over the world - there are clubs in over 50 countries, including all the continents except Antarctica! This adds another dimension to our dancing - international friendships.

Scottish Country Dance is first and foremost a sociable activity, but it is also recognized as being good for our health, as well as being enormous fun! **Lesley Taylor**

If you would like to try it for yourself, please find details on our website
<https://rscdscheltenham.org/>.

Classes resume on 11th September 7.30pm, at St Luke's Church Hall,
 Cheltenham, GL53 7HP You will leave with a smile on your face!

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS TO SHINE

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS AT PITTVILLE PUMP ROOM

In 2017, Ian James was seeking to host concerts by young musicians in his glorious Chapel Arts venue.

Following a career in teaching, during which I had the privilege of making music with young people and communities, Ian asked if I would like initially to arrange Friday Lunchtime Concerts, a scheme which was later extended to include some Friday evening and weekend concerts. I began by inviting schools from all over Gloucestershire to be part of the concert programme and there was a significant response. Since these concerts first started the following schools have participated: Balcarras, Bournside, Cheltenham College, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Dean Close Senior and Junior Schools, Denmark Road School, Pate's Grammar School, Rendcomb School, St. Edward's School, Sir Thomas Rich's School and The King's School, Gloucester. I was also able to contact many young musicians eager to perform in public as they were starting out on their musical careers. Over 5 years, Ian James hosted over 100 Young Musician Concerts.

In addition to these concerts, and with great help from Sallie Taylor, Ian James

arranged art exhibitions, lectures, workshops, concerts and many other events. Very sadly, in the summer of 2022, Ian felt unable to continue running Chapel Arts, and the property has now been sold. Cheltenham is so indebted to Ian's wonderful support of the Arts in the town.

Consequently, I tried to find an alternative venue to allow me to continue arranging these Young Musician Concerts. I am delighted to report that The Cheltenham Trust has given permission for Pittville Pump Room to be used for a series of concerts, which now take place on a Tuesday lunchtime from 1.00pm. Admission is free, no tickets are required, and it is pleasing to report that audience numbers have invariably been over 100 with retiring collections just about covering the charge levied by The Trust. I would like to acknowledge here the initial help of some funding from The Trafford Trust last autumn.

These Young Musician Concerts continue from the end of September until the end of November. Please also see the link and details below.

Andrew Auster

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kVUvD5VAAaCfdvXdLhgCLFQ2EH97yKjwK9L7bwygpk0/edit>

Tuesday 26th September

Yan Xing {violin} from Malaysia, and
Winnie Chan {piano} from Hong Kong.

Tuesday 3rd October

Dalia Obretin (flute) from Romania, and Winnie Chan (piano)

Tuesday 10th October

Bournside School

Tuesday 7th November

Balcarras School

Tuesday 14th November

Pate's Grammar School

Tuesday 21st November

Stephen Selby (piano)

Tuesday 28th November

Cheltenham College

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Tapestry Chamber Choir

A Cotswold based choir rehearsing in Ashchurch near Tewkesbury

Choral scholarships (£100 per term - academic year September 2023 to July 2024) will be awarded to two singers (aged 16-25) who are able to read music, can commit to weekly term time rehearsals and regular concerts, and pass a simple (non-scary!) audition.

For more information, contact Sandra Burne
info@tapestrychamberchoir.co.uk



EPOD - STREET ARTIST
CHELTENHAM PAINT FESTIVAL 2023

*Sprechen Sie
gern Deutsch?*



**Dann tauchen Sie ein in die
deutsche Sprache und Kultur!**

**Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprache und Kultur
Cheltenham
heißt Sie willkommen**

***The German Club invites you to our monthly talks
on a wide variety of topics in the fields of literature,
history, politics, geography, art and music***

We meet once a month at The New Club, 2 Montpellier Parade in Cheltenham, for a social drink at 7pm and the talk begins at 7.30pm. Our members are happy to speak German - some are still learning and others are fluent.

Most of our talks are in German. Our speakers come from universities and other organisations.

You will experience a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Alongside our monthly meetings we run an informal Konversationsabend regularly at a venue in the town.



Wir würden uns freuen, Sie bei uns begrüßen zu dürfen!

For further details please see our website:
www.cheltgesell.uk

Email: **club@cheltgesell.uk**

Das ist unser Maskottchen Otto

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