

# *perspectives*

CHELTENHAMARTSCULTURE

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

*February – May 2024*

*Cheltenham Choral Society • Cantores Concert  
Napa • Cheltenham Local History Society  
Glos Writers' Network • TASC*

*Carole Benz*

# Advertising Charges

## HALF PAGE ADVERT

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

## FULL PAGE ADVERT

£50 for CAC members or £150 for non-members

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:

Mid December deadline for Feb/May Issue

Mid April deadline for June/Sept Issue

Mid August deadline for Oct/Jan Issue

## CONTENTS

CANTORES CHAMBER CHOIR	2
CHELTENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY	3-4
HOLST VICTORIAN HOUSE / HOLST150	5-7
CHELTENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY	8-9
GLOUCESTERSHIRE WRITERS' NETWORK	10-11
EVENTS LISTINGS	12-18
NETHRA ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS	19-21
TAPESTRY CHAMBER CHOIR	22
THE ARTS SOCIETY CHELTENHAM	23

COVER IMAGE BY CAROLE BURY  
GENTLE WARMTH, PAPER AND HAND EMBROIDERY  
[WWW.CAROLEBURY.COM](http://WWW.CAROLEBURY.COM)

*Perspectives is produced three times a year.  
The next issue will span June – September 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](mailto:perspectives.listings@gmail.com)**



### PERSPECTIVES TEAM

EDITOR ELISE FORBES  
LISTINGS ALICE HOODSON  
IMAGE SOURCING NIKI WHITFIELD  
DESIGN CHANTAL FREEMAN

## Dear Readers

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Spring issue of Perspectives. Writing this on yet another wet January day, February seems a rather distant dream of February Gold daffodils and perhaps even some sunshine. This issue of Perspectives is nevertheless full of optimism, particularly on the musical front.

Before tempting you all to read about what is yet to come, I would like to look back to the invitation extended to representatives of all CAC societies to join members of the committee for a meeting on 23rd October, in place of the ‘market stall’ event held the previous year in the Promenade. Representatives of around forty CAC organisations gathered in the Brew Bar of Ritual Coffee Roasters, who kindly provided our venue. The aim was to promote an exchange of views amongst members about the role of CAC and to emphasise our celebratory role as a focus for all forms of the arts in Cheltenham. Our Chair, Sue Silcock, reminded everyone of the grants available either through the grant to CAC from Cheltenham Borough Council for activities within Cheltenham, or via the Trafford Fund, which can offer funding towards young people’s arts education outside the Borough. Sue also stressed the importance of societies promoting CAC activities and Perspectives to all their members, in particular highlighting the importance of support for the annual CAC awards ceremony held at the Playhouse.

2024 is of particular significance for Cheltenham as it marks the 150th

anniversary of Gustav Holst’s birth here in the Holst Victorian House. In this issue Laura Kinnear, curator of the HVH, writes about the exciting events planned to mark the occasion throughout the year. Two of the town’s chamber choirs run scholarship schemes, and both write enthusiastically about encouraging young musicians to sing with them. Not to be upstaged, Cheltenham Choral Society, which celebrated its 85th birthday last year, proudly introduces us to its newly appointed young conductor, Thomas Mottershead. On the literary front, the winners of the annual Prose and Poetry Competition organised by Gloucestershire Writers’ Network have kindly allowed Perspectives to publish their entries in this issue.

I hope you enjoy all the articles contributed to this issue. They certainly give a flavour of our members’ interesting and varied activities, including raising funds for good causes.

**Elise Forbes**  
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

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

## CANTORES CHAMBER CHOIR

### VIBRANT NEW MEMBER OF CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

**C**antores Chamber Choir was formed in 1991 and soon earned a reputation for high standards of performance along with exciting and thoughtful programming.

We perform in some of the Cotswolds' most beautiful churches including Cirencester, Minchinhampton and Northleach, as well as in Cheltenham. Simon Harper has been our musical director since 2019 and has built on the choir's strengths while setting ever higher standards of musicianship.

Our repertoire ranges from the plainsong of 11th Century polymath Hildegard of Bingen to contemporary works: in 2022 we premiered a haunting setting of Ivor Gurney's poem 'Severn Meadows', commissioned from rising compositional star Kerensa Briggs.

In December, we were thrilled to sing alongside world-renowned viol consort Fretwork to present 'An Elizabethan Christmas' at Pip and Jim's church in Leckhampton. Fretwork have been described by Gramophone magazine as "an ensemble of supreme musicianship" and by the London Evening Standard as "the finest viol consort on the planet". So, no pressure on the choir, then! The church was full, and the large audience showed their enthusiastic appreciation for a sequence of Tudor vocal and instrumental masterpieces by Byrd, Gibbons, Weelkes and others. It was an exciting occasion and shows that there is a real appetite for Christmas music beyond the familiar carols and popular songs.



Cantores' next concerts will be in Cirencester on 9th March and Minchinhampton on 23rd March, celebrating the music of Thomas Tallis. We will perform some of his greatest sacred works, interspersed with contemporary settings of some of the same texts, and pieces inspired by him, including works by Cecilia McDowell, Bob Chilcott, David Bednall, and a piece specially composed for this programme by Ledbury-based composer Esther Kay. In June, the choir will be back in Cirencester for a concert of Bach and Handel with period-instrument ensemble the Musical and Amicable Society.

Cantores welcomes singers as potential members of the choir and runs a scholarship scheme. For details, and more information about the choir and forthcoming concerts, see our website details below.

Stephen Gale

DETAILS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHOIR AND OUR FORTHCOMING CONCERTS AT [HTTPS://WWW.CANTORES.NET](https://www.cantores.net)

## CHELTHENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### WHO EVER SAID THAT LOCAL HISTORY IS BORING?

**A**re you interested in Cheltenham's heritage, both in the town and its surrounding area?

Would a programme of events appeal to you, which, over the last twelve months, has covered topics as diverse as the town's links to the slave trade, its Victorian and Edwardian buildings, and some of its interesting characters, churches, roads and spas? And that's not forgetting walks retracing Anglo-Indian connections, and excursions celebrating the town's code-breaking legacy with Bletchley Park. If so, you might be interested in joining Cheltenham Local History Society, CLHS.



CLHS MEETING ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Founded in March 1982, the Society was among the earliest of its kind to be established in Gloucestershire. Apart from holding regular meetings, CLHS publishes a Journal, encouraging members to

produce research and share their findings. Today, the programme comprises monthly evening talks, which take place between September and May, and walks and excursions during the summer months. We also include morning meetings to provide opportunities for a drink and informal chats before the formal talk begins. Three times a year the Society produces a highly regarded newsletter which keeps members informed of developments throughout the year, as well as other occasional publications, the most recent being an informative chronology covering aspects of Trade and Industry in Cheltenham.

Overall, CLHS seeks to create a participatory, inclusive and friendly environment for our approximately 350 members, with the aim of stimulating their interest, encouraging involvement, and facilitating their understanding of Cheltenham's heritage. A summary of our activities during 1982-2022 is available via a short audio-visual presentation on our web site ([cheltlocalhistory.org.uk/](http://cheltlocalhistory.org.uk/)) – see here.

We are keen to partner with other local organisations to mutually support our respective aims. Recent examples include liaison with a local primary school and partnering with the Civic Society to



CLHS VISIT TO BLETCHELEY PARK ON 10TH AUGUST 2023



UNVEILING OF ALFRED MILES BLUE PLAQUE ON 30TH APRIL 2022

unveil a blue plaque commemorating Alfred Miles, a local antiquarian. The Society also undertakes significant voluntary projects. Sometimes these are short-term, such as cataloguing the papers of a firm of Cheltenham solicitors for the Gloucestershire Archives, while others, such as the indexing of the Cheltenham Examiner for the local library, which required indexes of around 40,000 references, might take over 10 years to complete!

Finally, it is also worth highlighting the increasing number of useful digital resources hosted on our web site: from a short history of the town, to specialist themed display material and full-text copies of the Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic newspapers. While

these may help you to conduct your own research, you are also welcome to contact Jill Waller, our expert Enquiries Researcher, who regularly answers a wide range of ad hoc enquiries. Recent examples include the exact location of a Schafer beetle habitat at the Gas Works in the 1930s, the provenance of an Egyptian mummy, the story behind a sampler stitched in Tivoli in 1854, the reason for a set of large, rusted hinges in a Montpellier flowerbed, and a supposed tunnel under the High Street. You see, local history is anything but boring!

David Elder

MORE INFORMATION AT [CHELTLOCALHISTORY.ORG.UK](http://CHELTLOCALHISTORY.ORG.UK)

## 2024 IS A GREAT YEAR FOR GUSTAV HOLST

### CHELTENHAM JOINS IN THE HOLST150 CELEBRATIONS

**2**024 marks 150 years since the composer, Gustav Holst, was born on the 21st September 1874 in a modest terrace house in Pittville, Cheltenham. Through a series of imaginatively recreated period rooms, the Holst Victorian House shows what life was like for Gustav growing up in 1870s Cheltenham.

Holst's much-loved work, *The Planets*, composed in 1914–16, brought him lasting fame and acclaim. An innovative work for a large orchestra, it has overshadowed many of his other compositions. Holst wrote over 250 works, including opera, wind, choral and folk song. He was also a gifted and inspirational teacher, notably at St Paul's Girls' School and Morley College in London.

The 150th anniversary will be celebrated nationally and internationally and as Holst's birthplace, it is important that Cheltenham celebrates in style! The Holst Birthplace



Trust has joined forces with several other cultural organisations to curate a varied, community-focused programme enabling people – especially young people – to respond creatively to Holst's life and music.

As always with large projects, the scope of the activities depends on the availability of funding. Confirmed events, however, include The Everyman Theatre and The National Star College producing a piece about Earth – *The 'Forgotten' Planet*; Cheltenham Music Festival working with The Big Sing to perform Holst's *Hymn of Jesus* at Gloucester Cathedral; and Nethra Academy of Performing Arts, an Indian dance organisation based in Gloucester, responding to Holst's 'Indian' opera, *Savitri* by creating a dance routine to be performed in the Victorian interiors of the House.



MASTER BEDROOM

The Holst Victorian House will be holding several events and activities throughout the year, beginning in February with a small exhibition: *Gustav Holst and The Three Choirs Festival*, curated in partnership with the festival which will be held at Worcester in the summer of 2024. This will be followed by *In a Parisian Salon: Louise Dyer, Holst Patron* in June, exploring the life and collection of one of Holst's most devoted supporters. Her collection

was recently purchased by the House, thanks to generous grants from the V&A/ACE Purchase Grant Fund, Friends of The National Libraries and Friends and supporters of the House. It will be the first time that the collection is on public display, including such gems as Holst's autographed manuscript of *The Ballet Music from The Perfect Fool*. A booklet will accompany the exhibition, and there will also be a special children's trail in collaboration with the





DRAWING ROOM - CASOLLEN

Illustration Department at the University of Gloucestershire.

The Holst Birthplace Trust organises a concert every year to celebrate Holst's birthday. On 22nd September 2024, Sir Stephen Hough and the Bristol Classical Players will lead the celebration in Cheltenham Town Hall. Music will include Holst's *Ballet Music from The Perfect Fool* and *A Fugal Overture*.

The exhibition *Gustav Holst & The Three Choirs Festival* will run from Saturday 10th February 2024 - Saturday 1st June 2024, 10 am-4pm at the Holst Victorian House.

The full Holst150 programme will launch in early 2024. Please check our website for the latest exciting news!

**Laura Kinnear, Curator**



GUSTAV HOLST AGED 11

4 CLARENCE ROAD, PITTVILLE, CHELTENHAM GL52 2AY  
01242 524846  
ENQUIRIES@HOLSTVICTORIANHOUSE.ORG.UK  
HOLSTVICTORIANHOUSE.ORG.UK

CHARITY NUMBER 1078599

## CHELTENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

### NEWS AND AN EXCITING NEW APPOINTMENT

#### **C**heltenham Choral Society 1938–2023

Cheltenham Choral Society (CCS) performed our 85th Anniversary concert on 11 November at All Saints Church, singing Haydn 'Little Organ Mass', the lesser-known Vivaldi 'Gloria' (RV588) and Faure 'Requiem'. Soloists were Rebecca Rudge (Soprano), Nicole Boardman (Contralto) and Matthew Clark (Baritone). Our very own Cara-Jade Nichols sang the Pie Jesu which was a highlight for many of us. We were conducted by Carleton Etherington who has been our deputy MD since June.



CONCERT AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The next morning around twenty of us supported the hymn singing alongside Cheltenham Silver Band at the Service of Remembrance on the Prom.

Our recruitment process for a new Musical Director took up most of the summer and we had an amazing number of high-quality applicants. From this very strong field we chose Thomas Mottershead, who began working with us on 15th November. Thomas is an award-winning conductor based in South Wales. Originally from Colchester, Thomas has a BMus from Cardiff University, a MMus in Choral Conducting from the Royal Welsh College

of Music and Drama and a PGCE in Secondary Music from the University of Cambridge. Whilst at university, Thomas received the Fujisawa Male Voice Choir Award for Choral Conducting (RWCMD) – for two consecutive years – and the Sir Geraint Evans Award for highest mark in a voice recital (Cardiff University).

As well as working with us, Thomas is also Musical Director of The Athenaeum Singers in Warminster and The Malmesbury Singers; an Animateur for Welsh National Opera; Director of Music and Organist at St. Mary's Priory Church in Monmouth; Artistic Director of the Prometheus Consort and Assistant Conductor of The Harry Ensemble. He is also the Co-Founder of Cardiff Opera.

As a singer, Thomas is in demand as a soloist and appeared on the 2022 series of 'The Voice UK' on ITV, singing as part of the duo 'Thomas and Emilie'. They had four chair turns and a block from Sir Tom Jones, whom they eventually decided to have as their coach.

We are very excited about starting our new chapter with this exciting young man!

Thomas's first concert with us was 'A Tapestry of Christmas Music' concert which this year was held at Pittville School on Monday 18th December and featured singers from The Beaugard Academy and St Mary's School, Prestbury as usual.

Our big concert next year will be at Tewkesbury Abbey on Saturday 25th May when we join forces with Charlton Kings Choral Society in singing Mozart 'Requiem' and Haydn 'Theresienmesse'. Thomas Mottershead will conduct the Mozart and

John Wright (CKCS) will conduct the Haydn. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to sing in a larger choir than usual as well as with a large orchestra, and we very much look forward to it.

We always welcome new members. If you are interested in singing with us, please do get in touch and come along for a 'taster' session. We rehearse from 7.30-9.30pm on Wednesday evenings at St Andrews United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. 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.

Alex Young



THOMAS MOTTERSHEAD

[WWW.CHELTCHORAL.ORG](http://WWW.CHELTCHORAL.ORG)

[INFO@CHELTCHORAL.ORG](mailto:INFO@CHELTCHORAL.ORG)

FACEBOOK: @CHELTENHAMCS

INSTAGRAM: @CHELTENHAMCHORAL

## Always wanted to sing?



CHELTENHAM  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY



is welcoming new members

No auditions, come and try us out!

Cheltenham Choral Society is a friendly, amateur choir with a long-standing reputation for providing a top-quality experience for both audiences and singers.

We are a choir of around 60-80 members, performing at public concerts to a high standard. 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.

We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:30pm to 9:30pm  
St Andrews United Reformed Church,  
Montpellier Street, Cheltenham, GL50 1SP

For more information visit our website:  
[www.cheltchoral.org](http://www.cheltchoral.org)



@cheltenhamcs



@cheltenhamchoral



# GLoucestershire Writers' Network Poetry & Prose Competition

## 2023 Winners' Event at the Cheltenham Literature Festival

Winning Prose Piece	<i>There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Horse Pill</i> by Stephanie Carty
Prose Runners-up	<i>Travelling with Mary</i> by Sophie Carabine <i>The Sleeping House</i> by Tim Jeffreys <i>Pogácsa</i> by Alex Wardrop
Winning Poem	<i>Shift: self-portrait as a set of watercolour pencils</i> by Sarah Hemings
Poetry Runners-up	<i>From Artist to Model — The Journey of Dorelia McNeill</i> by Iris Anne Lewis <i>Puncture Repair</i> by Chris Hemingway <i>Her Husband</i> by Pauline Masurel

**T**he response to our competition this year on the theme “Journeys” was amazing, over two hundred entries, a huge variety of approaches in tackling the subject, and a quality that made it very difficult for the judges to select the winners.

Those chosen did incredibly well and should feel immensely proud. The copyright to the winning entries appearing in *Perspectives* is retained by the two authors.

We were able to hear the winners read their entries together with extracts from the work of our judges Philip Rush (poetry) and Jane Bailey (prose) at our event held at The Queens Hotel as part of The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival and this added, of course, to their enjoyment.

A piece of creative writing has the potential to take us on a journey in the same way that physical travel does, to change us, alter our point of view, broaden our horizons. The theme of the festival for the last few years

has been “Read the World”. How lucky it was that the winners of our competition could add their voices to all the others there that strove to make us contemplate subjects in a different way both in ourselves and in the world in general.

It was a lovely evening.

The theme of next year’s competition is “Weather”, and we are already looking forward to what Gloucestershire’s writers make of this subject.

Best wishes, The GWN team



STEPHANIE CARTY



SARAH HEMINGS

OUR LATEST ANTHOLOGY IS AVAILABLE FROM THE WEBSITE  
[HTTPS://GLOSWRITERS.ORG.UK](https://gloswriters.org.uk).

***There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Horse Pill***, by Stephanie Carty

I tell the paramedic that it's an Accident not an Emergency but truth be told it's the other way around.

She swallowed the pill to dull the dreams. At night, I'm trapped in an air raid shelter or perhaps a coffin. My cries turn to moths. They flatten themselves against the window, pressing to get closer to the moon. The siren wails as I don't.

She dreamt the dreams to process the pain. Waiting in a corridor now, avoiding eye contact so the staff don't feel the heaviness of guilt.

I'm so old that even the ghosts have gone. With the tip of my finger, I draw out the family tree on my lap, recalling each name in order as remembrance.

'Agitation,' says the man taking my blood pressure. The machine grips my arm.

She felt the pain when reliving those things, that wriggled and wiggled and jiggled inside her.

Each bad thing that ever happens to you, each loss, weighs as much as a penny. Not much you might think. But hold out your arm, cupping all those pennies, hold it up for ninety-three years.

I ache with the sum of my sadness.

Perhaps she'll die.

I lose some time or it loses me. My stomach has been emptied without my permission. The bile stings my tongue.

On the ward, a middle-aged woman in a striped tunic brings a cup to my lips. She smells of jasmine and courage. I hadn't realised I was thirsty.

'Do you need anything else?' she asks, her voice from a place I've never seen where vowels dance around rugged consonants.

I don't know the answer. I rewind each decade, trying to grasp at the last time I knew what I wanted.

Right now, what I want is to know the details of her life: has she ever held a child against her hip, or tasted fruit straight from a stalk, or walked barefoot with her eyes clamped shut for the thrill, as if nothing could ever get in her way?

I keep quiet, touching my thin hair in shame. The woman picks up a brush as soft as love and hums as she strokes it over my head.

I close my eyes and wish to live a little longer.

***Shift: self-portrait as a set of watercolour pencils***, by Sarah Hemings

*For Gareth, T'ai Chi teacher*

Your Father's death has changed you.

When precisely did it happen?

Father's set of Derwent watercolour pencils (a rising scale of 72 notes) offers many gradations of colour, from Zinc Yellow (1) to Chinese White (72).

You scan them closely in their dented tin. Suddenly you've moved from one colour-block to the next.

When precisely did the shift take place?

And was it a bold leap - Rose Pink to Madder Carmine?

Or something subtler - say, Olive Green to Bronze?

## LISTINGS: EVENTS DIRECTORY FEBRUARY - MAY 2024

## VISUAL ARTS

**AT THE GARDENS GALLERY,  
MONTPELLIER GARDENS:****Core Hours 10am-5pm**

**Jonathan Oakes**, Wed 31 Jan - Tue 6 Feb, abstract artworks, often embedded in environmental issues and examining everyday occurrences and habits

**Petya Stoeva: The Joy of Living**, Wed 7- Tue 13 Feb, mixed media artist from Cheltenham, painting on stretched canvas

**Ellie Thomas**,  
Wed 14- Tue 20 Feb

**Tracy Hunt & Caroline Cattermull**,  
Wed 21- Tue 27 Feb

**Phil Middleton**,  
Wed 28 Feb- Tue 5 Mar



RUST BUCKET WORKSHOP - COS MEMBER

**Tony Davie & Ollie Maslen**,  
Wed 6- Tue 12 Mar

**Cheltenham Camera Club Annual Exhibition**,  
Wed 13- Tue 19 Mar

**Wendy McKenzie**,  
Wed 20- Tue 26 Mar

**Leah Marshall**,  
Wed 27 Mar- Tue 2 Apr



JANE CLATWORTHY - COS MEMBER

**Cheltenham Art Club**,

Wed 3- Tue 9 Apr

**Sarah Goddard**,

Wed 10- Tue 16 Apr

**Chris Knapman**,

Wed 17- Tue 23 Apr

**Jazz Festival**,

Wed 24 Apr- Tue 14 May

**Nick Sargeant**,

Wed 15- Tue 21 May

**Luba Arnold**,

Wed 22- Tue 28 May

**Simon Howe**,

Wed 29 May- Tue 4 Jun

## MUSIC

**Charlton Kings Choral Society Rehearsals**,

Wednesdays, 7.30pm,  
St Philip and St James,  
Leckhampton, further info:  
[cksonline.org.uk](http://cksonline.org.uk).

**Cheltenham Choral Society Rehearsals**,

Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm,  
St Andrew's Church,  
Montpellier, welcoming new  
members, see [cheltchoral.org](http://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](http://cleeve-harmony.org.uk) or enquiries  
to [md@cleeve-harmony.org.uk](mailto:md@cleeve-harmony.org.uk)

**Musica Vera rehearsals**,

Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm,  
St Mary's Prestbury, we have  
vacancies in all voice parts.  
Please contact the secretary,

## EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY - MAY 2024



MISCHA SCORER (1939 - 2023) - "STRAND OF TREES AND RIVER", COS MEMBER

Lesley Nicholls, 01242 222853 or email nicholls186@yahoo.com. See musicavera.org

**Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra: Music of Place: Celebrating the music of women composers**, Sun 28 Jan, 3pm, £18/£9/U-18 free, Princess Hall, Cheltenham Ladies College, Judith Bailey: A Period of Summer, Florence Price: Mississippi River, Amy Beach: A Gaelic Symphony. Please note change of venue from Pump Room, see cheltenhamphilharmonic.co.uk. Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/cheltphilorch or on the door

**Oriel Singers Come and Sing Day**, Sat 3 Feb, 9.30 for 10am, Holy Apostles Church, details and tickets at orielsingers.org.uk

**Cotswold Savoyards: 24-hour Singathon!**, Sat 10- Sun 11 Feb, 3pm-3pm! Francis Close Chapel, raising money for Sue Ryder, anyone is welcome (solo, groups or choirs) see cotswoldsavoyards.com for info and booking form

**Lunchtime Concert by Balcarras School**, Tue 20 Feb, 1pm, Town Hall Drawing Room (whilst Pittville Pump Room is undergoing works), Young Musician Concerts arranged by Cheltenham Music Festival Society in collaboration with The Cheltenham Trust

**Cheltenham Music Society: Perpetuo: A Mozartian Phantasy: Music for oboe, violin,**

**viola and cello**, Tue 20 Feb, 7.30pm, venue tbc due to Pump Room works, see cheltnmusicsoc.co.uk, Britten: Phantasy Quartet Op 2, Hilary Tann: Still in the Water and Singingbirds, Rebecca Clarke: Lullaby and Grotesque, Mozart: Adagio for Cor Anglais and String Trio K580a, Schumann arr. Colin Matthews: Mondnacht, Adrian Sutton: Trio Dances, Mozart: Oboe Quartet K370/368b

**Lunchtime Concert by Maha Zahid (piano)**, Tue 27 Feb, 1pm, Town Hall Drawing Room (whilst Pittville Pump Room is undergoing works), Young Musician Concerts arranged by Cheltenham Music Festival Society in

## EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY - MAY 2024

collaboration with The Cheltenham Trust

**Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra**, Sun 3 Mar, 4pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, music by Martucci, Schubert, Ravel and Haydn

**Lunchtime Concert by Tsukushi Mitsuda (piano),**

Tue 5 Mar, 1pm, Town Hall Drawing Room (whilst Pittville Pump Room is undergoing works), Young Musician Concerts arranged by Cheltenham Music Festival Society in collaboration with The Cheltenham Trust  
**Cantores Chamber Choir: Thomas Tallis Reimagined**, Sat 9 Mar, 7pm, Cirencester Parish Church, full details: [www.cantores.net](http://www.cantores.net)

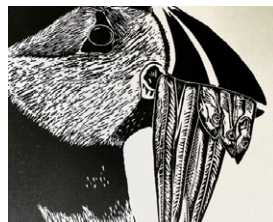
**Oriel Singers: Concert of music for Lent**, Sat 9 Mar, St Peter's Church,

Winchcombe, orielsingers.org.uk

**Cheltenham Bach Choir**, Sat 16 Mar, 7.30pm, St Philip and St James, Leckhampton, Rachmaninov - Vespers; All Night Vigil. Further details and tickets available at [cheltbachchoir.com](http://cheltbachchoir.com)

**Lunchtime Concert by Pate's Grammar School**, Tue 19 Mar, 1pm, Town Hall Drawing Room (whilst Pittville Pump Room is undergoing works), Young Musician Concerts arranged by Cheltenham Music Festival Society in collaboration with The Cheltenham Trust

**Cantores Chamber Choir: Thomas Tallis Reimagined**, Sat 23 Mar, 4pm, Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton, with tea and cake! Full details: [www.cantores.net](http://www.cantores.net) Cantores Chamber Choir: Thomas



ANNA LANSLEY - COS MEMBER

Tallis Reimagined, Sat 9 Mar, 7pm, Cirencester Parish Church, full details: [www.cantores.net](http://www.cantores.net)

**Lunchtime Concert by Nina Savicevic (piano)**, Mon 25 Mar, 1pm, Town Hall Drawing Room (whilst Pittville Pump Room is undergoing works), Young Musician Concerts arranged by Cheltenham Music Festival Society in collaboration with The Cheltenham Trust

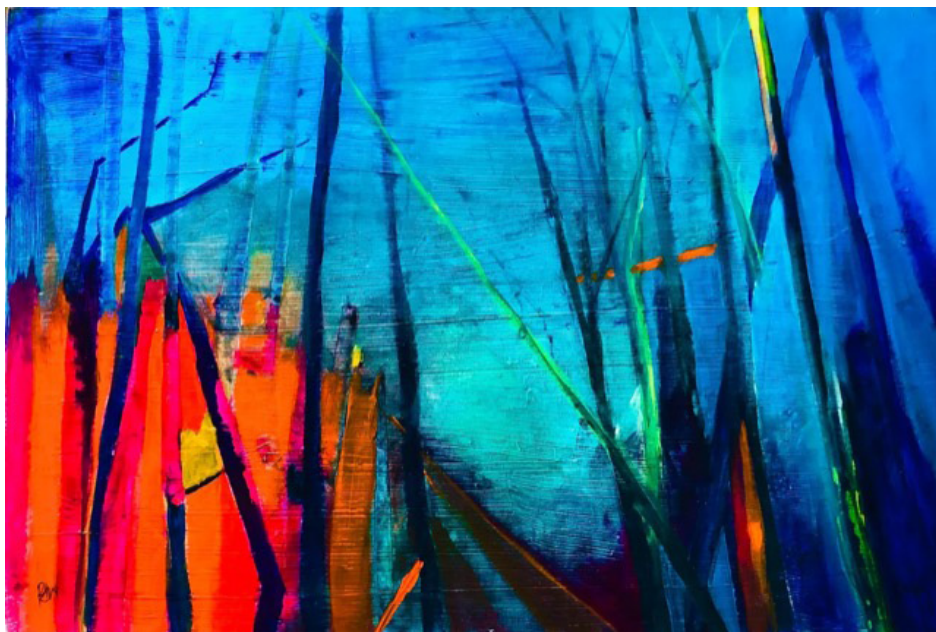
**Cheltenham Music Society: Mithras Trio**, Tue 26 Mar, 7.30pm, £21/£26, Parabola Arts Centre, Tailleferre: Piano Trio, Saint-Saëns: Piano Trio No 1 in F major Op 18, Beethoven: Piano Trio in B flat major Op 97 Archduke. See [cheltmusicsoc.co.uk](http://cheltmusicsoc.co.uk), booking [cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk](http://cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk)

**Cleeve Chorale Spring Concert**, Sat 20 Apr, 7.30pm, St Michael & All Angels, Bishop's Cleeve, featuring Mozart's Missa Brevis in G KV 49, further details will be available at [cleevechorale.co.uk](http://cleevechorale.co.uk)



RUTH END - COS MEMBER





TRISH WAINWRIGHT - SIXTEENONLINE.COM

**Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra: Music of Triumph**, Sun 21 Apr, 3pm, £18/£9/U-18 free, Princess Hall, Cheltenham Ladies College, A concert of celebratory music: Shostakovich: Festive Overture, Strauss: Suite from Der Rosenkavalier, Shostakovich: Symphony No 5. Tickets: [ticketsource.co.uk/chelphilorch](http://ticketsource.co.uk/chelphilorch) or on the door

**Cheltenham Music Society: Verona Quartet**, Wed 24 Apr, 7.30pm, £21/£26, Parabola Arts Centre, Mendelssohn: String Quartet No 1 in E flat major Op 12, Bartók: String Quartet No 4 Sz 91, Beethoven: String Quartet in A minor Op 132. See [cheltnmusicsoc.co.uk](http://cheltnmusicsoc.co.uk), booking [cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk](http://cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk)

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

**Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra**, Sat 11 May, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Music by Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Schumann and Mozart

**Cheltenham Choral Society and Charlton Kings Choral Society**, Sat 25 May, Tewkesbury Abbey, Mozart: Requiem, Haydn: Maria Theresa Mass, see [cheltnchoral.org](http://cheltnchoral.org) or [ckcsonline.org.uk](http://ckcsonline.org.uk)

#### STAGE & DANCE

**Sleeping Beauty: Traditional Family Panto**, Wed 14- Sun 18 Feb, 7pm, with 2pm matinee on Thu, Sat and Sun, £18/£14, Playhouse, Promenade Productions present their 40th anniversary show, tickets selling fast from Playhouse or 01242 522852

**Cotswold Savoyards: The Addams Family Musical**, Tue 30 Apr- Sat 4 May, 7pm, with 2pm matinee on Thu and Sat, Everyman

**Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society: Kinky Boots**, Tue 28 May- Sat 1 Jun Everyman, Based on the 2005 British film Kinky Boots, with music and lyrics by Cyndi Lauper

## EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY - MAY 2024



HELEN NORMAN  
CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS

## LECTURES &amp; MEETINGS

**Cercle Français: Les Français sont-ils superstitieux?**, Mon 5 Feb, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, Zoom talk in the hall, given by Claude Rapport, see [cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk](http://cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk)

**Cheltenham Local History Society**, Tue 6 Feb, 10.30am, St Luke's Hall, The Secret History of Spas, with Melanie King

**Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust**, Mon 12 Feb, 7pm via Zoom, GGLT member Thoss Shearer will unpick the history of Lypiatt Park and discuss its colourful owners. Registration via the GGLT website £5

**The Arts Society Cheltenham: The World's greatest paintings: 200 years of the National Gallery**, Tue 13 Feb, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £4, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Simon Whitehouse. See [theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk](http://theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk) or email [info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org](mailto:info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org)

**Cheltenham German Club: Was wir wussten: Intuition, Netzwerke und Kontaktmomente zwischen DDR-SchriftstellerInnen und der Stasi**, Fri 16 Feb, 7 for 7.30pm, guests £5, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, with Prof Sara Jones on the relationship between women writers in the GDR and the Stasi, in German. [cheltgesell.uk](http://cheltgesell.uk)

**Cercle Français: Alienor d'Aquitaine**, Mon 19 Feb, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, with Germaine Jones, see [cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk](http://cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk)

**Cheltenham Local History Society**, Wed 21 Feb, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, Gloucestershire Archives @The Heritage Hub, with John Putley

**Cercle Français: Annie Ernaux**, Mon 4 Mar, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, with Maryse Wright, see [cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk](http://cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk)

**Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust**, Mon 11 Mar, 7pm, members £5, non-members £10, St Luke's Hall, Paul Rabbitts, historian and author, will speak about "Great British Parks - a concise history"

**The Arts Society Cheltenham: Cabbages, Carrots & Lamb: Spanish Still Life 1600 - 1812**, Tue 12 Mar, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £4, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Daniel Evans. See [theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk](http://theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk) or email [info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org](mailto:info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org)

**Cercle Français: Marseille, une ville énigmatique**, Mon 18 Mar, 7.30pm, Zoom to members at home, with Cédric Cabanne, see [cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk](http://cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk)

**Cheltenham Local History Society**, Wed 20 Mar, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, Cotswold Sheep and their history from Roman to present times, with Steve Parkes

**Cheltenham German Club: Exilliteratur - gestern und heute**, Fri 22 Mar, 7 for 7.30pm, guests £5, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, Dr Steffan Davies on exiled literature from yesterday and today, in German. [cheltgesell.uk](http://cheltgesell.uk)

**Cheltenham Local History Society**, Tue 2 Apr, 10.30am, St Luke's Hall, Members' Research and Display event

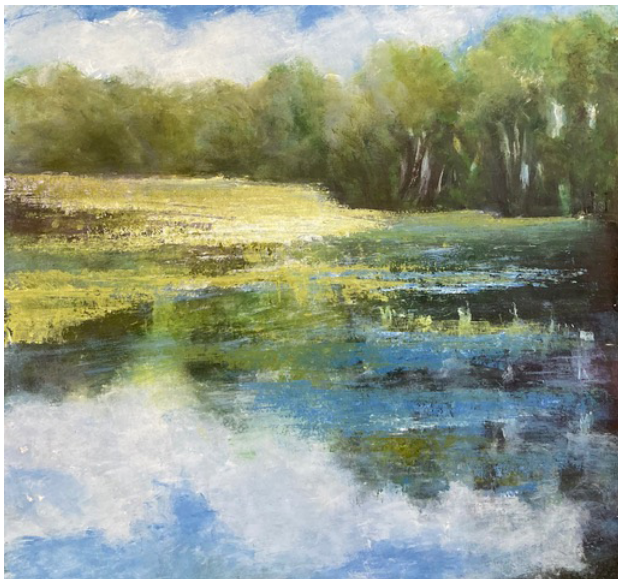
**Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust**, Mon 8 Apr, 7pm, members £5, non-members £10, St Luke's Hall, new Trustee of the Gardens Trust, Francesca Murray, will talk about the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution, its origins and its connections to Gloucestershire.

**The Arts Society Cheltenham: Archaeological Adventures in Albania**, Tue 9 Apr, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £4, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Louise Schofield. See [theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk](http://theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk) or email [info.cheltenham@theartssociety.org](mailto:info.cheltenham@theartssociety.org)

**Cercle Français: La renaissance de Lille**, Mon 15 Apr, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, with Brigitte Thibaut, see [cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk](http://cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk)

**Cheltenham Local History Society**, Wed 17 Apr, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, William Tyndale and his Gloucestershire roots, with Alan Pilbeam

**Cheltenham German Club: Gedächtnislücke Erster Weltkrieg in der deutschen Erinnerung**, Fri 19 Apr, 7 for



ANTONELLA SCARPA-ISLES - COS MEMBER

7.30pm, guests £5, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, Dr Nicholas Martin on how memories in Germany of the First World War contain certain holes, in German. [cheltgesell.uk](http://cheltgesell.uk)

**Cercle Français: Marguerite Steinheil: du Palais de l'Elysée au Palais de justice**, Mon 29 Apr, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, with Bernard Sasso, see [cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk](http://cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk)

**The Arts Society Cheltenham: Japanese Art and the West: from Namban to Japonaiserie**, Tue 14 May, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £4, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Marie Conte-Helm. 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 May, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, AGM followed by A Glimpse of Cheltenham in 1850, with Christine Whittemore

**Cheltenham German Club: The Tugendhat House in Brno (Brünn) by Mies van der Rohe**, Fri 17 May, 7 for 7.30pm, guests £5, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, with Michael Kozdon, in English. [cheltgesell.uk](http://cheltgesell.uk)

**Cercle Français**, Mon 20 May, 7.15 for 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, Assemblée générale, suivie d'une mini-conférence



OLLIE MASLEN, PHOTOGRAPHY. GARDENS GALLERY 6-12 MARCH 2024

## NAPA'S 6TH VIJAYADASHAMI CELEBRATION

### DANCERS & MUSICIANS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GOOD CAUSES

**N**ethra Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) was founded in January 2018 as a cultural organisation to promote Indian classical performing arts including Bharatanatyam dance, Carnatic Vocal singing and Mridangam (South Indian drum) in Gloucestershire. The main ethos of NAPA is to raise the profile of Indian classical performing arts and to help individuals connect with Indian culture, which is rich in the heritage and tradition of dance and music.

Every year since 2018, NAPA has organised Vijayadashami celebrations during Navaratri Festival to thank Goddess Saraswati for giving us the opportunity to teach and learn our Indian classical performing arts. NAPA students perform dance and music in this celebration followed by pooja (prayer) and food. We start the auspicious event by the lighting of five candles by five ladies to offer a prayer to God that the event will be successful. This year, our Chief Guest was Mrs Camille Cowe, Everyman Theatre Community Manager who presided at the function and lit the first candle, followed by our guest Carnatic Vocal singer, Mrs Vathsala Sabesan, a performing vocal artist from Swindon. The remaining three candles were lit by Mrs Madhuri Srinivasan - NAPA Event Support, Mrs Preethy Vijay Krishnaswamy - NAPA Technical Support and Dr Gayathiri Gowri Shankar - NAPA Founder and Artistic Director.

Our celebration took place in Shurdington Community Centre with a full house and over 30 performers presenting their dance and music items learnt in the past couple of months. This year, the celebration focused on the Goddesses Lakshmi, Saraswathi and Parvathi. Our Vijayadashami flyers, used to

welcome our guests and well-wishers, were designed by our students aged between seven and sixteen. Our Chief Guest for the evening presented the Silver Arts Award to our first Arts Award student, Shashish Gowri Shankar, which was a proud moment for NAPA. We have a few students currently working on various Arts Award levels - Discover, Explore, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Since last year we have been raising money to support organisations which are in need of financial support. In 2022, we raised over £450 for Gloucestershire Academy of Music's bursary fund. This year, we raised funds for the Transgender community in Tamil-Nadu, India, which is led by the transwoman, Ms. Ponniabinaya. NAPA has supported this community since 2020 and this year, we dedicated an event to raising more money through selling Indian foods.



CHEQUE HANDED OVER TO PONNI

We would like to thank our food sponsors: Vijay & Family, Srinivasan & Family, Kalyan & Family, Mohammed & Family, Balvinder & Family and Gowri Shankar & Family. All our food was sold at the event, and we raised £300, which was donated to Ms. Ponniabinaya on 21st November 2023 in front of a famous temple called Kabaliswarar in Chennai.



NAPA PERFORMERS



CANDLE LIGHTING



SHASHISH RECEIVING SILVER ARTS AWARD



PROFESSIONAL SINGER WITH MRIDANGAM ARTIST

NAPA is committed to supporting various organisations and in 2023 alone, we raised over £2000 in March for Cheltenham Arts Council's Ukrainian Students Bursary Fund, funds for the Holst Victorian House in April and for the Transgender Community in October.

We pray for the blessing of our gurus, or teachers, and our gods that they may support us in our continued efforts to raise money for good causes in the future.

Om Shree Gurubiyoo Namaha!

**Gowri Shankar K**  
Head of Administration, NAPA

## TAPESTRY CHAMBER CHOIR

### SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUSICIANS

**A**lthough Tapestry Chamber Choir is a relatively new group, it is passionately committed to investing in and encouraging young singers and musicians.

As well as giving free membership to those under 25, our Musical Director, Sandra Burne, started a scholarship programme whereby young singers who are willing to commit to regular rehearsals and performances can receive various forms of subsidy. Examples include subsidised travel on our foreign tours, free conducting lessons, or a bursary of up to £100 per term. It is also a great opportunity for young singers to network with other members of the choir – many of whom have extensive contacts in the world of professional music.

One of our scholars, Rob Grady, has been learning conducting skills and recently directed his first music with one of Sandra's other choirs leading a Christmas carol in the Cheltenham Trust's Orangerie (see photo).

Two young singers are joining Tapestry's next foreign tour to Germany in April 2024, where they will have the opportunity to sing with us in two basilicas along the beautiful Rhine valley and at midday prayers in Cologne Cathedral.

Tapestry views this investment as a benefit rather than a cost. Like many amateur orchestras and choirs, our members are mostly more mature adults. Adding younger members brings energy to the choir and puts our future on a surer footing. The music scene also benefits when younger people are encouraged to develop their skills and share them with others. In the current economic climate, with investment in the arts dropping both in schools and the wider community, we



ROB GRADY

feel this investment in young musicians is essential.

Should any readers know of any young singers who would like to take advantage of these opportunities, they would be very welcome to contact Sandra Burne at [sandra.burne@protempo.co.uk](mailto:sandra.burne@protempo.co.uk) Entry to the choir is based on a simple (non-scary) audition.

**Simon Burne**

## THE ARTS SOCIETY CHELTENHAM

### CELEBRATING UKRAINIAN CULTURE & THIRTY YEARS

**T**he Arts Society Cheltenham was founded 30 years ago. The members celebrated this in the summer with a lovely garden party with afternoon tea and Pimms on a beautiful August afternoon.

On Tuesday 12th September, Arts Society lecturer, Rosamund Bartlett, gave the first lecture of our new season on 'The Culture of Ukraine'. Prior to the lecture a small event had been organised to launch our anniversary season and to include our special guests and some Ukrainians now living as refugees in the Cheltenham area.

We were happy to welcome around thirty guests, some from GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) and some from Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees. These two organisations had publicised our event amongst members of the Ukrainian community to encourage them to come along as our guests to celebrate their community and listen to our lecture.

There were some delicious cakes and biscuits for sale in the café area made by Natalia and her daughter, who are hosted by Jan Knibbs in Cheltenham. Natalia had her own very upmarket artisan bakery and cake shop in Kyiv before she had to leave Ukraine due to the war. In addition, musician and composer, Slavio, and his wife, Iryna, entertained us with two of their own songs, which they sang for us in English. Everyone listened very attentively, and our audience really enjoyed these additional items.

The lecture was outstanding. Rosamund Bartlett is known for being a Russian specialist, but she has recently added



this lecture on Ukraine to her portfolio, which we seized on. She managed to put across a 'potted history' of Ukraine very successfully in an hour and engaged us all with her lively presentation including both music and spoken word. She spoke fluently without notes, and her visuals were also excellent, being both clear and informative.

After the lecture Rosamund spent time with the Ukrainian guests who enthusiastically surrounded her. They were all delighted with her talk and with the Society's interest in their culture and support for their community. The photograph shows what a happy gathering it was. In addition, we raised £300 in voluntary donations which has been shared between GARAS and Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees. It was a delightful evening, and we are inspired to try something similar again in the future - to enhance the subject matter and relevance of our lectures and, where we can, to reach out to other related local communities and causes.

**Katherine Judge**