



perspectives

CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE

Cheltenham Arts Council: awards_funding_publicity_events listings

June – September 2025

*Cheltenham Open Studios • German Club
Cheltenham Choral Society • Cheltenham Poetry Society
Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year*

Advertising Charges

HALF PAGE ADVERT

£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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FRONT COVER -

JILL HAMMOND - OVERALL WINNER
LANSDOWN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PLEIN AIR COMPETITION
IMAGE CREATED FROM A PLEIN AIR ART COMPETITION
ON LANSDOWN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MAY 2025.
DOCUMENTING THE HERITAGE OF THE SITE BEFORE
IMMINENT PARTIAL DEMOLITION OF SOME OF THE
OLDER BUILDINGS (A BOOK INCLUDING THIS DAY WILL
BE CREATED)



*Perspectives is produced three times a year.
The next issue will span October 2025 - January 2026.*

**SUBMISSION (ADS AND EVENTS) MUST BE WITH US BY MID AUGUST FOR CONSIDERATION
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE. PLEASE EMAIL EVENT DETAILS TO PERSPECTIVES.LISTINGS@GMAIL.COM**

PERSPECTIVES TEAM

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

Dear Readers

Welcome to the Summer edition of Perspectives. Writing this on May 1st, is it tempting fate to suggest that a chilly, damp Spring may be behind us?

I hope that this latest edition of Perspectives has something to interest all of you. We feature two articles related to this year's Cheltenham Open Studios to encourage the town's many art-lovers to visit the 78 venues showing a wide variety of work from many different makers over the period from 7th to 15th June. The Arts Society Cheltenham also draws attention to its innovative Café Arts series of events offering an opportunity to enjoy coffee and a chat with a local artist. Looking back to late April, we feature a report of the awards evening for the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year competition held at the Playhouse, which also hosted Cheltenham Arts Council's own awards ceremony in March.

This being Cheltenham, there are, of course, several articles of particular interest to music-lovers, including one describing the beautiful Cantores concert in celebration of Hubert Parry previewed in the February edition of Perspectives. Looking to the Summer we welcome the return of the wonderful Wild Arts to the Cotswolds, bringing evenings of opera to some of our most beautiful gardens, whilst the 'Diamond Geezers' of Churchdown Male Voice Choir enthusiastically celebrate 60 years of fun and fundraising with song.

Enjoy all these varied articles and do take the opportunity to support the arts events on offer in Cheltenham and the surrounding area this Summer. We look forward to reading reports of some of them in the Autumn edition of Perspectives!

Elise Forbes

PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk



ALY LLOYD - CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS (COS) ARTIST

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL - ANNUAL AWARDS

RECOGNISING TALENT AND DEDICATION



On Wednesday 19th March, Cheltenham Arts Council held their 2025 Awards evening. We met at the Playhouse Theatre, as is our custom. Edward Gillespie was resplendent as Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and we were grateful that Councillor Paul Baker, Mayor of Cheltenham, was also able to be present. The Award Winners received much applause from the audience, especially from their supporters amongst the various societies represented. Many thanks must go to the Playhouse volunteers for their warm welcome and efficient stewarding.

A list of Award winners is shown below, with many congratulations to them all.

The Elizabeth Webster Cup, awarded to a young person aged 18 years or under, who has made an outstanding contribution in his or her branch of the arts, was awarded to Will Pritchard from St Edward's School.

Lola Carter from the Cotswold Savoyards, Sue Brown from the Cheltenham Local History Society, Stella Caney from the Cercle Français, Gill Douglas from the

Cheltenham Bach Choir and Jeff Powell from the Philharmonic Orchestra all received citations.

The Charles Irving Sponsorship Award, given to a local business that has provided exceptional support through sponsorship of the voluntary arts in Cheltenham, was presented this year to Washington Printing for the printing support provided to Cheltenham Bach Choir over many years.

The Cheltenham Visual Arts Cup, awarded for a significant contribution in the visual arts was presented to Betty Harrison from Lansdown Art Studios.

The Opera Cup for enterprise and innovation in music making was awarded to Amber Smith, the Musical Director of Cheltenham Children's Choir.

The Joyner Cup, awarded to the most outstanding candidate amongst the award winners, was presented to Stephen Belinfante from the Philharmonic Orchestra.

Sue Silcock



THE CHELTENHAM ART CUP, WHICH WAS RECEIVED BY BETTY HARRISON FROM THE LANSDOWN ART STUDIOS

THE ELIZABETH WEBSTER CUP, WHICH WAS AWARDED TO WILL PRITCHARD OF ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL



THE JOYNER CUP, WHICH WENT TO STEPHEN BELINFANTE FROM CHELTENHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



CANTORES CHAMBER CHOIR

PARRY'S 'SONGS OF FAREWELL' IN THE PERFECT VENUE

In March 2025, Cantores Chamber Choir gave a performance of one of the finest works of English choral music from the early part of the twentieth century, Hubert Parry's *Songs of Farewell*.

It was particularly special for the choir to perform this deeply personal set of songs in Holy Innocents Church at Highnam, built and stunningly decorated by Parry's father. Composed right at the end of Parry's life, during the First World War, at a time when he was coming to terms with his own mortality, and mourning the loss of former pupils at the Royal College of Music who were tragically killed as soldiers in the conflict, the *Songs of Farewell* are full of moments of great poignancy, reflecting the composer's acceptance that his life was soon to end, as well as a sense of peace and hope. The concert was preceded by a fascinating talk on Parry's life given by Toby Thacker, who has studied the composer's private papers and written about his experiences in the First World War.

The choir performed the *Songs of Farewell* again the following week in Cheltenham, alongside pieces by two of Parry's contemporaries, Elgar and Stanford, and works by composers he had taught, including Bridge, Vaughan Williams, Howells and Holst.

The choir now looks forward to performing for the second time with the world-renowned viol consort Fretwork in a concert on Saturday 28 June in Cirencester Parish Church, marking the 400th anniversary of the death of English organist and composer Orlando Gibbons. The programme will include some of Gibbons' most exquisite verse anthems and motets, including *See, see the word is incarnate*, *This is the record of John*, *O clap your hands*, and *Hosanna to the Son of David*.

Tickets from Cantores website
<https://www.cantores.net>



CHELTENHAM CHAMBER CHOIR

GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUNG MUSICIAN

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra (CCO) was back in St Andrew's Church on 1st March for their second concert of 2025.

A large and appreciative audience enjoyed an attractive programme, conducted by Jonathan Mann with great expression and enthusiasm. Under his leadership the Orchestra was on its usual top form.

The programme opened with Mozart's Overture to *Così fan tutte*. This was followed by Beethoven's well-loved Violin Concerto, played superbly by Isaac Williams, winner of the Gloucestershire Young Musician competition in

2023. Isaac showed great maturity and professionalism in his playing, which received huge appreciation from the audience.

The concert ended with Schubert's Symphony No 6 in C Major, introduced by Jonathan Mann as being a symphony which was, in his opinion, played too infrequently. This view was confirmed by the lilting tunes and melodies in the symphony, beautifully played by the orchestra.

The concert was given a rapturous ovation by the very appreciative crowd.

The CCO is grateful to Cheltenham Arts Council for their generous support for this concert.

Angela Walker



JONATHAN MANN



ISAAC WILLIAMS

CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS 2025

THE 14TH STAGING OF THIS HUGELY POPULAR VISUAL ARTS TRAIL

COS25 will be the 14th time that the artists from Cheltenham Open Studios have opened their doors to the public in this celebration of the visual art being made in the area. Now a biennial event, it has become an important part of the cultural landscape for artists and art lovers alike.

Just 46 artists took part in the first event in 2001. The last time the event was staged in 2023, over 10,000 people visited the studios, workrooms and exhibition spaces of over 200 artists working in Cheltenham and the surrounding area. This year's event runs from 7th to 15th June and looks likely to be even richer and more diverse than ever.

Organised by the artist-run association, Cheltenham Open Studios, this year's art trail links together 78 different exhibition venues, where you can meet the artists, view their work, learn about their practice and even have a go yourself.

The Gardens Gallery, venue 1 on the trail, with its central location in Montpellier Gardens, is home to this year's taster show, which will provide a flavour of the range of work on show and help signpost visitors to the other venues. It's also a great place to pick up a free guidebook.

University graduates, PGCE students and course leaders in art and design are showing work, and the Quad Gallery opens its doors to COS member artists at Francis Close Hall. We welcome the return of The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum to COS as it provides the opportunity for participants in the innovative artists in residence programme to exhibit their work. Lansdown Art Studios plays host to 19 open studios during the week, too.

The COS website has been developed, and the interactive map of venues is still a

major focus. Whilst focusing on the centre of Cheltenham the art trail also radiates out towards the outskirts. Visit the COS website to see our current directory of artists, where the guidebook is available.

Artist and COS Patron, PJ Crook MBE, writes:

"I know that this year's coming together of over two hundred artists will form an exciting, eclectic and diverse biennial celebration that is Cheltenham Open Studios. A myriad of makers will share the bountiful fruits of their labours and enable us to learn a little more about that magical creative process.

It is a great privilege to be able to get up close and personal in their intimate spaces with this brilliant collective of artists and makers and a rare opportunity to acquire an original artwork made here in and around Cheltenham".

PETER GARRARD -
COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS
.ORG.UK



ANDY WATT - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



**CHELTENHAM
OPEN STUDIOS**

07/06 - 15/06 2025

Meet the artists, view their work, learn about their practice.

COS25 7 – 15 June 2025

To join in, visit:

cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk

About Cheltenham Open Studios

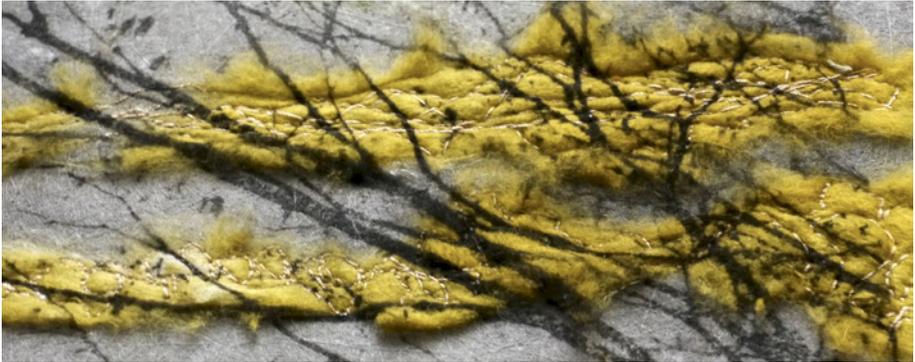
Cheltenham Open Studios is a not-for-profit association run by artists. Like other Open Studios organisations around the country, it is evolving from an art festival event into a thriving and supportive community of artists. With well over 200 members, it aims to network artists together to promote the visual arts in Cheltenham and its surrounding area, engaging people with the original art made here. COS25 art trail is part of the key events put on by the association. Now a biennial event, it has become an important part of the cultural landscape for artists and art lovers alike.



ANDY OWEN-SMITH - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



CAROLE BURY - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



JO MILLAR - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

CATHERINE KINGZETT - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



SUSAN WILKINSON - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



RUST BUCKET WORKSHOP - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



JANE SASANOW - CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS
(COS) ARTIST



CONRAD CLARKE - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



LAURE FILD - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

ORIGINAL
ART
MADE HERE



CHRIS KNAPMAN - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



ANNA DAY - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



JO BIGGADIKE, AMBLING PRESS -
 COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
 CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



EMMA PARKINSON - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
 CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

 **CHELTENHAM
 OPEN STUDIOS**
 07/06 - 15/06 2025

ORIGINAL
ART
 MADE HERE



LINDSEY CRANE - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



PRINSWICK ART STUDIOS - LAURA DOFF - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



CHELTHAM
OPEN STUDIOS

07/06 - 15/06 2025

ORIGINAL
ART
MADE HERE



SUE DURKIN - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025 CHELTHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



STEPHEN BELINFANTE - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

CHELTENHAM OPEN STUDIOS

A CREATIVE CELEBRATION AT LANSDOWN ART STUDIOS

Cheltenham Open Studios returns this June as COS25, offering a unique opportunity to step inside the town's thriving creative scene. Among the many venues, Lansdown Art Studios stands out at number 11 as the largest group exhibition on the trail – home to 19 local artists and over 500 original artworks, all waiting to be explored.

Running from Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th June, the studios will be open daily from 10am to 5pm, with a relaxed and friendly Open Evening on Friday 6th June from 5pm to 8pm. Guests are invited to enjoy a glass of wine, nibbles, and the chance to meet the artists in an informal setting.

Lansdown Art Studios has played a vital role in Cheltenham's creative landscape for many years. As a working studio complex, it has supported dozens of artists and makers and has proudly taken part in Cheltenham Open Studios since the early 2000s. Its longstanding presence has helped to shape the town's rich and diverse arts scene, making it a firm favourite among visitors year after year.

This year's event carries special meaning. The site is due to be redeveloped into housing, placing the future of this well-loved creative space in jeopardy. However, following lengthy negotiations with the developer, the artists have secured an agreement to include a replacement studio space on a portion of the site. While this is a promising step forward, ongoing backing from the community will be essential in bringing this new chapter to life. This makes COS25 more than just an exhibition—it's a celebration of creativity, resilience, and the powerful role that art plays in bringing people together. Every visit, kind word, and piece of artwork purchased contributes directly to sustaining Cheltenham's artistic community.



With many accomplished artists taking part, the studios are especially proud to feature Betty Harrison this year. Her atmospheric and emotive work recently earned her the Visual Arts Cup and a special commendation at the Cheltenham Arts Council Awards. Her pieces will be exhibited alongside a rich and diverse collection of work across a range of styles and mediums.

Conveniently located on the Lansdown Industrial Estate, the studios offer free parking and sit just across the road from Ritual Coffee Roasters and DEYA Brewery and Taproom—both proud supporters of this COS25. With great coffee, local craft beer, and inspiring art all in one spot, it's the perfect destination for a relaxed and creative morning or afternoon out.

Whether you're an art lover, a curious visitor, or simply someone who values local culture, come along and be part of this inspiring community moment.

Support local. Celebrate creativity. Help us shape our next chapter.

Jenny Hannam



HEARTWOOD UNION CANAL OIL ON LINEN, 30 X 30 BY BETTY HARRISON

CHELTENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Holy Apostles Church glowed with more than just candlelight on Wednesday 18th December, as Cheltenham Choral Society joined with The Beaugard Academy and Prestbury St Mary's to delight the packed church with a brilliant and varied programme to get the Christmas season underway.

From the choir's poignant, traditional opening to 'Once in Royal David's City', which was followed by some hearty audience participation, it was clear we were in for a wonderful evening. With Thomas Mottershead presiding with charisma and humour, both choir and audience were in skilled and safe hands. Cheltenham Choral Society's presentation combined the familiar, such as the melodic and lively 'Sans Day Carol', with the equally lovely but less familiar, namely Willcocks' lyrical and gentle 'Quelle est cette odeur agréable?'. All was consistently delightful. Cara-Jade Nichols' solo was a highlight as always; her rendition of 'The Little Road to Bethlehem' was truly beautiful.

Prestbury St Mary's brought Christmas spirit in abundance; for anyone unable to attend a Nativity this year, the energy, variety

and joyous spirit of this young choir filled a gap. Special commendation must go to the soloists (both singing and dancing), the huge variety of percussionists, and particularly those playing the hand bells! Their conductor, Tristan Thomas, should be proud indeed.

Interspersed throughout the programme we had the delight of performances from The Beaugard Academy, whose standard was exceptional. All the ensembles performed extremely well, but a highlight must be the Chamber Choir's 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas', which brought fun and sparkle as well as beautiful singing.

No Christmas concert is complete without some Rutter, and 'Cradle Song' was the treat that Cheltenham Choral Society sent us off with, before a rousing audience-participation 'Twelve Days of Christmas' and a stirring whole-congregation 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. With money raised by the concert going to the excellent local charity Wiggly, we left the church full of Christmas cheer, having had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Jo Wintle

CHELTENHAM POETRY SOCIETY

AN INSPIRING AWAYDAY AT ELLENBOROUGH PARK HOTEL

On 15 April, Cheltenham Poetry Society/Cheltenham Stanza held their annual writing retreat at the Ellenborough Park Hotel, near Cheltenham.

This was the Society's 11th Awayday, and the first time at this venue, which offered Five Star quality in terms of locale, catering and very helpful staff. The theme of the day was 'Flora and Fauna'. The sixteen poets attending the full day of workshops all came away with a number of draft poems, inspired by the plant and animal themes, as well as two technical sessions on 'the weight of words' and 'space and intentionality' in our writing. Stanza representative Sharon Larkin and CPS Chairman, Roger Turner prepared the content for the sessions and led the workshops, drawing overwhelmingly positive feedback in the post-event questionnaires.

[Sharon Larkin](#)



POETRY SOCIETY AWAY DAY



CHURCHDOWN MALE VOICE CHOIR

DIAMOND GEEZERS!

Sixty years ago, in 1965, there was no internet, no mobile phones, wartime leader Winston Churchill had just been buried, the death penalty had been abolished, the Bond film “Thunderball” opened, and the Beatles’ final UK tour ended with the newly released “Yesterday”. And most exciting of all, Churchdown Male Voice Choir was formed in the village pub, with its first songs including “The Lost Chord”, “Steal Away”, “Amazing Grace” and “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”.

We’re still singing those songs, along with a huge and varied repertoire both ancient and modern, and we remain true to our original aims: to raise money for charity and to share a love of singing with each other and with the public. This year we’ll be celebrating all those years and songs in our diamond jubilee celebrations. We started the year with a spectacular concert alongside the Gloucestershire Police Ladies’ Choir “Voices in Force” at the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury, and have concerts lined up in a broad range of venues across

Gloucestershire and beyond. Our next one is in late April at St Paul’s church in Parkend alongside the Forest of Dean Brass Band, then in June we’re singing once again at the Churchdown Methodist Church. Our highlight of the year is our Gala Anniversary Performance at the Gloucester Guildhall on 17th May. Later in the year we’re looking forward to our annual tour, this year to Westward Ho! in Devon, where we’ll be joining the Appledore Ladies Choir, and in November we’re hoping to sing for the Gloucester City Mission, once again in the Cathedral.

We’ve come a long way from our early days as a small group of musical friends to our current complement of appropriately nearly sixty singers, with new members joining us all the time. We meet at the Churchdown Community Centre at 7.30PM every Monday – just turn up and you can be assured of a very warm and musical welcome!

Rev Barry Taylor
Hon. Secretary

KATH COOPER - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



CHELTENHAM GERMAN CLUB

A NEW SEASON OF LECTURES



The second of three political and cultural talks in German and English during the 2024-25 season was given by Professor David Clarke on 17th January 2025 and concerned the portrayal of Eastern Germany in contemporary German literature.

Professor Clarke summarised the content of his lecture as follows: 'From the 1990s to the 2000s, Berlin was thought of as the literary setting where the search for the identity of a united Germany was narrated. Latterly, a new trend has emerged in contemporary German literature focussing on life in rural areas and small towns. In the public perception, the 'East German provinces' are linked with images of a deserted landscape, shut-down factories, depopulated villages and 'left-behind' people susceptible to right wing politics.

The 'East German province' also functions as a literary setting for an examination of tensions and crises in the German social system such as climate change, the pandemic and political upheaval.'

The speaker referred to authors such as Julie Zeh, Andre Kubiczek and Ingo Schulze as playing leading roles in this literary discourse.

Claire Spanner

In February we invited Dr Debbie Pinfold from Bristol University to give a talk in German: "Jenseits von Nazi und Stasi? Das kulturelle Gedächtnis Deutschlands in Großbritannien seit dem Jahr 2000". Her research 'Beyond Nazi and Stasi' explores the cultural memory of Germany in the UK since the year 2000, especially the interface between expressions of German cultural memory and the British cultural and educational sphere. She used German literary texts and films to illustrate her talk, which was very well received by our members. A lively question and answer session followed the talk.

Bärbel Hewett

On 21st March Cheltenham German Club welcomed one of its members, Mike Philips, as its monthly speaker. Mike's subject, 'Farmers v. Warriors: the deep history of the German language' was the product of much research on his part and of great interest to his audience. Was German, which belongs to the Indo-European group of languages, spread westward by peaceful farmers from Anatolia or by belligerent warriors from the Pontic steppe? Advances in archaeology and the analysis of ancient DNA may one day provide a definitive answer. Until then the speculation itself is fascinating and thought provoking. Thank you, Mike.

Anne Irvine

LISTINGS: EVENTS DIRECTORY JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2025

VISUAL ARTS

COS25: Cheltenham Open Studios Art Trail

Sat 7-Sun 15 Jun, the 14th running of the hugely popular visual arts trail. See the work of over 200 artists on an open-door-to-door trail of 78 venues, around town and the surrounding area. Meet the artists, view their work, learn about their practice. cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk

Cheltenham Open Studios at Lansdown Art Studios

Sat 7-Sun 15 Jun, 10am-5pm, with open evening Fri 6th Jun, 5-8pm, Lansdown Industrial Estate, a celebration of creativity, resilience, and the powerful role that art plays in bringing people together



RUTH END - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



SUE BROWN - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

AT THE GARDENS GALLERY, MONTPELLIER GARDENS:

Core hours 10am-5pm

Caroline Hill

Wed 28 May - Tue 3 Jun

Cheltenham Open Studios

Sat 7 - Sun 15 Jun

Milestone Sibling Art

Fri 20 - Sun 22 Jun, 10am-7pm

Memories: Sule Alat

Wed 25 Jun - Tue 1 Jul

Junction 12

Wed 2 - Tue 8 Jul

Three Generations: Louise Millin Inchley

Wed 9 - Mon 14 Jul

Danters Fair

Wed 16 - Tue 22 Jul

Jane Powell

Wed 23 - Tue 29 Jul

Meditation: Anthony Davie

Wed 30 Jul - Tue 5 Aug

Sense of Place: Andrew Davies

Wed 6 - Tue 12 Aug

Mark Wagstaff

Wed 13 - Tue 19 Aug

Nature: Luba Arnold

Wed 20 - Tue 26 Aug

From Cotswold Edge: Martin Fry

Wed 27 Aug - Tue 2 Sep

Cheltenham Art Club Exhibition

Wed 3 - Tue 9 Sep

EVENTS FOR JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2025



TRACEY TURNER - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

Lindsey Crane

Wed 10 - Tue 16 Sep

Memories: Sule Alat

Wed 17 - Tue 23 Sep

Original Artworks:

Jonathan Oakes

Wed 24 - Sun 28 Sep

MUSIC

Charlton Kings Choral Society Rehearsals,

Wednesdays, 7.30pm,
St Philip and St James,
Leckhampton, further info:
ckcsonline.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

Musica Vera Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm,
St Mary's, Prestbury,
we have vacancies in
all voice parts. Please
email our secretary, Chris
Carruthers, at 4chriscrs@
gmail.com for further
information. See www.
musicavera.org

Cheltenham Choral Society Lunchtime Concert

Sat 14 Jun, 1.15pm, Great
Malvern Priory, European
Sacred Music. Retiring
collection

Cheltenham Choral Society

Wed 18 Jun, 8pm, St
Andrew's Church,
Montpellier, European
Sacred Music. Retiring
collection in aid of St
Andrews Church Spire
Restoration

Cheltenham Children's Choir Summer Concert: Little Lyrics (aged 5-8)

Sun 22 Jun, 3pm,
Playhouse, tickets:
cheltenhamchildrenschoir.
co.uk

Cheltenham Children's Choir Summer Concert: Vocalise and Harmonise groups (age 8-18)

Sun 22 Jun, 7pm,
Playhouse, tickets:
cheltenhamchildrenschoir.
co.uk

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra: Flavours of Spain: A Summer Concert

Sun 29 Jun, 3pm, Princess
Hall, Cheltenham Ladies
College, Turina: Danzas
Fantasticas, De Falla:
Nights in the Gardens
of Spain, De Falla: The
Three-Cornered Hat,
Bizet: Suite from Carmen,
Piazzolla: Libertango

EVENTS FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2025

Musica Vera Concert

Sat 5 Jul, 3pm, St Mary's, Prestbury, music from Italy: works by Palestrina, Rossini, Elgar, Verdi and more, plus tea and cake! Hope to see you there. See www.musicavera.org

Cheltenham Choral Society at the CAC event on the Prom

Sat 6 Sep, Promenade, come and have a chat to us about our exciting concert plans for the future. Learn more about Cheltenham Choral Society. We are in need of some more tenors and basses!

STAGE & DANCE**Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society: Bonnie & Clyde Pre-auditions**

Mon 9 Jun 7.30pm, Thu 12 Jun 7.45pm, Christ Church, Cheltenham, see codsonline.co.uk

Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society: Bonnie & Clyde Auditions

Sat 14 Jun, 10am-4pm, Swindon Village School, see codsonline.co.uk

Promenade Productions: Sister Act

Wed 16 - Sun 20 Jun, 7pm, with 2pm matinees on Sat&Sun, Playhouse, tickets from cheltplayhouse.org.uk or box office 01242 522852

LECTURES & MEETINGS**Further Your French With Fun**

Thursdays, 2.30-4pm, Christ Church, speak french with greater confidence and learn in a relaxed supportive atmosphere. Details: annetteinthegarden37@gmail.com / 07812 807113

Leckhampton Local History Society: Walk

June, details tbc, see leckhamptonlhs.weebly.com/programme

The Arts Society Cheltenham: Sculpture and Design

Tue 10 Jun, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £4, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with David Worthington. See theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org

Cercle Français: Dîner annuel

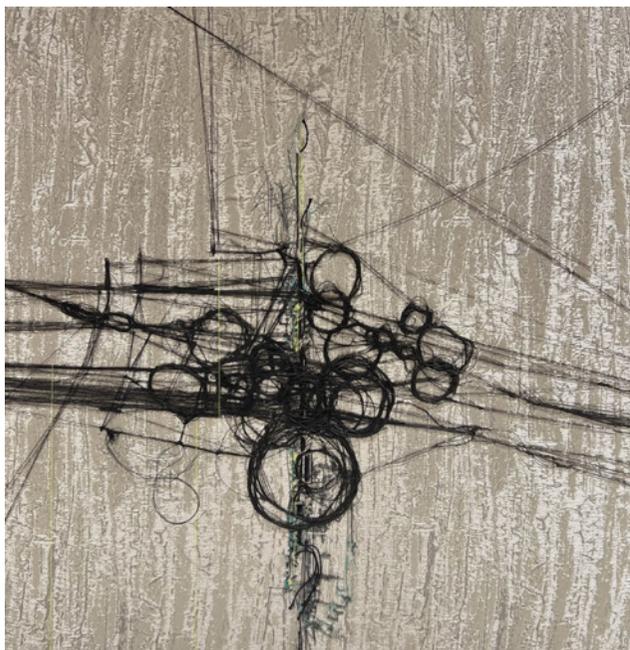
Wed 18 Jun, see cheltenhamfrenchcircle.co.uk

Friends of the Wilson

Tue 17 Jun, 2pm, members £11, non-members £13, St Matthew's Church, talk: Through the Lens of a Royal Photographer, with Jack Boskett. Booking at friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/



LIZ FREEDMAN - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025 CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK



SUZANNE CAMPBELL - COS25 7-15 JUNE 2025
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

Cheltenham Local History Society

Sat 12 Jul, 1.30pm, £4, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Local History Afternoon with a theme of Hospitality. Displays, walks, talks, light refreshments. See cheltlocalhistory.org.uk

Friends of the Wilson

Tue 15 Jul, 2pm, members £11, non-members £13, St Matthew's Church, talk: Exquisite Embroideries to Glittering Glass: the Work of Women Artists in Cotswold Churches, with Kirsty Hartsiotis. Booking at friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/

Friends of the Wilson

Tue 2 Sep, 2pm, members £11, non-members £13, St Matthew's Church, talk: Earth Fire Iron: Alan Evans and the New Iron Age, 1980-2025, with Mary Greensted. Booking at friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/

The Arts Society

Cheltenham: Banksy: fraud or genius?

Tue 9 Sep, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £4, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Pepe Martinez, tracing the story of Banksy's humble beginnings as a tagger on the streets of Bristol to one

of the most recognisable names in the art world. See theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org

Cheltenham Local History Society

Wed 17 Sep, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, talk: The Thomas Phillipps Collection in Thirlestaine House, with Margaret Jones

Heritage Open Days

Fri 12 - Sun 21 Sep, your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences, details tbc, see cheltcivicsoc.org

Leckhampton Local History Society

September, tbc, Dr Ray Wilson & The Industrial Heritage of the Cotswolds. For details: leckhamptonlhs.weebly.com/programme

GLoucestershire Young Photographer

A 21ST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On an evening in late April, members of Cheltenham Camera Club, together with families and teachers of the 36 award winners in this year's Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year competition, joined in a celebration of the competition's 21st birthday at the Playhouse.

In his introductory remarks, John Clare, chair of the Camera Club, looked back at the development of the competition over the years. The number of schools taking part has risen hugely from a modest 25 primary schools and 5 secondary schools in 2004, when Martin Fry set up the competition. In the first year 300 photographs were submitted, whereas the latest count was 1,114 submitted digitally, one image per entrant. Digital submission has been the rule since 2020, with all participating schools receiving a copy of the video presentation to share with their pupils. As always, this year's judges, David Adamson, Janice Clark and Martin Fry himself, all eminent members of the Camera Club, viewed all the images submitted, scoring each one and coming together later to make a final selection of

those chosen to compete for awards. John Clare stressed the privilege and challenge of choosing between so many imaginative images and encouraged all the young photographers to continue producing work with their own individual stamp. As a parting shot, he mentioned that four former entrants had become professional photographers!

The audio-visual presentation, designed by Martin Fry, began appropriately with a look back at many former winners, followed by the opportunity to see every one of the images chosen to be included in this year's final selection. At the end of a thoroughly inspiring evening, the primary school awards were presented by the Mayor of Cheltenham, Councillor Paul Baker. The awards for secondary school students were presented by Ross Beamish, chair of Cheltenham Round Table, which has sponsored this competition in recent years in partnership with Cheltenham Arts Council. The evening concluded with a presentation and thanks to Linda and Terry Kirkhope to mark their retirement after many years of vital help with the organisation of this event.

THE PRIZE WINNERS

A New Prize for the Best Small School: Southrop CE Primary

Best Primary: St Mark's Junior, Cheltenham

Best Secondary: Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester

Primary Winner: Ladybirds by Arianne / Southrop CE Primary

Secondary: Winner: Frosty Street Light by Cole / Sir Thomas Rich's School

THE ORIEL SINGERS

50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR CHELTENHAM CHOIR

Long well-known for the quality of its musicianship, The Oriel Singers is now celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

Formed by a quartet of friends in 1975, directed by Susannah Chapple and organised by George Mathers, they took their name from George's offices in Oriel Terrace Cheltenham. Initially they met for the pleasure of making music together unaccompanied, in contrast to larger choral works. Small concerts followed, other musical friends joined, until the choir grew to about 20 strong. Five members from that initial burst of growth remain in the choir!

The choir's musical direction passed to Tim Morris in 1979, and the choir grew from strength to strength. In 1982 the Oriels won the Cheltenham Competitive Festival Gold Cup, and in 1990 went on to win the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition.

Many cathedrals have engaged the choir to sing the weekend services, most recently York Minster; it has also sung frequently abroad, notably in Venice, Verona, Chartres and Prague.

Collaboration with other musicians such as the Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra,



St. Cecilia Singers, I Fagiolini, and the Orlando Consort, has also widened the choir's repertoire. Meanwhile, it has always remained faithful to its roots of making music together unaccompanied whenever possible, where each member can fully realise the importance of their contribution to the whole.

In 2005 the Oriels again decided to try its luck and entered the Radio 3 Choir of the Year competition. After some nail-biting moments and heartfelt performances, it won and was delighted to receive the reward of a composition from James Macmillan as the prize.

The choir rehearses weekly in Montpellier, Cheltenham, under the leadership of conductor Ben Sawyer, who joined in 2015. The choir continues to aspire to the highest level of musicianship and performance in an informal and friendly atmosphere,



ORIELS AT THE PUMP ROOM



ORIEL SINGERS - CHOIR OF THE YEAR 2005



ORIEL SINGERS IN YEARS GONE BY

exploring both the music from the past and the best of contemporary works.

Part of the celebrations will be the recording of a number of pieces the choir has commissioned over the years, including composers like Joanna Forbes L'Estrange and local musician Micheal Gryspeerdt.

Please come and join the choir as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary:

- June 28th, Llanwenarth Church, Nr Abergavenny at 7.00pm
- October 18th, Anniversary Concert, Pittville Pump Room Cheltenham at 7.30pm

[Anna Ball](#)

THE ARTS SOCIETY CHELTENHAM

SUCCESSFUL VENTURE COMBINES ART, COFFEE & A CHAT

In September 2023, The Arts Society Cheltenham launched a new event which we called Café Arts.

It was felt that we needed a smaller, more casual event to enable members to socialise and meet each other outside our monthly lecture. Café Arts was launched to provide just that, and to broaden the benefits of membership by providing a short, informal presentation on an arts-related topic lasting about twenty minutes each time and given by a local artist, or a member of TASC. We invite our speakers to talk about their experience, from the fruits of their study and research both at home and abroad, to the creative output of their brushes, pens, pottery wheels, looms etc. We have enjoyed enthusiastic talks on portrait painting, animal portraits, embroidery, pottery, pencil drawing and 3-D printing, as well as one on the Gardens Gallery in Montpellier Gardens and its work.

This idea has really taken off and we now hold 6 or 7 of these morning meetings per season, at the Bowling Club in Suffolk Square. The attendance is usually around 30 members, and the venue provides a very friendly, intimate setting for a cup of coffee and a chance to hear an engaging talk on a branch of the arts. Our members really appreciate having something to attend in the daytime, as our monthly lectures are held in the evenings and for some going out in the winter months at night is not easy.



The talks are held on either Tuesday or Thursday morning from 10:30am to 12:00pm, and are open to everyone, not just members of The Arts Society Cheltenham. We would be very happy to welcome you to our Café Arts gatherings when they start again later this year. Further details of dates and talks are available on our website at <https://theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk/Events/FutureEvents.aspx>

Katherine Judge
Programme Secretary

Wild Arts returns to the Cotswolds area this summer with an all-new version of their popular Opera Evening plus a wonderful interpretation of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* set in an Italian seaside resort.



If you haven't come across it before, Wild Arts is an opera company that has been making a big impact in the last few years, with a string of four and five star reviews for its fresh and innovative new opera productions from publications such as Opera Now and The Guardian. But while the performances you see on stage may be high impact, the company prides itself on its low environmental impact focusing on telling stories through fabulous costumes, clever props and the talent and magnetism of the performers, so that instead of lorries full of equipment, they can fit the entire production into the boot of an electric car. Wild Arts' Artistic Director Orlando Jopling said:

'It is our mission to take our opera productions to beautiful places around the UK and so we are eagerly looking forward to our return to the Cotswolds this summer. These gorgeous venues, our amazing cast and musicians and of course, our appreciative and supportive audiences, make these performances into really special and memorable occasions.'

This summer the company is touring to Sudeley and Berkeley Castles, Painswick Rococo Garden, Owlpen Manor and, as has

become a tradition for Wild Arts' country house performances, the grounds of these beautiful historic places will be open once again for picnics on the lawns, making it the perfect opportunity to gather a group of family and friends to enjoy a sparkling summer treat. If you can't make those dates then the company will also be appearing at Malvern Festival Theatre.

For the Opera Evenings, director James Hurley has woven together a brand-new show telling a story, full of dramatic intrigue, jealousy, comedy, idealism, and love from some of the greatest musical dramas of all time. The performance includes favourite arias and scenes by Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Puccini and Verdi, as well as classic songs from the musicals of George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, Richard Rodgers and Stephen Sondheim performed by four fabulous singers and a world-class string quintet.

Alongside this we present a revival of Wild Arts' hit 2023 production of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. With all the zip and joie de vivre of the original, director Guido Martin-Brandis has relocated this riotous tale of lovers and luck-chasing liars to a 1950's seaside, with a mischievous English translation. Taking the lead roles in the production are Wild Arts regulars Galina Averina (5 stars "terrific ... with sparkling vivacity," The Guardian) and Glyndebournne rising star Timothy Nelson, alongside an orchestra hand-picked from the best of the UK's chamber musicians.

And for those of you who are in London during August the company also makes its debut as part of the renowned Opera Holland Park summer season, performing *The Elixir of Love* and a brand-new production of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* directed by former Shakespeare's Globe Artistic Director Dominic Dromgoole.

For full details of all our performances in the Cotswolds, at other venues in the West Country and in Holland Park, London, and to book online, please visit wildarts.org.uk

Wild Arts presents

An Evening of Opera

The Elixir of Love

Enjoy picnics and sparkling opera in beautiful country houses, theatres, and gardens across the Cotswolds.

The perfect summer treat.

★★★★★
Opera Now

★★★★★
Robert Hugill

★★★★★
The Guardian

An Evening of Opera
Tuesday 29 July | Sudeley Castle
Wednesday 30 July | Berkeley Castle
Friday 1 August | Painswick Rococo
Garden
Sunday 3 August | Taynton, Burford

Donizetti *The Elixir of Love*
Thursday 31 July | Owlpen Manor
Saturday 2 August | Malvern Festival
Theatre

Book Now wildarts.org.uk/whats-on



CAPTURE A MOMENT FOR COBALT 2024

Photography competition open
1st April – 31st July

- Get out and about with your camera
- Capture a moment
- Submit your entry for £2 per image
- Over £1,000 worth of prizes

For full details scan the QR code or visit
www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/photocomp



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