

*perspectives*

CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE



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

*JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2026*

*Wild Arts • German Club  
Children's Photographic Competition  
Cheltenham Arts Council Awards*



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Please contact [editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk](mailto:editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk) for more information.

Submissions must be with us by the following dates for consideration for the next issue:

Mid December deadline for Feb/May Issue

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Mid August deadline for Oct/Jan Issue

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*Perspectives is produced three times a year.  
The next issue will span October 2026 - January 2027.*

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

FRONT COVER - THE STUNNING COVER IMAGE IS BY DANNY POCOCK, 'WRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR'

@DANNYPPOCKARTIST

DANNY WILL BE TAKING PART IN THE POOL HOUSE GALLERY EXHIBITION AT THIS YEAR'S FINAL FRESH AIR SCULPTURE SHOW. 14 JUNE - 5 JULY 2026

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE AT [WWW.FRESHAIRSCULPTURE.COM](http://WWW.FRESHAIRSCULPTURE.COM)



### PERSPECTIVES TEAM

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## Dear Readers

The welcome reappearance of the sun brings with it this cheerful June edition of Perspectives, the magazine of Cheltenham Arts Council, in which we celebrate the recipients of the awards given annually to volunteers with some of the CAC's member societies. Not to be outdone, Gloucestershire's young photographers also deserve celebration for the stunning and varied photographs submitted by so many for the Young Photographer awards, which were presented this year in the Bacon Theatre at Dean Close School.

Articles by members of three very different choirs give us a flavour of the wide variety of choirs and choral music in and around Cheltenham, offering something uplifting for all tastes. On behalf of the Cheltenham Music Festival Society, Andrew Auster also offers a programme of tempting lunchtime concerts by young musicians, drawn mainly from our local schools.



FRANCESCA CHALK - GLOS GUILD OF CRAFTSMEN

Looking forward optimistically to balmy summer evenings, don't miss the advertisement for the return to the Cotswolds of the wonderful Wild Arts company with two different evenings of opera in various venues.

Whether you are performing or part of the audience, enjoy whatever the summer has to offer you, and we shall hope to read about it all in the next edition of Perspectives!

Best wishes,

**Elise Forbes**  
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

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



AMY MILLS, AMYMILLSCERAMICS.CO.UK

## CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL - ANNUAL AWARDS

### A CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS IN OUR TOWN



**O**n Wednesday 18th March, Cheltenham Arts Council held their 2026 Awards evening.

We met in the Municipal Offices for a change, with a reception in the Pittville room followed by the ceremony in the Council Chamber. Edward Gillespie was resplendent as Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and we were grateful that Councillor Dr David Willingham, Mayor of Cheltenham, and Councillor Izaak Tailford, council cabinet member for Economic Development, Wellbeing, Culture and Public Realm were also able to be present. The award winners received much applause from the audience, and especially their supporters from the various societies represented.

#### Award winners

Details of the awards and this year's winners are listed below. Many congratulations to them all!

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

**Geoff Bridgman** from the Charlton Kings Local History Society, **Shirley Elliott** from the Cheltenham Bach Choir, James Golding from the Holst Victorian House, **Belinda Hyland** from the Arts Society Cheltenham and **Wendy Price** from the Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra all received citations.

The **Cheltenham Visual Arts Cup** was received by **Karen Bendersky** from the Lansdown Art Studios



The Elizabeth Webster Cup was awarded to **Nathanael Horlock** of St Edward's School



The Trustees decided that as the Grand Opera group had folded several years ago, The Opera Cup should be renamed the **Musical Arts Cup**. This Cup is awarded for enterprise and innovation in music making and was awarded this year to **Sue Belinfante** from the Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra





The **Charles Irving Sponsorship Award**, presented to a local business that has provided exceptional support through sponsorship of the voluntary arts in Cheltenham, was awarded to **Tracey and Tom Cadogan** of Art Union.



The **Joyner Cup**, went to **Sally Self** from the Cheltenham Local History Society

**Sue Silcock**  
Chair of Cheltenham  
Arts Council



DEBBIE KERSLEY - COS MEMBER

## CANTORES CHAMBER CHOIR

MUSIC OF RENAISSANCE VENICE IS A TREAT THIS SUMMER



**C**antores Chamber Choir marked the season of Lent this year with two reflective and musically rich performances in Fairford and Minchinhampton.

The thoughtfully curated programme explored themes of 'Darkness, Devotion and Hope', offering audiences an immersive journey through sacred choral music spanning several centuries.

At the heart of the programme was J.S. Bach's motet *Jesu, meine Freude*, a cornerstone of the Lutheran choral tradition, paired with the intense and contemporary spirituality of James MacMillan's *Miserere*. The choir also drew on Renaissance masters such as Lassus, Byrd and Schütz, alongside English 20th century voices including Herbert Howells and John Sanders.

From the introspection of Lent, Cantores

now turns to the splendour of Renaissance Venice with its upcoming concert **Festa Veneziana!** in Cirencester Parish Church on **Saturday 27th June**. The programme celebrates the opulent polychoral traditions of Venetian music, featuring composers such as Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli, Giovanni Battista Grillo and Gioseffo Guami.

A major highlight of the concert will be the collaboration with **His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts**, one of the UK's leading period instrument ensembles. Founded in 1982, the group specialises in historically informed performances using Renaissance brass instruments, bringing an authentic and vibrant sound world to the repertoire. This partnership promises to recreate the grandeur of St Mark's Basilica in Venice, where spatially separated choirs and instrumentalists combined to produce dazzling sonic effects.

For tickets and more information, please visit [www.cantores.net](http://www.cantores.net)

## CHELTENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

### A LOOK BACK AND A TASTE OF A VARIED PROGRAMME TO COME

**C**heltenham Choral Society, founded in 1938, continues to thrive through a varied programme of rehearsals and performances each year.

Our most recent concert, held on 21st March at Christ Church, Cheltenham, was a memorable and uplifting evening of music.



Under the direction of our Musical Director, Thomas Mottershead, the programme opened with the Little Organ Mass by Joseph Haydn, featuring baritone soloist Christopher Monk. Our talented accompanist, Alison Howell, then performed the organ solo *When the Morning Stars Sang Together* by Mary Beth Bennett.

The first half of the concert concluded with *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, once again featuring Christopher Monk, with the final

movement, *Antiphon*, bringing it to a rousing and uplifting close.

Following an interval, we were delighted to present the *Requiem* by Matthew Coleridge. Baritone Christopher Monk once again took a central role in the performance, his assured and expressive singing adding richness to the work. He was joined by soprano soloist Harriet Perfect, a Year 12 student at The King's School, Gloucester, where she holds both academic and music scholarships. Written shortly after the composer became a father, this *Requiem* offers a deeply moving, yet life-affirming perspective.

Scored for choir, solo cello, organ, and optional percussion, the performance featured cellist Anna Leary and percussionist Alex Evans, whose contributions helped create a rich and atmospheric musical texture. It was a powerful and emotional conclusion to the evening, and we hope the audience enjoyed the concert as much as we did.

#### Future Concerts

Looking ahead, we are excited to present a busy and varied programme.

In the summer term, we will give a lunchtime recital on 20th June at the beautiful St Mary Redcliffe church in Bristol. The programme will include the *Requiem* by Matthew Coleridge, alongside *Songs and Sonnets* from Shakespeare by George Shearing. Admission is free, and all are warmly welcome.

In the autumn, we return to Christ Church, Cheltenham, to perform *Magnificat* by Antonio Vivaldi and *Coronation Mass* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Our year concludes with our much-



loved Carols by Candlelight at Holy Apostles Church, Cheltenham—a festive highlight for choir and audience alike.

We are proud to have nearly 100 members. While there is currently a waiting list

for soprano and alto voices, we warmly welcome enquiries from tenors and basses.

Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 7:30–9:30pm at St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Cheltenham.

**For more information about the choir, upcoming concerts, and ticket bookings, please visit our website [www.cheltchoral.org](http://www.cheltchoral.org) or follow us on Instagram and Facebook for the latest updates.**

## CHELTENHAM GERMAN CLUB

### THREE VERY DIFFERENT CLUB EVENTS

**T**he German Club held three events at the start of 2026.

The speaker at our January meeting was Philip Cole, a member of the German Club and a linguist, who worked in the European Parliament in Luxemburg for 25 years and was head of the English translation service.

What follows is a summary of the views expressed by Philip during his talk, entitled *The Future of Democracy in Europe*. It began with Philip's definition of a democracy as a state in which the people alone decide (through a parliament elected by PR and accurately reflecting the views of the people); free and fair elections; a head of state with a purely ceremonial role; and no section of the population with disproportionate influence. He feels that democracy is firstly under threat from populism of the right or the left, is also under threat from Russia, and can be undermined by the fifth column of useful idiots. Philip proposed that a serious economic crisis could also threaten democracy, as can climate change and apathy on the part of voters. He feels that young people, for example, are increasingly apolitical. In conclusion, Philip's view is that the future of democracy ultimately depends on a willingness to respond robustly to these challenges, and that the future looks bleak.

Our talk in February was given by Dr John Goodyear, from the University

of Birmingham. In 2021 Dr Goodyear made a documentary in the Bundesland Niedersachsen (the Federal state of Lower Saxony) for the radio station in the north of Germany, entitled "Happy Birthday Niedersachsen" and concerning the British influence on this area of Germany. He spoke about the history of the area, including the special role of Great Britain in 1946, when there was a new beginning after the second world war, with personal anecdotes and examples of British humour. He has even made films about Niedersachsen, which included interviews, and he reflected on the origin of Niedersachsen and its people. The talk was very interesting and well received by our members.

In March, we showed a German film with subtitles called "Zwei zu Eins". It was a summer comedy set in the former GDR. Three friends find millions of East German Ostmarks hidden in an underground chamber. With friends and neighbours, they develop an ingenious system to change the worthless Ostmarks into Deutschmarks. They have three days to complete the exchange, so they buy a lot of western products, which they then sell to West Germans to earn the equivalent in Deutschmarks. The film was funny and very well received by our members.

**Bärbel Hewett**

<https://www.cheltgesell.uk>

## GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

### SINGING TOGETHER FOR FUN AND VOCAL DEVELOPMENT

**G**otherington Singers are continuing to enjoy singing together.

We have recently been pleased to welcome Lesley Day as our new accompanist, as well as several new members. Our very successful Christmas concert was held at the church of St. Michael and All Angels in Bishops Cleeve on Saturday 6th December, when we were delighted that Duncan Ivory joined us again as our special guest. On 28th February we held our second Come and Sing Day in Gotherington Village Hall - this time singing

songs from the American songbook and ably led by Aidan Smith from Cheltenham Vocal Academy. As well as having lots of fun singing together, Aidan helped us all to develop our vocal technique. He is an excellent tutor!

Our next concert will be held on Saturday 4th July at 3pm at the church of St. Michael and All Angels in Bishops Cleeve and we shall return there for our Christmas Concert to be held on Saturday 12th December.

**Julie Devereux**  
Chairman Gotherington Singers

New members are always welcome. We are a female voice choir singing a varied repertoire and do not audition. We meet on Mondays in Gotherington Village Hall at 7.45pm in term time. Please contact Sally for more information.

[sall.newbury@gmail.com](mailto:sall.newbury@gmail.com) or 01242 317276

PETE GARRARD - COS MEMBER



## LISTINGS: EVENTS DIRECTORY JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2026

## VISUAL ARTS

**Plein Air Art Competition**

Sat 6 Jun, 10am-5pm, Montpellier Gardens, open to all abilities, judged by an expert panel with prizes to be won, spectators welcome to see artists at work. To register please visit [wtscollective.co.uk](http://wtscollective.co.uk)

**Christian Arts Festival Retrospective & New Work 2016 – 2026: Opening and Celebration Party**

Fri 11 Sep, 5-7pm, The Hub Gallery, Christ Church, Malvern Road, part of Heritage Open Days - everyone welcome! [christianartsfestival.org](http://christianartsfestival.org)

**Christian Arts Festival Retrospective & New Work 2016 – 2026**

Sat 12- Sun 20 Sep, 10am-4pm, Sundays 12-2pm, The Hub Gallery, Christ Church, Malvern Road, [christianartsfestival.org](http://christianartsfestival.org)

**Cotswold Art Club Exhibition**

Mon 14- Sun 20 Sep, Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Stained Glass Window Tour**

Thu 17 Sep, 11am-12pm, Christ Church, part of Heritage Open Days, please pre-book by email: [hods@cheltcivicsoc.org](mailto:hods@cheltcivicsoc.org)

**AT THE GARDENS GALLERY, MONPELLIER GARDENS:**

**Core hours 10am - 5pm**

**Cheltenham Open Studios Taster Show**

Thu 4- Mon 8 Jun, a selection of work from COS member artists, and a pre taster to the main open studios art trail in 2027, celebrating 15 years of this event: [cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk](http://cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk)

**Guiting Art Group**

Fri 19- Sun 21 Jun



ANNA LANSLEY - SIXTEEN GALLERY COLLECTIVE

**Lisa Lavery**

Wed 24- Tue 30 Jun

**Precious Lands**

Wed 1- Tue 7 Jul, late viewing 2 July (5-7pm), closes 1pm on 7 Jul, celebrating landscape, exploring human impact. A broad variety of two dimensional works, and a small collection of jewellery from artists Simon Fitzgerald, Caroline Hill, Ellie Thomas and Anna Bagnall

## EVENTS FOR JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2026

**Fibre Art Exhibition**

Wed 8- Tue 14 Jul, 10am-6pm, closes 1pm on 14 Jul, Philippa Devine: Botanical Printing, Anne Hopkins: A Feeling For Felt, Hilary Davies: 3-Dimensional & Quilted Fabric Collage, Helen DenDulk: Architectural Crochet & Yarn Wrapping, [www.fellowshipoffibre.co.uk](http://www.fellowshipoffibre.co.uk)

**The Joy of Colour**

Wed 22- Tue 28 Jul, a group of four artists

**Substance and Sensitivity: Claire Hines**

Wed 29 Jul- Tue 4 Aug

**Art Mix**

Wed 5- Tue 11 Aug

**Junction 12 Art Group**

Wed 12- Tue 18 Aug

**Light on the Edge: Martin Fry**

Wed 19- Tue 25 Aug

**Abigail Waddel**

Wed 26 Aug- Tue 1 Sep

**Cheltenham Art Club**

Wed 2- Tue 8 Sep

**Wings, Wood, Weave: Jak Harrison**

Wed 16- Tue 22 Sep

**Transpersonal Art. A Renaissance! - Jaimie Cahill**

Wed 23- Sun 27 Sep



NICOLA KELSALL - COS MEMBER

## MUSIC

**Charlton Kings Choral Society Rehearsals**

Wednesdays, 7.30pm, new members always welcome. Further info: [ckcsonline.org.uk](http://ckcsonline.org.uk), email: [theseecretary@ckcsonline.org.uk](mailto:theseecretary@ckcsonline.org.uk), tel. 01451 822277

**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, please email our secretary, Chris Carruthers, at

[4chriscrs@gmail.com](mailto:4chriscrs@gmail.com) for further information. See [www.musicavera.org](http://www.musicavera.org)

**Young Musicians Concert: Alexander Doronin (piano)**

Tue 2 Jun, 1pm, free, Pittville Pump Room

**Young Musicians Concert: John Croft, President of the George Formby Society**

Tue 9 Jun, 1pm, free, Pittville Pump Room

**Young Musicians Concert: Cheltenham College**

Tue 16 Jun, 1pm, free, Pittville Pump Room

**Cheltenham Choral Society**

Sat 20 Jun, 1pm, free, St Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, programme to include the Requiem by Matthew Coleridge, alongside Songs and Sonnets from Shakespeare by George Shearing. For more info, see [cheltchoral.org](http://cheltchoral.org)

**Cheltenham Children's Choir: Songs for the Summer**

Sat 20 Jun, Little Lyrics: 3pm, All other choirs: 7pm, Playhouse Theatre, info: [cheltenhamchildrenschoir.co.uk](http://cheltenhamchildrenschoir.co.uk)

## EVENTS FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2026

**Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra: Gallery of the Imagination**

Sat 20 Jun, 7.30pm, Pershore Abbey, Organ - James Lancelot, Berlioz: Overture Les Francs-Juges, Poulenc: Organ concerto, Mussorgsky: Scherzo and Pictures at an Exhibition. In support of Farmers Overseas Action Group: tickets from the FOAG Office on 01886 853295, or send an email to [info@foag.org](mailto:info@foag.org)

**Pittville Park Brass Band Concert: Metz Big Band**

Sun 21 Jun, 1-3pm, Pittville Park Bandstand, in front of Pittville Pump Room, free summer music provided by Friends of Pittville

**Young Musicians Concert: Yan Zing (violin) & Winnie Chan (piano)**

Tue 23 Jun, 1pm, free, Pittville Pump Room

**The Oriel Singers: Bach and all that Jazz**

Thu 25 Jun, 8pm, £15 (£2 U18/Students), St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, feat. The David Gordon Quartet, works by both J.S. Bach and J.C. Bach, with jazz improvisations inspired by the works and their themes by our guest jazz instrumentalists, tickets from [orielsingers.org.uk](http://orielsingers.org.uk)



ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOP - COS GROUP

**Cleeve Chorale Summer Concert**

Sat 27 Jun, 3pm, Tithe Barn, Bishop's Cleeve, a selection of part songs old and new

**Musicality Community Choirs: Summer Sounds**

Sat 27 Jun, 7.30pm, £12/child £6/ U5s free, St Philip & St James, tickets: [musicality-choir.co.uk](http://musicality-choir.co.uk)

**Cantores Chamber Choir: Festa Veneziana!**

Sat 27 Jun, 7pm, tickets £20 (U18s & Students £5), St John the Baptist Church, 6 West Market Place, Cirencester, celebrating the music of Renaissance Venice, with His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts, info and tickets: [www.cantores.net](http://www.cantores.net)

**Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra Summer Concert: Carmina Burana**

Sun 28 Jun, 3pm, with the Cheltenham Philharmonic Chorus, Cantate Domino, Philomusica and Charlton Kings Choral Society. Carl Orff: Carmina Burana, Bernstein: Songs from West Side Story, Marquez: Danzon No.2. Tickets: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheltphilorch](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheltphilorch)

**Young Musicians Concert: Bournside School**

Tue 30 Jun, 1pm, free, Pittville Pump Room



FIONA BOULT - SIXTEEN GALLERY COLLECTIVE

**Musica Vera Summer Concert**

Sat 4 Jul, 3pm, St Mary's Church, Prestbury, a selection of sumptuous songs from Scotland: folk-songs a-plenty, romantic part-songs and even a choral ceilidh! After the concert (which is about an hour) there will be tea and cake to celebrate the end of another season of music making. Further info and tickets: [www.musicavera.org](http://www.musicavera.org)

**Pittville Park Brass Band Concert: Wotton Silver Band**

Sun 19 Jul, 1-3pm, Pittville Park Bandstand, in front of Pittville Pump Room, free summer music provided by Friends of Pittville

**The Oriel Singers: I Heard a Voice**

Tue 28 Jul, 10pm, £24, St Mary de Lode, Gloucester, part of the Three Choirs Festival, inc. Eric Whitacre's dramatic "Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine", Joanna Forbes L'Estrange's jazzy "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?", and our very own 50th anniversary piece, Neil Cox's "Jubilee". Tickets from [3choirs.org](http://3choirs.org)

**Pittville Park Brass Band Concert: Gloucester Excelsior Band**

Sun 2 Aug, 1-3pm, Pittville Park Bandstand, in front of Pittville Pump Room, free summer music provided by Friends of Pittville

**Pittville Park Brass Band Concert: Gloucestershire Police Band**

Sun 16 Aug, 1-3pm, Pittville Park Bandstand, in front of Pittville Pump Room, free summer music provided by Friends of Pittville

**The Oriel Singers Come and Sing day: Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb**

Sat 12 Sep, 9.30am-4.30pm, £28, inc. music and refreshments, Bethesda Methodist Church, details from [orielsingers.org.uk](http://orielsingers.org.uk)

**Heritage Open Days: Organ and Choir Concert**

Sun 20 Sep, 5-6pm, Christ Church, Malvern Road, [christianartsfestival.org](http://christianartsfestival.org)

## STAGE &amp; DANCE

**Promenade Productions Present: Come From Away**

Tue 21- Sat 25 July, Everyman, [promenadeproductions.co.uk](http://promenadeproductions.co.uk)

**Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society: Dear Evan Hansen**

Fri 25 Sep- Sat 3 Oct, Playhouse, [codsoline.co.uk](http://codsoline.co.uk)



TRACEY TURNER - COS MEMBER

## EVENTS FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2026

## LECTURES &amp; MEETINGS

**Prestbury Local History Society**

Mon 1 Jun, 7.30pm, members free, visitors £2, Prestbury W.I. Hall, talk: Dr Edward Adrian Wilson, with David Elder

**Friends of The Wilson**

Wed 17 Jun, 2pm, members £11, non-members £13, St Matthew's Church, talk: Lucy Abel Smith and the story of the biennial Fresh Air sculpture show. Booking at [friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/](http://friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/)

**Prestbury Local History Society**

Mon 22 Jun, 7.30pm, members free, visitors £2, Prestbury W.I. Hall, talk: When the monks came to Prestbury, with Tony Noel

**The Arts Society Cheltenham: Visit to Nature in Art Twigworth and Hellens Manor Ledbury**

Tue 23 Jun, £45 per member or £50 per guest, morning at Twigworth with an introductory talk, and then freedom to explore the gallery. Lunch can be purchased at the coffee shop. Afternoon at Hellens Manor reputed to be one of the oldest dwellings



KARLA ROBLEDO - COS MEMBER

in Britain, including a private guided tour and chance to enjoy afternoon tea. More info: <https://theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk/Visits/FutureVisits.aspx>

**The Arts Society Cheltenham: The Art of Friendship**

Tue 8 Sep, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £4, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Juliet Heslewood. How can an artist portray friendship? Love or hate, maternity, childhood - these themes have recognisable motifs that add to the portrayal. But friendship is less easy

to illustrate. Artists over the centuries have made portraits of their friends and still managed to convey the relevance of the unique relationship. See [theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk](http://theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk)

**Cheltenham German Club: Season opening and AGM**

Fri 11 Sep, 7 for 7.30pm, The New Club, Montpellier Parade, accompanied by the Dokufilm "Happy Birthday Niedersachsen"

**Cheltenham Heritage Open Days 2026**

Fri 11- Sun 20 Sep, explore Cheltenham and its history with 10 days of open buildings, talks, walks and exhibitions. All free to explore! To find out more pick up a brochure or visit [chelctivicsoc.org](http://chelctivicsoc.org)

**Cheltenham Local History Society**

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, talk: Cotswold Canals Trust: Reviving the Cotswold Canals, with Louise Nicholson

**Friends of The Wilson**

Wed 23 Sep, 2pm, members £11, non-members £13, St Matthew's Church, talk, Ornament unbound: print, transfer and ceramic surface, with Lisa Sheppy. Booking at [friendsofthewilson.org.uk/](http://friendsofthewilson.org.uk/)

**Prestbury Local History Society**

Mon 28 Sep, 7.30pm, members free, visitors £2, Prestbury W.I. Hall, talk, title tba, see [prestburyhistory.com/meetings-events/](http://prestburyhistory.com/meetings-events/)



PRECIOUS LANDS - @ GARDENS GALLERY 1-7 JULY



DINNY POCKOCK, POOL HOUSE GALLERY EXHIBITION AT THIS YEAR'S FRESH AIR SCULPTURE SHOW, 14 JUNE - 5 JULY 2026



KATH COOPER - COS MEMBER

## THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION

### THE AWARDS CEREMONY FOR TALENTED YOUNG PUPILS

**T**his year the 22nd annual Gloucestershire Young Photographer competition once again attracted an amazing number of entries.

Over 900 photographs from 48 primary and secondary schools across the county were judged by Janice Clark, Martin Fry and Saul Scott.

The judges were most impressed by the range of subject matter from plants to insects, from cities to wonderful landscapes, which presented the judges with a huge challenge when it came to selecting just 250 images for the show and finalising the award winners. The competition is organised by Cheltenham Camera Club, which gratefully acknowledges the support of Cheltenham Arts Council, sponsor of the primary school awards, and of secondary school sponsor, Cheltenham Round Table. The biggest change this year was the choice of The Bacon Theatre at Dean Close School as the new venue for the awards ceremony, including the all-important audio-visual showing of the selected works. This venue not only provided fantastic large scale projection facilities with wonderful sound, but also the new opportunity to invite all pupils whose images were selected, in addition to the award winners themselves. 500 pupils, parents and teachers filled the theatre for the Awards Ceremony, coming from as far away as Dursley, Cirencester and Chipping Campden. In attendance was the Mayor of Cheltenham, Councillor Dr. David Willingham who began by congratulating the winners and recognising the long history of the competition, which has inspired a whole new generation of photographers.

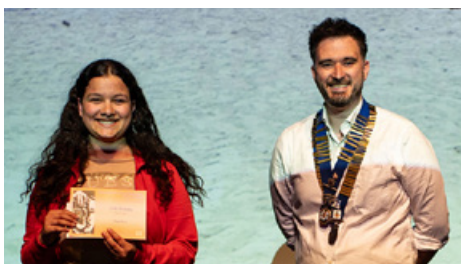
Following on from the showing of the selected works from primary schools, the awards were presented by Sue Silcock,

Chair of Cheltenham Arts Council.

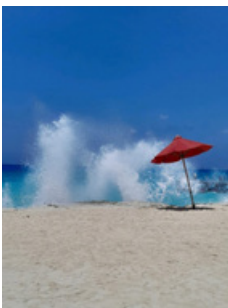
The First Prize went to Amelia for 'Reflected Sole', and the Best School entry, for which competition was intense, went to Gastrells Community Primary in Stroud, with Swindon Village Primary in second place.

The audio-visual presentation showing selected entries in the secondary school section of the competition was a fascinating illustration of the developing skills of older students, with a large number featuring scenes from around the world.

The prizes were presented by Milan Dragojlovic, Chair of Cheltenham Round Table. The First Prize went to Jude for 'Summer', a simple but very powerfully captured moment. Jude told us she took numerous photographs to get this striking image. The Best Secondary School entry went to Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester, with Stroud High School in second place.



SECONDARY WINNER - JUDE RECEIVING AWARD FROM MILAN DRAGOJLOVIC



1ST PRIZE, SECONDARY 'SUMMER' - JUDE



2ND PRIZE, SECONDARY 'NEVER ENDING LIBRARY' - LYDIA



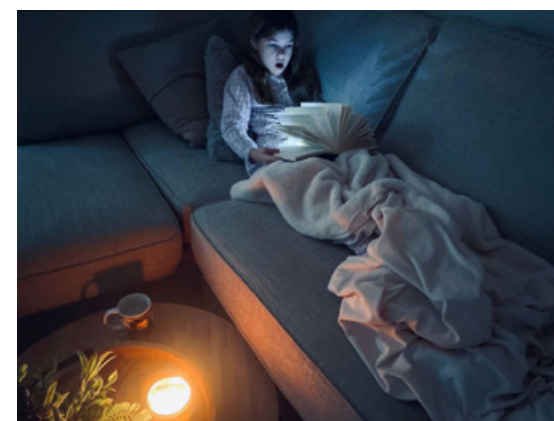
SIR THOMAS RICH'S - BEST SCHOOL ENTRY - SECONDARY



GASTRELLS - BEST SCHOOL ENTRY - PRIMARY



1ST PRIZE, PRIMARY 'REFLECTED SOLE' - AMELIA



2ND PRIZE, PRIMARY 'BOOK OF WONDERS' - GEORGIA F

## WILD ARTS ARE BACK!

### WELCOME RETURN OF THE EVER-POPULAR OPERA COMPANY

**W**ild Arts are returning to the Cotswolds this summer with a new staging of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, directed by Olivier Award-winning international opera star Danielle de Niese.

Renowned for her performances at Glyndebourne, de Niese now turns her hand to directing, making her debut with this production. She has also collaborated with Wild Arts' musical director, Orlando Jopling, on a fresh English translation that brings new immediacy and sparkle to Mozart's beloved opera.

Featuring a phenomenal cast and a 10-player orchestra, the production is presented in Wild Arts' signature pared-back style - where storytelling takes centre stage through gorgeous costumes, inventive props, and the talent and magnetism of the performers.

Alongside *The Marriage of Figaro*, Wild Arts will also revive its popular Opera Evening across venues in the region. In a brand-new



version for Summer 2026, director Guido Martin-Brandis has crafted a new narrative from favourite arias and scenes from Handel, Mozart, Puccini and Rossini and songs from classic musicals by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Bernstein and Noël Coward. Performed by four outstanding soloists and a world-class string quintet, it promises to be a sparkling and mischievous summer treat.

Full details and online booking at [www.wildarts.org.uk](http://www.wildarts.org.uk)



SYLVIA WADSLY - SIXTEEN GALLERY COLLECTIVE



Wild Arts presents Mozart's comic opera of intrigue, secret lovers and clever disguises.

Directed by international opera star Danielle de Niese, with a phenomenal cast and 10-player orchestra, get ready for an evening full of sparkling tunes, tangled romances, and razor-sharp wit.

**Wed 15 Jul**

Malvern Festival Theatre

**Thursday 16 July**

Owlpen Manor, Gloucestershire

**Tuesday 21 July**

Ham Court, Bampton, Oxfordshire

**Sunday 9 August**

Cheltenham Everyman Theatre

Book online at [wildarts.org.uk](http://wildarts.org.uk)

W. A. Mozart

# THE MARRIAGE OF *Figaro*



## *An Evening of Opera*

Enjoy an evening of favourite arias from the greatest operas alongside songs from the classic musicals, performed by four fabulous singers and a world-class string quintet. A sparkling and mischievous summer treat!

**Friday 3 July**

Dunster Castle, Somerset

**Monday 13 July**

Sudeley Castle & Gardens, Gloucestershire

**Friday 17 July**

Painswick Rococo Garden, Gloucestershire

**Sunday 19 July**

Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire

**Thursday 23 July**

Forde Abbey, Somerset

**Tuesday 28 July**

Ham Court, Bampton, Oxfordshire

Book online at [wildarts.org.uk](http://wildarts.org.uk)



## YOUNG MUSICIAN CONCERTS SUMMER PROGRAMME

TUESDAY LUNCHTIMES ARE A REAL TREAT

### TOWN HALL DRAWING ROOM

**28th April** Dalia Obretin *flute* & Manon Browning *harp*

**5th May** Adam Heron *piano*

### PITTVILLE PUMP ROOM

**12th May** The King's School, Gloucester

**19th May** Mari Carmen *violin* & Nina Savicevic *piano*

**2nd June** Alexander Doronin *piano*

**9th June** John Croft: President of the George Formby Society

**16th June** Cheltenham College

**23rd June** an Zing *violin* & WinnieChan *piano*

**30th June** Bournside School

Since 2017, Cheltenham Music Festival Society has presented more than 200 Young Musician concerts at 1pm on Tuesdays, giving musicians at the start of their journeys the chance to perform solo or in school groups. We pay the Cheltenham Trust for the use of the venue.

Although entrance to the concerts is free, we ask for donations in a voluntary collection at the end. This goes towards the cost of hiring the venue and the travel expenses of the kind performers.

**Contact: Andrew Auster**    [a.auster30@gmail.com](mailto:a.auster30@gmail.com)