

perspectives

CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE

Cheltenham Arts Council: awards_funding_publicity_events listings



Local author Jane Bailey goes undercover in Cheltenham's Writers' Group

Poetry - obsolete or important?
You decide

Why local history matters and how you can get involved

Linguistics - Cheltenham's language societies



THIS ISSUE: words, words, words. Words written, words spoken. Historical words. Foreign words. Wordsmiths. Expression. Discussion. Lyrics. Argument. Word pictures. Rhyme, research, resonance, rhythm.

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

TRAFFORD MEMORIAL FUND

What is Cheltenham Arts Council and what does it do?

The CAC promotes the arts amongst the inhabitants of Cheltenham and the surrounding areas. Supported by the Cheltenham Borough Council, it operates an annual grants scheme whereby affiliated societies may apply for financial assistance.

Does it only work through member societies?

No, it administers the Trafford Memorial Fund, a bequest for the benefit of local arts organisations, students and young people. Applications in April and October.

What else does it do?

It gives awards to individuals or groups who have made a special contribution to their particular branch of the arts. It also provides publicity for member societies and their events through *Perspectives*.



KM

For further information on the Trafford Fund, please contact Carol Stewart: carolmstewart@btinternet.com

20th –
28th
APRIL

TAILOR MADE TRAVEL

cheltenham
poetry festival

Film, Animation, Bongos,
Workshops, Folked-Hip Hop, Readings,
Comedy and Ukuleles!

For more details please visit www.cheltenhampoetryfest.co.uk

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Welcome to our fresh new look *Perspectives* and welcome to the passion to be found in Cheltenham Arts Council's Member Societies – an extraordinary colourful world beyond the office and the home – a kind of life enhancing parallel universe for like minded souls.

These Societies are repositories of all that is good about 'community': they reveal depth of commitment, sincerity of interest and downright expertise that exists just beneath the surface of Cheltenham's stoical facades. So, which Society will you join? To help you choose, the listings covers all 53 Member Societies' events both here, in print and, more extensively, on the CAC web site.

Perspectives will be themed starting with a focus on 'Words'. Have you ever wanted to write a novel, a biography, a thriller? There are Writing Circles near you to fix that. And how about poetry? Does it speak to you? Can you hear it? Do you want to? Is poetry, just another foreign language and, for that matter, have you ever meant to learn French, Italian, German but just never got round to it? There are Societies in Cheltenham to fix that too. Perhaps the Camera Club can help

you to take a picture that is really worth '1000 words'.

'Only put off until tomorrow,' said Pablo Picasso, 'what you are willing to die having left undone.' But 'I never put off till tomorrow,' said Oscar Wilde, 'what I can possibly do - the day after.' Which are you? Pablo or Oscar? *Perspectives* will help you to decide. KM



PERSPECTIVES TEAM

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The next issues will feature:

MUSIC: June-September issue: Orchestral, Choral, Chamber, Recorded, Opera and 'Blue Moon'.
PLASTIC ARTS: October-January issue: Sculpture, Painting, Performance.

Submission (ads and events) one month before publication.

but there was a problem: books are considered 'out of print' if they have not been re-printed within a given time span, say, two years. At this point the rights are returned to the author on request. An ebook, by its very nature, never goes out of print. Without realising it, thousands of authors had let go of the rights to their intellectual property, had handed them over to publishers for ever.

A few years ago I would have said it was the worst possible time to become a writer, now I would say the opposite.

It is not surprising that many mainstream authors have started to experiment with self-publishing. Setting one's own ebook up on Amazon yields 70% of the retail price straight to the author, compared with 15-25% if published through a 'traditional' publisher, a further 20% of which goes to the agent. Self-publishing does not give such high yields for paper books, since POD (print-on-demand) books make little profit for retailers. However, we are told that the future of books is decidedly electronic. Anyone who doubts this need only reflect on the astonishing recent merger of Penguin and Random House. Publishers are joining ranks to face the threat.

Of course authors will miss the kudos and bonuses that traditional publishing offers. Authors are not necessarily good self-publicists, and prefer to spend their time writing. But publishers increasingly tend to throw most of their marketing budget at a few big names, and most 'mid-list' authors end up doing the marketing for themselves. What about the recognition, you ask? How are readers going to wade through all the offerings online to distinguish between the drivel of someone with delusions of talent and a truly

talented new writer? Will the lively reviewing from readers be enough to separate the wheat from the chaff? Will authors be able to manage without a professional editor? Will we see the birth of a new breed of independent editors, marketers and online facilitators? Almost certainly.

A few years ago I would have said it was the worst possible time to become a writer, now I would say the opposite. Fiction is one of our greatest exports, and we have the huge advantage of writing in English. Anyone can reach a global market from their own living room. These are exciting times for budding writers.

Jane's novels, Tommy Glover's Sketch of Heaven and Mad Joy are published by Constable & Robinson at £6.99. Her first self-published book, Eats, Cheats and Leaves is available from her website: www.jane-bailey.co.uk

The Cheltenham Writers' Circle meets at Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Cheltenham, on the first and third Monday of each month.

www.writers-circles.com/cheltenham.html

The Hester's Way Writing Circle meets on Wednesdays at Hester's Way Community Resource Centre at 10.30am.

<http://www.hwnp.org/writing.php>

The Montpellier Writer's Group meet at 7.30 every Tuesday at The Strand at the north end of the Bath Road.

<http://www.montpellierwriters.co.nr/>

The Everyman Theatre Writer's Lab meets 8 – 10 times a year on a weekday evening, usually 5 – 8pm, in the theatre.

<http://www.everymantheatre.org.uk/professional-training/writers-lab/>

POETRY: OBSOLETE OR IMPORTANT? YOU DECIDE.

BY SHARON LARKIN, CHAIR, CHELTENHAM'S POETRY SOCIETY

Do poets try to reflect the society they live in and if they do, do they succeed? Is poetry relevant or is it a minority interest for a reason? Poet David Harsent acknowledges that: 'Poetry's a minority art' but 'I don't mind that in the slightest. There are lots of minority interests and poetry is one of them. It just so happens to be an extremely important minority interest. Poetry is deep and crucial, or it can be. I think all the arts are important to a society. It would be interesting to know what a society bereft of arts would be like. Extremely unpleasant, I would think. Poetry is important for the same reason that the arts in general are important. They tell us how we live.'

So, poetry can hold up a mirror to who we are and what we care about and can propel or at least nudge us into caring about things we ought to care about - just as a film or a painting or sculpture can do. Poetry can achieve this on an intimate level, one to one.

Poetry touches people emotionally, intellectually and aesthetically - and can do all these simultaneously, with impact, punch and clout or more subtly, stealthily and delicately. Poetry is a condensed package so can carry a charge out of proportion to its size or the time taken to

things are as big as you make them
I can fill a whole body
a whole day of life
with worry
about a few words
on one scrap of paper
yet, the same evening
looking up
can frame my fingers to fit the sky
in my cupped hands

Lucy Partington

read or listen to it. Crucially, it uses metaphor and - as in parable - metaphorical language often communicates with us on a deeper level, leading to those 'aha' moments when something is touched or triggered.

Poetry is a condensed package so can carry a charge out of proportion to its size or the time taken to read or listen to it.



EPLEY - CPS

It is deeply satisfying writing - a poem where the words themselves just seem to 'work' - to appear 'just right', to carry more than their usual weight, through multiple meanings or the sound they carry - alone or in combination - or the resonances, history and associations they bring with them - their unseen 'baggage'.

Of course, the form in which the words are placed on the page is important too. Often the space around the words can add to the meaning of the poem, the line breaks, the 'silences' - acting like rests in music. The shape of the poem might also add to the meaning, as might its rhythm (not necessarily a regular beat - it may be more subtle than that). While free verse remains more prevalent than regular rhyme schemes in 21st century poetry,

many poets - and David Harsent is one of those - do use rhyme, and do so subtly, skillfully, satisfyingly. Andrew Motion, the former poet laureate, has said that rhyme

... less obvious than the more predictable 'thud' of a 'moon/June' type end-rhyme ...

remains one of the essential elements in poetry. But 'unobvious' rhyme - internal, slant, or sight rhymes. Words which 'chime', mid-line rhymes, near-rhymes, rhymes of vowels alone, rhymes of consonants alone, words which look like they should rhyme but don't sound rhyming to the ear, can all be very effective and satisfying to read, and to write - and for the brain to register, even if subconsciously. Since they are less obvious than the more predictable 'thud' of a 'moon/June' type end-rhyme, they are more compatible with meaning that has to be worked at rather than 'placed on a plate' before the reader or audience.

'Poetry' does not exist as a single entity. People have begun to refer to 'poetries' - a

Three Pylons

High on the skyline stand three metal pylons,
somewhere between Cleeve Common and Aggs Hill.
From my bedroom window I see them,
ugly, intrusive scars on the landscape -
Why, I always wanted to know,
were these eyesores ever allowed?

But then I went to work in Manchester,
and day and night I lived among dark streets
and dismal buildings that would destroy
the slightest sensibility to art or nature.
I hated every minute. Set free each Friday
I raced home along the motorway,
endless, congested mile after weary mile,
and reaching southwards on a summer's night
I saw at last with weary happiness
my sunlit golden hills, and yes, high on
the skyline,
my own three pylons,
a view that meant home, almost home
now.

Roger Turner

Memorials in Cheltenham College Chapel

So far in the past and impossibly remote -
or so it must have seemed to them,
not many years ago, who, as the Chaplain
preached on 'Who is my neighbour?',
stared at the names of subalterns,
Majors, Colonels of Hussars -
Ashantee, China War, Soudan.
Even for their grandfathers, this
was the strapping stuff of the Boys' Own
Paper,
Newbolt, 'Steady, the Buffs' and the Thin
Red Line.
And yet the Great Game's once more afoot,
and again in our time for another Queen
the bodies bleed on old battlefields -
Tochi, Chitral, Afghanistan.

Robin Gilbert

variety of artistic creations dealing with an infinite number of subjects, scenes, moods, atmospheres, and served in an ever-increasing variety of styles, forms, modes, media and presentations. But what all 'poetries' share, offer and demand is an imperative to communicate on levels which have **impact** on an audience or a readership. That impact may be a sudden jolt or a slow-burning fuse - but it will be a **deep** impact.

The Poetry Society meets on the first Tuesday of every month at Parmoor House in Lypiatt Terrace from 7-9pm. The first hour is taken by a guest poet. The second is a workshop where people bring copies of two poems they've written which are circulated and discussed by the group.

LOCAL HISTORY - WALKING THE WALK

NICHOLAS DODE, STREET SLEUTH, INVESTIGATES

It is said that pigeons pecking at salt deposits in a field, first highlighted the presence of a spring in Cheltenham and recently-added signposts throughout the town are topped with a pigeon as a reminder of this debt. Yet pigeons, or



indeed the Eagle Star, are not the only birds to have made their mark on the town. Looking up at the buildings on the Lower High Street, pelican crests can be seen above various shops. These are

part of the coat of arms of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, which was given the lands of the lawyer and Gloucester MP Richard Pate on condition that they maintain a free grammar school and a 'Hospital or Almshouse for six old poor people'.

Though the original school and almshouse buildings are gone, the pelicans and their connection to Pate's time evoke an era when, centuries before state education and healthcare, the town was much smaller, so much so that some older maps simply refer to 'Cheltenham Street'.

The Centre Stone stands (on the corner of the F. Hinds building on Cheltenham's

High Street) where previously there may have been a market cross. Today's market just a little further into the West End is still held on the same day nearly 800 years after a Thursday market was officially granted by Henry III in 1226. (The keen-eyed can still see the small brass markers in the paths of St Mary's churchyard, spaced apart for measuring rope for sale.) Whilst the Robins might bring visitors to Cheltenham for every home game, it is pigeons we have to thank for bringing prosperity and much growth to the town as the site of wells and spas from the 18th century onwards.

Why does a town in England have so many streets named after Montpellier, a city in southern France? James Hodsdon, winner of Cheltenham Arts Council's Joyner Cup for contributions to local history, suggests that it was first chosen by a developer to associate the nearby spa waters and baths with the French city's reputation for health. Pondering road names was the start of Hodsdon's love affair with local history: '... discovery itself is fun, but telling a story so that others can appreciate and enjoy it too is very rewarding.'

His recent work with the Friends of Pittville is proof. In their battle to secure the restoration of Pittville Gates, they uncovered the story of the gates' construction and history through archives, *Echo* publicity and the memories of local people. Local residents and students came together to tell their story and the booklet they produced and sold to raise funds was also a useful tool to persuade grant-giving bodies to help preserve and recognise local heritage. (James Hodsdon's is author of **An Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham**.) Friends of Pittville: <http://www.friendsofpittville.org>

Local History Society meetings 7.30-9 pm third Tuesday of each month from Sept-May. Occasional meetings at 10 am St Lukes, Hall.<http://cheltlocalhist.btck.co.uk>

Charlton Kings Local History Society <http://charltonkings.org.uk/>

Leckhampton Local History Society <http://www.llhs.org.uk/>

Events for MARCH –MAY 2013

Please email listings for the June-Sept issue to perspectives.listings@gmail.com by 30 April

ART

Sue Cridland et al, Wed 27 Feb-Tue 5 March, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Montpellier Gardens. Artwork by 4 students of the University of Gloucestershire.

Rupert Aker Oil, Wed 6 March-Tue 12 March, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Paintings of Cheltenham & Cotswolds.

Exhibition/art project organised by Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Wed 13 March-Tue 26 March, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery.

Dan Young, Wed 27 March-Tue 2 April, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Cake & pastry paintings, oils, lino prints and digital finger paintings.

Cheltenham Art Club Spring Exhibition, Wed 3 April-Tue 9 April, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Various mixed media paintings.

Richard Woods, Wed 10 April-Tue 16 April, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Oil paintings.

Louise Millin Inchley, Wed 17 April-Tue 23 April, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Paintings.

Linda Davies, Sue Durkin, Sallie Taylor, Pip Isherwood, Wed 24 April-Tue 30 April, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Paintings - mixed media.

Melanie Thorn, Rita Thorn, Jeanette Faulkner Clarke, Wed 1 May-Tue 7 May, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Drawings, paintings, mixed media.

Cheltenham Group of Artists Summer Exhibition, Wed 8 May-Tue 14 May, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery.

Elizabeth Le Vierge, Sally Williams, Wed 15 May-Tue 21 May, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Oils. acrylics, mixed media abstracts and landscapes.

'fourThoughts' Lisa Lavery, Joanna Casey et al, Wed 22 May-Tue 28 May, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Four contemporary artists' distinctive approaches to a unique collaboration of art and photography.

Nick Rainey, Wed 29 May-Tue 4 June, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery. Floral paints and figurative sculptures.

Cotswold Art Club Spring Exhibition, Wed 22nd May - Tue 4 June, 10am-5pm (starts 1pm 22 May), free event, Lower Slaughter Village Hall, Lower Slaughter, cheltenham-art.com/cotswoldartclub.htm.

Cheltenham Open Studios COS13, Sat 8 June- Sun 16 June, free event, Venues: cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk. An invitation to visit the studios, workrooms and exhibition spaces of over 200 artists working in Cheltenham and the surrounding area.

MUSIC

Cleeve Harmony Ladies Chorus Rehearsals, Every Tue, 7.45 - 10pm, £3/week (first week free), Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, GL52 8LU, Details from Cleeveharmony.weebly.com or Donna Whitehouse 07737 280336.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Lohengrin, Tue 5 March, 7pm, £5 non-members, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Street. Talk by Simon Rees.

Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, A Baltic Cruise, Tue 5 March, 7.30pm, £2 visitors, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall, Royal Well Lane. Robert Crockford reveals the musical scenery of the Baltic Sea.

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, The Slavic symphony, Sat 9 March, 7.30pm, £14 (Students £7, 15 and under free), Pittville Pump Room. Brahms Tragic Overture, Vaughan Williams Oboe concerto (Glos. Young Musician winner (2012) Tim Keasley) Tchaikovsky Symphony

Events for MARCH – MAY 2013

No. 5, Town Hall Box Office and at the door.

Cheltenham Bach Choir and the Corelli Orchestra, Bach's St John Passion, Sat 16 March, 7.30pm, £25, £22, £15, and £10 (students £5), Tewkesbury Abbey, Tickets from the Abbey Shop 01684 276655 shop@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk or from the choir.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Simon Boccanegra, The Siege of Calais, Così fan tutte, Sun 17 March, 3pm followed by tea, £5 non-members + cost of tea, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Street. Talk by ETO.

Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, A Spring in your Step, Tue 19 March, 2.30pm, £2 visitors, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall. June Cheffins, Cheltenham RMS.

Musica Vera, Music by Bach and Vivaldi, Sat 23 March, 7.30 pm., Admission £12 (children under 16 free). St Gregory's Church, St James Square. Conductor David Dewar, with Musica Vera Camerata. In aid of the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts.

Cheltenham Recorded Music Society, Beside the Seaside, Tue 2 April, 7.30pm, £2 visitors, Bayshill Unitarian Church Hall, Colin Bailey. Cheltenham RMS.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Film: The Magic Flute (Mozart) Ingmar

Bergman, Sat 13 April, AGM 5.30pm, Film 6pm, £5 non-members + cost of buffet supper, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Street, Tickets 01242 571802.

Gotherington Singers, Songs for an April Evening, Sat 20 April, 7.30pm, £8, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, from 01242 620775 or Showcase Montpellier 01242 224144.

Cleeve Chorale Spring Concert, Sat 27 April, 7.30pm, £8, acc. children under 16 free, St. Michael and All Angels Church, Bishop's Cleeve. Mozart's Requiem, and Schubert's Mass in G. Contact 01242 702573.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Recital by English Touring Opera, Thu 2 May, 12-1.15 pm, £8, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Street, Tourist Information or at the door.

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, The Romantic Apotheosis, Sat 11 May, 7.30pm, £14 (Students £7, 15 and under free), Pittville Pump Room. Delius A Song before Sunrise, Schumann Piano Concerto (Soloist Alex Wilson), Brahms Symphony No. 4. Town Hall Box Office and at the door.

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, Haydn and Mozart, Sun 12 May, 2.30pm, £17 with concessions, Pittville Pump Room. Conductor & Piano Soloist: John Forster. Town Hall Box Office.

Charlton Kings Choral Society, Haydn – The Creation, Sat 18 May, 7.30pm, £15 (£10 children and students), Pittville Pump Room, from ckcsonline.co.uk or Town Hall Box Office.



Cheltenham Opera Society, Lohengrin (Wagner), Sun 26 May, 3pm at WMC (dep. time tbc), Price tbc, WMC, Cardiff (coach from Cheltenham), tickets from 01242 571802.

Rick Wakeman, Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Gloucester Mystery Plays Festival, Sat 15 June, 7.30pm, Ticket info gmpfestival.com, Kingsholm Stadium. Wakeman: The Myths and Legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

Rick Wakeman, Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Gloucester Mystery Plays Festival, Sun 16 June, 7.30pm, Ticket info gmpfestival.com, Kingsholm Stadium. Wakeman: Journey to the Centre of the Earth.

Events for MARCH – MAY 2013

STAGE & SCREEN

Vienna Festival Ballet: Sleeping Beauty, music by Tchaikovsky, Sat 16 March, 7.30pm, £17 (£15) Children £13, Bacon Theatre.

Daniel O'Donnell: A Daniel O'Donnell Tribute, Thu 21 March, 7.30pm, £14.50 (£13), Bacon Theatre.

Monkey Poet's Murder Mystery, Fri 22 March, 7.30pm, £12 (£10), Bacon Theatre Stand up poetry at its funniest and finest. Suitable for ages 16+.

Easter Family Film: The Muppets [U], Tue 26 March, Activities 1pm, Film 2pm, £6.50 to include an Easter treat, Bacon Theatre.

Film: Albert Nobbs [15] starring Glenn Close, Tue 9 April, 7.45pm, £6 (£5), Bacon Theatre.

The Jerry Lee Lewis Story, starring Peter Gill, Fri 19 April, 7.30pm, £15, Bacon Theatre. Enjoy more than twenty of Jerry's best loved songs.

Film: Café de Flore [15], Tue 23 April, 7.45pm, £6 (£5), Bacon Theatre. An inspiring odyssey on love and soulmates with a captivating soundtrack.

Are You Experienced? A Tribute to Jimi Hendrix, Fri 26 April, 7.30pm, £15, Bacon Theatre. John Campbell's hugely popular tribute act.

Film: Hope Springs [12A] starring Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones, Tue 7 May, 7.45pm, £6 (£5), Bacon Theatre.

Film: Life of Pi [PG], Tue 21 May, 7.45pm, £6 (£5), Bacon Theatre. Based on the best-selling novel by Yann Martel.

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Cercle Français, Ariane, succès français et européen, Mon 25 February, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road. M. Cédric Cabanne cercle-francais-cheltenham.webs.com

Charlton Kings Local History Society AGM followed by Mr Mike Kippin: 'Richard Rogers – The Dick Whittington of Cheltenham', Tue 26 February, 7.30pm, £2 Non-members, Baptist Church, Church St, Charlton Kings.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Workshop, Tue 5 March, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 for subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Out of the Depths: Recital of words and music, Wed 6 March, 7pm, £5 including refreshments, St Margaret's Church, Alderton, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Friends of Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum, CAG&M: Building for a New Future, Thu 7 March, 6pm, £8 Friends, £9 non-Friends, includes a glass of wine, Queen's Hotel. With Jane Lillystone, Museum & Arts Manager, Tickets from Tourist Information or on the door.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Out of the Depths: Recital of words and music, Thu 7 March, 7pm, Retiring collection, St Mary's Church, Great Witcombe, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Holst Birthplace Trust: Life at the Royal College of Music in the 1890s, Fri 8 March, 7.30pm, £10 non-members £8 HBT members (in advance £9 and £7) £5 students, The Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Rd. Illustrated talk by Professor Paul Banks, tickets from the Holst Birthplace Museum or Tourist Information.

Mayor's Charities Race Night, Fri 8 March, £10 to include supper, Cheltenham Town Football Club, Further details and tickets from Jennie Ingram, CBC, 01242 264108.

Cercle Français, Les Russes arrivent! La prise d'assaut de Paris par Diaghilev et les Ballets russes (1909-29), Mon 11 March, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road. Mme Thirza Vallois.

Events for MARCH – MAY 2013

Cheltenham Italian Society AGM, followed by talk by Dr Penny McCracken - Bernini - fountains and festivities in 17th century Rome, Mon 11 March, 7.30pm, Parmoor House, 13 Lypiatt Terrace, Visitors welcome.

Cheltenham Civic Society AGM and Open Forum, Tue 12 March, 7.30pm, £2 members, £4 non-members, Parmoor House, 13 Lypiatt Terrace. Have your say on the Society's work.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Reading Group Meeting, Tue 19 March, 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

De Ferrieres Lecture: Royal Diamonds by Caroline de Guitaut, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Royal Collection, Wed 20 March, 7.15pm, £10, Bacon Theatre, Tickets from Bacon Theatre, Tourist Information, Martins Jewellers.

Leckhampton Local History Society 'Edwardian Era Photographs' - Howard Beard, Thu 21 March, 8pm, Visitors £1, Church House, Painswick Road, Inquiries Eric Miller 01242 526461.

Cercle Français, Chateaubriand: sa Vie et ses mémoires., Mon 25 March, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road. M. Ian Couper.

Charlton Kings LHS, Trish Thomas, MA, FRSA: 'Birdlip 'Lady', the subject of the Death of a Princess Exhibition', Tue 26 March, 7.30pm, £2 Non-members, Baptist Church, Church St, Charlton Kings

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Workshop, Tue 2 April, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 for subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cercle Français, Les Fables de la Fontaine, Mon 8 April, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road. Mme Chantal Witchalls.

RSPB Gloucestershire Local Group An Evening with Iolo Williams, Fri 12 April, 7.30pm, £8 (Children £5), Bacon Theatre. Followed by Q&A.

Cheltenham Poetry Festival, Sat 13 April-Sun 28 April, Tickets from Town Hall Box Office and website. Complete event list from cheltenhampoetryfest.co.uk

Cheltenham Poetry Festival The Dance Around the Fire, Sat 13 April, 8pm, £10, Hotel du Vin, America and American poetry, Town Hall Box Office.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Reading Group Meeting, Tue 16 April, 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Leckhampton Local History Society 'Gloucestershire Almshouses' - John Loosley, Thu 18 April, 8pm, Visitors £1, Church House, Painswick Road, Inquiries Eric Miller 01242 526461.

Cheltenham Civic Society Civic Awards Presentation, Thu 18 April, 4pm, free event, Town Hall. Featuring Jonathan Glancey, Architecture Critic and author.

Civic Awards Lecture Jonathan Glancey, Architecture Critic and author, Thu 18 April, 7.30pm, £5, Montpellier Hall, St Andrews Church.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Annual Lecture by Prof Nigel McLoughlin: the Use of Metaphor, Thu 18 April, 6.15-8pm, £3, Pittville Room, Municipal Offices, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Poetry Festival Severn & Somme - the Life of Ivor Gurney, Sun 21 April, 4.30pm, £7, Copa, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival Elaine Feinstein & Nichola Deane, Sun 21 April, 6.30pm, £4, Copa, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival James Knox Whittet & the Poetry of Travel, Sun 21 April, 8pm, £5, Copa, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival Newspaper Taxis - Poetry After the Beatles, Sun 21 April,

Events for MARCH – MAY 2013

9.30pm, £8, Copa, Town Hall Box Office.

Cercle Français, Les Anglais en Aquitaine, Mon 22 April, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road. Mme Marie-Madeleine Keyte.

Charlton Kings LHS, Mr Aylwin Sampson: 'Roman Cotswolds', Tue 23 April, 7.30pm, £2 Non-members, Baptist Church, Church St, Charlton Kings.

Mayor's Charities St George's Day Coffee Morning, Tue 23 April, £6.50, The Conservatory, Queen's Hotel, Tickets from Jennie Ingram, CBC, 01242 264108.

Poetry Festival Tim Brewis - The Poetry of War, Tue 23 April, 6pm, £7, Cheltenham College, Town Hall Box Office.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Showcase: Anthology Launch Event, Wed 24 April, 6-7pm, £5 (concessions £4), Cafe Rouge, Promenade, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Mayor's Charities Mayor's Ball, Fri 26 April, £35 to include dinner, Pittville Pump Room, Tickets from Jennie Ingram, CBC, 01242 264108.

Poetry Festival Peter Wyton & Robin Gilbert - The History Men, Sat 27 April, 2pm, £6, Hotel du Vin, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival Bernard O'Donoghue & Sarah James, Sat 27 April, 3.30pm, £5, Copa, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival Tom Warner & the film Dart (Alice Oswald), Sat 27 April, 5pm, £5, Copa, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival Fiona Sampson & Ross Cogan, Sat 27 April, 6.30pm, £6, Red Pepper, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival Ros Barber & Buzzwords Showcase, Sat 27 April, 8pm, £5, Red Pepper, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival Liz Berry & Claire Dyer, Sun 28 April, 3.30pm, £6, Oxfam, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival Rosie Bailey & Ann Drysdale, Sun 28 April, 5pm, £5, Red Pepper, Town Hall Box Office.

Poetry Festival Christopher Reid & Angela France, Sun 28 April, 8pm, £5, Red Pepper, Town Hall Box Office.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Workshop, Tue 7 May, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 for subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cheltenham Italian Society Festa di Primavera, Sat 11 May, 7 for 7.30pm, £10, £12 non-members, St Mary's Parish Centre, Charlton Kings,

Social event with supper, admission by ticket only - Tel 01242 517258.

Cercle Français, Assemblée générale suivie par une mini-conférence donnée par l'un des membres du Cercle, Mon 13 May, 7.30pm, £3 non-members, Church House, Painswick Road. (thème encore inconnu lors de la parution du programme).

Cheltenham Civic Society: History of Wallsworth Hall and Gardens, Tue 14 May, 7.30pm, Info from enquiries@cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk. Featuring Simon Trapnell, Director of Nature and Art, Wallsworth Hall, Twigworth.

Leckhampton Local History Society AGM followed by 'Leckhampton's Manorial History' - Terry Moore-Scott, Thu 16 May, 8pm, Visitors £1, Church House, Painswick Road, Inquiries Eric Miller 01242 526461.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Reading Group Meeting, Tue 21 May, 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Charlton Kings LHS, Anne Strathie: 'Harry Pennell & Catherine Hodson', Antarctic story with Charlton King's connections, Tue 28 May, 7.30pm, £2 Non-members, Baptist Church, Church St, Charlton Kings.

LANGUAGE BINDS CULTURE

CHELTENHAM'S ITALIAN SOCIETY

There are 7,000 languages around the world, 473 are endangered, by 2100 ninety percent of these will have ceased to exist. This is a tragedy for those who believe that language holds the essence of cultural identity.

The Italian Society (started in 1959 by retired GCHQ linguist Miss Anne Maude MacIntyre Macrae) unlike its Oxford, Birmingham and Bristol equivalents, has a constitution which stipulates that fifty percent of the lectures should be in Italian, 'and these', says Luana Carrer, the current Chair, 'are the best attended.'

Luana, who received a citation from the CAC for all she does for the Italian Society, loves the Cotswolds, where she has lived

for thirty years, it reminds her of the 'heely' region around Montello. But her first love is Italy and her native tongue where the 'words rhyme with each other, there is a musicality about it'. More than that 'languages are the mesh that holds culture together,' says Luana, 'the link between a country's art, music, food, literature. People are drawn by food, like a rabbit to a carrot.'

The Societies' mouthwatering 50th anniversary recipe book *Buon Appetito* sold out immediately. There are recipes using polenta, 'wonderful for those with gluten intolerance'. And Luana's signature piece, the stunning celebration cake, a pile of star shaped Pandoro slices held together with mascarpone cheese.

HOLST

BIRTHPLACE
MUSEUM

Life at the Royal College of Music in the 1890s (with particular reference to Cheltenham born composer – Gustav Holst)
Illustrated Talk by Professor Paul Banks

7.30pm Friday 8 March

At The Victory Club, Burlington House,
Lypiatt Rd., Cheltenham

TICKETS: £10 non-members; £8 HBT members
(in advance £9 and £7); £5 students

Available from the Holst Birthplace Museum or
Cheltenham Tourist Information Centre

For more information

The **Italian Society** meet on the second Monday of each month, 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Road. www.freewebs.com/cheltenhamitaliansociety

The **Cercle Français de Cheltenham**, founded 65 years ago, meets at 7.30 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at Church House, Painswick Road, Cheltenham. www.cercle-francais-cheltenham.webs.com/

The **Cheltenham Deutscher Klub**, founded in 1949, holds monthly evening meetings at Parmoor House, Montpellier. They also meet twice a month for very informal *Konversationabende* at a venue in the town centre. <http://www.freewebs.com/cheltenhamgermanclub/>

WORTH 1000 WORDS?

POINT AND SPEAK - CHELTENHAM CAMERA CLUB KNOWS HOW

The expression: 'Use a picture, it's worth a thousand words,' first appeared in a 1911 newspaper quoting editor Arthur Brisbane. He referred to the notion that complex ideas can be conveyed with a single still image. It aptly characterises one of the main goals of visualisation, namely making it possible to absorb large amounts of data quickly.

Brisbane was speaking almost half a century after the Cheltenham Camera Club was founded. But, although the daguerrotype might feature in their planned 150th celebrations in 2015, the digital images and web based competitions which feed into their popular annual exhibition, are a far cry from those early days.



The CCC meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm at Holy Apostles Church Hall, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL52 6HW

www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk

**CHELT
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WHO'S ON IT?

See what the future holds: 11-14 April 2013

Discover how creative thinking changes lives for the better at the Cheltenham Design Festival. With four days of inspiring events for all the family at the Parabola Arts Centre, it's a vision of our future.

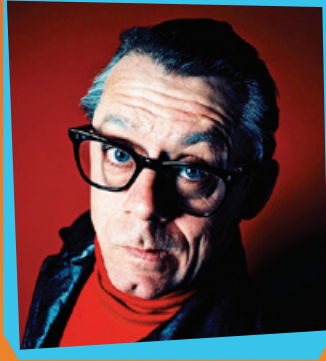
For great ticket deals and more information visit
cheltenhamdesignfestival.com

What's Funny at Cheltenham Town Hall

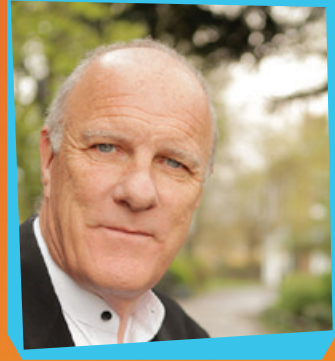
CHELTENHAM
TOWN HALL
AND PITTVILLE
PUMP ROOM



Jenny Eclair
Fri 1 Mar 8pm
£17.50



John Shuttleworth
Sun 3 Mar 8pm
£16



Richard Digance
Sun 24 Mar 7.30pm
£16.50



The Lumberjacks
Tue 30 Apr 8pm
£16



Reginald D Hunter
Thu 2 May 8pm
£23



Terry Alderton
Thu 13 Jun 8pm
£14

Box Office: 0844 576 2772
www.cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk