

# ingénue/e

creative talent revealed

## **Creative Courses & Workshops**

learn a new creative skill or  
rediscover a forgotten  
skill for the new year

*plus*

galleries & exhibitions  
reviews & interviews  
theatre, opera, concerts & gigs,  
looking ahead to festivals  
book reviews & poetry



south downs and high weald : issue 42: winter 2023/24

ETT

★★★★★  
Broadway World

★★★★★  
The Stage

★★★★★  
Liverpool Echo

★★★★★  
Review Hub



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## who's who & what's what

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### cover image

Bearing aloft their flaming torches the Mediaeval Bæbes observe the mediaeval tradition of 'the procession' as they wend their way along to the various venues on their Christmas 2023 Procession tour. See page 58 for a review of their Isle of Wight concert. Photo by Karla da Silva.

## prelude

### Welcome dear readers, as another new year begins!

Anyone a Jane Austen fan? Ah, good. Not just me then. I recently saw a social media post from the incomparable Austentatious\* which read "What things happen A LOT in her novels, and which you could tick off on a bingo sheet? We'll go first: 'Someone swoons'." The replies were hilarious and clever, proving that the readers knew their Jane Austen. I've included some of them here:

'Someone declares how much they adore dancing / Devilishly handsome (but ultimately dastardly) newly commissioned officers from the local regiment arrive in town. Doubtless virtue is lost along the way / A break-up. He's a cad. Marry the bloke who's been hanging around since chapter one / Sister of main heroine catches nearly fatal cold from walking in rain / An invitation is issued. Letters are written. Hopes are disappointed. Souls are pierced.'

And my favourite reply: 'Caddish behaviour (intentional); Bad behaviour (thoughtless); Flirting near mortified 3rd party; Caught in the rain; Swooning; Needlework (social); Needlework (enforced); Music (bad); Music (good); Garden appreciation; Financial embarrassment; Girl Talk (friendly); Girl Talk (social combat); The sound of Jane Austen laughing up her muslin sleeve'.

Being not only a lifelong Jane Austen devotee but also a huge fan of Austentatious, in the end I couldn't resist adding my own offering: 'Assumptions are made without first checking the facts (a common mistake both in fiction and in life), resulting in: false accusations; inaction combined with quietly stoic suffering; missed opportunities and embarrassing encounters'.

As a lover of words, I enjoy Cian McCarthy's Word Selections on X (Twitter as was) in which he presents four unusual or dialect words and invites readers to pick their winner. If you love words and haven't come across this do check him out on @arealmofwonder. One of my recent favourites was: 'Stranach' [Irish; the whistling or murmuring of the sea in a cove when the water rushes in and is then pulled out again.] 'Wilsom' [Scots; a path leading through wild and desolate regions.] 'Crumping' [Walking over semi-frozen snow, making a 'crump' sound in the process.] 'Fog-Dram' [A small drink to clear the head or perk one up when in chilly weather or when ill.] I couldn't help myself, a flash fiction started to form in my mind as I read those words:

'It was a bitter evening, not a soul in sight. Crumping along a wilsom past snow-laden trees, a faint stranach whispering through the icy air from the shore, we yearned for a wee fog-dram by a roaring log fire. A faint distant light spurred us on...'

Well, enough of my rambling. We kick off this new year with a packed magazine full of interesting and entertaining content and plenty of things to see and do – get that new diary out and read on for the good stuff!

\*entirely improvised comedy play in the style of Jane Austen  
www.austentatiousimpro.com/

—Gill Kaye, editor

"if it's not in ingenu/e  
...it's not happening!"



spotlight on...

# Creative Courses & Workshops

**The beginning of a new year is as good a point as any to start learning a new creative skill or brush up an existing skill that has perhaps been abandoned in the pressures of everyday living. Learning and creating can be the panacea that brings fulfilment and revitalisation! Try it!**

## LEARN IT, MAKE IT, LOVE IT WITH MADE AND MAKING! a new year – create a new you!

Join a class at Made and Making and you'll soon discover a new you; the process of being creative is soothing for the soul and rewarding for the mind. You will come away with a new skill or treasured handmade item plus the feelgood factor that comes from spending time with others who share your interests.

The wide range of classes and workshops at Made and Making creative studios offers so many possibilities to explore your creative side. The majority of classes are perfect for beginners and you'll find the specially selected tutors are patient, helpful and friendly bringing out the best in everyone.

Sarah Brangwyn (creator of this vibrant and welcoming sewing and craft centre in Hassocks, just north of Brighton) says that the very best thing about seeing people explore their creativity is the sheer joy so many people experience from the process. Handmade items are not necessarily about perfection but are always about



the love and effort and learning that goes into them.

The Made and Making studios are home to a crafting community where help is on hand with dedicated masterclasses and longer courses for those who want to perfect their skills. As well as lots of classes and courses you can also join in with the regular Sew friendly or Crochet and a Cuppa sessions where help is on hand to solve your project problems.

You will find many glowing reviews of both the classes and the tutors on Tripadvisor, Google and Facebook. It has been described as a hidden gem and it stands out for its friendly and welcoming environment.

It's a great place to find crafting friends and support wherever you are in your creative journey. You will find a welcome whether you are looking for children's classes, a fun girls/hen do activity or in depth learning as an experienced quilter or dressmaker. With dozens of new classes at Made and Making the new year is a great time to discover the benefits of making and crafting.

Claim 15% off with code CAN'T WAIT when booking, visit [www.madeandmaking.co.uk](http://www.madeandmaking.co.uk) and follow on social media @madeandmaking.

above: **Monoprinting with embroidery workshop;**  
left: **Stitchscapes workshop**



## ART JUNCTION

### ARE YOU A LOST CREATIVE SOUL?

Here at Art Junction in Billingshurst we like to provide an atmosphere that encourages creativity for anyone who cares to join in regardless of experience. Often people find that they are unable to fulfil their desire to create because they don't have the right circumstances at home; the space to make; the time for themselves; or encouragement from other creative people.

The urge to create gets postponed indefinitely because so many other life pressures take precedent. We would say, grab any opportunities when you can, however modest. If you see a chance, DO IT!

So if you are a lost creative soul and reading this article, perhaps this is a chance for you? No matter your level of experience, we can get you up and running. With on-going courses in sculpture, life drawing and painting, we can guide you from your initial concept to final piece. If you would like to have a go but have no idea what to create we can also help. We just might be able to kick start your latent creative potential.

Why not give us a try? Just drop us an email at [info@artjunction.uk](mailto:info@artjunction.uk) or leave a phone message on 01403 786224 and we'll get back to you.

Free parking, affordable rates, ongoing courses and lots of enthusiasm!

Visit [www.artjunction.uk](http://www.artjunction.uk) or find us on social media.



top: **Sculpture by C Scawin**  
above: **Portrait in Clay course**  
left: **Sculpture by J Britton emerging from the mould**





## DEBBIE SMITH JEWELLERY WORKSHOPS

Situated in the pretty village of Lindfield in Mid Sussex is the Jewellery Workshop run by Debbie Smith. If you've ever wanted to have a go at creating your own jewellery, why not head along to the workshop and create a simple and beautiful piece of silver jewellery.

Debbie runs small group weekday classes, (maximum of four students) and offers step-by-step guidance, so you can create your own piece of jewellery in her fully-equipped studio.

Debbie has designed a selection of silver projects that you can choose from and that can be made in the three-hour morning workshop, so that you actually go home with a finished piece that you have created yourself! So, whether you're a complete beginner, or have had some experience at the jewellery bench, Debbie will inspire you, and offers step-by-step tuition for aspiring creatives!

For those students who would like to continue to build on their jewellery skills, Debbie offers a six-week jewellery course, where you are encouraged to develop your own style by bringing your own designs to class. You will learn more advanced jewellery making techniques, for example: how to set stones; emboss metal; silver solder; and mastering techniques such as piercing, filing,



texturing, forming and shaping metal, to create stunning pieces of jewellery.

There is no syllabus to follow, and the classes are designed to enable you to develop your own individuality and style.

Classes are small and friendly, and everyone works at their own speed and level, which means that there is always a great variety of creative skills and ideas shared in the workshop!

For more information visit [www.thejewellery-workshop.co.uk](http://www.thejewellery-workshop.co.uk)  
T: 0777 588 4990  
@thejewellery.workshop.co.uk

## JO STARKEY LEARN HOW TO PAINT LOOSE FLORALS

Jo's abstract floral workshops offer an exciting opportunity to learn and apply the methods that Jo uses to create her beautiful textured floral paintings.

Learn how to create a loose floral painting, using an impasto technique with acrylics on board, infused with texture and metallic highlights, a feature that has become synonymous with Jo's work. No previous painting experience is required, suitable for all levels.

Jo is an established local and worldwide selling artist. Working from her studio in Ditchling, the inspirational portrayals of meadow flowers and wind-blown grasses originate in her lifelong passion for nature and her experience of the Sussex landscape.

Jo's intention is to distill the essence of nature and its magic into her paintings.

Utilising a layering technique, she builds depth and richness into her pieces using acrylics and mixed media. Texture plays a significant role in Jo's work, and accents of gold and silver consistently thread through her creations.

One of Jo's sources of inspiration comes from her walks in the Sussex countryside. Living in rural Sussex, surrounded by breathtaking countryside and the nearby South Downs, she is never short of inspiration.

Jo exhibits and sells her work through fine art galleries nationwide, including:

<https://clarendonfineart.com/collections/jo-starkey>

<https://whistlefish.com/collections/jo-starkey>

[www.trentgalleries.co.uk/artists/jo-starkey](http://www.trentgalleries.co.uk/artists/jo-starkey)

[www.ateliorgalleries.co.uk/artists/jo-starkey/collections](http://www.ateliorgalleries.co.uk/artists/jo-starkey/collections)

More info at [www.jostarkey.co.uk/workshops](http://www.jostarkey.co.uk/workshops).





HASTINGS ART SCHOOL

Hastings Art School is a local, accessible alternative to a traditional art school model. The aim is to provide high-quality, flexible and affordable creative development and career opportunities to artists who do not want to, or cannot attend a traditional art school, or who have already done so.



and workshops. We have welcomed artists from the early stages of creative practice or those who are reviving a long-lost practice, all the way up to professional artists who already hold post-grad qualifications. We believe that supporting artists to gently challenge, refine and communicate their practice is valuable at every stage of their careers. Find out more at [www.hastingsartschool.com](http://www.hastingsartschool.com).

pictured: artists at their exhibition openings



Our core offering is a thirty-week programme, accessibly priced, for artists at any stage of their career who want to challenge and drive their practice in a critical, collaborative environment. It's built around what art production and discourse look like at a community-level, and is purposefully designed to be artist-led, including specific practice and next steps. We provide services traditionally supported through a post-grad level programme, whilst removing some of the difficulties local artists have in accessing similar programmes. There are no specific entry requirements and we work with artists from any background, working in any medium. Each term we have opportunities to show and sell work and build a great network of support. The programme is based around seminars, crits, shows, tutorials



KATHERINE LAWRIE  
JEWELLERY DESIGN AND MAKING  
WORKSHOPS IN WEST SUSSEX

Katherine Lawrie has been facilitating jewellery making workshops for over twenty-five years. Students are encouraged to think creatively and learn techniques in a design-led process. Having taught in local institutions she found that adult learners often want to create jewellery for a purpose rather than just to learn a process. Students learn the basics of jewellery making and then move on to more complex methods when they are ready, at their own speed. Or they can just have a one-off session to create a piece of jewellery and happy memories with friends or family. The workshop groups are always small, allowing a good tutor to student ratio. One to one classes are also available. Each student works individually rather than on a group project, allowing beginners and those with some knowledge to work comfortably within the same group, this is beneficial to all. The workshop is fully equipped for basic jewellery making. Sessions are run on Tuesday and Saturday Mornings monthly or Sunday (five-hour session) monthly. Look at Katherine's website for prices, details and dates. Sessions run March to November. [www.klawriewellery.co.uk/workshops](http://www.klawriewellery.co.uk/workshops)



below: Katherine Lawrie. Photo, Kate Henwood Photography  
inset right: Proud students with their creations  
top right: at work in the workshop







## CREATE MUSIC OFFERS INCLUSIVE WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOL

Create Music is the Music Hub for Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, bringing high-quality, inclusive music and arts education to the South East, giving children, young people and adults the chance to explore their love of music through classes, workshops and orchestras. Alongside instrumental and vocal classes, Create Music offers a range of specialist and

accessible short courses throughout the county.

For children with special educational needs or disabilities and their siblings and parents/carers, Orchestra 360 (0360) is an inclusive ensemble with groups in Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, Rother and Wealden. In November 2023, young leaders from 0360 Brighton took part in an intensive weekend course with musician Dyskinetic, aka Disabled Artist Kris Halpin, to explore the creative possibilities of combining accessible music technology with acoustic instruments in real time, to create new music.

Returning for 2024, Create Music's Summer School will offer courses for all young musicians.

From instrument specific workshops to full ensemble playing, rock and pop, music tech and composition, there's a course for every interest!

Find out more about Create Music at <https://createmusic.org.uk/>

top: Brighton & Hove Youth Percussion Ensemble perform at the Cornucopia fundraising event at Brighton Dome. Photo, Cloe Hashemi; left: Orchestra 360 Young Leaders work with Dyskinetic



## ROZ NATHAN NATURAL HISTORY ARTWORK / COURSES / DEMOS / HOLIDAYS

Roz Nathan's artwork explores the natural world using water-based and mixed media and she exhibits locally and nationally. A qualified art tutor with many years' experience in teaching a wide range of subjects and media, particularly in East Sussex, she offers both studio and Zoom weekly courses, as well as regularly delivering art group demos and workshops.

Roz's studio art courses are now running at Polegate Community Centre in the lounge room, where the Monday morning group will be having fun this spring with gel plate printing, a very low tech, creative and exciting process.

At the same venue, the

Personal Projects group on a Tuesday afternoon offers help with developing ideas and skills with your own drawing or painting projects, including producing and selling cards of your work.

Online, students can learn in the comfort of their own home with weekly live Zoom courses: Landscape, Portrait and Watercolour projects – relaxed, friendly, enjoyable group sessions with close-up demos,



discussions, and encouraging feedback, all recorded exclusively for students.

Roz is also offering relaxed sessions in students' homes, either one-to-one or with one or two friends.

In July and August Roz's popular East Dean Summer workshops are running again, and new for this year is a four-day Painting Course in Aberdeenshire.

More details can be found at [www.roznathanart.com](http://www.roznathanart.com) or by email to [roz.nathan@hotmail.com](mailto:roz.nathan@hotmail.com). And please check out Roz's social media @roz.nathan on Facebook and @roznathanart on Instagram.

above: Zoom Landscape session  
left: Mixed media at Polegate Community Centre





pictured:  
by Cathy Bird,  
left: wild with  
watercolour  
– painting in  
progress;  
below: 'Baby and  
Buttercups'

## JESSOPS FARM STUDIOS POPULAR WEEKEND ART COURSES REOPEN

Jessops Farm Studios is delighted to announce that their very popular WEEKENDARTING courses will be restarting in 2024.

The full programme is not yet finalised but you have an opportunity to book onto one course now: Watercolour Painting = Secrets of Success!

Cathy Bird will be offering you some of the working knowledge she has gained over twenty years of painting in watercolour. "Watercolour has a reputation for being difficult," Cathy says, "but this is actually not the case, if you are shown the successful and simple techniques for working with it."

A former student says, "Although Cathy has vast experience in teaching art and deep knowledge of art, she is not intimidating. She has a softly, softly style that is encouraging and yet



firm in guiding a novice painter like me to create good works."

Call Cathy Bird on 01982 870067 for more information or email her at weekendarting@gmail.com.

Course dates are: 27th & 28th July 2024; Jessops Farm Studios are situated near Chiddingstone in Kent (TN8 7AU).

The course is suitable for all levels of experience. Fees are £100 for the weekend; £65 for a single day. Book early as places will be limited to twelve people maximum.

## WEST DEAN MAKE 2024 CREATIVE

Are you looking for inspiration to make 2024 extra special? From painting, drawing, writing and designing to woodworking, welding, weaving and sculpting... whatever your passion, whatever your level, there is a creative short course for you at West Dean.

With over 200 new short courses for 2024 now available to book, learn from expert tutors in a choice of two locations, at West Dean near Chichester or in London, or study in your own time with distance learning.

### Inspired by nature and the landscape

Get creative inspiration from the natural surroundings:

- Drawn to trees, Maxine Relton, 2 to 5 April.
- Art weaving landscapes – open weave techniques, Jackie Bennett, 26 to 28 April.
- Botanical photography, Kevin Dutton, 3 to 5 May.
- Fundamentals of landscape – painting and process, Nick Bodimeade, 3 to 6 June.

### International influences

Learn a new skill or develop a passion with influences from around the world:

- Experimental Japanese vinyl printing, Wuon-Gean Ho, 1 to 4 March.
- Make a silver pendant with Keum Boo, Jessica Jue, 16 April.
- Persian and Indian miniature painting with gilding, Vaishali Prazmari, 5 to 8 May.
- Kantha quilting and slow hand embroidery, Lynn Setterington, 23 to 25 June.

See all courses at [www.westdean.ac.uk](http://www.westdean.ac.uk).

photos by Thom Atkinson





## ART CLASSES AT MANTIS ART STUDIO

Midhurst-based Leticia Silva dos Santos runs art courses, workshops and events in the heart of the South Downs.

Enjoy spending time with like-minded people while picking up some new artistic tricks. You'll come away with new skills and the confidence to use them to make art you're proud of.

Open to all skill levels, whether it is your first foray into the arts or one of many.

Our classes are beginner-friendly, and tailored to provide plenty of one-to-one time with the tutor to ensure you get all the personalised support you need in creating an exciting piece of unique artwork.

If you already have experience in art, but want to try something new or polish up some skills, our group classes are for you too!

Contact Leticia at [Leticia\\_artist@hotmail.com](mailto:Leticia_artist@hotmail.com) or on 07713 625975, and check out the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ArtClassesinWestSussex/](https://www.facebook.com/ArtClassesinWestSussex/)

right:  
Nicky  
Thornton;  
below: Jill  
Huckleby



## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS AT ROPETACKLE ARTS CENTRE, SHOREHAM

Ropetackle Arts Centre, the home of live music, comedy and other performing arts in Adur, is delighted to now offer creative writing workshops as part of its regular programme. With both introductory and themed workshops available, writers or would-be writers can develop their skills, find their voice and meet like-minded people in a warm and creative environment.

The Centre's marketing manager, former journalist Nicky Thornton, facilitates the next Introduction to Creative Writing workshop on Saturday 27th January. She said: "Writing with others and being guided through the process can really help those who may have a story idea but are not sure where to start. It is also fun for those who already write to have a refresher and pick up tips and tricks that help them keep writing."

Award-winning playwright Jill Huckleby offers themed workshops once a month that tie in with the seasons. January is entitled 'New Beginnings' and will take inspiration from worldwide customs and nature, particularly the return of fieldfares, redwings and waxwings to our shores.

Both workshops are open to adults of all abilities and there is a café on site that serves delicious lunches and light refreshments.

New Beginnings – Saturday 20th January,  
10am–12.30pm £17

Introduction to Creative Writing – Saturday  
27th January, 10am–4pm (with breaks) £40

Visit [www.ropetacklecentre.co.uk](http://www.ropetacklecentre.co.uk) or telephone  
01273 464440 for more information and to book.



## ONGLEY-SNOOK DESIGNS

Multimedia artist Karen Ongley-Snook has been a maker for as long as she can remember. Successful in fields as diverse as silk velvet and anodised aluminium, she is best known for her glass creations, which she has exhibited at Gardeners World Live, RHS Hampton Court and RHS Chelsea Flower Show, where they have won several awards.

As well as her own work Karen shares her expertise in a range of workshops including, among others, glass fusion, make your own column, printmaking and anodised aluminium.

Contact 07989 074641 or 01243 573411 for more details or visit [www.ongley-snookdesigns.com](http://www.ongley-snookdesigns.com)



above: Kren Ongley-Snook at her studio;  
far left: a student working on a stained  
glass column;  
left: two students proudly show off the  
stained glass columns they have made

## Watercolour Painting



## The Secrets of Success

### Intensive Weekend Course

Sat/Sun -July 27th & 28th 2024

Location: Near Chiddingstone in Kent

Level: All levels-Beginner to Experienced

Price: £100 weekend price (£65 for one day)

TO BOOK - Call Cathy Bird 01892 870067  
email—[weekendarting@gmail.com](mailto:weekendarting@gmail.com)

WWW.HASTINGSARTSCHOOL.COM

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**Mantis Art Studio  
AND GALLERY**

Dean House, Bepton Rd, Midhurst, GU29 9LY

## ART CLASSES IN WEST SUSSEX

Art courses, workshops and events in the Southdowns area run by local artist Leticia Silva dos Santos, based in Midhurst.

For details of classes contact [leticia\\_artist@hotmail.com](mailto:leticia_artist@hotmail.com) or follow on Facebook @ArtClassesinWestSussex



## DRAWING & SCULPTURE COURSES FOR ALL



**Start the new year  
with a new skill or  
brush up an old one!**

**We run ongoing courses in life drawing, figurative and abstract sculpture. Why not join us?**

**We are a friendly open studio where all levels of experience are welcome.**

**Casting service, bisque kiln firing available, studio space for rent.**

**Any questions? Contact Marji at: [info@artjunction.uk](mailto:info@artjunction.uk)**

**Visit [www.artjunction.uk](http://www.artjunction.uk)**

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Learn it, make it, love it!



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Friendly & relaxed atmosphere

**15% off** with code **CAN'T WAIT** when booking

[www.madeandmaking.co.uk](http://www.madeandmaking.co.uk) [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [p](#) [@madeandmaking](#)



**Jewellery Making  
Workshops**



From core skills to jewellery design, come and learn at my studio near Arundel. Beginners & those with experience welcome.

Monthly Tuesday, Saturday & Sunday sessions available.

[www.klawriejewellery.co.uk/workshops](http://www.klawriejewellery.co.uk/workshops)

**Debbie Smith, Designer Jeweller**  
Hand made silver jewellery, each piece designed and created personally for you in my workshop in Sussex.

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[@thejewelleryworkshop](https://www.instagram.com/thejewelleryworkshop)  
[debbiesmithworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:debbiesmithworkshop@gmail.com)  
[www.thejewellery-workshop.co.uk](http://www.thejewellery-workshop.co.uk)

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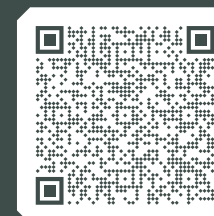


**Painters, poets, weavers, welders, gardeners, gilders, calligraphers, conservators...**

Whatever your craft, whatever your level, there is a short course for you at West Dean.

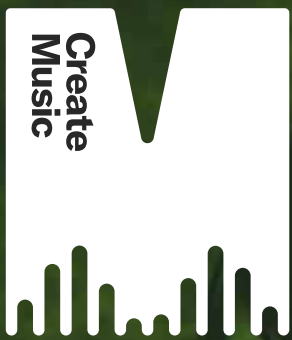
Learn from expert tutors in inspirational surroundings, or study in your own time with distance learning.

Make time for creativity at [westdean.ac.uk](http://westdean.ac.uk)



**WEST  
DEAN**





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ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

Brighton & Hove  
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Mayo Wynne  
Baxter

spotlight on... creative courses & workshops

## Abstract Floral Painting Workshops

with Sussex Artist Jo Starkey



Courses running throughout the year.  
Starting in Jan 2024.

Unit 14, Turner Dumbrell Workshops,  
Ditchling, East Sussex RH17 5PN

[www.jostarkey.co.uk/workshops](http://www.jostarkey.co.uk/workshops)

## Roz Nathan

Natural History Artwork / Courses / Demos



### New weekly studio classes in Polegate

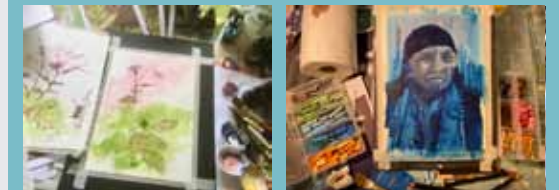
Creative Mixed Media / Personal Projects courses  
1-1 or small groups – private studio / home sessions

### Live, fun, group Zoom courses

Pastel Portraits / Landscape / Watercolour

Online – mentoring / project guidance / monthly live demos

Art Societies – demos / workshops / regular teaching



For details and testimonials: [www.roznathanart.com](http://www.roznathanart.com)  
[roz.nathan@hotmail.com](mailto:roz.nathan@hotmail.com)  



## Ongley-Snook Designs

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# Leila Godden Art



## Seascapes from the Sussex Coast

**The light on the sea at Bexhill can be breathtakingly beautiful. Artist Leila Godden moved there in 2022 and feels the beach, which is a few moments' walk from her studio, encapsulates the elements she loves most about the coast, having grown up by the sea and spent many years painting seascapes.**

There are days of dramatic skies with shafts of sun-light illuminating the water through brooding clouds. It can be so wild the wind will blow you off your feet, or so calm the sea hardly laps against the shore. The ever-changing nature of it is part of its appeal.

Dinosaur footprints have been found in the rocks, connecting today's world with the ancient history of the place. Low tide reveals swathes of wet sand reflecting the light and changing with the ebb and flow as rivulets form scribbles of water on the beach.

The proximity of the coast is inspiring a new collection of paintings, some of which will be shown at Signet Contemporary Art, London, as part of the exhibition 'For the Ocean', 20th to 31st January.

You can see more at [www.leilagodden.com](http://www.leilagodden.com).

above: **Leila Godden, Beach Meanders, acrylic, 80 x 80 cm, on cradled birch panel**

## CHALK GALLERY LEWES

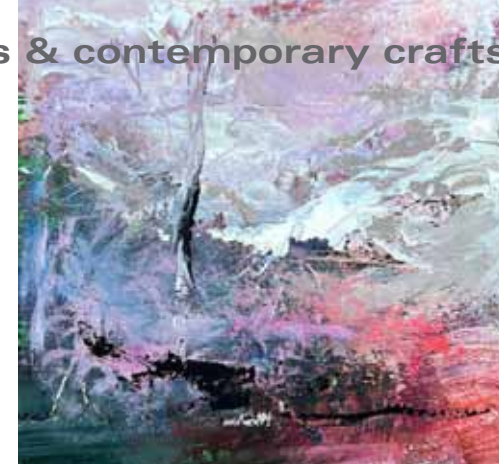
**There is much excitement at the beginning of 2024 as Chalk Gallery Lewes opens its doors with the annual New Year Sale.**

As a gallery we are known for our stylish curation and clean lines but for the New Year Sale we take a different approach; no less stylish, but think RA Summer Exhibition, more creatively chaotic, where all spare spaces are taken up and the gallery becomes an absolute riot of colour, texture, and importantly affordable brilliant art. We hope to see you there. We re-open on 11th January after a Christmas break then open every Thursday to Sunday 11am till 4pm.

For the rest of the spring, we have wonderful Featured Artist exhibitions from Annie McManus and Gabrielle Lord. To receive more information about the work we show why not sign up to our newsletter at our website:

[www.chalkgallerylewes.co.uk](http://www.chalkgallerylewes.co.uk) where you can also access our online shop, which is always chockablock with wonders.

clockwise from top: **Irina Hoble, Frozen In Time, acrylics on board, 40x40 cm; Lucy Cooper, Caribbean Moon, screenprint, 50x50 cm; Alan Taylor, Winter Downland, oil on board, 25x25 cm; Gabrielle Lord, Falling Light, charcoal on paper; Sally Smith, Lavender, acrylic, 30x30 cm; Eva Wibberley, Late Light, oil on canvas.**





## ArtSpring explores

**The ArtSpring Gallery in Tonbridge is a collective of talented painters, potters, jewellers, printmakers and glassworkers. Each has their own medium, their own style and they create a myriad of stunning work – often inspired by the landscape, colours and forms of the natural world.**

Printmaker Claire Longley's work, for example, is deeply inspired by the landscape and animals around her. "I love to observe nature – to watch the blue tits in the bird bath outside my window, to admire the trees as I explore the countryside around my home."

Another member, Colin Anderson, likes to paint landscapes that are unusual or less discovered – especially those that have a story, or the suggestion of a story, attached to them. "I'm drawn to places, often in Kent, that may be familiar to us, but look subtly different in a parallel imaginative world," he says.

These artists exemplify the ArtSpring spirit of adventure and exploration. If you would like to see more of the work of the ArtSpring artists do come along to the gallery. You will certainly receive a warm welcome and inspiration is guaranteed!

[www.artspringgallery.co.uk](http://www.artspringgallery.co.uk)



clockwise from top: **Hilary Shields, Abstract Landscape (detail), pressed glass; Claire Longley, Autumn Walk, original hand inked etching; Anne McArdle, Enamel Pendant; Colin Anderson, Red Tree, oil painting; Jane Bridger, Blue Horizons Moon Jars and Vessel, stoneware**



## Susie Olford

Susie Olford exhibits her vibrant paintings in Chichester Open Studios Art Trail.

**When you read these words the Leap Year of 2024 will have arrived. I'm hoping to Leap into some drier weather without the sad moods of damp skies.**

Emerging skies after a storm, however, present painting opportunities for my oil and acrylic paintings. The light spring skies are hopes of an emerging landscape. Light winds are a blessing to blow the spindrift and waves at the beach nearby.

To view my interpretation of cheerful moods, you are welcome to visit my May Exhibition, part of the Chichester Open Studios Art Trail. The venue is on the eastern edge of the trail and easily accessible from Arundel and Littlehampton. Two miles east of

Littlehampton and a few yards north of the A259 you will find my well signed barn venue in Hoe Lane, Flansham, PO22 8NJ, a hidden hamlet to explore. There is easy courtyard parking and the exhibition takes place over two weekends: 18th, 19th and 25th, 26th & 27th May.

My sea and landscapes are blended colours worked with a palette knife in oil or acrylic. Contemporary scenes on which to feast your eyes and see what you love in the scenery around us. Soft hues, vibrant colours – whatever you love about colour.

Susie Olford  
smoart@btinternet.com  
[www.chichesteropenstudios.org](http://www.chichesteropenstudios.org)

above: **Susie Olford, Is this Spring, oil on board**



leilagoddenart



Her seascapes explore the vast panorama of changing light, dramatic weather and powerful water, framed by rocks solid with history, yet transient with time and the rhythm of the earth

[www.leilagodden.com](http://www.leilagodden.com)

Susie Olford Art Exhibition

Collection of Paintings in Oil and Acrylic  
Moods of Land, Sea and Weather

18th & 19th, May  
25th, 26th & 27th May 2024  
Chichester Open Studios Art Trail  
Susie's Venue: Hoe Lane Flansham PO22 8NJ

Susie's e-mail: [smoart@btinternet.com](mailto:smoart@btinternet.com)  
Trail Website: [chichesteropenstudios.org](http://chichesteropenstudios.org)

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# Artgenu/e

by Lesley Samms

## What's the Story? Artists talking about their unique journey

Under the spotlight this issue is Kent-based maker of ceramics and potter Claire Palastanga, whose work includes beautiful practical vessels as well as stunning, expressive sculptural pieces.



**Ceramic artist and Pure Fine Arts member Claire Palastanga's sculptural ceramic pieces capture the journey of process, combined with the raw beauty of clay, creating ceramics with a messy, yet refined elegance.**

*Please could you tell us a little about yourself and your background; did you have an interest in the arts as a child?*

I grew up in Tunbridge Wells and have always loved art. Neither of my parents were particularly creative, but both my grandfathers were carpenters. Art was my favourite subject at school and every year as a teenager we would go to St Ives, Cornwall for holidays. I loved it there and was particularly inspired by the Barbara Hepworth sculpture garden, and the Tate Gallery. I learnt all about the St Ives group of artists and was especially inspired by Patrick Heron. Strangely I only learnt about Bernard Leach and visited the pottery much later.

*Did you have a formal art education or are you self-taught?*

I have Art GCSE and A Level. I then went on to do a foundation course in Art and Design, before completing my Ceramics degree, in which I gained a first Class Honours.

*Was there a moment or a person or a place in your past that influenced you or you feel set you on the journey to*

*where you are now?*

I had the most wonderful art teacher at school, Miss Dodkins, who was incredibly encouraging. My tutors at college were both very influential, David Crowley and Mike Head. Both were incredibly inspiring. I was also very lucky to gain work experience with Kate Malone, and this also influenced me greatly.

I now am lucky to have the wonderful Lesley Samms of Pure Arts Group as my mentor. Lesley helps keep me on track and motivated and has rescued me when I've been through a tough period.

*What's the best thing about being an artist?*

Freedom! Having the freedom to do your own thing, work your own hours and be completely yourself.

*And the worst..?!*

Sometimes it can be hard working on your own, so it's important to find 'your tribe'. I'm lucky to have Pure, and also an amazing group of creative friends.

*What has inspired or influenced you?*

There are so many things that inspire and

influence me – it could be an incredibly long list. I find everyday there is something, be it a beautiful pinecone on a walk, reading about the work of another artist, or just being in my studio listening to inspiring podcasts that keep my thoughts ticking over.

*What art destination do you most want to visit?*

I love visiting London, there is always so much to see there.

*Please tell us a little about the process involved in making your art.*

Currently, most of my work is created on the wheel. I love throwing and the marks created during this process. I also created some pieces using clay dug locally, hand building and using moulds for these pieces. I was very excited to see them unveiled earlier this year at Chelsea Flower Show.

*Where are you finding ideas and inspiration for your work currently?*

I am finding most of my inspiration at the moment from nature on walks with my dog, and through the process of making pieces; I find inspiration in the pieces normally discarded.

*If you weren't an artist what would you be?*

Maybe a mental health support worker. I did this for a period whilst also being an artist. I would love to do something outdoors, with nature or animals – I quite like the idea of being a zookeeper, or maybe a gardener.

*What advice would you give to those aspiring to make a living out of art?*

Keep trying and don't give up – follow your passion.

*Please tell us one unexpected thing about yourself.*

I love animals and have a dog, cat and four chickens!

Check out @clairepalastanga to see more about Claire and for more information about Pure Arts Group please go to [www.pureartsgroup.co.uk](http://www.pureartsgroup.co.uk).



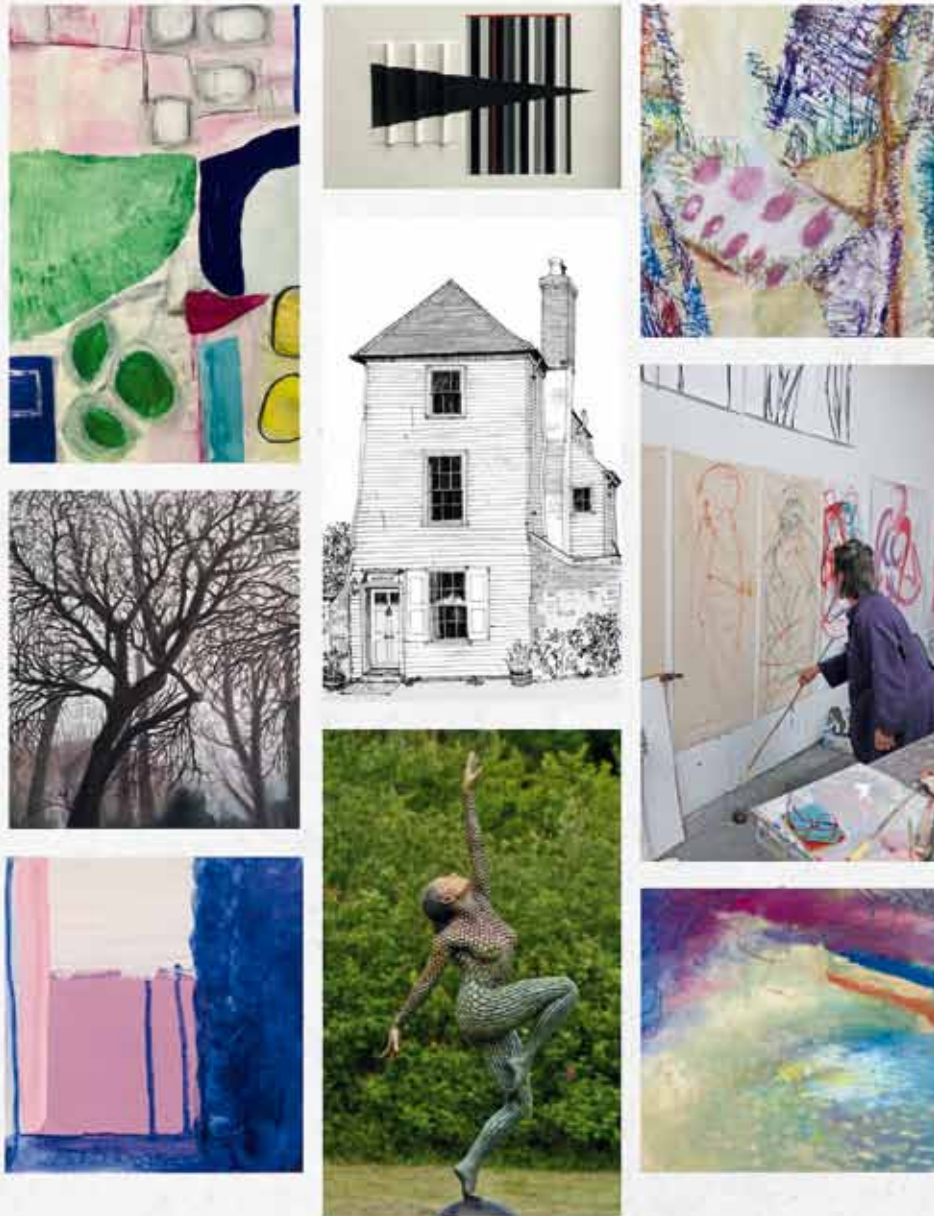
opp top: **Claire Palastanga in her studio;**  
this page from top: **sculptural vessels and forms; mug**





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## West End Gallery Worthing

**Business partners Lee Milner and Roger Foxwell re-opened Worthing's West End Gallery in May 2023 after the previous owners had to close it down due to ill health.**

Both recognised that there were limited affordable openings for many skilled artists and makers in the area trying to show their work, especially where the exhibiting rates and sales commission were not too high or stewarding duties were required.

The gallery is run as a not-for-profit partnership, with both partners giving their time free of charge running the shop six days a week, in order for artists to continue with their sometimes hectic individual lives.


All works are created by artists and makers who live in Worthing or the surrounding area. Having a waiting list of creatives wishing to show their work, displays are regularly changed, or existing displays refreshed. Should anybody be interested in exhibiting



at the gallery please email Lee or Roger at [info@worthingwestendgallery.co.uk](mailto:info@worthingwestendgallery.co.uk).

There is a varied range of affordable wall art and 3D products to suit a variety of tastes. Free one hour parking is available outside and near the gallery, with unlimited parking only a few hundred metres away.



Visit [www.worthingwestendgallery.co.uk](http://www.worthingwestendgallery.co.uk) for more details about the gallery and their artists.



A not for profit gallery with a variety of local Artists who sell through the gallery.

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information visit: [www.aoh.org.uk](http://www.aoh.org.uk).

Artists and makers living elsewhere can still take part in the festival by signing up to our online Artists Seeking Houses directory, where Open Houses looking for guest artists to exhibit with them can view your work and invite you to take part. To find out more visit: <https://artists-seeking-houses.aoh.org.uk>

left: **The Ceramic House;**  
below: **11 Welbeck Open House,**  
photos by Syl Ojalla



## Calling all artists and makers! Artists Open Houses May 2024

**Registration for the Artists Open Houses May 2024 Festival opens online on 5th January.**

Anyone living within the Brighton, Hove and surrounding area can take part to open their own house or studio. For more

## New year, new work and new artists at Gallery BN5

**The new year at Henfield's Gallery BN5 has brought new artists into our fold, and it's going to be another exciting year in the gallery with the usual beautiful range of paintings, ceramics and hand crafted works to choose from.**

As always, the work is changed in the gallery at the end of each month, so just a warning to our customers, what you see one month will very possibly not be there the following month!

Esther Newnham Brown who looks after the general day to day running of Gallery BN5 is also a very prolific painter, and the new year for her brings fresh ideas for paintings. Sketchbooks have been filled over the winter months with ideas, and then transferred onto canvas.

The elements of oncoming spring and the sight of new buds and growth in the garden give wonderful inspiration for her, which she feels is true for many artists, as well as the prospect of long lighter evenings that make working easier after the dark dismal winter weather.

We guarantee there is always something lovely to buy for a gift or just to spoil yourself! So do pop in, chat with the artist on duty, and browse! We are open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 2pm. [www.gallerybn5.co.uk](http://www.gallerybn5.co.uk)



right: **Esther Newnham Brown, Winter to Spring**



# Gallery bn5

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## Zak Gilbert photographer

**Growing up in the New Forest, inspiration was never far away for photographer Zak Gilbert. Now based in Brighton, he continues to capture stunning images of the world around him.**

"As every artist hopes they are doing something different from the rest of the pack, I have always been inspired by classic landscape photography and the very locations themselves.

What I try to find are some smaller interests or alternate angles on the scene in front of me. This can mean examining the floor for intricate details that might be missed or finding an angle of the subject that would not be seen if you were to be just standing there.

This approach has led me to photograph all sorts of scenes, landscape and industrial, to try to find interest in everything.

I had the pleasure of growing up in the New



Forest so I was surrounded by the beauty of nature from the start.

My father, Pete Gilbert, is an artist and produces fantastic oil paintings from all over the New Forest and the south coast. Although I did not go down the exact same path, having composition and colour around me from the beginning must have sparked some inspiration!"

To see more of Zak's work follow him on Instagram @zakgilbert.photography and check out his Etsy store <https://linktr.ee/zakgilbertphotography>.

clockwise from top of opposite page:

**Brighton West Pier Lightning Strike**

**Bell Heather, Dead Man's Hill, New Forest**

**Brighton in Bloom**

**Ships at Southampton Docks**

**Reflections on Dead Man's Hill**





# HURVIN ANDERSON

18 November 2023 –  
3 March 2024

## SALON PAINTINGS

A major solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by Hurvin Anderson, celebrating his renowned Barbershop series.



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Hurvin Anderson, *Barbershop*, 2006. © Hurvin Anderson.  
Courtesy the artist and Thomas Dane Gallery. Photo: Lewis Ronald

visual arts & contemporary crafts

## Three exhibitions to catch at HASTINGS CONTEMPORARY Until 3 March 2024

### Hurvin Anderson: Salon Paintings Running until 3rd March 2024

This winter sees Hastings Contemporary proudly host a major review of Hurvin Anderson's paintings and drawings, presented in association with The Hepworth Wakefield and Kistefos Museum, Norway.

Salon Paintings will feature selected works from Anderson's celebrated Barbershop series, which depict the interiors of traditional men's hairdressers and evoke a profound sense of history, memory and place.

This is the most comprehensive presentation of the series to date, from the first painting and initial studio drawings made in 2006 to a new large-scale drawing and a painting begun in 2022, the largest and final works in the series; it also includes some of Anderson's most political works, such as 'Is it OK to be Black?'.

### Nengi Omuku: The Dance of People and the Natural World. Running until 3rd March 2024

Hastings Contemporary is excited to present the first major UK solo exhibition of new and recent works by Lagos-based artist Nengi Omuku.

This exhibition will not only introduce Omuku's work to a wider UK audience, but also seeks to broaden the exposure and awareness of the vibrant contemporary Nigerian art scene.

Displaying more than ten pieces, the show includes works made between 2021 and 2023 that explore Omuku's love of nature and the ways in which it provides her with a sense of safety and serenity. As Omuku explains: "This comes from both a personal place, telling my story as a gardener and florist, as well as what I feel is a collective leaning, and re-communion with nature today".

### Roland Hicks: The Fourth Wall Running until 3rd March 2024

Combining aspects of drawing, painting, still-life, geometric abstraction, collage and performance with sculpture, artist Roland Hicks has transformed two galleries at Hastings Contemporary.

Working directly on sea-facing walls, Hicks will create the illusion of a flimsy patchwork of found materials, as if someone with rudimentary carpentry skills had hastily assembled a barrier out of whatever came to hand, inviting visitors to interpret the result as they see it themselves. Is it merely an act of folly? Perhaps an inadequate response to rising sea levels, or a paranoid reinforcement against supposed invaders?

Visit [www.hastingscontemporary.org](http://www.hastingscontemporary.org) for more info.



from top: Hurvin Anderson, *Is It Ok To Be Black* 2015 (detail), photo, Chip Creative; Nengi Omuku, *Lighthouse*, 2021; Roland Hicks, *The Fourth Wall*, Room 2, photo Pete Jones



# theatres



## WORTHING THEATRES

English Touring Theatre

**MACBETH**

Comes to Worthing in March

A struggling and divided nation, tearing itself apart. So, when the Macbeths see their chance at the crown, why shouldn't they take it?

But things don't go according to plan. Dreams quickly turn to nightmares, humanity erodes, and nature stirs. As society strives to make sense of the darkness that sits inside it, how long will it take for people to fight back against the endless cycle of violence and corruption?

A visceral and contemporary new production that speaks to a world we find ourselves living in now, asking why has Macbeth haunted our fears and nightmares for centuries, and what lesson is this cautionary tale still urgently trying to communicate to us?

In ETT's first international tour since the pandemic, this visceral and modern production, in association with Bristol Old Vic, will be coming to the Connaught Theatre from 5th March to 8th March.

Richard Twyman, Artistic Director and CEO, and Sophie Scull, Executive Producer of ETT said, "We are delighted to announce the cast for our upcoming production of Macbeth. They are an exceptional ensemble of actors, and we are so looking forward to the creative collaboration with them as we dig into the heart of this

seminal play. It felt vital to us that we built a cast and creative team that represented not only the home-towns of our co-producing partners Liverpool and Newcastle, but also the country more widely.

Laura Collier, Creative Director of Shakespeare North Playhouse said, "It is such a joy to be co-producing Macbeth with our friends from English Touring Theatre, Northern Stage and Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg. ETT's version of Macbeth is intense and intoxicating, and its complexity and nuance seeks to resonate deeply with modern audiences. We're so excited to welcome audiences to see this production set against the incredible backdrop of our newly installed Frons Scenae."

Visit <https://wtm.uk/events> for full information.



Macbeth at Shakespeare North Playhouse – top: Laura Elsworth as Lady Macbeth; bottom: Cast with Mike Noble and Christopher McCluskey. Photos by The Other Richard



thriller stars Jay McGuiness, Fiona Wade, George Rainsford and Vera Chok.

Jenny believes her new home is haunted, but her husband Sam isn't having any of it. They argue with their first dinner guests, old friend Lauren and new partner Ben. Can the dead really walk again? Belief and scepticism clash, but something feels strange and frightening, and that something is getting closer, so they're going to stay up... until 2:22... and then they'll know.

Written by Danny Robins, creator of the hit BBC podcasts Uncanny and The Battersea Poltergeist, 2:22 A Ghost Story comes fresh from record-breaking seasons at five West End theatres with a host of acclaimed star performances. It's a brilliantly funny and adrenaline-filled night where secrets emerge and ghosts may or may not appear... What do you believe? And do you dare discover the truth?

Visit [www.cft.org.uk](http://www.cft.org.uk) for further information.

## Two highlights of productions coming to CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE

### The Circle

by Somerset Maugham

from 30th January to 3rd February

directed by Tom Littler

Jane Asher plays Lady Kitty, a society beauty who notoriously abandoned her stuffy husband Clive (Clive Francis) and eloped with the handsome Lord Porteous (Nicholas Le Prevost).

Thirty years later, love's young dream has descended into non-stop squabbling... Meanwhile their son Arnold faces the same marital fate, as his wife Elizabeth threatens to elope with the dashing Teddie Luton.

Will history come full circle? Or can one generation learn from their parents' disastrous mistakes?

Somerset Maugham was among the most successful novelists and playwrights of the inter-war years. This sparky comedy of manners was first staged in 1921 and has remained a firm favourite with audiences ever since.

### :22 A Ghost Story

by Danny Robins

directed by Matthew Dunster & Isabel Marr

from 6th to 10th February

The new stage phenomenon that has taken the West End by storm now comes to Chichester. Winner of Best New Play at the WhatsOnStage Awards, this edge-of-your-seat, supernatural

top: George Rainsford as Sam, Fiona Wade as Jenny, Vera Chok as Lauren, Jay McGuiness as Ben in :22 A Ghost Story. Photo by Seamus Ryan

below: Jane Asher in The Circle. Photo by Ellie Kurtz







## A snapshot of two performances this year

### CONGRESS THEATRE Eastbourne

**Fascinating Aida 40th Anniversary Show  
17th February**

**D**illie, Liza and Adèle, Britain's raciest and sassiest musical cabaret trio, present their brand-new show. Uniquely charming, with diamond-sharp satire, filthy, hilarious, belligerent, political, poignant and outrageous. Features much-loved favourites and some wickedly hilarious new songs.

**Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance  
'A Lifetime of Standing Ovals Tour'  
13th to 15th September**

Lord of the Dance, a production that has enchanted over sixty million people in sixty countries on every continent and graced more than a thousand venues, is a testament to Michael Flatley's creative brilliance. The show has shattered records and garnered unparalleled accolades worldwide, catapulting Irish dance to new heights and touching the hearts and minds of millions.

The Irish dancing icon embarked on his final tour in 2016, performing on stage for the last time at Caesar's Colosseum in Las Vegas. However, he has continued as the show's creator, producer, and choreographer.

Earlier this year, Michael was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. In a statement at the time, it was revealed that he had undergone

surgery and was in the care of excellent doctors. Always determined to overcome adversity and "never give up on his dreams", Flatley will take these run of shows to the next level.

Michael said, "The magic of 'Lord of the Dance' lives on in the hearts of our audience, and I am thrilled to bring this iconic show back to the UK in 2024. It's a testament to the enduring power of dance and the indomitable spirit of the human soul. Our 2024 tour promises to be an extraordinary journey that will take audiences to the next level once again. In 2024, this extraordinary experience for fans will feature new staging, fresh choreography, new costumes, cutting-edge technology, and special effects lighting. It's a celebration of a lifetime of standing ovations and we aim to leave the audience spellbound."

Visit [www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk](http://www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk) for more details and discover all that Eastbourne Theatres has to offer.

above: **Lord of the Dance 2024. Photo by Wolfgang Wildejp**  
below: **Fascinating Aida. Photo by Geraint Lewis**



## A few highlights coming soon at THE HAWTH, Crawley

**Let's All Dance Ballet Company presents  
The Magic Word on 10th February**

**I**n a secret, magical forest lives the beautiful Forest Queen. It is summer and the forest is warm; the Queen loves dancing in the dappled sunlight, but in the winter she becomes cold and hungry.

One day she decides to visit the Forest Elf on the other side of the wood, as she knows he has food and a warm cloak. But the Queen is rather spoilt and does not know how to ask nicely. Once she learns The Magic Word she discovers the beauty of sharing and the joys of true friendship.

With magical dancers, stunning costumes, crystal clear storytelling and lots of humour, this is a heart-warming tale for all ages!

**11th February sees Ensemble Reza perform  
Nordic Nights.**

A programme that brings the rugged, mysterious and beautiful Nordic landscapes to our shores, through music. From classical greats such as Sibelius and Grieg to arrangements by Ensemble Reza musician Anna Cooper, paying tribute to the folk music of Scandinavia. Don't miss what promises to be a magical evening.

**21st April brings Austen's Women: Lady Susan**

Austen's Women are back – in a brand-new show! Devil-may-care Lady Susan, the coquettish black widow, hunting down not one, but two, fortunes; oppressed, rebellious daughter Frederica; long-suffering sister-in-law Catherine; family matriarch Mrs De Courcy; and insouciant best friend, Alicia.

Return to the Regency (or rather, Georgian) in this darkly comic tale of society and the women trapped within it; their struggles, their desires, their temptations and manipulations – and at the vanguard, Lady

Susan: charming, scheming, witty, and powerful; taking on society and making it her own. But has she met her match?

Based on Jane Austen's first full-length work from 1794, and created entirely from letters, the piece is performed by Rebecca Vaughan and directed by Andrew Margerison.

[www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk/the-hawth](http://www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk/the-hawth)



top: **Let's All Dance Ballet Company, The Magic Word;**  
above: **Rebecca Vaughan as Lady Susan, (The Hawth);**  
below: **Sharon Shannon, (Ropetackle Arts Centre)**

## Some great music coming to ROPETACKLE ARTS CENTRE, Shoreham

**F**ebruary 11th sees internationally acclaimed Irish musician Sharon Shannon, hailed as a "national treasure" by Irish President Michael D Higgins,





## performing arts – theatres

arrive on her UK tour with her renowned trio.

With a career spanning four decades, twenty albums, and collaborations with musical luminaries from around the globe, Sharon Shannon continues to break new ground and redefine the boundaries of Irish traditional music.

Her musical journey has taken her to prestigious venues worldwide and she has collaborated with an eclectic array of artists, including Bono, Willie Nelson, Shane McGowan, Johnny Depp, and many others.

Don't miss this opportunity to witness the Sharon Shannon Trio's spellbinding live show as they enchant audiences with their unique blend of Irish traditional music and diverse musical influences.

Then on 28th February folk music's legendary triumvirate of musical magpies Mike McGoldrick, John McCusker, and John Doyle arrive at Ropetackle, bringing you their own blend of captivating folk songs, tunes and charming bonhomie. Described as the masters of flute, fiddle, song and guitar, they have worked with the biggest and brightest and bring to you a night of beautifully crafted music. With their vast repertoire, this will be an evening to remember.

And from an era very close to my own heart, on 21st March one can experience A Night In The Canyon featuring the timeless songs of James Taylor; Carole King; Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young; Buffalo Springfield; The Eagles; Joni Mitchell and many more.

The show brings together an unrivalled collective of award-winning artists in their own right, namely Robbie Cavanagh, Eddy Smith and Jana Varga.

This is not a tribute show in the traditional sense of the word, but rather the artists themselves performing



their own takes, both individually and collectively, on these timeless classics of the late 60s/early 70s American songbook.

Visit <https://ropetacklecentre.co.uk> for further information about what's on at Ropetackle.

above: Eddy Smith, Jana Varga, Robbie Cavanagh, (Ropetackle); below: Scarlett Fae, photo by Paul Winter Photography, (TOM)

## THE OLD MARKET, Brighton announces its Reigning Women Season

Independent grassroots venue The Old Market (TOM) has announced its brand new Reigning Women season, with the announcement accompanied by a trailer filmed in Brighton and Hove.

The trailer was shot at the venue and various locations around the city, including Brighton Pavilion and the beach underneath Brighton Pier at sunrise. Directed by Paul Winter and produced by TOM, the film features artists who are all based in the city and who are performing as part of the season – Naomi Wood, Scarlett Fae, Rosy Carrick, AFLO. The Poet, Mana Dance and Jenny Foulds. It is set to a poem written and performed by Jenny Foulds called 'This Woman Is'.

TOM's Reigning Women season is a multi-genre programme that aims to celebrate the amazing women in the Arts and Culture industry and beyond. Running from February 2024, the new programme includes performances by all the artists in the trailer as well as appearances by performers including poet Hollie McNish and comedian Jen Brister.

Helen Jewell, Creative Director of The Old Market, said: "We are absolutely buzzing for our brand-new Reigning Women season! It's going to be a jubilant celebration of the wonderfully talented artists based in Brighton and Hove. We want to say a huge thank you to Paul Winter and his team for donating their time and expertise to the cause, and we look forward to welcoming you all to our Reigning Women season soon."

Visit [www.theoldmarket.com](http://www.theoldmarket.com) for full information.



## THIS IS MY THEATRE

Touring our area this spring and summer

### Persuasion by Jane Austen May to July

Following This Is My Theatre's previous hat-astrophic productions of The Comedy of Errors and The Three Musketeers we are delighted to be back in 2024 with another deliciously silly show. Our adaptation of Jane Austen's much-loved love story, packed with harmony, hilarity and plenty of hats, will be sure to have audiences laughing along this spring.

Anne Elliott is persuaded to reject Frederick Wentworth by her family and friends but when the Elliott's circumstances alter and Wentworth returns eight years later, as a commended naval officer no less, old sparks are rekindled... But can either be convinced to give love a second chance?!

### The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum May to July

"There's no place like home!"

We are delighted to be back this Spring with another family-friendly adventure. Our adaptation of L. Frank Baum's much-loved story – packed with music, merriment and plenty of magic – will be sure to captivate our audiences, whether young or not.

When Dorothy Gale is carried from her home in Kansas by a cyclone she finds herself in the magical land of Oz. There she must journey to the Emerald City to meet with the great Wizard and, with the help of the friends she meets along the way, defeat the Wicked Witch of the West.

From July to September This Is My Theatre is also touring A Midsummer Night's Dream and Five Children & It.

Director Sarah Slator said: "We are very much looking forward to our Spring/Summer tours this year. We have created these adaptations to be fun and vibrant to capture imaginations and engage audiences of all ages."

Visit [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com) for full details.



## performing arts – theatres



## THE PICTURE HOUSE Uckfield

Following on from the huge success of Vermeer, The Greatest Exhibition, one of the biggest event cinema box office hits of the year, The Picture House brings you more from Exhibition on Screen.

### Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse (PG) 27th February at 6pm

Another chance to watch this riveting documentary, based on the sold-out exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts. Although Claude Monet was arguably the most important painter of gardens in the history of art, a range of great artists all saw the garden as a powerful subject for their art.

### John Singer Sargent (PG) 16th April at 6pm

John Singer Sargent's power to express distinctive personalities, power dynamics and gender identities in his portraits captured the spirit of a vibrant and rapidly changing age. Step into the glittering world of fashion, scandal and shameless self-promotion that created a painter who defined an era.

### My National Gallery (PG) 4th June at 6pm

Phil Grabsky explores one of the world's greatest art galleries, as people from all walks of life who have a strong connection to the gallery identify the artwork that means the most to them. Beloved celebrities, devoted staff members and world class experts unite to paint a unique portrait of this iconic British institution for its 200th birthday.

Make your visit special and book a table at our excellent restaurant before or after the screening. We look forward to seeing you.

For full details of all screenings and to book tickets and table please visit [www.picturehouseuckfield.com](http://www.picturehouseuckfield.com).

top: National Gallery, London (Uckfield Picture House); left: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (This Is My Theatre)





Ashley Christmas  
as Phoebe Hessel

## 'The Big Picture – Tales of Shoreham-by-Sea' by Half-Time Orange Theatre

Shoreham Wordfest 2023 brought immersive theatre to Shoreham from the brilliant hand of writer/director Ethan Taylor, co-founder of Half-Time Orange Theatre, a new theatre company dedicated to producing innovative and exciting work bringing local communities and their histories to the stage.

In 'The Big Picture' his four outstanding actors brought Shoreham's history up close and personal in the ancient atmospheric surroundings of the Marlipins Museum.

Hannah Johnson was wonderfully vibrant as the budding screenwriter Sylvia Morely from Shoreham's heyday as a cutting edge film industry of the 1920's. She was the guide, taking the audience in small groups on an immersive trail of Shoreham's history through the real-life stories of historical figures from the town's past.

Bruce Allinson's tragical comical very human King Charles II leapt from his hiding place and told us of his trials and tribulations as he waited to escape to France from Shoreham harbour.

Phoebe Hessel, played by the wonderfully earthy Ashley Christmas, drew us in to her extraordinary life as a soldier in the time of the Napoleonic wars, and Thomas Dorman played with impeccable panache the suave dashing aviator/adventurer Cecil Pashley, who raised Shoreham airport to fame in the early 1900's.

Wonderfully fluent, intelligent script and direction, gifted actors and highly creative use of space, this was a truly immersive, intimate walk through Shoreham's history and an innovative and exciting event in this year's Shoreham Wordfest Literary Festival. As director Ethan Taylor tells us, "scratch the surface of any town and you will find a host of stories just waiting to come out".

—Libby Longhurst

For more info visit [www.shorehamwordfest.com](http://www.shorehamwordfest.com)

[www.halftimeorangetheatre.com](http://www.halftimeorangetheatre.com)

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

[www.sussexpast.co.uk/attraction/marlipins-museum/](http://www.sussexpast.co.uk/attraction/marlipins-museum/)



A moment of levity  
in A Christmas Carol

## A Christmas Carol by TIMT Theatre Company at The Hawth, Crawley

The Hawth Studio was packed as we arrived for the matinee of Dickens' A Christmas Carol, repackaged in inimitable style by critically acclaimed TIMT Theatre Company into a one-act play.

The subject of countless adaptations, A Christmas Carol is one of the most familiar and enduring Christmas stories, one of hardship, of meanness, despair, hope and ultimately redemption.

It was Christmas Eve and Ebenezer Scrooge has grudgingly given Bob Cratchit the following day off. Suddenly there appears, weighed down with chains, the ghost of his old partner Jacob Marley, who warns Scrooge that his miserly attitude will be his undoing. Under the guidance of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet To Come, Scrooge is shown glimpses of happier times; how his current parsimonious behaviour is impacting those around him; and what the future might hold were he not to change. We witnessed, rapt, Ebenezer Scrooge's transition from miserly grouch to generous, cheerful benefactor, through the medium of dream (or was it a dream?).

The drama was embellished with carols arranged by resident composer Simon Stallard, starting with a beautiful scene-setting a capella arrangement as the audience took their seats.

With the talented small cast seamlessly playing minor characters as well as their main parts (Oliver Turner as Scrooge; Leon Topley as Bob Cratchit; Andy Colter as Tiny Tim; Lucy Alexander as Mrs Cratchit and Joseph Rawlings as Jacob Marley), this pared-down adaptation distilled the essence of this classic story, never missing a beat and was, like a warming mug of mulled wine, enriching and full of flavour. It ended, as it began, with harmonious music and to enthusiastic applause.

An uplifting feel-good start to the Christmas festivities, A Christmas Carol left us with a warm fuzzy glow in our hearts and the unmistakable feeling to be nice to everyone. [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com)

01293 553636  
[hawth.co.uk](http://hawth.co.uk)



## COMING SOON...



### THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Sun 18 February 3pm, Theatre

#### VALENTINE'S GALA

Join the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for a Valentine's gala to remember, featuring some of the most romantic pieces of music ever written, from the worlds of film, opera and classical music.

Sat 20 April 7pm, Studio

#### BRASS ENSEMBLE

There's nothing quite like the majestic sound of a brass ensemble. Join a quintet of players from the brass section of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra as they take you on a journey from the stormy hills of the Lake District to the glitz and glamour of Hollywood's golden era.

Sat 9 July 7pm, Studio

#### WIND ENSEMBLE

Join us for a chance to hear the hugely talented wind musicians of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a recital featuring Mozart's timeless elegance, Dvořák's Bohemian lyricism, Ligeti's avant-garde complexity, and Janáček's folk-inspired passion to life.

Save £3 when you book all three RPO concerts!



Mon 18 - Sat 23 March, Theatre

### JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Timothy Sheader (*Crazy for You*, *Into the Woods*) directs this mesmerizing new production of the iconic global phenomenon, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR!

Starring Ian McIntosh (*We Will Rock You*, *Follies*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*) as Jesus, Shem Omari James (*Dreamgirls* UK Tour) as Judas & Hannah Richardson (*Sting's The Last Ship*) as Mary.

Mon 25 March 7.30pm, Theatre

### MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Music by Giacomo Puccini. Sung in Italian with English Surtitles. Performed by the Dnipro Opera, from Ukraine.

Set in Japan at the turn of the last century, it is the story of a doomed love affair between an American naval officer and his young Japanese bride whose self sacrifice and defiance of her family leads to tragedy.



Mon 1 - Tue 2 April, Theatre

### UNFORTUNATE

#### THE UNTOLD STORY OF URSULA THE SEA WITCH

Starring Shawna Hamic (*Orange is the New Black*) as Ursula and River Medway (*RuPaul's Drag Race UK*) as Ariel, *Unfortunate* is coming to Crawley and things are gonna get wet!

Join everyone's favourite Disney Diva, Ursula, as she gives her take on what really happened all those years ago under the sea.

Age guidance 16+



Fri 26 April 7.45pm, Studio

### CHAMBER PHILHARMONIC EUROPE

Enjoy an afternoon full of versatile sounds and complex emotions with the talented musicians of Kammerphilharmonie Europa.

Mon 29 April 7.45pm, Studio

### NASTY

#### BIG GIRLS BEING GROSS MEAN AND SEXY

Succulent Theatre presents an exploration of what it was like for two chubby girls who grew up in the 2010s. Are you still blushing over the time someone pointed out your cellulite when you were getting changed for PE in year 11? The Nasty Girls are here to tell you about all their most shameful moments in full, uncensored detail.

Age guidance 16+



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27<sup>th</sup> February

**John Singer Sargent: Fashion & Swagger**  
16<sup>th</sup> April

**My National Gallery**  
4<sup>th</sup> June

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**JAN/FEB HIGHLIGHTS**


**Shaparak Khorsandi – Scatterbrain**  
Sat 27 Jan, 8pm




**Laurence Jones – Bad Luck & the Blues Tour (+ special guests)**  
Sat 10 Feb, 8pm



**The Adventures of Captain Calamity**  
Thurs 15 Feb, 2pm



**The Haunting by Hugh Jones**  
Thurs 22 Feb, 7.30pm



**ROPETACKLE ARTS CENTRE**

Little High Street, Shoreham by Sea, BN43 5EG

[www.ropetacklecentre.co.uk](http://www.ropetacklecentre.co.uk)

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**THIS IS MY THEATRE**  
presents four favourite tales this Summer



For details, dates & venues  
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John Frederick Lampe's 1737 smash hit

**The DRAGON of WANTLEY**

Comic opera based on a Yorkshire legend, with earthy satire and razor wit, a send-up of Handel

NSO Chorus, Bellot Baroque Ensemble  
conductor Toby Purser, director Paul Higgins  
cast includes Ana Beard Fernández,  
Charlotte Badham, Robert Gildon

April 14 All Saints LEWES, April 21 The Old Market HOVE,  
April 26 Trinity Theatre TUNBRIDGE WELLS,  
April 28 Theatre Royal WINCHESTER, May 5 Blackheath Halls LONDON,  
May 12 Devonshire Park Theatre EASTBOURNE

[www.newsussexopera.org](http://www.newsussexopera.org)



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*"Hot-blooded, a joy"*

THE INDEPENDENT



**Starring Ukrainian mezzo-soprano's  
Natalia Matveeva and Irina Sproglis.†**

An evening of passion, sexual jealousy,  
death and unforgettable arias.

Sung in French with English surtitles.

† Cast subject to change.

# PUCCINI MADAMA BUTTERFLY

**WINNER 'BEST  
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LIVERPOOL DAILY POST THEATRE AWARDS



**Welcoming back the fabulous Korean  
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Natalia Matveeva and Irina Sproglis.†**

With an exquisite Japanese Garden and  
spectacular costumes including antique  
wedding kimonos from Japan.

Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

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THE ANVIL, BASINGSTOKE  
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Madama Butterfly: Tue 19 Mar / Carmen: Tue 30 Apr  
Carmen: Wed 3 Apr / Madama Butterfly: Thu 4 Apr  
Carmen: Fri 3 May / Madama Butterfly: Sat 4 May

atgtickets.com/Woking\*  
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\*Subject to booking/transaction fees.

performing arts

# MADAMA BUTTERFLY & CARMEN



**In collaboration with Senbla, award-winning  
producer Ellen Kent returns in Spring 2024 with  
the Ukrainian Opera & Ballet Theatre Kyiv  
presenting stunning classical productions of  
Puccini's Madama Butterfly and Bizet's Carmen,  
featuring international soloists, highly-praised  
chorus and full orchestra.**

Ellen Kent's Madama Butterfly, winner of the 'Best  
Opera Award' by the Liverpool Daily Post Theatre  
Awards, returns in a new production with exquisite  
sets including a spectacular Japanese garden and  
fabulous costumes including antique wedding  
kimonos from Japan. One of the world's most popular  
operas, Puccini's Madama Butterfly tells the heart-  
breaking story of the beautiful young Japanese girl  
who falls in love with an American naval lieutenant  
– with tragic results. Highlights include the melodic  
'Humming Chorus', the moving aria 'One Fine Day'  
and the unforgettable 'Love Duet'. Sung in Italian  
with English surtitles.

Bizet's masterpiece, Carmen, is an evening of  
passion, sexual jealousy, death and unforgettable  
arias. Carmen is the story of the bewitching gypsy girl  
whose tantalising beauty lures a soldier to desertion  
and leads to her own murder. The opera includes  
some of the most evocative and best-loved melodies  
in opera – The Habanera, The Seguidilla, The Flower  
Song, The Chanson Bohème and perhaps the best-  
known baritone aria of all, The Toreador's Song. The  
stunning set reflects the magnificent architecture  
of Seville with its Roman and Moorish influences,  
which includes the main square, the bull ring and the  
famous tobacco factory. The set was built for Ellen  
Kent in England by Setup Scenery, who also build  
sets for the Royal Opera Covent Garden. Sung in

French with English surtitles.

Like Ellen's past UK and Ireland opera tours, Ellen  
personally hand-picks and directs all soloists to create  
visually beautiful and moving productions. Ellen said  
"I am delighted to be working with the Ukrainian  
Opera & Ballet Theatre Kyiv again after the huge  
success of the spring 2023 tour. I started working with  
Ukraine in 2000 and have continued these strong  
relationships ever since, working with the Odessa  
National Opera for which I was awarded The Golden  
Fortune Honorary Medal from the President of the  
Ukraine, as well as the Kharkiv National Opera and  
for the last couple of years with the brilliant Opera &  
Ballet Theatre Kyiv."

Tickets are on sale now! For full tour listings and to  
book tickets please visit [www.ellenkent.com](http://www.ellenkent.com) or  
[www.senbla.com/puccini-madama-butterfly/](http://www.senbla.com/puccini-madama-butterfly/)

top: **Carmen, Cigarette Girls from the tobacco factory;**  
below: **Madama Butterfly, Butterfly and Suzuki**





## HORSHAM MUSIC CIRCLE

### Continues its 82nd season with The King's Singers

**The Horsham Music Circle has three concerts coming this spring.**

The series opens on 27th January at St Mary's Church with one of the most successful vocal sextets on the planet! The King's Singers. This world renowned group represents the gold standard in a cappella singing on the world's greatest stages.

Their special programme 'Long Live the King' celebrates the wealth of music associated with royal occasions and also includes audience favourites from the King's Singers' treasure trove of jazz, folk and spiritual arrangements.

In the Causeway Barn on 16th March Portuguese flautist Frederico Paixão gives a recital with American pianist Mark Rogers. Both come as award winning young artists sponsored by The Countess of Munster Musical Trust and play sonatas by Bach, Poulenc and York Bowen with works by Tailleferre, Boulanger and Vaughan Williams.

Pianist Warren Mailley-Smith appears at St Mary's Church on 11th May. He is in increasing demand as a concert pianist and his solo career sees him performing in festivals and concert venues across the UK, in Europe and the US. His programme includes much loved works by Beethoven, Rachmaninov, Chopin and Liszt/Schumann.

To book tickets phone 01403 252602, email: horshammusiccircle@gmail.com or online from [www.wegottickets.com/HorshamMusicCircle](http://www.wegottickets.com/HorshamMusicCircle).



Charlotte Badham

## NEW SUSSEX OPERA

### presents The Dragon of Wantley by John Frederick Lampe

**A dragon is terrorizing the Yorkshire countryside, devouring anything it meets. The only person who can save the locals is a drunken squire – if he can put down his pint.**

He agrees, but just as daunting as his monstrous opponent is the love triangle that ensues. Will the dragon prevail? And who will get their man?

The Dragon of Wantley, the 1737 smash hit of the London season, parodies Handel's serious operas – as well as poking fun at the government of the day. The combination of Lampe's first-rate music (of which Handel himself approved) and wonderfully witty libretto by Henry Carey makes this opera a comic gem.

This masterpiece of English comic opera is performed with a traditional period orchestra as New Sussex Opera sets the opera in a South Yorkshire of the 1980's (against the background of the miners' strike). The recent recording of The Dragon Of Wantley from the Brook Street Band and conductor John Andrews won BBC Music Magazine 2023 Award in Opera. ➡



The King's Singers, photo by Frances Marshall



Piers Adams and Lyndy Mayle, Sounds of the Unexpected

Conductor Toby Purser and director Paul Higgins join forces again following their success with Stanford's The Travelling Companion for New Sussex Opera, which was nominated for an International Opera Award, with what was a world première recording released on the SOMM label.

New Sussex Opera Chorus, The Bellot Baroque Ensemble and the cast includes Ana Beard Fernández, Charlotte Badham and Robert Gildon.

Community based New Sussex Opera has been presenting innovative productions with high musical standards since 1978. There are six performances in our area during April and early May.

Visit [www.newsussexopera.org](http://www.newsussexopera.org) for further information.

## SEAFORD MUSIC SOCIETY

### A long tradition of promoting professional chamber music

**Seaford Music Society is having a bumper season this year, and when you ask the audience what's making the difference they'll tell you that it's all about the way the music is communicated in these intimate, friendly Sunday afternoon concerts in Seaford Baptist Church.**

If you didn't manage to get to either of the first two concerts of the series then you have missed something quite special! The beauty and emotional ferocity of the violin recital given by Mathilde Milwidsky, recently named in Classic FM's list of '30 under 30', and the intensity of Cordelia Williams' piano recital left members speechless.

There are four more concerts coming up that you will



Divertimenti String Quartet

want to put in your diary.

4th February: 'I Shall Hear in Heaven', Australian playwright Tama Mattheson's fascinating, deeply moving and powerful exploration of Beethoven's struggle with hearing loss.

10th March: Divertimenti play works for two cellos; quintets by Boccherini, Gade and Brahms.

14th April: Sounds of the Unexpected will bring smiles to your faces as Piers Adams (Red Priest) and Lyndy Mayle take to the stage with an hour-long exploration of all things mystical, extraordinary... and baroque!

12th May: Berkeley Ensemble with works by Malcolm Arnold, Tim Watts and Mussorgsky.

Visit [www.seafordmusicsociety.com](http://www.seafordmusicsociety.com).





## The International Interview Concerts

Fans of The International Interview Concerts have been patient during post-pandemic preparations for their new Worthing home at @rtsspaces@sionschool. Only one of these intimate, inclusive, interactive and affordable concerts of performance and conversation happened in 2023.

But what an astonishing event the brave and explosive pianist Maya Irgalina made it, in April. "Your fingers flew on ivory lines, you made my heart reach the sun," was one ecstatic audience reaction. See Stephen Goodger's live photos in the advertisement on page 53, alongside the news email and Facebook page info.

These concerts resume on Sunday 17th March at 3pm. Piano-violin duo Olga Paliy & Kamila Bydlowska (Ukraine/Poland) bring Brahms and Saint-Saens, some famous film music, plus Frolov's virtuoso and spontaneous look at favourites from Gershwin's Porgy & Bess.

Kamila's irrepressible personality delighted those at her 2017 Interview Concert with Varvara Tarasova at St Paul's. As then, her artistry has created another attractive programme, laced with intrigue. Olga Paliy's London fundraising concerts for Ukraine have kept her busy. Her Audience Prize-winning Brahms 2nd Concerto in the 2013 Sussex Piano Competition Final first endeared her to Worthing. The duo will be taking Music Workshops into schools under the Interview Concerts' umbrella charity educational arm.

Visit [www.facebook.com/TheInterviewConcert](http://www.facebook.com/TheInterviewConcert).



# HASTINGS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

## A dynamic Symphony Orchestra for the flourishing South East



2023/24 Season



[www.hastingsphilorchestra.co.uk](http://www.hastingsphilorchestra.co.uk)

FEBRUARY 4TH 2024 3.00 P.M.

## I SHALL HEAR IN HEAVEN



AWARDING-WINNING LYRIC DRAMA  
LIFE AND MUSIC OF LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN  
FROM ACTOR/PLAYRIGHT/DIRECTOR



**TAMA MATTHESON**

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS PIANO TRIO

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Meet artistes in  
full performance  
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'In The Round'

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- Mystery Music Spot
- Guest Interviewer
- Sips 'n Nibbles
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- Sundays at 3



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The International Interview Concerts







# London Philharmonic Orchestra

## Pictures at an Exhibition

Saturday 10 February | Brighton Dome

Sunday 11 February | Congress Theatre, Eastbourne

Book now: [lpo.org.uk/eastsussex](https://lpo.org.uk/eastsussex)

Still life, dancing chickens, ancient castles and a fairytale hut with hen's legs. Join us for Mussorgsky's musical re-imagination of the Imperial Academy of Arts in the 1870s.

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Brighton  
Dome



left:  
Francesca Dego violin,  
photo by Davide Cerati  
below:  
Kahchun Wong, photo  
by Angie Kremer

### London Philharmonic Orchestra Eastbourne and Brighton residencies 60th anniversary season draws to a close

**During the past 60 years, the Orchestra has enjoyed performing for the people of Eastbourne at the Congress theatre.**

The first concert was on 23rd September 1934, just two years after the Orchestra was established, and founder Sir Thomas Beecham conducted a programme of Rossini, Handel, Beethoven, Wagner and Borodin. Since then, the Orchestra has played over 350 concerts, including during the Second World War, performing much loved repertoire with many soloists and conductors.

The 11th February sees Kahchun Wong conduct the Orchestra and Francesca Dego in Brahms's Violin Concerto, followed by Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. The season closes on 24th March with two pieces by Mozart – Ballet Music from Idomeneo and his Violin Concerto No. 3, performed by soloist Randall Goosby. Conductor Gemma New rounds off the performance with excerpts from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet.

On 9th May the LPO is excited to bring its BrightSparks schools' concerts to Eastbourne for the first time. These performances are an opportunity for Key Stage 2 children to experience the thrill of hearing a full orchestra, possibly for the first time.

Visit <https://lpo.org.uk/whats-on/eastbourne> for full information and tickets.

At Brighton Dome the Orchestra performs Robert Schumann's Introduction and Concert Allegro and Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 (Scottish) on



20th January, while the following month Francesca Dego is the soloist in Brahms's Violin Concerto and conductor Kahchun Wong leads the Orchestra in Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition on 10th February.

The Orchestra is thrilled to be working with local music education hubs Create Music (Brighton & Hove and East Sussex), and West Sussex Music to provide high quality and meaningful experiences for young musicians in the area during the season.

Visit <https://lpo.org.uk/whats-on/brighton/> for further information and tickets.

#### **Pictures at an Exhibition and Alpine peaks:**

It might have been the vodka talking, but when Modest Mussorgsky went to an art exhibition his imagination went into overdrive.

Talking skulls, dancing chickens, ancient castles and a hut with hen's legs: Pictures at an Exhibition is a riot of colour. Going to an art gallery was never meant to be this much fun, but for guest conductor Kahchun Wong it's merely the climax of a whole concert powered by the imagination. Because when violinist Francesca Dego scales the Alpine peaks of Brahms's radiant Violin Concerto, every note speaks straight to the heart.





# ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Sunday 04 February 2024**

Barry Wordsworth  
Joanna MacGregor

3pm

BRITTEN *Four Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes*  
BRITTEN Piano Concerto in D major, Op. 13  
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 6 in F major, Op. 68  
*'Pastoral'*



**Sunday 03 March 2024**

Roderick Dunk  
Fenella Humphreys

3pm

WAGNER *Rienzi* Overture  
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47  
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36



**Sunday 07 April 2024**

Roderick Dunk  
Sir Stephen Hough

3pm

DUKAS *Polyeucte* Overture  
RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 3  
in D minor, Op. 30  
BARTÓK Concerto for Orchestra, Sz. 116

 Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells



[www.rtwso.org](http://www.rtwso.org)

Honorary President - Nicola Benedetti  
The RTWSO is a registered charity, no. 295781



## Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra

**As RTWSO begins the second part of its 2023/24 season, Chair Frances Armstrong tells us a little about the orchestra's background...**

Originally called the Tunbridge Wells Orchestral Society, the RTWSO's first concert took place in February 1922. Back then it was a small group of around twenty-five amateur string players. Over the years the orchestra has grown and developed and is now a modern, spirited and ambitious symphony orchestra with around eighty performers.

We aim to have as many local players in the orchestra as possible and there are currently forty-five to fifty members who attend our weekly rehearsals. They come from a wide range of professions including teaching, nursing, law, upholstery, veterinary, journalism, psychology, and finance to name a few, but what we have in common is our love of music and the enjoyment and thrill of shared performance.

In the last issue, I noted that it's wonderful to have Nicola Benedetti as our Honorary President, but that it has proved impossible to bring her back to

perform with us in recent years due to her high-profile international schedule. Well, things can change suddenly and unexpectedly! Nicola approached us in October to ask if we might be able to fit in a performance with her early in the New Year, and after some slightly frantic planning, we slotted in an extra performance which took place on 14th January at The SPACE Performing Arts Centre in Sevenoaks.

We have three remaining concerts in our current season that take place in February, March and April. Varied programming and three terrific soloists ensure that these concerts are not to be missed! For tickets and further information visit [www.rtwso.org](http://www.rtwso.org).

top: Joanna MacGregor, photo Evan Dawson;  
below: RTWSO woodwind





## A Magic Moment Mediæval Bæbes' Procession Concerts

**With eleven studio albums and an Ivor Novello Award under their belt, The Mediæval Bæbes have topped the charts with their vocal musical style, steeped in ancient traditions.**

Founded for fun in 1996 by Katherine Blake and Josephine Ravenheart as an a cappella vocal group, they became the fastest selling act on the Virgin record label.

Observing the mediæval tradition of The Procession, the Mediæval Bæbes' 2023 Christmas tour was a hit, with ingénu/e competition winners thoroughly enjoying their concerts in Horsham and the Isle of Wight, tickets generously donated by the Bæbes...

"They filed past us in the darkness, dressed in white with tall flaming torches, announcing their Procession concert, and heading into the beautiful All Saints Church in Ryde. We all followed them in to sit on wooden pews inside one of the Isle of Wight's oldest churches.

Listening to the blend of this sensational singing echoing out from the chancel across the crowded nave was a real joy. Their fresh, sweet voices performed with elegance but with a kind of innocence of purity of tone and intonation.

Lyrics from mediæval and romantic texts are sourced by Katherine and set to original scores, taking



from the past and making it new. Katherine also conjures up ways to present traditional songs and folk songs with different notes, different rhythms, different parts, and new harmonies of tone and pitch. Hearing so many melodies and tempos mixing together is extraordinary. Comprehending how each singer sings a different speed, in a different octave, and different tune, and hearing it blend into one beautiful song is truly magical. And these six beautiful women can dance, play instruments – flutes, cello and, backing it all, their musicians playing drums, bagpipes, whistles, primitive stringed instruments and recorders. As the audience rose up clapping wildly at the finish, we were treated to a wonderful encore of a Christmas carol and Auld Lang Syne. Perfect! What an evening of pure magic!"

–Felicity Fair Thompson

### MELTING VINYL LIVE COMING UP IN 2024

- 22.01 **Niall McCabe** BRIGHTON
- 27.01 **Lewes Psychedelic Festival** LEWES SOLD OUT
- 02.02 **Ye Vagabonds** LEWES SOLD OUT
- 09.02 **Stornoway** KENT
- 19.02 **Cerys Hafana** BRIGHTON
- 02.03 **Anne Mieke** BRIGHTON
- 19.03 **Flamingods\*** BRIGHTON
- 21.03 **N'famady Kouyaté** BRIGHTON
- 04.04 **Sam Lee** KENT
- 07.04 **Jolie Holland** BRIGHTON
- 26.04 **Personal Trainer & Pom Poko\*** BRIGHTON
- 22.05 **The Handsome Family** BRIGHTON
- 23.05 **The Handsome Family** KENT

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**HEARTS CLUB**



top: Cerys Hafana, photo Heledd Wyn;  
inset: Jolie Holland;  
bottom: N'famady Kouyaté

## A snapshot of Melting Vinyl presents...

**On 19th February Cerys Hafana arrives at the Greys, Brighton with guest Nick Austin.**

Cerys Hafana is a composer and multi-instrumentalist who mangles, mutates, and transforms traditional music. She explores the creative possibilities and unique qualities of the triple harp, and is also interested in found sounds, archival materials and electronic processing.

Her second album Edyf was selected as one of The Guardian's Top Ten albums of 2022, as well as receiving wide-spread media attention and critical acclaim.

**21st March sees N'famady Kouyaté plus special guests arrive at the Green Door Store, Brighton.**

N'famady is an energetic young master musician from Guinea (Conakry), now living in Cardiff. His music is a blend of his West African heritage mixed with Western indie, pop and jazz. His performances create vibrant atmospheres, fuelled by his charisma and charm onstage and backed by an excellent band. N'famady won the 2023 Glastonbury Emerging Talent Competition, further signalling the bright future of this rising star.

**And on 7th April at Komedia Studio, Brighton Jolie Holland is performing with special guests.**

Jolie is an American singer and performer who combines elements of folk, traditional country, jazz, and blues. She dives straight to the pathos of a song the way the very greatest singers, singers like Mavis Staples, or Al Green, or Skip James, or Tom Waits do.

Upon first encounter her songs seem challenging,

perhaps unsettling at times, but as so many poets and rockers have shown us (from Dante Alighieri to William Blake to Sylvia Plath to Patti Smith to Nick Cave to Mark E. Smith) that's where the beauty lies.

As evident on her first recordings there is no emotional core that she cannot reach in song, in all its strange and brutal detail.

Visit [www.meltingvinyl.co.uk](http://www.meltingvinyl.co.uk) for full details of MV's cutting edge gigs.







## Looking ahead to *festivals*

### ARUNDEL LITERARY DAY 7th to 9th March

Arundel Literary Day is back again, this time expanded to a three-day festival running from World Book Day on the 7th March right through to Saturday 9th March. The hugely successful inaugural event in 2023, which was attended by over 300 people featured writers, publishers, editors and historians in a

celebration of all things literary. Building on the most successful elements of the day and spreading them over three days, the Festival this year will again be based at The Victoria Institute, using the theatre space in the Red Room as the main presentation area, with the Studio hosting workshops and the Green Room serving as a break out and book selling and signing space.

A series of writing workshops for both beginners and experienced writers will be available across the three days. Poetry and short fiction competitions are already up and running, with prize-winners featured on the final evening event. Plans are underway for events on each of the three evenings, mixing music, theatre and the spoken word, and culminating in The Vic Awards on the Saturday evening, which will celebrate the Festival and include a high profile guest performer.

Tickets are on sale at The Vic website: [www.thevictoriainstitute.com](http://www.thevictoriainstitute.com) with a range of options to cover mornings, afternoons, evenings as well as multiple and single full days.

If you would like to be involved in any way, or would like any further detail please contact Mike Carey via [events@thevictoriainstitute.com](mailto:events@thevictoriainstitute.com).

top: Morris musicians at Tenterden Folk Festival; left: The Victoria Institute, Arundel



### Folk Music by the Sea **BROADSTAIRS FOLK WEEK** 9th to 16th August

If you fancy a holiday at the English seaside including concerts, dances, workshops, free family entertainment and beautiful sandy beaches, put Broadstairs Folk Week on your bucket (and spade) list!

The festival campsite is a downhill walk to the sea, but there is free transport too. An all-inclusive ticket with camping is £345 per adult for the whole week.

Headline concerts in 2024 feature Daphne's Flight, Kathryn Tickell & the Darkness, Jim Moray, Tim Edey, Jim Causley, Richard Digance, Banter, the Monster Ceilidh Band, Alden Patterson, Jez Lowe, Bird in the Belly, Tarren, Harmonia, A J Clarke, Zulu

Tradition, Teilhard Frost, Tin Giants, Wychbury and some headliners still to be announced.

It's not all sitting back and watching; workshops include African, Bollywood and belly dancing, ukulele bands, a festival choir, songwriting, poetry breakfasts, sketching walks, shanties and knitting.

Younger folk are well-catered for with the free Hobby Hobby Horse Club with Clarence the Dragon and the Hooden Horses, mascots of the festival. Plus, creative workshops, circus skills and hoola-hooping.

There's free music at over 150 pub gigs, a Craft and Music Fair and music and dance at the bandstand.

Everyone staying at the campsite is involved with Folk Week, as festival-goers, volunteers, Morris dancers or artistes, creating a lovely atmosphere.

The Souvenir Programme is published in June and has all the details – £7.50 including postage and packing.

Festival Season tickets are on sale now and single event tickets are on sale from 1st February; [www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk](http://www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk) to book online.

top: Kathryn Tickell & the Darkness;  
left: Monster Ceilidh Band





LEWES SPEAKERS  
FESTIVAL

19th to 21st January

The festival consists of three days of talks. On Saturday and Sunday they go on from morning till evening! Amongst others, there are presentations from two of the UK's best-known comedians: Dom Joly – creator of the global smash-hit comedy series Trigger Happy TV and Geoff Norcott, political comedian and TV presenter.

We also have Laura Bates, founder of the Everyday Sexism Project and Tania Branigan, former China correspondent for the Guardian, who gives an explanation of the Cultural Revolution and its effect on China today. General Sir Richard Shirreff, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander of NATO in Europe, discusses Ukraine and Professor Sir David Omand, the first UK Security and Intelligence Coordinator (MI5/ MI6/ GCHQ), discusses disaster management. Best-selling history author Sir Max Hastings tells the story of the Cuban missile crisis and Polly Toynbee of the Guardian discusses her family history. There are many more!

There are individual tickets at £14 and various All Day/Whole Festival passes which offer significant savings. Visit [www.lewesspeakersfestival.com](http://www.lewesspeakersfestival.com) for all further information.

above: **Laura Bates, Lewes Speakers Festival;**  
below: **Joe Stilgoe & Liza Pulman, Petworth Festival**



Visitors to Petworth in 2023 will have detected a phenomenal buzz in and around the area during 2023's twin festivals – the Petworth Summer Festival and Petworth Festival Literary Week – with two record breaking festivals that resulted in a flood of praise both locally and on a wider scale. As such, expectations are high as we enter the new year with plans for the 2024 Petworth Summer festival due to be announced in mid-March.

Indications are already very positive judging by the names announced in advance with the festival's many and varied audiences wonderfully catered for as ever. Classical music fans will be delighted to see world class pianists Boris Giltburg and Joanna MacGregor featured alongside opera superstar Alice Coote, whilst fans of jazz and comedy will doubtless be very much on enthusiastic standby in anticipation of appearances by Joe Stilgoe, Jay Rayner, Ronnie



PETWORTH SUMMER  
FESTIVAL 2024  
10th to 27th July

Scott's supremo James Pearson and comedians Marcus Brigstocke and Marcel Lucont.

But as ever it will be the sheer breadth of the festival that will draw the widest audiences, world and traditional music events also being chalked up across an extended fortnight that also includes family and 'rising star' series. All in all, a veritable feast is promised.

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

right: **Joanna MacGregor, photo Pal Hansen, Petworth Festival;** below: **Barbican Quartet, photo ©Andrej Grilc, Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival;** below right: **Peasmarsh Church, photo Walter van Dyck**



PEASMARSH CHAMBER MUSIC  
FESTIVAL  
27th to 30th June

*'Peasmarsh ... is a magical Festival'* –Sir David Hare, in *The Observer*

From its early beginnings – three small scale concerts in May 1998 – to today's four-day long weekend of ten concerts featuring world class guest orchestras, large scale education projects with five local partner schools and a host of internationally renowned guest artists, the Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival has become a well-loved cornerstone of music lovers' concert diaries. Marking its 26th Festival in 2024, we invite you join us for a memorable long weekend of music and conversation.

As always, the Peasmarsh Festival will include a superlative roster of world class artists. Performing with Artistic Directors violinist Anthony Marwood and cellist Richard Lester will be pianists Alasdair Beatson and Chaeyoung Park, violist Eivind Ringstad, the award-winning Barbican Quartet as well as the world renowned orchestra Britten Sinfonia, who will join Anthony and Richard for our annual orchestral concerto concert.



We are delighted to be planning concerts in the Norman church in Peasmarsh and in St Mary's in Rye, both beautiful settings in which to listen to stunning classical music. We will also be offering music workshops in Peasmarsh, Beckley, Icklesham, Rye and Winchelsea primary schools, building on over fifteen years of educational partnerships in this special corner of East Sussex.

The full programme will be announced in spring and the box office opens for general booking in April.

[www.peasmarshfestival.co.uk](http://www.peasmarshfestival.co.uk)





DEAL FESTIVAL

4th to 14th July

Festival Plans are well advanced for 2024. The soprano Lucy Crowe has become the new President following in the footsteps of Alison Balsom. Lucy studied at the Royal Academy of Music, where she is a Fellow. She was made an OBE in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours. With repertoire ranging from Purcell, Handel and Mozart to Donizetti's Adina, Verdi's Gilda and Janacek's Vixen, she has sung with opera companies throughout the world and will be performing at this year's Festival.

A new collaboration with The Royal Academy of Music welcomes our first young Artist in Association, Lizzie Knatt. Primarily a classically trained recorder player, Lizzie's musical interests range from folk and early music to contemporary and experimental performance. Lizzie will give performances throughout Festival 2024 and will include a community project linked to the destructive nature of plastic.

Festival 2024 will bring excitement to Deal and Sandwich including the opportunity to hear Chamber Domain play all six Brandenburg Concertos in one day, Wild Arts Opera perform The Magic Flute, a day of poetry curated by Jacob Sam-La Rose, walks, talks, films, community events and much more.

[www.dealmusicandarts.com](http://www.dealmusicandarts.com) will have all the details in early 2024.



CORNWALL FOLK FESTIVAL

22nd to 26th August in Wadebridge

With today's world in such a terrible state, the organisers of the 51st Cornwall Folk Festival, held over the August Bank Holiday, bring artists with something to say and messages of hope.

The powerful folk-rock five-voice harmonies of Daphne's Flight have been used to great effect on their 2023 album Love Is The Weapon of Choice (the title says it all) to decry prejudice and celebrate creation and humanity.

Lady Maisery balance climate change and womanhood with the natural world on 2022's Tender, and Tarren take on politics in a reworking of Rigs of the Time.

The festival is a town-based, not in-a-field, event which uses the intimate resources of this small, foot-accessible town. Daytime musicians and dance troupes from across Cornwall and the Southwest entertain in pubs and on streets and at the party-like outdoor FAR Stage. In the evening, it heads indoors to double-act concerts in two local venues and continues with pub sessions.

It brings the best of contemporary British folk to Cornwall and promotes the rich musical culture from Cornwall and elsewhere in the Southwest in a bonding of audience and performer.

Visit [www.cornwallfolkfestival.com](http://www.cornwallfolkfestival.com) for further information and tickets.

Deal Festival – left: Lucy Crowe, photo by Victoria Cadisch.  
Cornwall Folk Festival –  
above: Lady Maisery, photo, Somhairle Macdonald;  
opposite page bottom right: Daphne's Flight



TENTERDEN FOLK FESTIVAL

3rd to 6th October

Tenterden Folk Festival is the only dedicated arts and music festival in Tenterden and one of the biggest and longest running in the whole Borough of Ashford. The festival celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2023. The 2024 festival takes place over the four days from Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th October. At the time of writing, plans are at an early stage but the festival will start on Thursday evening with a special event.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday there will be over fifty events including an English barn dance, at least six concerts, craft fair, artisans, music and other stalls, exhibitions, special shows, dance displays, folk clubs, Morris dancers, Slovakian Dancers, Bulgarian dancers, sing-a-rounds and music sessions, a procession, street theatre, workshops, showcases and other folk events.

Some events will be ticketed but others, including all those in the streets and on The Recreation Ground, are free. The festival features well known traditional folk musicians from across the UK and

often includes one or two guests from overseas. The festival attracts hundreds of participants, visitors and tourists from the local area and from across the whole country and even some from Europe and further afield. More details will be announced in the spring.

Visit [www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk) for all details.

above: Loose Women Morris at Tenterden Folk Festival;  
bottom left: Daphne's Flight, Cornwall Folk Festival  
below: Marcia Bellamy as Harriet performing  
'Only One Summer for Love' in String!



Hailsham Festival presents:  
STRING – THE MUSICAL

1st & 2nd March at 7.30pm

Playing at the Grove Theatre, Eastbourne, 'String! – the Musical' is a brand new, specially commissioned musical set in the East Sussex town of Hailsham and the surrounding area.





acclaimed Popcorn UK Tour. His television credits include DCI Banks, WPC56, Casualty, and playing PC Roger Valentine in the long running series The Bill. 'String – The Musical', The Grove Theatre, Eastbourne Library, Grove Road, Eastbourne BN21 4T1, 1st & 2nd March. [www.groveeastbourne.com](http://www.groveeastbourne.com)

left: Rachel Chilton as Val, Jenny Alborough as Debbie, and Abbie Marsden as Joan performing 'Hailsham Queen' from 'String! - The Musical'  
below: Andrew Bernardi with the String Academy

It takes the intertwining ropemaking process – a key Hailsham industry – as its central theme and binds together different strands of time into a central love story that runs through one local woman's life. The cunning mixture of music, blending the mood of the First World War with Sixties pop and contemporary love songs, is a stroke of genius. The result is highly suitable for young and older audiences alike. The creative team includes Brighton-based writer and lyricist, Stephen Plaice, one of Britain's leading librettists and writers for music theatre. The music is by Tony Biggin, a popular and successful composer who lives in Hailsham. 'String – The Musical' narrator John Bowler has appeared in many notable theatre productions, including A Patriot for Me at the RSC, and the critically

## THE SHIPLEY ARTS FESTIVAL

Events throughout 2024

Founded by violinist Andrew Bernardi in 1989 to inspire all ages of the community to share and benefit from the joy of music; the Bernardi Music Group comprises a committed group of professional musicians from some of the UK's leading ensembles and orchestras. Performing together to create a variety of versatile repertoires, they work within a number of different performance, education and corporate settings in Sussex, the UK and internationally. Andrew's founding vision was to perform in the traditional concert hall, as well as bringing communities together through music; inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to come together, share



music together and support charitable causes. This led to the Shipley Arts Festival being founded in 2000, the new Leonardslee Concert Series and an array of regular performances at leading venues across the UK. In addition, a year-round String Academy education programme for young musicians which is coupled with international cultural exchanges, connects and complements the vast range of ongoing community work, along with ambassadorial work with governments and businesses and major partnerships with national and international sponsors and partners. Over the years The Bernardi Music Group has worked with internationally-renowned composers and with the late Jon Lord (formerly of Deep Purple), performing 'To Notice Such Things', which reached No. 4 position in the Classic FM charts. Bernardi Music Group is also a champion of English music and most notably that of the composers John Ireland, Elgar and Vaughan Williams, whose music have strong connections with the group's home county of Sussex. For more information about events for 2024 visit <https://bernardimusicgroup.com/shipley-arts-festival>

## The Pastores Ensemble

present 'Tudors To Chandler'  
Garden Room, Barn Theatre, Southwick  
Saturday 16th March 7.30

Despite being long established, the Pastores Ensemble only came to the attention of ingenu/e at last year's Celebrate Shakespeare Festival. The Pastores Ensemble presents a programme of Early Music by Tye, Deering, Tomkins, Brade, Lupo; new Consort pieces by Paul Neville, and Robert Carrington's 'I drove East on Sunset' with text by Raymond Chandler. They are joined by actor Ethan Taylor and soprano Constance Starns. Email [robert.carrington51@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.carrington51@btinternet.com) for tickets. More info at [www.pastoresensemble.org.uk](http://www.pastoresensemble.org.uk)



Pastores Ensemble at Anne of Cleves, Lewes

### Arundel Literary Festival

March 7th - 9th 2024

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### STRING THE MUSICAL

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**This August Bank Holiday  
Escape To Cornwall!**



**CORNWALL  
FOLK FESTIVAL**  
Wadebridge, North Cornwall Thu 22nd-Mon 26th Aug 2024

**The Trials Of Cato Daphne's  
Flight Lady Maisery**  
Tarren Suthering James Dixon

And many more to be announced  
Intimate, town-based, contemporary folk  
mixing national acts and the best from  
Cornwall and the Southwest

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**BROADSTAIRS  
Folk Week**  
— 9-16 AUGUST 2024 —

**FOLK MUSIC BY THE SEA**

DAPHNE'S FLIGHT | KATHRYN TICKELL & THE DARKNESS  
TIM EDEY | JIM MORAY BAND | RICHARD DIGANCE  
BOB FOX | BANTER | JEZ LOWE | HARMONIA  
TARREN | JIM CAUSLEY | MIRANDA SYKES  
A J CLARKE | PAUL HUTCHINSON & KAREN WIMHURST  
TEILHARD FROST | ALDEN PATTERSON  
HUW WILLIAMS & BEN TUNNICLIFFE | WINDJAMMER  
MONSTER CEILIDH BAND | BIRD IN THE BELLY | TIN GIANTS  
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**Tenterden folk festival 2024**  
*Tenterden, the Jewel of the Weald*

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**  
Four days of folk song, music, dance,  
Crafts and traditions



[www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk)  
[info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk)

**Free events** include crafts marquee and stalls, free music stage, dance stage, Morris dancers, dance displays, procession, street entertainers, song and music sessions, etc.  
**Ticketed events** include concerts, barn dance, special shows, workshops, meet the guests, folk clubs, etc.  
**Guests to be announced in spring 2024**  
See website for details



  
**Tenterden Folk Festival: Charity No. 1038663**

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[www.peasmarshfestival.co.uk](http://www.peasmarshfestival.co.uk) | East Sussex

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19th to 21st January  
The All Saints Centre, Lewes

A festival of ideas with speakers  
of all backgrounds and interests.



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literature ideas  
and history,  
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presenters are  
leaders in their  
fields and most  
are nationally  
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**DEAL  
MUSIC  
& ARTS**

**FESTIVAL**

4<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
**2024**

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[www.dealmusicandarts.com](http://www.dealmusicandarts.com)





## How Far Is It To Bethlehem?

by Lesley Dawson

**In 1988, in the middle of the First Intifada, the Palestine uprising against Israeli occupation, Lesley Dawson arrived in Tel Aviv to start a new job.**

Her new role was to head up a team developing a running degree programme in physiotherapy and occupational therapy at Bethlehem University. Getting through Israeli security would be her first glimpse of the tensions rife in the Middle East. Her passport stamped and visa issued she set off on her new adventure. But within forty-eight hours she was convinced she had made a mistake. She discovered that the English friends who were going to show her the ropes in this very different culture had returned suddenly to the UK, leaving her to fend for herself.

The conditions she encountered in those first few days were not quite what she had expected: a lack of public transport; no access to international telephone lines; curfews; stone-throwing kids running amok; military helicopters hovering overhead – a far cry from the relative safety of life in England.

Despite the severe reality check, however, ever resourceful and with a determination not to prove right her doubting English friends, Lesley stuck it out, helped by a certain faith in the organisation that had employed

## Calling Detective Crockford

by Ruth D'Alessandro

**In this eye-opening sequel to 'Calling WPC Crockford', Ruth D'Alessandro's eponymous heroine, Gwen Crockford, has made history by becoming the first female detective in Berkshire.**

It's 1956 and Britain is in a state of flux, grappling with the fallout of post-war upheavals. Shoplifting is rife and Teddy Boys' violence has reached new depths. In her five years serving as one of Britain's first police-women, Gwen had proved herself capable, intuitive and courageous.

Now restless and hungry for a further challenge she applied to the CID and passed detective training school with flying colours. Swapping crime prevention for detection, she was now one of the team that arrives at a crime scene, taking over from 'uniform', stepping in to unravel the crime and discover what had actually taken place – a role she had envied when she was a WPC. But these benefits of her new position came at a cost. The hours were long and irregular, impacting on her personal life. Nevertheless she was ready.

Excitement about her new status was dampened however when, on her return from training, there were no vacancies for a detective at her home station in Wokingham due to CID funding cuts. For a year

her. Although it was not a walk in the park by any means, she created a life for herself there, making fast friends and successfully establishing herself in her new role. She stayed for eleven years.

With each chapter consisting of a stand-alone story or anecdote *How Far Is It To Bethlehem?* gradually builds a picture of this corner of the world at that time.

"The stories are based on my time living and working in the Middle East," says Lesley. "Some are personal, some are about other people I met, others are stories I heard and a few are more than one story put together. All are based on a certain amount of truth, some more than others. Some of the stories are about the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and others are based in Israel," she adds. "I leave the reader to decide which stories are which."

Although *How Far Is It To Bethlehem?* was written about a period over twenty years ago, the events currently unfolding in that region make it very apposite today. It is an eye-opener and I read it with fascination. Published by Bourne to Write (more info at <https://bournetowrite.co.uk>) it is available from Amazon.



she straddled, hybrid-like, both uniform and CID duties. So when an opportunity arose to take up a detective position in Maidenhead and Windsor she was more than a little excited. A warm welcome followed by a close, easy working relationship with her new Detective Sergeant completed the picture and Gwen's dream had become a reality.

For the next few years, exhilarated and challenged in equal measure, she was immersed in her work as a detective: investigating shoplifters; the attempted rape of a minor; she got to grips with undercover work; and the suspected murder of a well-known local character was an eye-opener. But eventually it was the chilling death in suspicious circumstances of a young boy that played on Gwen's mind. And when her friendly DS was replaced by a sexist DS the gloss began to wear thin. How would she continue, being now sidelined by her boss and unable to utilise her full potential?

Written by her daughter Ruth, this is the fascinating story of a real-life female detective constable as she carves out her place in a man's world. All those TV crime dramas with feisty female leads owe a great deal to characters like Gwen Crockford blazing the trail.

'Calling Detective Crockford' is available from East Grinstead Bookshop, Waterstones and Amazon.



## The Hanging Cheat

by Elizabeth Bailey

**In the chill of a November afternoon a man's body is discovered in the woods.**

Crumpled under a tree with a rope around his neck it would appear that he had taken his own life. But appearances can be deceptive and Lady Otilia Fanshawe, aka Lady Fan, has an eye for a puzzle and a reputation for solving crimes.

Was it suicide or murder? With the blessing of her lately widowed brother, Lady Fan enlists the help of her two eager teenage nephews and sets out to uncover the truth behind the unfortunate man's demise.

At first concerned for Otilia's health, her devoted husband, Lord Frances Fanshawe, is unwilling to encourage her embarking on this quest but soon reluctantly acquiesces, realising that to baulk his beloved wife would only stultify such a sharp inquisitive mind as hers. Besides, it would likely distract her from the burden of her advancing pregnancy.

It appears that the deceased was universally disliked and her questioning of the local townspeople is

met with evasion, obstruction and in some cases downright hostility. Her list of suspects grows ever longer. Who could be the killer – his downtrodden wife; her vulgar garrulous mother; his envious brother; or any number of people whom he had wronged, seeking their own justice? But from their ranks an unlikely ally steps up to assist and with the aid of Lady Fan's loyal husband they start to unravel this tangled web.

Writing historical fiction comes with its own particular challenges; writing historical crime fiction adds yet another element. How much of today's forensic or medical science was known in 1796? The very fact that 'The Hanging Cheat' is the tenth story in the Lady Fan Mysteries is testament to the author's grasp of these factors. Written in a style that places the story squarely in the past, it is yet totally accessible. The convoluted plot is revealed at the perfect pace, allowing the reader to absorb details yet draws us on with tantalising hints, and the denouement is as satisfying as a Poirrot drama.

Available from Amazon, visit <https://ladyfan.uk> and <https://saperebooks.com/> for more information.



## Parlour on the Pier

by Sally Winter

**In an ice cream parlour on the pier at Saltings-in-Sea, where everybody knows everyone else's business, Katie dreams of greater things.**

Though the glory days of this sleepy seaside town are long gone, it is still a popular destination for coach loads of silver-haired seniors who flock to join the locals and fishermen at Café Delight, a perennial bright spot amid the faded grandeur of the Victorian pier.

Much as Katie loves her home town, her job at Café Delight and her avuncular Italian employer Antonio Balboni, she harbours a secret ambition. A budding seamstress with an irresistible urge to create, she dreams of launching her own line of lingerie for women with a fuller figure.

Frustrated with the trend for stick-thin models that don't represent her particular demographic – a real woman with curves, in her spare time she designs beautiful lingerie that shows off her voluptuous figure. No more shapeless beige underwear for her, but creations in silk, lace and satin, basques and teddies.

When she bumps into Jodie, a boutique owner with a similar passion for lingerie, an opportunity to realise her dream presents itself. Then just when life seemed as if it wouldn't get any more interesting, Jodie's drop dead gorgeous friend Harry appears on the scene and thirty-something Katie, just out of a disastrous marriage and with her confidence at an all

time low, finds herself behaving like an awkward teenager.

Things start getting a bit tasty when a photo shoot featuring Katie's new creations is sabotaged by her nemesis, the insolent, model-thin Tara, with far-reaching results. Then things go from bad to worse as plans come to light that the pier is to be demolished to make way for a marina. The disruption to the delicate coastal ecosystem would be disastrous, Antonio and the other traders on the pier will lose their livelihoods and Saltings-in-Sea will lose a much-loved local landmark. This was the last straw. Something had to be done.

In *Parlour on the Pier* the author has perfectly evoked the ambience of a slightly tired seaside town, long past its best but still appealing with a busy social vibe. The story, like a stroll along the prom, unfolds at an easy tempo and we feel for our heroine as she battles not only the malevolent forces impinging on her life but also her inner demons. While banging the drum for loyalty and friendship, on many levels this is essentially a love story; between a diffident woman afraid that life has passed her by, an apparently unattainable handsome hero, and a sleepy seaside town. It should be a Nancy Myers film... but definitely Made In England!

*Parlour on the Pier* is available from Amazon. More about the author at [www.sallywinter.co.uk/author](http://www.sallywinter.co.uk/author) or follow her on Facebook.





## Pete Gilbert – On My Own

by Pete Gilbert

**Pete Gilbert On My Own is the latest in Pete's series of books featuring his stunning paintings.**

All four of Pete's books are really love letters to the beautiful New Forest. While the first three: 'A Year In The New Forest', 'Lymington River From The Source To The Solent', and 'On The River Test' were collaborations with two talented photographers, Hugh Lohan and Pete's son Zak; 'On My Own', as the title suggests, is more personal, revealing as it does his reflections of place not only through the eyes of a painter but also through poetry and anecdote.

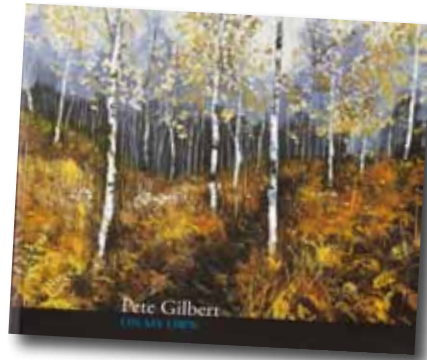
Pete has taken us further afield in this volume, however, branching out beyond his beloved New Forest to Cornwall, Scotland, Venice and even the glorious chaos of New York.

The pages sing with colour and atmosphere, from the moody 'Study in Blue' and 'Storm Coming, Priests Cove, Cape Cornwall', through the dazzling 'Sunrise on the River' and sublime 'Columne di St Marco, Venice', to the crashing waves of 'Botallack' and New York's vibrant cacophony.

Pete's poems are more than just an accompaniment to the paintings, they are musings adding depth and a glimpse into the inner artist; from nostalgic and occasionally dark to light-hearted but always insightful.

Pete Gilbert – On My Own is the perfect coffee table book, you can pore over it getting lost in his landscape or pick it up for just a few moments, to admire a painting and read a poem. Either way this is a book to transport you.

Contact [pgilbertstudiogilbert@btinternet.com](mailto:pgilbertstudiogilbert@btinternet.com) to buy a copy and for more about Pete visit [www.petegilbert.me.uk](http://www.petegilbert.me.uk).



### TIME PART 1

Time is an illusion  
measured by men  
it flows, it slows  
it's now  
and it's then  
searching through  
dusty memories  
with time losing track  
time is the thief  
who never gives back

time is the future  
the moment  
the now  
take it, make it  
if time will allow  
dont slow down  
keep going  
dont slack  
time is a thief  
that never gives back

–Pete Gilbert, from 'On My Own'

### UP ON TELEGRAPH HILL

I disturbed the crows up on  
Telegraph Hill  
their shrieks fill the air both  
coarse and shrill

A Murder of crows on the  
ragged windblown tree  
all and each and everyone  
with their beady black eyes  
tuned to me

The heather is out  
wherever you look  
from Roger Penny Way  
down to Ditchwood Brook

Dark purple and dusty red  
find the chalky paths that the  
ponies tread

With the sun going down and  
the last of the light  
there's a storm brewing and  
the crows have taken flight

–Pete Gilbert, from 'On My Own'



Pete Gilbert, Up On Telegraph Hill

## Celtic Visions

Poems from the Celtic World

by Ger White

**'Tender, evocative, humorous, bringing glimpses of a lighter, brighter world'**

If I were to sum up Celtic Visions in one word it would be 'gentle'. There is even a certain gentleness in the darker poems about loss. Which is not to say that they are any less poignant or moving. Ger White's insight into what it is to be human, the qualities that nurture and sustain us, imbues every page of this deceptively slender volume.

The back cover bears the legend: "– a beautiful collection full of wonderful surprises and old favourites. Poems touching on themes of love, loss, friendships, dogs and nature inspire reflection and hope. With empowering Irish logic and wisdom these verses will uplift and delight every reader." And so it is.

Opening Celtic Visions I found myself seduced by Ger's poetry. From the rom-com-esque 'Love At Office Coffee Dock' to the sweetly wise 'Efficiency'; from the bewilderment of 'Egg On My Face' to the optimism of 'Spring', each poem is a colourful thread woven into a reassuring blanket of words. Today, my favourite is 'Human Conversation'.

Celtic Visions is available from Amazon, follow Ger on Facebook for more poetry and musings.



IT WAS NEVER ABOUT THE TEA

Would you stay for a cup?  
An offer of kindness  
A reason to chat, to look  
Can you watch one hour with me?

In the bible Jesus asked  
His loving disciples to watch his back  
Don't fall asleep, I won't be long  
But if delayed, please stay strong.

The cuppa offered  
Euphemistic ask  
For can you stay with me and chat?

Irish speak euphemisms beautifully  
The "Emergency" for World War II  
Instead of "died" he "moved on"  
"He's no longer with us"  
As if a temporary thing

Would you stay for a cup of tea?  
An offer of kindness  
A reason to chat, to look  
Can you watch one hour with me?

–Ger White, from Celtic Visions

## VOICES FROM THE MARGINS

Bourne To Write

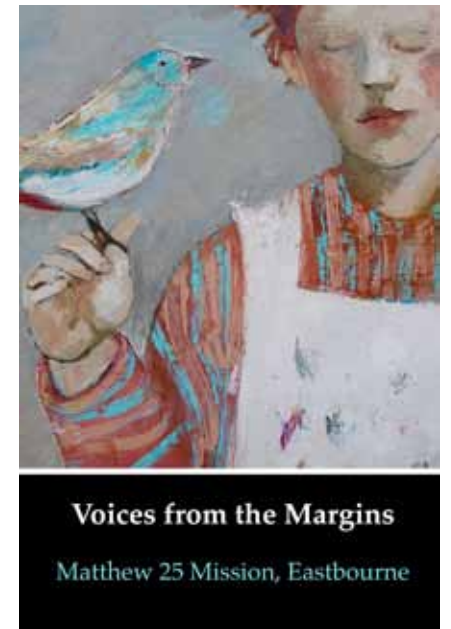
**At Bourne to Write we regularly publish our writers' work in paperback and Kindle on Amazon. Our newest publication, Voices from the Margins, is a little different.**

The book evolved from a writing residency that Paul Howard undertook with Matthew 25 Mission Eastbourne as part of his MA in Creative Writing at the University of Brighton. The purpose of the placement was to seek inspiration for his own writing and to encourage others to share their stories in written or oral form.

From the outset, Paul's hope was that he would accumulate sufficient material to produce a book, the sale of which would benefit the charity. When Paul was not able to complete the work needed for the book, Lesley Dawson took over collecting material from guests and added a section on the experiences of the many M25M volunteers.

Voices from the Margins is the remarkable result and it is available to buy in paperback on Amazon priced £9.99. All proceeds from the book will go to the Matthew 25 Mission Eastbourne to enable the charity to continue its sterling work with the homeless and the vulnerable. The figurative artist Catriona Millar donated the image of her painting 'The Good Listener' for the book cover.

For more information about Voices From The Margins and



Bourne To Write, including previous publications and workshops please visit [www.bournetowrite.co.uk](http://www.bournetowrite.co.uk)



The poems on this page are all by members of Roundel Poetry Tonbridge.

## DRAGON TO WYRM

It gusts from the Arctic with snow on its tail  
harries the clouds, lashes the trees  
scorches the woodland with ice on its breath  
claws at the roof, bites at the walls  
slams through the garden to litter the grass  
with branches and leaves

it heads away south with frost in its train  
as the silent white teeth of January nights  
crumble the leaves to sticky brown mulch  
drawn into the earth and ingested by worms  
that writhe through the soil breaking the clods  
excreting the fuel that will power the spring.

—Sara Davis (Roundel)

## SNOWSTORM

It's always surprising  
The silence....

Silence of flakes that flutter like  
butterfly kisses of childhood.

Silence when snow lands, freezes.

Silence as the sun peeps through  
clouds of white, its rays turning  
frozen fractals into jewelled bridal gowns.

As the day wears on silence gives way to

children shrieking,  
dogs barking,  
sledges sliding

until the sun slips down a darkened sky.

Overnight those frozen fractals  
harden into slippery,  
treacherous ice.  
The beauty ended –

Wheels spin  
shovels dig  
lorries grit

Children trudge back to school.

The silent wonder becomes  
words of irritation, disgust.

Nature's magic a distant memory.

—Jinny McDermott (Roundel)

## WINTER

puts holes in my socks  
tears my thick tights,  
splinters white frost nails,  
carves out cavities  
in scant-cleaned teeth,  
loosens all grip,  
unbalances bank accounts  
wipes friends from the calendar  
turns days into voids  
where all tasks are futile,  
and my biro splatters  
dark blood, my unbrushed hair  
sheds evidence of disloyalty  
on ill-made beds and when  
I creep up on  
the mirror  
no one's there.

—Jacquie Wyatt (Roundel)

## THE ART OF SNOW

On the first day of snow  
the landscape moulded  
brilliant white  
gift-wrapped by Christo.

At the end of day two  
clouds weep at the edges  
Renoir-pink  
on blue.

On day three  
dotting hills and hedges  
amorphous sculptures  
abandoned by some indolent Arctic Dali.

Today, a mumble of traffic,  
a slow parade peopled  
by Lowry.

—Danny Rivers (Roundel)

## WINTER WALK

Fallen leaves fill gutters,  
puddles straddle the road.  
In the hedgerows empty plastic  
bottles, beer cans and cardboard.  
A herd of cows stand in deep grey  
squelchy mud, their feeder empty.  
A calf stands close to its mother  
large eyes curious, hopeful.  
Ashamed we walk on.

—Jenny Herbert (Roundel)

## IRISH LOVE

Love never obvious.  
Hidden gestures,  
Shoes left out clean for Sunday  
Best piece of meat put on his plate  
Sticking up for her in conversation  
"If you've nothing good to say, say nothing"  
Gentle ways  
Soft trickling streams of love  
An undercurrent  
Never an obvious splash or wave  
Nothing shown above the surface  
Yet, deep resonance of shared mutual love  
Watching out for each other  
Trickling  
Rippling  
Flowing  
Never stagnant.

—Ger White, from *Celtic Visions*

## GALANTHUS

I shelter at the base of trees,  
abbey, churchyards  
or amongst woodland.

My neighbours, mistletoe,  
petasites, wild aconitum,  
hang close to my side.

I'm harvest for Norman Monks  
who decorate churches  
at Feast of Candlemas,

nature's medicine,  
rub on temples  
to treat mal de tete.

I spring into action,  
push up through arctic-white  
and cheer through winter gloom.

Standing with grace,  
I nod as you pass  
by silver birch

Milk-tone drooping petals,  
viridescent stem,

...symbol of purity.

—Patricia M Osborne, from *'Spirit Mother'*

## AMARYLLIS

To win the shepherd  
you must pierce your heart  
with a golden arrow  
and make the journey  
to his home each day until  
you claim his love

Blood dripped as she journeyed the path  
day on day to the shepherd's home,

shedding more and more from her open wound,  
darkened stains seeding the fertile earth.

On the thirtieth day, blood-red blooms brushed  
her ankles.

Astounded by their beauty,

Amaryllis  
gathered an armful

of these new scarlet flowers.

Standing in his doorway, transfixed,  
Alteo's dark brown eyes glistened.

Beguiled,  
he inhaled  
the precious gift,  
pulled Amaryllis close

and tasted her lips.

She touched her chest,  
pain free  
since he'd kissed her wound,  
the arrow's fissure  
healed.

Alteo named  
the posy –  
blood from her heart.

—Patricia M Osborne, from *'Spirit Mother'*

N.B. All poems shown are subject to copyright





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**K. A. LALANI**  
presents...

1922. The aftermath of a horrific war hangs over a talented group of artists as they begin their freshman year at the Slade School of Fine Art.

Artistic ambitions burn bright for Paul Crowley and Jack Trevelyan. The desire to be the greatest artists of their generation is urging them on, but not – they hope – at the cost of their friendship...

**A SEASON in FITZROVIA**  
K. A. Lalani

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## DARK ACADEMIA COMES TO THE ROARING TWENTIES

Introducing 'A Season in Fitzrovia' by K. A. Lalani

**Exploring a genre still growing in popularity in fiction (and as an aesthetic), Lalani brings Dark Academia to the Roaring Twenties through its academic setting, tight-knit friendship group and scholarly rivalry.**

Following a group of talented artists striving to make their mark at the Slade School of Fine Art in the early 1920s, Paul and Jack are both driven to be the greatest artists of their generation. But will this competitive drive ruin their friendship?

It is 1922 and the aftermath of a horrific war hangs over a talented group of artists as they begin their freshman year at the Slade School of Fine Art. Artistic ambitions burn bright for Paul Crowley and Jack Trevelyan. The desire to stand out above all the others is urging them on, but not – they hope – at the cost of their friendship.

For the group of artists around them, the struggle to establish themselves brings new challenges amid the din of the Roaring Twenties. Conscious of having been spared the horror of the trenches, they strive to

make their mark and become the celebrated clique of their generation.

K. A. Lalani lives in Crawley, West Sussex, and has worked in finance and accounting throughout his career. He reached the semi-final stage on BBC Mastermind in 2018/19. History has always been of great interest to him, and he has published two historical novels, *The Rules of Engagement* and *The Calloway Sisters*, as well as *Unto the Skies*, the biography of Amy Johnson.

Of writing *A Season in Fitzrovia* Lalani says, "Aside from my interest in history the main impetus was that it came as a strong plot idea and I wanted to write a novel set in a similar period. Also the title came to me as being especially strong."

Look out for a review of *A Season in Fitzrovia* in the next issue of *ingenu/e* magazine, coming out in spring. Meanwhile, for more information, visit [www.bookguild.co.uk](http://www.bookguild.co.uk) where you can purchase this book and other titles by K. A. Lalani.



## A SECRET DISASTER Catastrophe As Devon Locals Evicted

April 1944 – Eighty Years Ago.

*The Kid on Slapton Beach* is dedicated to the bravery and sacrifice of the ordinary people and the Allied troops involved in a very difficult episode of WWII. Three thousand people were forced to leave the Devon coast without knowing why. Locals had no idea their coastline was going to be used in April 1944 for secret D-Day rehearsals. They didn't know D-Day was going to happen. Why would they? That was top secret. Their land was requisitioned, some Government Act passed when the war began. Now police stations were closing. Everything was stopping; food, electricity. Farmers had to sell their animals and dig up their crops. And GIs were arriving. Was an invasion imminent?

Like everyone, twelve-year-old Harry, his mother and his little sister have to pack up and leave. Harry's unhappiness at the upheaval and his most treasured possession being left behind is the small tragedy that defines this story. Harry goes back.

The Slapton Sands D-Day rehearsal went disastrously wrong. Nearly a thousand men died. The warship due to protect the rear of the convoy had

collision damage. Its replacement came late. Attacked by German e-boats, three huge Landing Ship Tanks 'LSTs' sank. Typing errors meant no communication between vessels. The beach bombardment from the two warships started late – men were running ashore under that without knowing live ammunition was being used to 'defend' the beach. That April night as the Slapton Sands disaster happens, Harry is hiding on that beach!

"The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know."

–Felicity Fair Thompson

Some reviews for *The Kid on Slapton Beach*:

"What makes this story so powerful is that the events unfold through the eyes of a twelve-year-old boy. The author evokes brilliantly the powerlessness and frustration of a child whom nobody has consulted or informed."

–Perdisma (Amazon review)

"This book is beautiful. You can't stop reading even though you don't want it to end. The writing is sparse yet full of feeling without a trace of sentimentality. I understood and cared about these people. In this imaginative tale about families who reacted to a true historical event, I wanted to know what happened next. A jewel!"

–Actress June Brown (Dot Cotton in *EastEnders*)

Felicity Fair Thompson Presents

# THE KID ON SLAPTON BEACH

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## flash fiction

## Double Trouble

–by Jennifer Pulling

“Little angels,” Kate’s mother sighed as she watched the twins at play whenever she came to visit.

Kate knew better. From the time they woke in the morning until they went to bed, four-year-old Mia and Lily were two mischievous scamps. By the end of a day of trying to rein them in, when Steve came home she was worn out. Worse, their Dad just smiled and called it high spirits.

“You don’t know the half of it, Steve.”

“Ah well, we’ll soon be going away and you can relax.”

Kate smiled to herself at the thought. Maybe when Steve had to cope with the twins as much as she did he would understand.

Their hotel overlooked the beach and on their first day they spread their towels on the soft sand. The twins were a delight in their green sun-suits, blonde hair in plaits, and Kate heard a murmur of “aren’t they sweet”.

She lay down on her towel feeling the sun warm her skin. She took a deep breath and relaxed. If only she could have an hour or two of peace.

But almost as soon as they arrived, the twins launched into their naughtiness. Steve had unpacked buckets and spades and was demonstrating how to make a sandcastle. Mia and Lily watched for a while but then their attention wandered. Lily scooped up a spadeful of sand and pursued Mia round and round the prone Kate. Then they resorted to throwing handfuls of sand at each other.

“Stop them, Steve,” Kate murmured.

“Children behave,” he tried but they took no notice, shrieking with laughter and racing in ever faster circles.

Steve sighed and lay down beside Kate.

“They’re just working off all that energy,” he tried to comfort her.

She grunted. She knew they were capable of keeping up this wild behaviour for hours.

The next thing she knew was Lily had straddled her legs and was leaning forward, delivering little slaps over her body. Mia followed suit, crawling over Steve’s back and hitting him quite hard on the neck.

He exclaimed, rolled over and got to his feet. Mia clung to his legs and cried out: “carry me, Daddy, carry me”. He hoisted her up and walked about while she planted kisses on his face and chattered away. Kate turned onto her back and watched Lily demanding to be picked up too. She wondered how he would manage, but soon Steve had her on his other arm.

He turned and walked away towards the sea. Peace. Kate closed her eyes on the incredibly blue sky.

The next moment she felt cold drops of water on her stomach. She started up to see the laughing faces of her children splattering her from their buckets of seawater.

“Dinner, Mummy,” they began to chant. “Dinner.”

Resigned, she pulled on her kaftan. Together she and Steve dried and changed the children and they made their way up to the beach café.

The waiter brought the children their drinks each with a stripy straw. These they used as blowpipes and were soon gleefully squirting the orange juice over one another.

Mia slid down from the table and ran away up a stubby hillock and disappeared. Lily busied herself emptying all the small packets of condiments onto the table. Steve ran off in search of Mia while Kate put all the condiments back in place. Soon he returned with Mia perched high on his shoulders. They were laughing. Lily slid down to join them.

“Shall we go back to the beach?” he suggested.

Kate had had enough. “Just go and collect the towels and things,” she said. “Stay with Mummy, you two.”

But off they all went and, for a moment, she felt left behind.

A few hours later with the twins finally settled to sleep, Steve and Kate sat in the hotel bar having a quiet drink.

Steve yawned. “Know something, I’m really very tired.”

“Yes.” Kate’s tone was expressive.

He seemed to guess her thoughts and reached out to take her hand. “I know, but they’ll grow out of it.”

They fell silent and Kate dwelt on his words. Yes, the years would pass. Mia and Lily would become schoolgirls, then teenagers, increasingly independent. Some day in the future they would want to fly the nest and she would look back with nostalgia on these early years. But that was the cycle of life and there was no stopping it. It must be enjoyed and, at times, endured.

She realised Steve was speaking. “Like another drink, darling?”

She smiled and shook her head. “You’re tired, we both are and we’ll have another hectic day tomorrow.”

On their way to bed she looked in to check on the twins. Returned to babyhood as they slept, they did indeed look like little angels.

## Life-Changing Discovery

–by Alexandra Dean

You feel great. Full of optimism and excitement. The day is bright, the sky arcs high overhead and you’ve got that bright high-pressure, not-a-cloud-in-the-sky kinda day stretching ahead of you.

You should really make the most of it.

You handle your new metal detector like it’s a spare limb. You’re awkward, over-cautious, not sure what to do. Arriving at the burial mounds – Viking warriors, or Devil’s Humps, depending on preference – you give an experimental sweep across the grass.

Nothing.

You look crestfallen. You surely weren’t expecting Sutton Hoo #2 on your first go, were you?

You move on. Start to climb the nearest mound. Then try again. Oh! A beep! You’ve found something! Don’t get your hopes up though. This place was looted years ago – though you might find a coin or two still. You pull out your brand new trowel – still shiny – and start digging.

Or perhaps you should just stop and go home. This isn’t going to end well.

You’ve found something! Something interesting! It glints alluringly in the sun as you brush away the chalky soil.

A ring! You’ve found a gold ring – on your first attempt! Well done you! The immediate cupidinous flush makes you wonder if you’re more Gollum than Frodo, though the rapacity with which you grab for the Precious solves that mystery.

You’ve stopped. Something is holding onto the ring; the earth does not want to give it up.

Perhaps it’s a sign? (It is a sign – pay attention.)

You’re resolute at least. You’ve brought a brush with you – as if you were an archaeologist (and not a grave robber). You brush the earth away, just like you’ve seen on Time Team. You pull out the ring.

Except that’s not all you’ve pulled out.

The bright gold gleams just as it did the day that it was buried, deep in the earth on the finger of the warrior who wore it. The ring seems untouched by time. The finger of the warrior, however, is now simply bone. Bone and its gold ring.

You gape at it for the moment. The ring of honour and the skeletal finger. There’s a body in there somewhere, presumably. You should probably tell someone. The ring won’t come off the finger, so you take them both. You turn and head for home, unsurprisingly delighted with such success on your first go.

You don’t notice, as you fumble for your phone, the cloud that crosses the sun, just briefly, and the sudden, unseasonal chill that sprang up – just for a moment. Nor do you notice the shadow that slips from the burial mound after you, merging with your own shadow, which now seems bigger and blacker that it had before.

Do you get a feeling of impending doom?

Do you sense anything at all?

## Joshua And The Red Shoes

–by Angela Petch

Daffodils, a silver shoe and a peach are arranged before thirteen elderly artists. Thea daubs lines, tongue resting on her bottom lip.

Memories flicker: flowers in a milk bottle, a table covered in newspaper, underwear steaming by a range. Thea, the land-girl, prizes beet from frost-bitten ground, steamy breath mingling with morning mist.

Her party shoes were red, not silver. The girls coloured their legs with cold tea. Sometimes there wore nylons if they danced with Yanks – big and blond with wandering hands.

Joshua was different, his smile shy. His teeth white in the moonlight as he walked her home. She shouldn’t have let him touch her, but she loved him, his skin dark, hands black velvet.

‘What pretty ankles, Miss Thea,’ were the words he crooned.

She locked him away; a secret in her heart.

The young occupational therapist approaches the easels.

“Look lively,” Thea thinks, smudging red into the sketch of her shoe.

Bored, she plonks the brush down and looks around. An old lady dozes before the television, another knits a scarf that snakes around her slippers. By the window, a dark-skinned gentleman plays Patience.

Peckish, Thea snatches the peach and bites and juice dribbles into the crevices of her chin.

The card-player laughs, “Hey, Miss Thea...not going gentle into that good night?”

A small thought fizzles, like a damp firework, and she stares into his eyes, so crinkly and kind. He salutes her, and she looks away to take another bite of her peach.





## 2023 – A reflection

Another year has gone by and I think I'll reminisce a little. Of course first I will have to out-manoeuvre those little gremlins in my mind which seem to have a habit of temporarily removing the very thing I'm trying to remember. It's an age thing I guess. 'What-doyoucallit', 'Thingamabob' and 'Whatsisname' are becoming phrases I use much too regularly as the years progress.

But I'll give it my best shot...

Speaking personally, there were quite a few ups and downs this year: A medical scare which turned out okay in the end and a financial upheaval (long story) but that was also sorted out. In contrast the magazine had a fantastic summer with our tenth anniversary issue going down extremely well with readers.

On a larger canvas the year saw yet another major conflict unfold, which brought to mind this wonderful sonnet written earlier in the year by our friend and author Steve Cook:

### SONNET

Who will put a song in the hearts of men  
And light once more the spark that long since died?  
Who'll raise the dead so they might live again  
Or laughter bring to children who once cried?  
Who'll make the silence ring to joyful chords  
Or daub bold dreams upon the slate of days  
And raise his pen where once he raised a sword  
To script an end to grief upon life's page?  
Who'll say to mothers they need weep no more  
Or troubled fathers tell there's naught to fear,  
For shadows of their dread to distant shores  
Have fled to lift the siege of care-worn years?  
Who'll to their rescue ride and fears dispel  
If not the hero sleeping in themselves?

—Steve Cook

Across the country we saw utility costs go out the roof, high street shops closing down and banks closing their doors, apparently forever, including our local

branch, which displayed a sign on their closed doors which must rank in the top ten of the most ironic signs ever. On the dank, unwashed doors and windows of the defunct building one could read a stark monochrome notice stating: 'We are here to help'.

The message then proclaimed that there would be staff at the local arts centre (!) on some days, but they could not do any cash activity nor many other transactions one would like to do at a bank.

The alternative was to join the queues that sometimes reach out of the door at the post office and wait for half an hour just to bank a cheque or some other simple transaction. Is all this another sign (of the many) of the impending doom of western civilisation as we know it?



On a lighter note, Eastbourne rose to prominence as a Cultural Centre, with Towner Eastbourne hosting the Turner Prize 2023, the world's leading prize for contemporary art, and a centrepiece of the gallery's centenary celebrations. Even the New York Times extolled Eastbourne's virtues, declaring the town suddenly fashionable and trendy. Did they get that right? It looked the same last time we visited, but who knows. With many local artists active it already has a healthy art scene, but will this cultural event cause a renaissance in the town?

There was an amusing moment during the year when the online edition of our autumn issue 41 was blocked, with readers unavailable to view. Upon investigation we discovered it was considered pornographic by our website host! Oh dear; we rationalised that an AI bot had taken umbrage with a life drawing image in the magazine. Upon communicating with the hosting company (after negotiating more AI and communicating finally with a human being) we sorted it out quite quickly. Thank goodness there are still Earth people in employment at these companies, otherwise how would one explain art to a robot?

As usual, our distribution trips each quarter were a lot of fun; we are able to meet some of our advertisers and always enjoy the cheerful receptions we receive from our various outlets. We wax enthusiastic at finding new spots for the magazine and this summer we added some new districts to our list.



We had many cultural adventures in 2023, the latest being TIMT's A Christmas Carol at The Hawth theatre in Crawley, which we heartily enjoyed.

Our competition for tickets to see and meet the Mediaeval Bæbes on their 'Procession' tour on the Isle of Wight and in Horsham was a real Christmas treat for our winners. See page 58 for reviews of these gigs.

## A few of those we lost Fallen Stars of 2023; RIP to all

### Shane MacGowan

What a band the Pogues were, and Shane's songwriting was something else. Ubiquitous at Christmas, the bitter-sweet Fairytale of New York has brought him immortality.

### Sir Bobby Charlton

Sport is sometimes considered to be art and if it is so, Sir Bobby was at the vanguard of bringing aesthetics to the beautiful game.

### Sir Michael Gambon

What a presence he had, charismatic on both stage and screen; a hugely varied career spanning sixty years, leaving a rich legacy.

### Martin Amis

Many years ago, and the only time I have ever had Afternoon Tea at the Savoy in London, we sat quite near him. He looked for all the world like a novelist, in a slightly dishevelled cream suit and hunched over a pad, writing.

### David McCallum

I grew up watching the Man from U.N.C.L.E. He was still acting late into his life, passing away at the age of 90.

### Tony Bennett

20 Grammy Awards, 50 million records sold and an eight-decade career, and near the end a project in collaboration with Lady Gaga. Amazing!

### Jane Birkin

Actress, fashionista, singer and archetypal French siren.

### Mathew Perry

We lost the Friends star too early at the age of 54. Yet another casualty of Big Pharma.

### Haydn Gwynne

We say a sad goodbye to this talented and versatile Bafta-nominated actress, a familiar face that has graced our screens for decades. She will be missed.

### Robbie Robertson

The Canadian guitarist and songwriter was a founder member of The Band, who backed Bob Dylan on his famous 1966 tour when he first 'went electric'. After



from opp top: The Pogues in 1998, Shane MacGowan centre; A modern bank; TIMT's A Christmas Carol at The Hawth; ingénu/e competition winner Giverny and her friend meet the Mediaeval Bæbes after their Horsham concert; Artist Emma Gillo at Horsham Artists' Contemporary Art Fair; This Is My Theatre entertain the audience arriving for Much Ado About Nothing at the Hawth amphitheatre; Author Rebecca Hardy at her book signing event at the East Grinstead Bookshop



leaving Dylan, Robbie guided The Band to further success. Later in life he collaborated with Martin Scorsese, crafting soundtracks and scores for his movies.

#### Glenda Jackson

Double Oscar-winning actress and of late a Labour MP, she won Oscars for best actress in 1970 for *Women In Love* and in 1973 for *A Touch Of Class*.

#### Tina Turner

What to say about Tina Turner? A true icon with a glittering career spanning five decades.

#### Burt Bacharach

Burt Bacharach lived to be 94, celebrated as one of the greatest songwriters of the 20th century.

#### Anthony 'Top' Topham

I was a big fan of the Yardbirds in my youth, much more than of the Beatles and Stones. Topham was a founding guitarist of the band but he left just before they achieved success, being succeeded as lead guitarist by Eric Clapton.

#### Jeff Beck

Beck, in turn, replaced Clapton in the Yardbirds (and later Jimmy Page joined the band, before turning it into Led Zeppelin). Jeff Beck was a genius, one of the most skilled and admired guitarists on the planet.

#### David Crosby

Founding member of The Byrds and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. Legendary, a magician with guitar chords and a voice to die for.

#### Gina Lollobrigida

The actress was once dubbed 'the most beautiful woman in the world' and not just by the media. I overheard my mother once castigating my father rather delicately for his obvious admiration for her!



### And finally a note on the Turner Prize

It was not much of a surprise to me to discover that Jesse Darling, the Turner Prize winner this year, is transgender. It also didn't shock me that he pulled out a Palestinian flag after his acceptance speech.

On reflection, it seemed to me that this was simply the latest evolution of the avant-garde that dates back at least to Marcel Duchamp's 1917 piece 'Fountain', if not earlier.

In the 1950s we had the Angry Young Men, playwrights and novelists such as John Osborne and Kingsley Amis. In the 1960s we had pop art, minimalism, and conceptual art, led by artists such as Andy Warhol. Then came Punk Art in the 1970s and early 80s. The 1990s saw the controversial Y.B.As – Young British Artists – one ringleader being Damien Hirst, and fellow YBA Tracey Emin creating 'My Bed', an intensely personal piece of work, which, among other things, questioned the actual meaning of Art.

By the 2000s, Conceptual or Postmodern Art was not only an 'anything goes' proposition, but also big business. In 2013 Jeff Koons sold a giant version of his balloon dog for \$58.4 million and then in 2021 his rabbit sculpture sold for \$91 million.

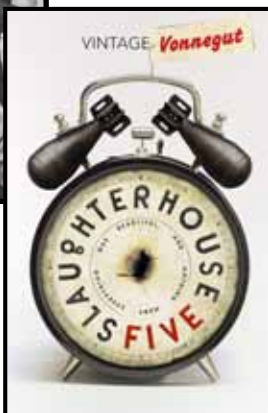
It seems that now, in the 21st century, the message is not only contained within the work of art itself, but also in the personality, statements and actions of the artist himself, herself, themselves or itself; the latest evolutionary attempt to introduce new experimental ideas, methods and techniques into the dear old battlefield.

Be it either due to 'the emperor's new clothes' or being 'visionary, bold and imaginative' our culture is definitely changing and who knows where it is heading. My attitude to this is quite laissez-faire and very well covered by the famous phrase from Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*, uttered whenever the protagonist is confronted with the inexorable:

"And so it goes".



from top: Jesse Darling winner of the Turner Prize 2023, held at the Towner, Eastbourne; The Yardbirds in 1965 Jeff Beck at top; the front cover of Kurt Vonnegut's seminal novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*



# REIGNING WOMEN

@

# THE OLD MARKET

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## NAOMI WOOD: GOBBESS

THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY

## YUKON HO!

BY JENNIFER IRONS  
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