

CULTURE NEWSLETTER

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PUNKS, PILGRIMAGES, SPIES AND THE SCIENCE OF FOOTBALL - THE CULTURE TEAM'S JUNE

The party season is in full swing and we really enjoyed welcoming some of our clients and friends to our Summer Samba party at the Hickman. The weather played ball and we made full use of our stunning terrace.

June has been typically varied, with new exhibitions ranging from the 18th century to brand new commissions, the 21st birthday of the Cheltenham Science Festival, book events at venues all over Essex, a focus on the musical culture of Croydon and a headline grabbing book launch.

All the best,

Truda and Matt



PUNKS, PRINCES AND PROTESTS

Opening to coincide with the Coronation of King Charles III in May, *Punks, Princes and Protests: the Chronicles of Feliks Topolski RA* is a treasure trove of works created by the renowned Anglo-Polish artist Feliks Topolski RA (1907-1989) on public display for the first time in his original studio on the Southbank. The exhibition explores the artist's heritage, connections to the British Royal Family, and showcases how his identity and art seamlessly oscillated between the Establishment and Counter-Culture. The exhibition curated by Dr. Julia Griffin and Lucien Topolski, the grandson of Feliks, continues the work of the [Granville-Skarbek Anglo-Polish Cultural Exchange](#) that the team launched in October 2022. It celebrates the contribution of the Polish diaspora to British culture and society, and was started by Britain's largest Polish community organization – the Polish Social and Cultural Association (POSK).

Feliks' life and work was featured in a round feature in the *Jewish Chronicle*; as well as a piece on Coronation artists in *The Art Newspaper* and *Arts Industry*; Jonathan Jones selected the exhibition for his Art Weekly column in *The Guardian*, and it was highlighted in *SPHERE's* Offbeat Summer Art round-up. The exhibition is on until 15 July at the Topolski Studio then will transfer to POSK Gallery from 20 July until September.



THE BOX OPENS TWO MAJOR SUMMER EXHIBITIONS

The Box in Plymouth, the South West's major new museum, art gallery and archive, this month opened two major summer exhibitions – Reframing Reynolds: A Celebration focusing on the 300th anniversary of the birth of society painter Joshua Reynolds, and Rana Begum: Dappled Light that features striking works which explore the perception of light, colour and form.

'Reframing Reynolds: A Celebration' explores the career of the famous 18th century portrait artist Sir Joshua Reynolds who was born just outside Plymouth in July 1723. He went on to become one of the founding members and the first president of the Royal Academy. Artist Rana Begum RA has produced three new works that directly responds to Reynolds' paintings that explore his enduring legacy.

The team secured a four-page feature spread in *Art Quarterly* that highlighted Art Fund's history of supporting UK museums and galleries to collect works by the 18th-century portrait painter. *The Art Newspaper* previewed the exhibition and asked how it will reinterpret and reposition the legacy of Joshua Reynolds 300 years after his birth; and *Apollo* highlighted the exhibition in its *Art Diary* leading with Reynolds' famous portrait of Admiral Keppel. There are forthcoming reviews in *The Spectator*, and interviews with artist Rana Begum talking about her response to Reynolds and her exhibition in *Aesthetica*, *Talk Art* and *Times Radio*.

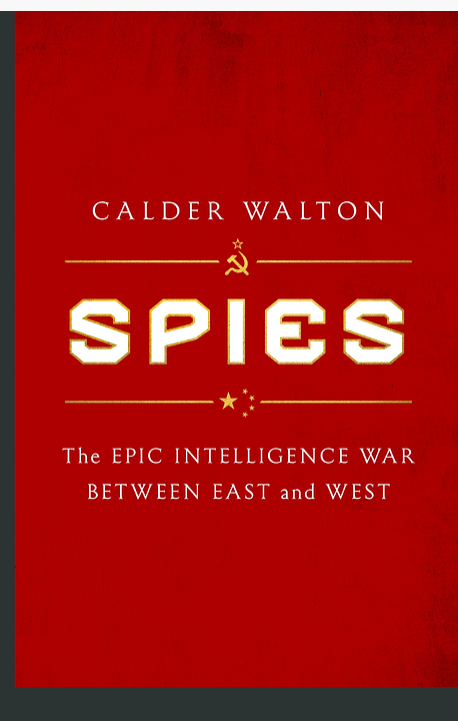


THIS IS CROYDON CONTINUES...

'**This is Croydon**' - Croydon's programme for London Borough of Culture 2023 continued in June with the launch of the Music Heritage Trail in Queen's Gardens. The trail explores the past and present musical culture of Croydon, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, from Punk, Dubstep, Grime and Drill, through to Classical Music, Jazz and Soul.

'Croydon Symphony,' a new mural designed by ATMA, art includes artists such as composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, grime artist Stormzy, punk singer Captain Sensible (The Damned), dub music producer Mad Professor, singer Kirsty MacColl and rapper Nadia Rose who was present at the unveiling of the mural on 17 June.

Alongside the mural, a new, free to use app was launched, funded by National Lottery players which will serve as the trail guide, highlighting the top 25 artists and venues around the borough, voted for by 11,000 people from the local community. There will also be guided tours in July and August building up to the Croydon Music Heritage Trail Exhibition which will open at the Museum of Croydon in November 2023.



SPIES HITS THE SHELVES!

Calder Walton's new book *Spies: The Intelligence War between East and West* has also been published, so the team has been busy! We're working with the team at Little, Brown who have focused on reviews and festivals, while we've been securing interviews and features, organising a book launch at the Frontline Club and planning a London Underground poster campaign.

Walton is a well-respected historian, and seasoned commentator; with that in mind he has been writing articles across history and consumer media. The pieces including features to be published in *History Today*, *Aspects of History* and *Unherd*, on topics ranging from the Cambridge Five, to Stalin's involvement in the 1948 election.

On June 13 the International Spy Museum's podcast *Spycast* aired their episode with Walton, which was followed by broadcast interviews with *BBC Radio 4*, *Times Radio* and *Talk Radio Europe*. Also on the podcast front, Walton chatted with Dan Snow for his podcast *History Hit*; the episode is due to be aired the week of 10 July.

Spies mines hitherto secret archives and exclusive interviews with former agents to tell the history of the war that Russia and the West have been waging for a century. The UK edition breaks a hitherto untold story which made front page news in the *New York Times* – revealing a failed Russian plot to kill a US defector in 2020.

If you see his posters on the underground from 2 July, make sure to send us a photo to spies@four.agency.



WAVE OF CREATIVITY HITS ESSEX

Essex Book Festival took place this month, starring an unmissable programme of exciting and innovative events taking place in over 40 venues across Essex. The festival's key theme this year was The Great Tide, not only commemorating the 70th anniversary of The Great Flood, but simultaneously mirroring the wave of events currently taking place at the festival.

A key element of the festival has been The Radical Pilgrimage across The Saffron Trail with Lora Aziz, a 7-day 70-mile Radical Pilgrimage along The Saffron Trail as part of the In My Steps: Radical Walks in Essex series. Interdisciplinary artist Aziz, ran a series of creative contemplative and ecological workshops along The Saffron Trail as part of the pilgrimage, which culminated in a Moroccan Sufi Gnawa concert at Saffron Hall in Saffron Walden. The Pilgrimage illuminated the festival as a uniquely creative hub for literary appreciation.

The team secured coverage of the festival in *CountryFile Magazine*, *Londonist*, *Muddy Stiletto*s and in print in *Bella Magazine*.

Do check out more about the festival here on their website: <https://essexbookfestival.org.uk/>



CHELTEMHAM SCIENCE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 21ST BIRTHDAY

Cheltenham Science Festival celebrated its 21st Birthday earlier this month with a bang! Featuring 138 speakers across more than 270 events, visitors were able to explore a range of timely topics including: data in sport, artificial intelligence to climate change, gender, sexuality and mental health.

This year almost 200,000 visitors flocked to the historic Gloucestershire town, to expand their minds, and explore new territories within the wonderful world of science.

2023 also marked the third year of the Festival's 'Be the Change' theme, which invited audiences to consider their individual and collective role in shaping the future, and the central place of science in this process. In line with the theme guest curators Claudia Hammond, Chris van Tulleken, Hana Walker-Brown and Sophia Kaur Badhan focused on everything from mental wellbeing to social change and human behaviours.

Other topics covered span art and design, social sciences, psychology and neuroscience, chemistry, engineering, entertainment, the environment, history, current affairs, technology, food, sport, space and the universe.

The team secured a wide range of coverage including preview interviews and news stories from: *Times Radio*, *BBC Science Focus*, *The Times*, *Daily Mail*, *The Mirror* and *The Daily Telegraph*.



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

