



16 APRIL 2016 / 19 MAY 2017
'The Year of Stanley Spencer'



**The 13 months from 16 April 2016 to 19 May 2017
 comprise '*a baker's dozen*' of a year.**

**And what a year it is to be for the celebration of the
 life and works of Sir Stanley Spencer.**

- Successive major exhibitions in the UK and Australia.
- Significant new Stanley Spencer books to be published, including Volume 1 of an extraordinary Spencer autobiography.
- International poetry competition as a notable event in the literary calendar, based on the theme of Stanley Spencer, his work, his life and his beliefs.
- Filming at the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham, and a programme of talks and events at multiple venues throughout the year.
- Continuing World War 1 Spencer Centenary opportunities, including wonderfully illustrated Spencer letters and also some major Spencer works that specifically commemorate this year.

This paper provides background information on The Year of Stanley Spencer. It will be further updated throughout the year. Use of the information contained in this document for press or publicity purposes, or to participate further in The Year of Stanley Spencer, is very much welcome. Please consult with the Stanley Spencer Gallery in the first instance, especially for additional information and to ensure that image and copyright accreditations are correctly included. Notification of additional events or happenings is also most welcome and can be added to later editions of this document.

EXHIBITIONS

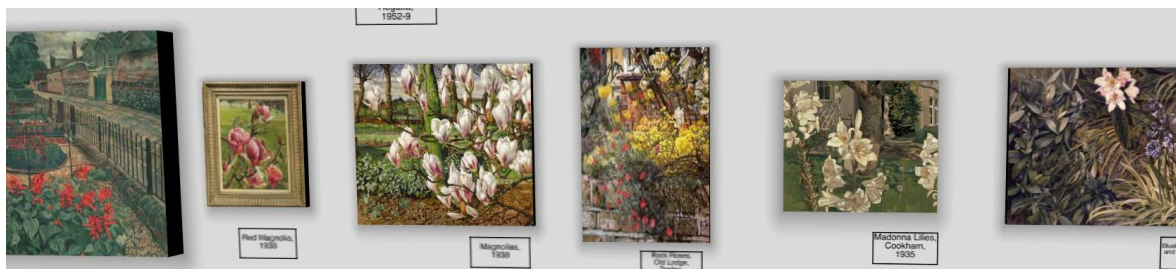
24 March to 31 October 2016

www.stanleyspencer.org.uk

STANLEY SPENCER GALLERY

Stanley Spencer: Visionary Painter of the Natural World

Glorious paintings of the natural world, exploring Spencer's consummate skill in a series of exquisitely executed floral compositions, garden vistas and landscapes. Figurative and spiritual scenes amongst these wonderful paintings movingly remind us of Spencer's visionary leanings. The exhibition includes the Stanley Spencer collections from the art galleries of Aberdeen and Leeds in their entirety, together with selected hauntingly profound works from the Gallery's own collection and others loaned by private collectors.



Electronic simulation One run of paintings in this exhibition

24 June to 25 September 2016

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

www.hepworthwakefield.org

Stanley Spencer: Of Angels and Dirt

Works spanning Spencer's career, rarely seen together, exploring the variety of themes in Spencer's richly detailed paintings, across religion, portraiture, sexuality and domestic life. Brings into sharp relief Spencer's ability to meld together seeming opposites. Includes pastoral visions of rural life in the artist's home village of Cookham, Berkshire, re-imagined through his own spiritual beliefs.



Far left: The Last Supper, 1920 Stanley Spencer Gallery.

Centre: Self portrait, 1923 Stanley Spencer Gallery

Left: The Art Class. Empire Marketing Board Series, 1929. Gift from the Audrey & Stanley Charitable Trust, 2009. Photo: University of Leeds Art Collection ©

5 August 2016 to 31 January 2017

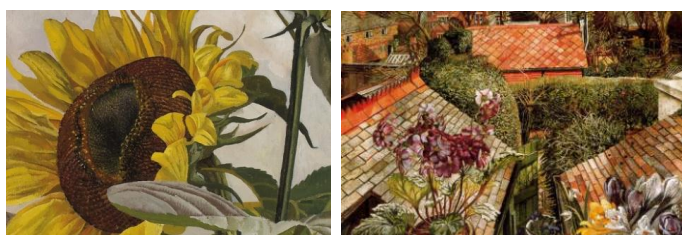
CARRICK HILL, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au

Stanley Spencer: A 20th Century British Master.

(Accompanied by Book and Educational Documentary part of the latter being filmed in the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham during May 2016)

Paintings and drawings loaned both nationally and internationally telling the story of Stanley Spencer's muses and subjects that made this painter one of the greatest forces in British painting. This is the first major exhibition of the artist's work in Australia and will be accompanied by a public program to increase the enjoyment and understanding of Spencer's work.



Left: Sunflower (Detail), 1938, Flowers and Rooftops, 1938 Carrick Hill Trust, Adelaide, South Australia.

15 October 2016 to 8 January 2017

JERWOOD GALLERY

In Focus: Stanley Spencer - A Panorama of Life

www.jerwoodgallery.org

This one room display is inspired by the generous loan of Sir Stanley Spencer's masterpiece, *The Garage*, from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and in partnership with the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham. In 1929, the English Marketing Board commissioned Spencer to paint a series of five pictures on the theme of Industry and Peace, of which *The Garage* is one. The work looks forward to a world of industry and technology and represents a less recognised side of Spencer: as a master of the realist movement in modern Britain.



Left: *The Garage* 1929 Lent by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and in partnership with the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham.

3 November 2016 to 26 March 2017

STANLEY SPENCER GALLERY

www.stanleyspencer.org.uk

Stanley Spencer: Facets of Genius (Title to be determined)

A further opportunity to see many of the works from the acclaimed 2015 exhibition, *The Creative Genius of Stanley Spencer*, intermingled with additional works. A fine selection of Stanley Spencer paintings on loan from the renowned City Art Galleries of Aberdeen and Leeds, together with selected major works from Gallery's own collection.



Far left: *Hilda, Unity and Dolls*, 1937. Loaned to the Stanley Spencer Gallery by Leeds Museums and Galleries (Leeds Art Gallery).

Left: *Southwold*, 1937. Loaned to the Stanley Spencer Gallery by Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums Collections.

Other Spencer books anticipated in 2016

Nicola Upson is expected to bring out a novel by featuring Stanley and Elsie (Elsie Munday, housekeeper to Stanley and Hilda) later this year. The Stanley Spencer Gallery will be putting its Elsie drawings on display to coincide with the publication of this book.

About the Author Nicola Upson was born in Suffolk and read English at Downing College, Cambridge. She has worked in theatre and as a freelance journalist, and is the author of both fiction and non-fiction works and the recipient of an Escalator Award from the Arts Council England.

Paul Gough, author of *Journey to Burghclere*, is expected to bring out a further book about the Sandham Memorial Chapel, entitled 'The Holy Box', one of the unsung artistic glories of Europe.

About the Author Professor Paul Gough is a painter, broadcaster and writer. He holds a first degree in Fine Art, MA Painting (1985) Royal College of Art, London. He has a PhD (1991) in First World War Art. He has published widely in art history, cultural geographies, and material culture.

Spencer poetry anthology anticipated early 2017

Stanley Spencer Poems: An Anthology. Editors Jane Draycott, Carolyn Leder and Peter Robinson (Two Rivers Press, Reading 2017)

THE COOKHAM FESTIVAL STANLEY SPENCER POETRY COMPETITION

2017 sees the 50th anniversary of the first Cookham Festival. The Festival Committee is committed to providing a truly 'Golden' programme of events to celebrate this very special milestone in the Festival's history.

One such event will be a poetry competition based on the theme of Stanley Spencer. This is expected to be a major event in the literary calendar and the Festival Committee will be working in collaboration with the Department of English Literature at The University of Reading, Two Rivers Press and the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham.

The event will be open to anyone over the age of 18. Entrants will be asked to enter a self-composed original poem written by them in English, or an English dialect, which has not previously been published, entries to be inspired by one of England's greatest 20th century artists Sir Stanley Spencer, whether his work, his life, or his beliefs.

Chair of the judges will be Peter Robinson, a professor at the Department of English Literature at the University of Reading, and a well known poet in his own right. Also on the panel of judges will be another highly regarded poet, Jane Draycott, who lives in Henley, and the art historian and acknowledged Spencer expert, Carolyn Leder.

Two Rivers Press will publish an anthology of the 75 or so poems shortlisted for the prize. From this shortlist three poems will be selected as the winners, with a first prize to the winning poet of £2,500 and additional cash prizes to the two runners-up. All the shortlisted poets will receive a copy of the published anthology.

It is planned to launch the competition on 13 May 2016 at the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham. Full details of the competition and how to enter will be available at that time.

The prize giving will take place at the Gallery on 19 May 2017, as part of the Festival programme. There will be a public poetry reading, at which selections from the shortlist will be read, together with some of the judges' own works.

A separate schools' poetry event, with the same theme, is also planned for the 2017 Festival and an announcement about this will be made shortly.

For further details contact: info@cookhamfestival.org.uk.



Left: John Donne Arriving in Heaven, 1911, Fitzwilliam Museum

John Donne (1572 - 1631) was an English poet and a cleric in the Church of England. His works are noted for their strong, sensual feeling and vibrancy of language. Donne's style is characterised by abrupt openings, paradoxes, metaphors, ironies and dislocations, combined with a rhythmic and tense syntax. An important theme in his religious poetry is the idea of true religion, while he is also famous for his erotic and love poems.

Stanley Spencer's painting 'John Donne Arriving in Heaven', is a visual interpretation of the poet's 'Go to Heaven by Heaven', which suggested to Spencer a living approximation to a foreseen heaven. 'Heaven' is represented here as Widbrook Common in Spencer's home village of Cookham.

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY: TWESELDOWN CAMP AND MACEDONIA

Letters of Stanley Spencer

'The Year of Stanley Spencer' includes a succession of 100 year anniversary dates relating to Spencer's military training for overseas service and subsequent arrival in Salonika, working with the Field Ambulance Units.

Each date or period below is made all the more vivid by the continuing existence of a letter from Stanley Spencer to his friend Desmond Chute.

Spencer's letters often included sketches giving wonderful insights into his army life, together with a great sense of how he, the artist, contemplated the world around him and what particularly caught his attention.

The letters are contained in the Archive at the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham and are copyright of The Estate of Stanley Spencer.

The following is illustrative of the dates and material.

May 1916 Letter describing Spencer's journey from Bristol to Devonport: Descriptions and illustrations of particular scenic features.

May 1916 Letter from Tweseldown Camp describing and illustrating Spencer's intricate training tasks.

June 1916 Letter describing visit home to Cookham, full of reminiscences and complete with detailed illustration of the layout of the Spencer garden in Cookham High Street.

Description of subsequent route march including the ambience of a descent into Farnham, illustrating the swirling, uplifting, stick of the march leader.

June 1916 Letter describing and illustrating training routines, including a circular march with trenches to leap over.

Letter (right) showing Spencer's fascination with the sleeping positions (the arrangement of heads and limbs) of his colleagues.



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July 1916 Letter describing the visual appearance of gas helmets and the sensations of wearing them.

Letter illustrating and reflecting on the mysteries and demands of surgical operations on the wounded.

Letter describing and illustrating training sessions in 'mock' trenches.

August 1916 Letter written on board ship to Salonika.

Oct 1916 Letter from Salonika describing a longing for the opportunity to paint.

March 1917 Letter written in hospital where suffering from malaria, containing detailed reminiscences about Cookham.

Other wartime happenings of 1916/17

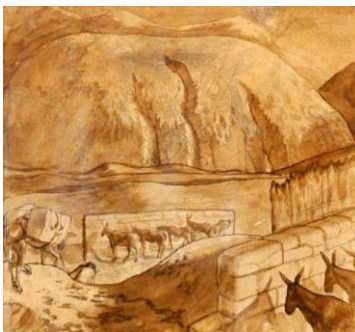
August 1916 - October 1917 Stanley Spencer worked with Field Ambulance Units. One of the tasks was to transport the wounded.

Wounded being carried by Mules in Macedonia, 1918-19 (Stanley Spencer Gallery, pen and wash drawing) .



The mules were notoriously difficult to work with and Stanley often complained that pulling them around made his arms ache and how hard it was to stop them lying down and falling asleep, but they were invaluable, also, for carrying supplies over the harsh terrain.

Pack Mules, 1918-19 (Stanley Spencer Gallery, pen and wash drawing).



September 13th to 14th, 1916 Spencer undertook Field Ambulance duties in the assault on Machine Gun Hill. This event was commemorated in the stunning 'Travoys' painting of 1919, now housed at the Imperial War Museum.

Travoys Arriving with Wounded at a Dressing Station at Smol, Macedonia Sept 1916, 1919 (Imperial War Museum)



December 1916 Stanley Spencer was admitted to 4th Canadian Hospital with an abscess on his shin caused by a rubbing puttee. Here he contracted Malaria.

April 1917 With the newly formed 143rd Field Ambulance, Spencer was moving closer to the Front Line where his role involved rounding up young fresh mules.

SPENCER TALKS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

Date/ Time	Venue	Description	Details
Saturday 16 April 2016	Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham	COMMENCEMENT OF THE YEAR OF STANLEY SPENCER Formal Opening of the Summer Exhibition at the Stanley Spencer Gallery. Stanley Spencer: Visionary Painter of the Natural World	By private invitation.
Thursday 12 May 2016 19.00	Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham	Cookham to Adelaide: Connections and Coincidences Richard Heathcote is Director of Carrick Hill Museum and Gallery in Adelaide, which holds a collection of Spencer's works. He will talk about an exhibition to celebrate the 30 th anniversary of the Gallery in Australia which will feature Spencer's flower and garden paintings.	stanley-spencer.org.uk
Friday 13 May 2016	Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham	Launch of The Cookham Festival Stanley Spencer Poetry Competition 2017 This prestigious event will be run in collaboration with the Department of English Literature at the University of Reading, Two Rivers Press in Reading and the Stanley Spencer Gallery. The event will be open to anyone over the age of 18. Entrants will be asked to enter an original poem written by them in English, or an English dialect, which has not previously been published, on the subject of the work, life, themes or beliefs of Sir Stanley Spencer. The prize giving will take place at the Stanley Spencer Gallery on 19 May 2017 (see also the description on page 6).	info@cookhamfestival.org.uk
Wednesday 18 May 2016	High Wycombe Library	Stanley Spencer Talk Illustrated talk by Ann Danks, Archivist at the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham	lib-hiw@buckscc.gov.uk
Saturday 21 May 2016 09.00	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Chapel Talks The story behind one of the most important 20 th century artists – Sir Stanley Spencer – and how his dream of a 'Holy Box' came to fruition in the form of a purpose-built chapel, it's wall covered with 19 stunning paintings inspired by Spencer's experiences during the First World War.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Saturday 4 Jun 2016 14.00 – 16.00	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	First World War Poetry Readings Jonathan Jones https://sites.google.com/site/greatwarverse/ will read iconic First World War poetry throughout the day in the setting of this unforgettable chapel, its walls covered with paintings created by Stanley Spencer.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Saturday 11 June 2016 10am to 4pm	Randolph - Macon Women's College., Reading	Sacred and Profane: The Art of Stanley Spencer Illustrated sessions by Ann Danks, Archivist at the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham.	weareadingadulteducation.org.uk/course/sacred-and-profane-art-stanley-spencer
Tuesday 14 Jun 2016 14.00	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Chapel Talks The story behind one of the most important 20 th century artists – Sir Stanley Spencer – and how his dream of a 'Holy Box' came to fruition in the form of a purpose-built chapel, it's wall covered with 19 stunning paintings inspired by Spencer's experiences during the First World War.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Wednesday 15 Jun 2016 19.00	Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham	Thinking with Stanley Spencer on the Subject of Love Professor Nigel Rapport will talk about his new book, <i>'Distortion and Love: An anthropological reading of the art and life of Stanley Spencer'</i> . He will explore Stanley's theory	stanley-spencer.org.uk

		of love, as it appeared in his writings and his pictures. Love was a distinct way of seeing and knowing, that led human beings to a kind of 'redemption' or 'resurrection': to being born again into their own lives, only now with true vision.	
Saturday 25 Jun 2016	The Hepworth Wakefield	Stanley Spencer: An Autobiography in Pictures A lecture by Carolyn Leder, Trustee of the Stanley Spencer Gallery, on the opening of the exhibition, Stanley Spencer: Of Angels and Dirt.	hepworthwakefield.org/stanley-spencer
Thursday 30 Jun 2016		Stanley Spencer's 125th Birthday To Be Advised.	
Sunday 3 July 2016 11.00 - 16.00	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	First World War Poetry Readings Jonathan Jones https://sites.google.com/site/greatwarverse will read iconic First World War poetry throughout the day in the setting of this unforgettable chapel, its walls covered with paintings created by Stanley Spencer.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Tuesday 12 Jul 2016 10.00	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Chapel Talks The story behind one of the most important 20 th century artists – Sir Stanley Spencer – and how his dream of a 'Holy Box' came to fruition in the form of a purpose-built chapel, it's wall covered with 19 stunning paintings inspired by Spencer's experiences during the First World War.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Saturday 6 Aug 2016 11.00 - 16.00	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	First World War Poetry Readings Jonathan Jones https://sites.google.com/site/greatwarverse/ will read iconic First World War poetry throughout the day in the setting of this unforgettable chapel, its walls covered with paintings created by Stanley Spencer.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Saturday 6 August 2016	Carrick Hill, Adelaide	Study Day Carolyn Leder has been invited as the international keynote speaker at a Study Day held in connection with the exhibition, Stanley Spencer: A 20 th Century British Master	carrickhill.sa.gov.au
Tuesday 9 Aug 2016 10.00	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Chapel Talks The story behind one of the most important 20 th century artists – Sir Stanley Spencer – and how his dream of a 'Holy Box' came to fruition in the form of a purpose-built chapel, it's wall covered with 19 stunning paintings inspired by Spencer's experiences during the First World War.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Saturday 3 Sep 2016 11.00 - 16.00	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	First World War Poetry Readings Jonathan Jones https://sites.google.com/site/greatwarverse/ will read iconic First World War poetry throughout the day in the setting of this unforgettable chapel, its walls covered with paintings created by Stanley Spencer.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Tuesday 6 Sep 2016 10.00	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Chapel Talks The story behind one of the most important 20 th century artists – Sir Stanley Spencer – and how his dream of a 'Holy Box' came to fruition in the form of a purpose-built chapel, it's wall covered with 19 stunning paintings inspired by Spencer's experiences during the First World War.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Wednesday 14 Sep 2016	Hampstead, London	A Walk through Stanley Spencer's Hampstead Famous for its artists, Hampstead formed the setting for paintings and key events in Spencer's personal life, from his courtship of Hilda Carline to his later years. Led by Carolyn Leder for the Friends of the Stanley Spencer Gallery.	friendsofstanleyspencergallery@yahoo.com
Weekly,	St Joseph's	WEA Stanley Spencer Awareness Course	http://southern.wea.org.uk

20 Sep to 8 Nov 2016 10.15am to 12.15 pm	Room, St Joseph's Church, Maidenhead	Illustrated sessions by Ann Danks, Archivist at the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham, together with a trip to the Stanley Spencer Gallery on completion	k/map/by-county/berkshire/maidenhead-branch.html
Saturday 24 September	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Conversation with John Spencer Carolyn Leder and Johanna Stephenson discussing 'Stanley Spencer: Looking to Heaven', the first of a 3-part 'autobiography' lovingly compiled from the writings of Stanley Spencer.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Tuesday 4 October 10am to 12 noon.	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Spencer's Holy Box Hear about the origins of Spencer's Holy Box and explore the paintings.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Tuesday 11 October 11am to 1pm	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Mountains, Mules and Malaria – Soldiering with the British Salonika Force 1915 – 1918 Alan Wakefield, writer and lecturer, speaks about various aspects of military history, with particular emphasis on the Salonika Campaign of World War 1.	
Tuesday 8 November 10am to 12 noon.	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Spencer's Holy Box Hear about the origins of Spencer's Holy Box and explore the paintings.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Thurs 10 Nov 2016 1.30 - 4.30pm	St Lawrence Parish Hall, Winchester	Stanley Spencer Study Afternoon Illustrated session by Ann Danks, Archivist at the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham.	southern.wea.org.uk
Tuesday 6 December 10am to 12 noon.	Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere	Spencer's Holy Box Hear about the origins of Spencer's Holy Box and explore the paintings.	nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel
Friday 12 May 2017	Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham	Public Poetry Reading: The Cookham Festival Stanley Spencer Poetry Competition 2017 See Launch of this event on 13 th May 2016 and also page 6. Selections from the shortlist will be read, together with some of the judges' own works.	info@cookhamfestival.org.uk
Friday 19 May 2017	Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham	Prize-Giving: The Cookham Festival Stanley Spencer Poetry Competition 2017 See launch of this event on 13 th May 2016 and also page 6. The poems will be judged by an expert panel of poets. Two Rivers Press will publish an anthology of the 75 or so poems shortlisted for the prize. From the shortlist three poems will be selected as the winners, with a first prize to the winning poet of £500 and additional cash prizes to the two runners-up. All the shortlisted poets will receive a copy of the published anthology.	info@cookhamfestival.org.uk

Images in electronic simulation, page 2 (left to right) Gardens in the Pound, Cookham, 1936 Lent to the Stanley Spencer Gallery by Leeds Art Fund (Leeds Art Gallery). Red Magnolia 1938 Lent to the Stanley Spencer Gallery by Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust, Carlisle. Magnolias, 1938 Lent to the Stanley Spencer Gallery by a private collector.	Rock Roses, Old Lodge, Taplow 1957 Lent to the Stanley Spencer Gallery by a private collector. Madonna Lilies, Cookham, 1935 Lent to the Stanley Spencer gallery by Leeds Art Fund (Leeds Art Gallery). Bluebells, Cornflowers and Rhododendrons, 1945 Lent to the Stanley Spencer Gallery from the British Council Collection.
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About the Stanley Spencer Gallery The Stanley Spencer Gallery, in Cookham High Street, was established in 1962 and refurbished in 2006-7 as a beautiful modern art display space with video presentations and full colour catalogues to accompany each current exhibition. The Gallery's archives include personal letters, photographs, press cuttings and a comprehensive library of books on the artist, all for visitors to enjoy. The Gallery is widely known as one of the world's largest repositories of works on display by Sir Stanley Spencer, whose reputation continues to soar. The Gallery has won a series of accolades, including its naming as one of the five most 'unmissable' small Art Galleries in the UK and the award of a Michelin star in the Great Britain Michelin Green Guide.

Stanley Spencer: Visionary Painter of the Natural World 24 th March to 31 October 2016 Daily including weekends, 10.30am to 5.30pm.	Stanley Spencer Gallery, High Street, Cookham, Berks SL6 9SJ www.stanleypencer.org.uk Publicity: Shez Courtenay-Smith email shez@stanleypencer.org.uk
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@ SpencerCookham



Stanley Spencer Gallery

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