



THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD and THE ARTS SOCIETY MID CORNWALL

DISCOVERY DAY

'When England Had Scarcely Begun': Sutton Hoo and the Lindisfarne Gospels

Monday 23rd March 2026

9:30 am for 10:00 am – 3:15 pm approx.

Liskeard Public Hall, PL14 6BW

Speaker: Mark Cottle



The Artistry of the Anglo-Saxons to the Golden Age of Design and Craftsmanship in Northumberland

Sutton Hoo and the Lindisfarne Gospels provide remarkable insights into the England of the 7th century. Sutton Hoo in Suffolk was the burial place of a powerful Anglo-Saxon warlord, buried with a mound of treasures from all over the known world. Fine weaponry, gold coins and exquisitely crafted metalwork reflected levels of sophistication which were a revelation.

At the end of the 7th century, after its conversion to Christianity, the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria enjoyed a brief golden age – a result of which was the Lindisfarne Gospels, one of the most impressive works of art of the whole medieval period. With reference to the Staffordshire Hoard and the Prittlewell Prince, the day will focus on the cultural achievements of an early 'Dark Age' century.



Further details about the 3 sessions continue overleaf

Images © Mark Cottle

Lunch: 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm: independently; you're welcome to either bring your own packed lunch and eat in Liskeard Public Hall or venture out into Liskeard for lunch.

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The cost will be **£34.50** per person and include coffee on arrival and coffee and cake at break time.

Bookings must be made prior to the event

- By BACS (**for instructions and LAS Bank details see overleaf**).
- **Or** post this completed slip with your cheque to The Arts Society Liskeard to:
Mary Utton, Tregantle, Barn Street, Liskeard PL14 4BL
01579 345140, 07731 380715, mary.utton2@gmail.com

If you give your email address (or send a sae), your cheque will be acknowledged in writing.

Please reserve me place(s) @ **£34.50** per person

NAME(S)

POSTCODE TEL NUMBER

EMAIL

GDPR: Your details will be retained only until the event has taken place, solely for Liskeard Arts to inform you of any updates about it.

Session 1 (10:00 am – 11:00 am):

Sutton Hoo with reference to the later excavations in the 1960's and the 1980's.

We will concentrate on Sutton Hoo in Suffolk, where a great ship was dragged ashore from the river Deben in the 7th century. The ship was the burial place of a powerful Anglo-Saxon warlord buried with a mound of treasures from all over the known world. Fine weaponry, gold coins and exquisitely crafted metalwork reflected levels of sophistication which were a revelation. We will examine the finds in turn not just to appreciate them in their own right but also to explore what insights they offer about their world. As well as the treasures themselves we will talk about the famous 1939 discovery and excavation. We will also briefly cover the later excavations and discoveries.

Session 2 (11:30 am – 12:30 pm):

The Staffordshire Hoard and the Prittlewell Prince before moving onto the Conversion to Christianity: The Roman and Irish Missions

We will discuss the amazing finds from the Staffordshire hoard, the largest hoard of early Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork yet found along with some garnet cloisonné jewellery. This is then followed by a review of the finds from the Prittlewell Prince burial dating to c 580 -605 AD. We then hear about the conversion to Christianity.



Gold sword hilt fitted with cloisonné garnet inlay

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Session 3 (1:45pm – approx. 3:15 pm):

The Northumbrian Golden Age AD 680 – 735 and the Lindisfarne Gospels

Our last session focuses on the Golden Age of Northumbria with particular reference to the Lindisfarne Gospels. The amazing work of smiths in the early part of the 7th century gives way to the wonderful work of scribes and calligraphers. These beautiful gospels were created on the island of Lindisfarne by monks from the monastery and they are now housed in the British Library. We will learn a lot more about this beautiful illuminated manuscript, its creation and history.

Participants will receive a course file with a small number of handouts, including a reading list

MR MARK COTTLE



Mark was born on the Isles of Scilly and educated at Truro School, Cornwall and Birmingham University.

His career has been spent in education and training at home and abroad. Mark has lectured at Exeter College on Medieval and Tudor history, St Mark's & St John's University College, Plymouth, and at Bath University on Anglo Saxon and medieval England.

He has lectured for The Arts Society throughout the British Isles and abroad, most recently in Germany and Australia. Currently he runs two small companies providing training and study breaks.

Booking and payment by BACS

1. Please pay **£34.50 per person** to:

The Arts Society Liskeard, sort code **20 68 10**, account number **70729515**, ref **DDay**.

2. **THEN email** mary.utton2@gmail.com

Subject: Discovery Day

Message: how many places, how much you've paid, and your telephone number.

You will get a reply to your email within 48 hours, acknowledging your payment and booking.

For further information about **TAS Liskeard** or **TAS Mid Cornwall** visit
www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk or www.theartssocietymidcornwall.org.uk