



Bouquet of Lilies made in 1899 for Alexandra Feodorovna as a gift from Nicholas II

January 13th

John Benjamin - Fabergé: The Life and Work of the World's Greatest Goldsmith

This talk analyses the mercurial rise of Carl Fabergé in pre-revolution Russia. By his late 30s he was producing incomparable jewels and objets d'art for the Imperial Court and bourgeois Moscow and St Petersburg. We will learn about Fabergé's early life and influences as well as exploring the objets d'art he created.



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David, completed by Michelangelo in 1504

February 10th

Antonia Gatward-Cevizli – The Big Three in Florence

For a brief but intense period at the beginning of the 16th century, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael coincided in Florence. These are the years of *Mona Lisa*, *David* and Raphael's many serene Madonnas. This talk explores the rivalry between these artists and the impact that their work had on the young Raphael.



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The British Rail "Double Arrow" designed by Gerry Barney (1965)

 This work created by the UK Government is in the public domain

March 10th

Mark Ovenden - How Great Design Influenced the Railways

From those gorgeous 1930s travel posters, through nationalisation of the railways in 1948, to the creation of the famous BR Double-Arrow symbol in the 1960s...it's surprising how British railways have led the way in terms of design. We reminisce over those beautiful graphics, bygone days of railway architecture and travel. We'll pay homage to the wonderful Tube map by Harry Beck and look to future design.



 Portrait of Pope Innocent X by Diego Velázquez, 1650

April 07th

Isabelle Kent - The Century of Gold: Spanish Art in the age of Velázquez

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Spain rose as the great European superpower. This vast wealth, alongside the renewed Catholic fervour of the counter reformation kickstarted the Spanish *siglo d'oro* – literally the century of gold - the great flourishing of painting, sculpture, literature and music. The talk explores this historical period and vast array of art before focusing in on the work of the great painter Diego Velázquez.



Madonna of the Book by Sandro Botticelli, 1480

May 12th

Lynne Gibson - Colour and the Artist's Palette – Feeling Blue

Blue is the colour of heavenly skies and the Virgin's gown. It is the haze of distant mountains. It is spiritual and moody. Bright royal purple was the dye reserved for the Roman Senate. Woad was the people's dye; cheap and not particularly cheerful. Ultramarine was the most prized pigment on the artist's palette, imported and costlier than gold. Modern chemistry brought inexpensive strong blues to all palettes.

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Mrs. Fiske Warren (Gretchen Osgood) and Her Daughter Rachel, 1903

June 09th

Cindy Polemis - John Singer Sargent and Fashion

John Singer Sargent was THE international art star of the Gilded Age. He was most famous for his dramatic and stylish portraits of the elegant and wealthy. He brought his subjects to life, but also used fashion as a powerful tool to depict identity and personality. Cindy explores how John Singer Sargent 'fashioned' his world.

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PH-Lamp (1958 version), Denmark

September 08th

James Vaux - Scandinavian Modern: Behind the Scenes

Just why did Scandinavian Modern design become so popular in the mid-century and how did it turn from a revolutionary movement into just another style? And was there a dark side to it? Because lurking in the shadows was a Nordic project to change consumer taste and shape the model citizen using scientific experimentation and social engineering.

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All Saints Church, Snelland, Lincolnshire

October 13th

James Wright - Investigating Mediaeval Churches

Mediaeval parish churches are some of the oldest and most loved buildings in the British Isles. However, relatively few of them have been archaeologically surveyed and many unverified stories have grown up around them. This talk will look at some of the commonly repeated tales about the architecture of churches, which are widely assumed to be true, but which ultimately fall into the realm of folklore and myth.

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The Nutcracker performed by the St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre at Chichester Festival Theatre 03 Nov 2007

November 10th

Sandy Burnett - From Tchaikovsky to Tin Pan Alley – Uplifting Music for Christmas

Looking ahead to our seasonal celebrations, musician and broadcaster Sandy Burnett is on hand to share his selection of much-loved Christmas tunes. Expect an hour of the finest festive music from across the globe – his selections include sparkling moments from Tchaikovsky's ballet, The Nutcracker, a heartwarming ballad from Mel Tormé, something from Soweto, a heavenly chorus from Johann Sebastian Bach's Leipzig, an illustration of the English carol tradition at its finest - and something more cynical from Eartha Kitt...

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December 08th

Emma Watts - Photography in Paint

This talk will explore the relationship between paint and photography, but from the unique perspective of how painting responds to photography. Exploring how the two worlds and the rather unexpected response of paint to photography.

 Photo by Disdéri, André Adolphe Eugène – Prince and Princess von Metternich
 Portrait of Princess Metternich, Edgar Degas National Gallery, London



Pose and elusive expression of Princess Metternich reappear in a Degas painting

DISCOVERY DAYS, TRIPS and EVENTS

Information about the 2026 Programme soon to be finalised and published.

All meetings start at 7:30pm in the Public Hall Liskeard PL14 6BW. Refreshments served from 7:00pm
 Non-members are welcome to attend all events. www.liskeardartssociety.org.uk