



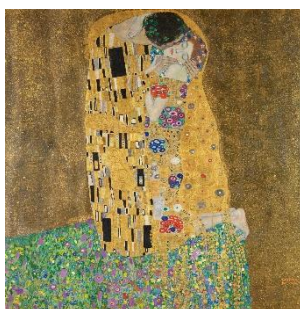
Opera singers.

Photo © Merlot Levert/Dreamstime.com

January 12th

Tim Mirfin - The Opera Singer Phenomenon - how do they make that noise?

That strange noise opera singers make, is it really necessary? Why and how do they make it? Is it something anyone can do? The talk is liberally illustrated with picture, video and sound, and a small (unstressful) amount of audience participation. Opera fan, opera sceptic or opera ignoramus, it will appeal in equal measure.



Gustav Klimt, *The Kiss (Lovers)*, c. 1907–1909.
Belvedere, Vienna

February 9th

Gavin Plumley – The Art and Culture of fin-de-siècle Vienna

Vienna around 1900, a capital of a vast empire and one of the most exciting artistic laboratories in the world, producing painters such as Gustav Klimt and Oskar Kokoschka, architects like Otto Wagner and Josef Hoffmann, the psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, the composer Gustav Mahler and the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. How and why did the City of Dreams become a cultural hotbed?



Glass inlay reliefs, Egyptian, late 18th Dynasty.
Photo © The Trustees of the British Museum.

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March 9th

Lucia Gahlin - Ancient Egyptian Artistry in Glass

The ancient Egyptians began making glass in the Eighteenth Dynasty (c1450 BC). The Egyptians were soon masterful at producing a range of object types in coloured glass - vessels, inlay, beads, amulets, figures and even headrests. Lucia examines the developments in glass manufacture from the New Kingdom (15th century BC) through to the Roman Period in Egypt (1st century AD).

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Beach scene. Chromolithograph after John Leech,
1865. Source: [Wellcome Collection](#)

April 13th

Bertie Pearce - “We are amused!” Victorian leisure from the parlour to the seaside via the nursery

Even though ‘work’ was the bedrock of Victorian progress and improvement, Queen Victoria’s reign saw the greatest upsurge in leisure pursuits ever witnessed. People earned more money and worked shorter hours and with the birth of the Railways and better health awareness, it was a golden age for the art of entertaining oneself and being an amateur in the true sense of the word.



Walter Langley, *Disaster Scene in a Cornish Fishing Village*, 1889. Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery.

May 11th

Alison Bevan - Drawn from the Sea. Cornish fishing industry 1880 - 2010

A key industry for Cornwall has been that of fishing. In the 1800s, vast pilchard shoals provided "meat, money and light all in one night". Using Newlyn School paintings, stories and photo images from an essay 'Newlyn: Fishing for a Living' by Vince Bevan, Alison explores the tragedy and hardship and the extraordinary spectacle of fishing in the late Victorian era, before bringing the subject through to the current millenium.

Photo Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CC0



The China National Botanical Garden, Beijing.

June 08th

Timothy Walker - Garden Hunting in China

While many English gardeners have visited China to “collect” plants, few have gone to look for gardens. During a six-week trip Timothy visited gardens and met gardeners with a view to building bridges between Chinese and English horticulture. In addition to examining gardens and gardening, this talk looks at some of the wider cultural aspects of a country full of contradictions.

Photo © Xiaoyong/Dreamstime.com



Chatsworth House.

September 07th

Amy Lim - The Baroque Country House

Many of Britain's best-loved country houses were created in the 'Baroque' period (c. 1660-1720). Visiting some of the most iconic houses of the period, including Chatsworth, Petworth, and Blenheim, we will meet the patrons who created them and look at some of the highlights of their sumptuous interiors, gardens and collections, addressing the question: what is 'Baroque'?

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Photo © Angela Findlay

October 12th

Angela Findlay - Art Behind Bars. The role of art in breaking the cycle of crime, prison and re-offending

Working as an artist within the Criminal Justice System has given Angela unique insights into the destructive and costly cycle of crime, prisons and re-offending. Using images of art projects and prisoners' art, she offers a deeper understanding of the minds, lives and challenges facing offenders. The process of creating art provides opportunities for offenders to develop necessary key life skills.



Owl from *Liber de naturis bestiarum* (The Aberdeen Bestiary), c. 1200-1300. University of Aberdeen. Licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#). Image has been cropped

November 9th

Jonathan Foyle - The Nature of the Beast: Understanding fabulous animals in Medieval Art

Medieval bestiaries are wondrously colourful worlds, blending fact with fiction, morality with mythology. They represent an understanding of the physical world, but also fulfilled the need for symbolic creatures to supplement biblical stories. What happened if you chased a bonnacon? What was a beaver's superpower? What did owls mean? In the course of an hour, we'll explore all these and more.



Richard Stone, *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother*, 1986

December 07th

Jeremy Mainwaring Burton - The Queen Mother's love of jewellery

The Queen Mother had so much jewellery to choose from over the course of her long life – Heirlooms of the Crown and a spectacular collection of her own, that it would be almost impossible to describe it all. Jeremy chronicles her passion for jewels by concentrating on a selection of items which are of particular gemmological and historic interest and have an intriguing story attached.

DISCOVERY DAYS, TRIPS and EVENTS

Information about the 2027 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.liskeardartsociety.org.uk