



LISKEARD ARTS

South East Cornwall

Chair's February Newsletter 2026

Dear all,

Well after the icy spell of January we seem to be into perpetual heavy rain! Does anyone like this time of year?

But we do have some monthly respite from winter weather and dark evenings; our next two lectures hopefully have something for everyone. In February we have a classic Arts Society lecture on arguably the three greatest Renaissance painters: Michaelangelo; Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael. By contrast, March brings a more modern look at great British industrial design with a look at British railway station architecture, travel posters and maps. It's an area where our national traditions of great graphic design and architecture have made what could be the everyday humdrum something of beauty and distinction. What do you think?

From past experience I think we all know that we come away from our talks with new insights and understanding!

Thank you to everyone for getting your subscriptions in on time. At the time of writing our membership stands at 86. That's enough to keep our finances stable but a bit under our planned target of 90, so if you can think of any friends who you could persuade to come along, that would be greatly appreciated. You may have seen your big news article in the recent Cornish Times. It's a good celebration of our work and I hope we will repeat these articles in the coming months.

See you soon

Ian
Chair

**Don't forget to book your place
for our next**

**DISCOVERY DAY
MONDAY 23RD MARCH 2026
being run in conjunction with
The Arts Society Mid Cornwall**

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

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

**9:30 am for 10:00 am – 3:15 pm
Liskeard Public Hall, PL14 6BW**

Speaker: Mark Cottle



***Full details and the booking form
can be found at the end of this
newsletter, on our website, from
the registration desk at our
meetings or by email from
Liz Undy***

About the Speaker

ANTONIA GATWARD CEVIZLI



Dr Antonia Gatward Cevizli is an independent art historian specialising in both Italian Renaissance art and Ottoman art.

She gained her PhD from the University of Warwick. Her publications focus on cultural and diplomatic exchange between the Italian city-states and the Ottomans.

Antonia has lectured for a number of institutions including Sabanci University, Istanbul; Sotheby's Institute of Art; the National Gallery; the V&A Academy and The Courtauld summer school.

Her interests are wide-ranging and she has also worked across the collections of both Tate Modern and Tate Britain as a professional guide. She has lived in Siena, Venice and Istanbul.

THE BIG THREE in FLORENCE: Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael

Antonia Gatward Cevizli

Tuesday 10th February 2026
at 19:30

Join us in Liskeard Public Hall from 19:00
Refreshments available

Guests (£12) are always welcome

The beginning of the sixteenth century in Florence was an exhilarating place for an artist to work, brimming with new ideas and approaches.

For a brief but intense period 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.



David, completed by Michelangelo in 1504



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Looking ahead:

Talk on 10th March

Mark Ovenden's talk is entitled '**How Great Design Influenced the Railways**'.

From those gorgeous 1930s travel posters, through nationalisation of the railways in 1948, with their bright regional colours, 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. In this talk 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 the future of train and station design. So get your tickets ready for inspection: we're on the right track!

DISCOVERY DAYS

Well done to those of you who have noticed and asked me the question as to why our Discovery Day on 23rd March with Mark Cottle is advertised as the Arts Society Liskeard and the Arts Society Mid Cornwall's day!

We have decided that due to the rising costs of hiring a speaker for a whole day and our wish to ensure that our acclaimed speakers have a worthy audience in terms of numbers, future events will be run jointly by the two societies. In March the organisation will be led by Liskeard and then our November day will be run by Mid Cornwall.

CALLING ALL OUR ARTISTS AND CREATIVES – don't forget to let me know

We are a diverse group of members. We are all appreciators of art but some of our members are also artists and creatives. If you are one, we would be delighted to be able to showcase your artwork – art, sculpture, print, photography etc.

The committee's suggestion is for our creatives to display 3 or 4 pieces of their art work and if they so wish they may price them for sale. We would like to rotate different people's work throughout the year starting at our March meeting.

If you are interested in being part of this, please can you express your interest by emailing Mary at mary.utton2@gmail.com

UPDATE from THE ARTS SOCIETY

The wish of Head Office is that all Members become better informed about the strategy and activities of The Arts Society; so here is the latest news from Trustees

Message from Ian Arnold, CEO, The Arts Society

I see this year as being a year of reinvigoration. We will continue to overhaul the website, provide improved site functionality, greater online resources, and improved IT security. We plan additional training for committee members, enhanced support for Area Chairs and look forward to an enjoyable, successful, in-person Directory Day. We will continue to support individual Societies with personalised, local advertising and the charity as a whole will be promoted via significant national advertising campaigns. This approach, which was developed and tested last year, has proven to deliver new potential members to societies of all sizes, been a source of fresh committee members and has provided a sense that we are moving towards a new and brighter future.

2026 will also be a year of tackling several difficult issues and addressing some systemic weaknesses. We will certainly all need to work together to take the right decisions, to preserve the very best aspects of The Arts Society and to ensure we are more robust and secure by the end of the year. Will it be perfect? No But with your help, with each passing month, each successive improvement will compound and by the time 2026 draws to a close, we will have progressed.

REMINDERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Refreshments Refreshments are available from 7.00pm. If you wish to partake of a cup of coffee or tea, price £2, bringing your own cup would help us in our attempts to be as environmentally friendly as we can be.	Guests Welcome! Our doors are open to guests (£12). If you have family nearby or visiting, or have friends interested in seeing what we're about, please do encourage them to come along with you. Even better would be for you to persuade them to become members! Membership contact: 07790 821714
Hearing Difficulties If you have difficulty hearing our speaker, please email me or Liz Undy by 9.00am on the day of each talk if you wish to reserve seats at the front	Raffle Please bring your £1 coin for the raffle. Tickets will be on sale for £1 / per ticket with a chance to win a bottle of wine.
Liskeard Arts Website Have you ever visited and explored our website – www.liskeardartssociety.org.uk ? If not, I encourage you to do so. There's all the relevant information there about talks, Discovery Days, visits, tours and other activities we have been, are and will be involved in. You can also give feedback on the speakers and their talk.	
Speaker Feedback Don't forget to provide your feedback on the speaker and their talk. Please go to our website, www.liskeardartssociety.org.uk You should see on the front page a box saying 'Lecture Feedback'. Click here and it will take you to a page where you enter a password which is Liskeard and then can grade the quality of the lecture and the quality of overheads/slides. There is also a box for your comments.	

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

THE ARTS SOCIETY TAUNTON SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

Morris to Ikea: Modernity and Tradition at Home with Stephen Taylor
Thursday 26 March 2026, 10.00am – 3.00pm
Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall, Taunton, TA2 8JY

William Morris modernised craft for Victorian taste. Scandinavian design in the 40s and 50s emphatically re-introduced natural materials to modernist taste, solving Morris's problem of how to make craft values available to all and Ikea was born. Frank Lloyd Wright's 1901 talk *Craft and the Machine* sought to reconcile Morris's craft values with modern material and industrial production. Stephen will trace this idea in Wright's early work and the pioneer designs of the Vienna Secession. Other designers and designs will include Morris' Red House; Voysey's The Orchard, Joseph Hoffman and Villa Stocklet; Alvar Aalto's Villa Mariea as well as current Ikea design.

Full details and the booking form can be found on AS Taunton's website
www.theartssocietytaunton.org.uk

Looe Library and Community Hub very kindly advertises our events. They have asked us to promote the event they are holding for **St Piran's Day** on 5th March. Please see the information below.



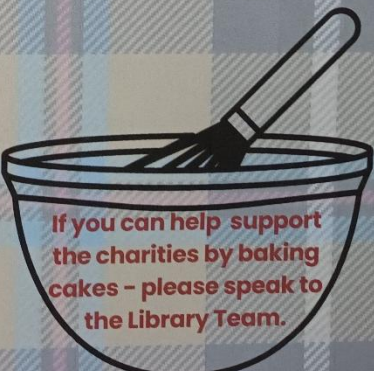
MARCH 5TH
10AM - 4PM

 **LOOE LIBRARY & COMMUNITY HUB**

ST PIRAN'S DAY

Please join us to celebrate St Piran's Day with a **Tea Party** and a performance by **Pelynt Male Voice Choir**.

SUPPORTING:

If you can help support the charities by baking cakes - please speak to the Library Team.

If you have any ideas, comments or queries or you can help us in any way please contact me.

Ian Tunbridge
Chair of Liskeard Arts
tunbridge.ian@gmail.com or liskeardarts@gmail.com

Alternatively contact Mary Utton mary.utton2@gmail.com



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.

✂

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. 3:00 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.theartsocietymidcornwall.org.uk