



LISKEARD ARTS

South East Cornwall

Chair's January Newsletter 2026

Dear all,

First and foremost, may I wish you all a very happy New Year!

Our monthly meetings ended on a high note in December. I hope you all enjoyed your Prosecco and Mince Pies which preceded a stunning set of landscape photos from Charlie Waite. Charlie's work is, I hope you will agree, quite outstanding. I think a number of us wish our photos came anywhere close! I did pose this to Charlie afterwards and he told me that when he finds a promising site he may go there for several days on end before the right conditions of light, clouds and colours appear. It's not a quick two minute job!

I hope you will find much to enjoy in the coming year. We have a very varied lecture programme, and in addition we are hoping to put on a good number of visits, discovery days, social events and get togethers. Mary Utton is working hard on this and we hope to be able to announce these events soon. Our January lecture will be given by Antiques Road Show expert John Benjamin, who promises a well-illustrated tour of Fabergé jewellery.

Our membership and visitor numbers grew in 2025 and I am hopeful that this trend can continue through 2026. Thank you to all of you who encouraged friends to try out a lecture, and even more thanks if you then convinced them to join up! Word of mouth is by far the most effective way to grow our membership and your help in doing this is greatly appreciated. Thankyou too to our team of helpers who keep our monthly meetings running smoothly.

All the best
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

JOHN BENJAMIN



John Benjamin is a jewellery historian, lecturer, author and broadcaster.

Formerly International Director of Jewellery at Phillips Fine Art Auctioneers, since 1999 he has been an independent jewellery consultant on behalf of the private client network.

John is well-known from his appearances over 30 years on BBC Television's ever-popular Antiques Roadshow. He is a Freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company, a Court Assistant and Founder Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars and in 2021 was appointed Honorary Jewellery Adviser to the National Trust.

FABERGÉ: The Life and Work of the Greatest Goldsmith

John Benjamin

Tuesday 13th January 2026
at 19:30

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

Guests (£12) are always welcome

The son of a middle class provincial jeweller, this talk analyses the mercurial rise of Carl Fabergé in pre-revolution Russia who, by his late 30s, was producing incomparable jewels and objets d'art for the Imperial Court and bourgeois Moscow and St Petersburg.

The presentation discusses Fabergé's early life and influences, includes photographs of the shops and their workers and is comprehensively illustrated with objets d'art including hardstones, flower studies, works of fantasy, jewellery, objects of function and the famous Imperial Easter Eggs.



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



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Looking ahead:

Talk on 10th February

Antonia Gatward-Cevizli's talk is entitled '**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.

Visit to THE STORY OF EMILY

Thursday 26th February 2026

£15 per person

Don't forget to book! Deadline for receipt of booking form: **16/01/26**

The **Programme** for the day includes a visit to Emily's **Rectory** plus the **War Rooms**. Lunch can be in the **South African café** (*Refreshments not included in the ticket price*)

You have received the booking form by email and a copy attached in December's newsletter. You will also find it online at www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk and hard copies at the registration desk

MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAMME CARD 2026

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your membership for 2026. If you renewed by 1st December and haven't as yet done so, you will be able to pick up your Membership Card from the registration desk at our January meeting.

If you renewed at the December meeting or are renewing at January's meeting, Graham will hand you a card. If you have not received your card please speak to Graham or Kathryn.

CALLING ALL OUR ARTISTS AND CREATIVES

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 through 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

Don't forget to tune into the latest episode of *Artfully Said*.

Discover fascinating insights from Accredited Arts Society lecturers Steve King and Scott Schiavone on why the '70s is arguable one of the greatest decades of music and fashion in history. Want to know why that is? Tune in to the latest episode of *Artfully Said* to find out.

Watch / listen on: You Tube; Spotify; Apple Podcasts; Amazon Music

DISCOVERY DAY with Sarah Cove, 27th November 2025

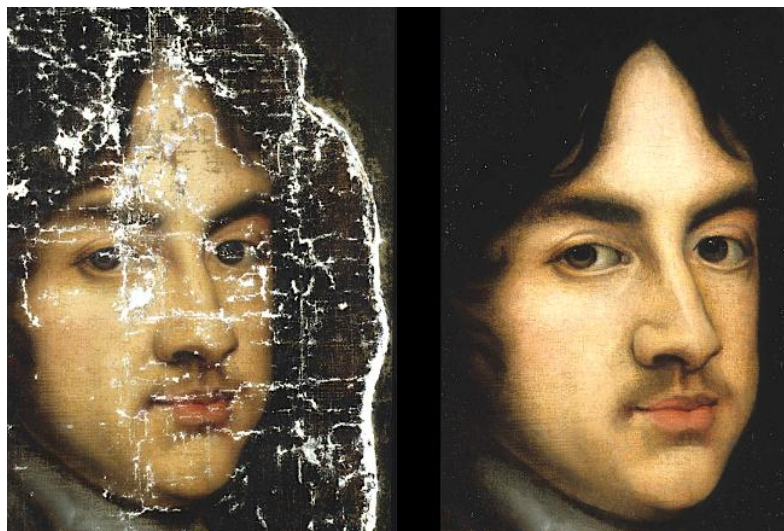
I really enjoyed the recent Discovery Day with Sarah. It is great to listen to such an interesting speaker who is lively & well informed. (Helen)

A superb day was enjoyed by everyone who came along to our Discovery Day for the 'Painting Conservation Roadshow' led by Sarah Cove.



During the morning sessions, Sarah discussed with us the nature of oil painting materials from the Middle Ages to the present day and common problems associated with the ageing and deterioration of, and damage to, easel paintings. These can be on canvas, panel, board or paper in a range of mediums: oil, acrylic, egg tempera or mixed media. Problems can involve natural deterioration and neglect, accidental damage, vandalism and even war. Who would have thought there are so many! Moisture, heat, light, pollutants, and pests can slowly or suddenly cause damage to a painting, agents of deterioration that impact all of the components that make up a painting in various ways.

We thoroughly enjoyed the day. Sarah is an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and engaging speaker. She had a wealth of facts to share but at no time did we feel overwhelmed with information or technical details. (Kathryn and Graham)



Sarah illustrated the problems and modern museum standard approaches to conservation and restoration using detailed slides ranging from early Italian religious paintings in egg tempera, via rapid oil sketches on paper by John Constable, to 20th century British portraits and modern abstract works.



Painting of Lady Caroline Courtney recently restored by Sarah Cove with help from her son for Liskeard Museum; to go on show in early 2026 in the museum and then at The Story of Emily

The Discovery Day with Sarah Cove was excellent. I never realised how much was involved with painting conservation. Her in depth knowledge of her subject was amazing and the information she was able to acquire from looking at a painting and its frame was truly fascinating. She certainly kept everyone's attention throughout the day. She is someone who is at the top of their profession with years of experience that was reflected in such an enjoyable and very informative presentation. (Roger)

In the afternoon session, we were invited to bring in our own painting for a hands-on Antiques Roadshow style condition assessment and recommendations for conservation. Twelve participants took up the offer. This was a fascinating session as a wide range of pictures and frames were brought in and we saw many of the points illustrated in the two morning talks then pointed out in our own paintings! Sarah took her time to examine each painting carefully and instead of a one hour session, Sarah went over and above and spent two hours explaining and answering our questions.



Sarah starts by assessing a painting for damage such as cracks, flakes and losses and its history such as discoloured varnish, patches, labels, using normal and raking light, plus UV light for overpainting, examining both the front and back for structural integrity and signs of age like wood darkening or water stains. Raking light (light from a low, side angle) can reveal texture, undulations, and impasto, highlighting damage or previous restoration.

Due to safety regulations, Sarah cannot bring any chemicals along with her but by wetting a cotton wool bud with saliva, she showed how the surface could be improved by a good clean.

She also explained how earlier restorers would reline a canvas by attaching a new canvas to the back of the old one for support, often with heat which often flattens impasto.



Just a quick update on Sarah Cove's amazing day. What a day; it exceeded all expectations, a most interesting and informative experience. The first half explained the process of becoming a restoration expert and how she excelled in her profession....she has a strong personality and tells it how it is ! The afternoon was so good and it was unfortunate that other members missed such an opportunity. Up close discussions of individual paintings... describing faults and artistic merits of each painting.... that was the experience of the day! (Alan & Sheila)



There were only a couple of negative points raised which had nothing to do with Sarah. Again a couple of comments that the Public Hall was a little too cold. Two people felt that coffee on arrival would have been appreciated. However, overall feedback has been nothing but positive for our recent study day.

What a lovely day with Sarah. She is so knowledgeable and experienced, we learned a lot about how paintings can lose their colour, pick up dirt from the atmosphere and that the varnish can deteriorate. We learned that pigments and paints and quality of canvas and panel can affect the long term condition of the painting. Sarah also showed us how to use raking' light and UV to assess any damage. She stressed the importance of cleaning and covering paintings with glass. A good day which included coffee and cake and the opportunity to take along a painting for Sarah to look at. (Patricia)

Yes, what a most enjoyable day, thank you very much for all the organising. It was a real treat to spend so much time hearing from Sarah with her honest and generous approach and the afternoon session especially memorable and so full of interest. (Amanda)

Please support us and book your place for our next Discovery Day on Monday 23rd March 2026 (booking form attached at the end of this newsletter) when **Mark Cottle** will be discussing:

**The Artistry of the Anglo-Saxons to the Golden Age of Design and Craftsmanship in Northumberland – 'When England Had Scarcely Begun':
Sutton Hoo and the Lindisfarne Gospels**

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.liskeardartsociety.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.liskeardartsociety.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:

Saltash Studios Cinema January film programme featuring a trio of films with local links Saturday 17 th January: The Lost Boys of Carbis Bay Friday 23 rd January: The Roses Friday 30 th January: Cornwall Film Festival – The Best of the West For further details visit: www.saltarts.org

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.

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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. 3:00 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