

Chair's June Newsletter 2026

Dear all

Time does seem to fly by! We now have just one lecture before our summer break. Cindy Polemis will be talking about John Singer Sargent, the prolific 19th century portrait painter who made his name (and I suspect a lot of money) painting the rich and fashionably dressed. His ability to make black attire look ravishing was a particular gift.

I have also just finished booking our 2028 speakers and I hope you will find much to look forwards to. We have stained glass, cartoons, English furniture, Constable, Bridget Riley, classical music, MacDonald Gills maps and drawings, English illuminated manuscripts, modern Studio Glass and to top all that off, a life affirming topic- 'The Art of Happiness'! I hope you approve.

I have confirmation now of our January 2027 speaker. Tim Murfin, who visited us a few years ago to general acclaim, is coming back to talk (and sing) on The Opera Singer Phenomenon - how do they make that noise? He says this has something for everyone from opera haters to opera obsessives!

Best wishes
Ian
Chair

If you have any ideas, comments or queries or you can help us in any way please contact me on:
tunbridge.ian@gmail.com
or use our liskeardarts@gmail.com address
or contact Mary on mary.utton2@gmail.com

Bookings are now OPEN

**Visits to ST PETROC Church,
Bodmin and ST NEOT Church
to explore the enduring legacies
of the Saints**

Monday 19th October 2026

11.00 am – 3.30 pm

Cost: **£15** per person



© Detail of a stained-glass window showing St Neot (St Neot Church, Cornwall)

**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
Mary Uton
mary.utton2@gmail.com**

About the Speaker

CINDY POLEMIS



Cindy Polemis is an art historian, independent lecturer and art guide.

She has a BA in Modern History from Oxford University and as a mature student she went back to university to study first for a BA and then for a Masters in History of Art at Birkbeck College, London University.

Before that she spent many years as a radio producer and presenter for the BBC World Service working in news and current affairs. Since 2016 Cindy has worked as a lecturer and an official art guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern. She has also been a trustee at the Museum of the Home, formerly the Geffrye Museum.

Cindy has accumulated a wide range of art historical knowledge ranging from 18th European and British art to the contemporary international art scene. She has been an official guide for both Frieze Masters and Frieze Art Fairs in London.

She is particularly keen to draw parallels with art and social history and her lectures are accessible and engaging, drawing out the stories of art and artists which are steeped in human emotions and experiences which we all share.

JOHN SINGER SARGENT and FASHION

Cindy Polemis

Tuesday 9th June 2026
at 19:30

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

Guests (£12) are always welcome

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.



Mrs. Fiske Warren (Gretchen Osgood) and her daughter Rachel, 1903

 This is a faithful photographic reproduction of a two-dimensional, public domain work of art. (Wikimedia)

Talk on 8th September

James Vaux explores the subject of '**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.

LISKEARD ARTS COFFEE MORNING, 25TH APRIL

Some photos of the occasion! Everyone who joined us enjoyed the great opportunity to chat and get to know other members. It would be lovely to see more members come along when we next hold a Coffee and Cake event.



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.

At our May meeting, **Amanda Rees-Murray** was our second artist to display a small sample of her textiles work.

Beautiful work of such high quality. Amanda was so pleased people came and had a look at her work and were full of praise; some were even disappointed they couldn't take something home with them. My choice would have been the very tactile sea-horse!



This month **Celia Lister** displays a small sample of her work as a calligraphy/lettering and book artist. Please do take the time to have a look and ask Celia any questions. She's only too willing to chat with you about her work.

'Sense of Place'

Inspiring my personal Lettering Art

Lettering artist, artist's book maker and tutor Celia Lister lives on the beautiful Rame Peninsular, SE Cornwall.

Celia's personal sense of place features strongly her work from landscape lines, salty sea colours and the changing seasons. Sketchbooks, local language and references are often the starting point and inspiration, working with various lettering styles adding colour and illustration in her lettering and book art.

A Member of MAKE Southwest & Fellow of Calligraphy & Lettering Art's Society, Celia's work has been widely exhibited and published internationally.

Instagram; [celialister](#)

E mail; celialister@btinternet.com

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF OUR CREATIVES AND ARTISTS INITIATIVE?

If you are, an initiative where our creatives and artists have the opportunity to showcase their talent, art, textiles, sculpture, print, photography etc., please can you express your interest by emailing Mary at mary.utton2@gmail.com. We now need to cover our September, October and November meetings. Please don't be shy! Many more of you will be equally talented and it's a joy to see such beautiful work.

LISKEARD ARTS VISITS EXETER CATHEDRAL

On Thursday 14th May 2026, 11 LAS members and friends made their way to Exeter Cathedral for an 11:15 start. All but 2 of our group made their way by train from Liskeard or St. Germans stations.

Having gathered together at 11:15, we then made our way to the Cathedral's Treasures Exhibition. On show are many fascinating rare and ancient artefacts, among which is the Cathedral's foundation charter dating back to 1050 and the 10th century Exeter Book, the oldest book of English literature in the world!



The Exeter Book

This unique 10th century collection of poetry in Old English has been at Exeter since at least 1072.



Foundation Charter 1050

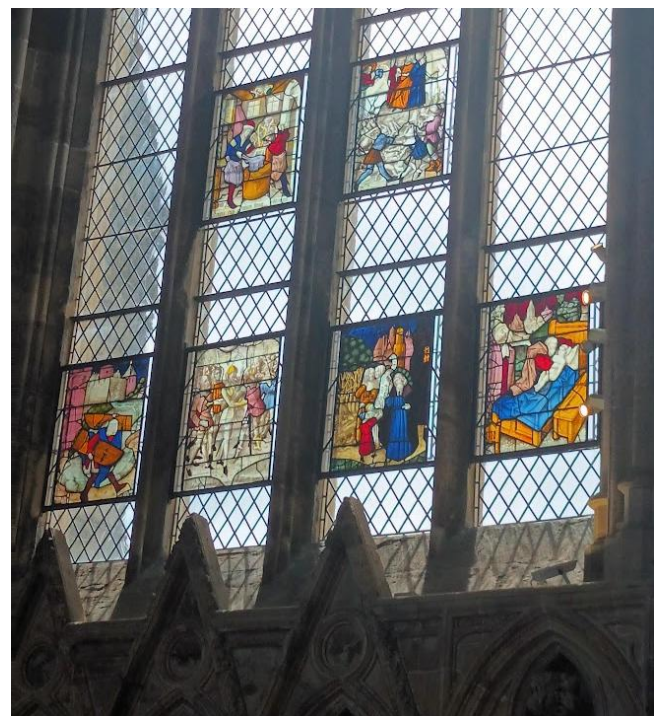
Following our visit to see the Treasures, at 12 noon we made our way back into the cathedral's nave to meet our guide, Michael Weller, who would be leading us around the Cathedral to see and hear about its stained glass. Michael gave his time generously with an hour and a half tour.

We began in the Lady Chapel.



Here the highlight is the nine magnificent 16th century Flemish and French panels depicting scenes from the Old and New Testament in the south window.

The windows, which were placed in their current position in 1955, were originally part of the collection made in the early nineteenth century by Sir William Jerningham (1736-1809) and his son, Sir George Jerningham (1771-1851) of Costessey Hall, Norfolk. The collection of 79 windows was sold after World War One, when the decision was made to demolish the hall. In addition to the windows here, there are 18 windows in the Burrell Collection, Glasgow.



From the Lady Chapel we then proceeded to view the magnificent Great East Window, the star of the cathedral's stained glass. Much of this glass, including the nineteen figures, is medieval.

The cathedral archive is fortunate in possessing a very large number of fabric rolls. These rolls, actually written on vellum, are the medieval accounts which recorded work carried out on the cathedral's fabric. They are a major source of information relating to the Gothic

rebuilding of the present cathedral between c1275 and the 1340s. In 1304 an artisan called "Master Walter the Glazier" was paid £4 10s for "setting the glass of the high gable and 8 high windows and 6 windows in the aisles of the New Work".

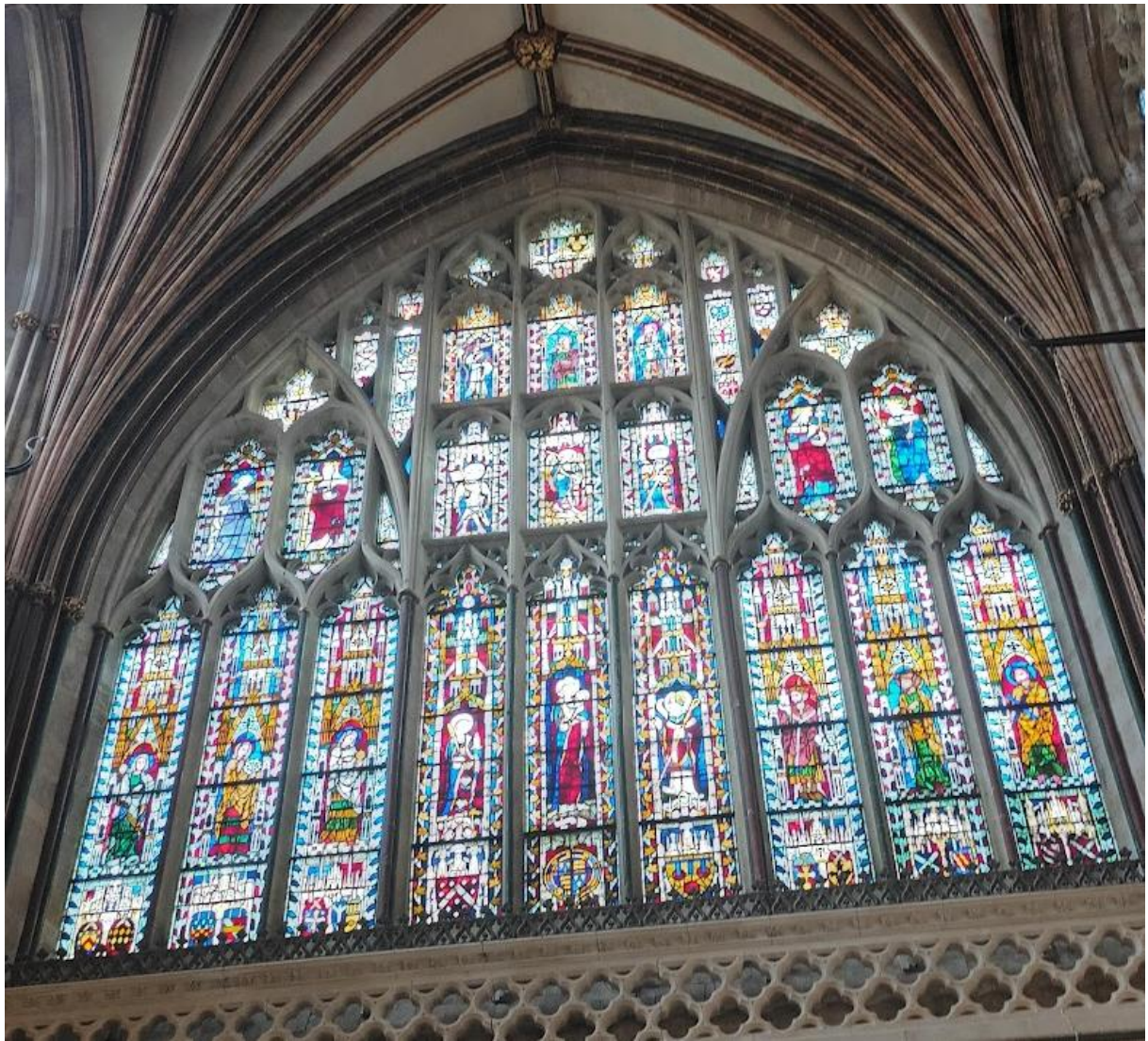


Nine of the figures in the east window date from around 1304. Three of them are located at the top of the window. They still have their original faces and, from the lettering on their scrolls, are identified as Abraham, Moses and Isaiah. The other six are the outer figures of the bottom row, but the faces of these saints are not original.

By 1390, the stonework of the original window had become unsafe. A new window was constructed in the perpendicular style and the tracery of this window remains today. Original glass was included with new glass when the new window was glazed in 1391.

The window also contains many coats of arms of bishops, royalty and prominent families, some of which date from 1391.

The medieval glass from this window was among the precious items removed from the Cathedral and stored safely during World War II.



Most of the Victorian glass was lost or damaged in the Baedeker raids of 1942 and has been repaired or replaced by glass by a variety of artists, both local, (e.g. A F Erridge's Courtney & Nativity windows, and George Cooper-Abbs's Cathedral Builders' window, both for the Exeter firm of Wippell & Co. in the south aisle), and national (e.g. Christopher Webb's window in the south aisle commemorating the air-raid of 1942).

The west window, which is also a post-war replacement, is of interest as it is the work of the final two owners of the famous Clayton & Bell studio. One of the most well-known and prolific of the businesses founded during the great Victorian revival in stained glass. It had passed down to Reginald Bell, who tragically died in 1950 prior to the completion of the window, the work being finished by his son, M. C. Farrar Bell. There is another work by Reginald Bell in St Edmund's Chapel.

While the pre-war west window installed by Burlison & Grylls in 1904 has been completely lost, the window it controversially replaced survives in part in the cathedral cloisters. It was made in 1766 by William Peckitt, one of the most important stained glass artists of the eighteenth century.

Once our tour had ended we were free to do our own thing! For most of us that meant lunch though our tickets did allow us to leave and return if we wished to spend more time in the Treasures Exhibition or just exploring the cathedral.

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

THE ARTS SOCIETY SW AREA

Oct/Nov 2026 Decoding History's Art Course

A European Artistic Journey from the 16th to 17th Centuries led by our own Dr Geri Parlbby.

Following the success last year of our first event in the series of Decoding History's Art, the SW Area Support Team is delighted to announce that the 2nd in the series is to be held in Plymouth this Autumn.

A most informative, exciting, and entertaining programme awaits you. There will be 5 one day sessions spread throughout the Autumn 2026.

Dates are:

Thursday 15 October; Thursday 22 October

Break

Thursday 5 November

Break

Thursday 19th November; Thursday 26 November

The venue is **The Copthorne Hotel, Armada Way, Plymouth, PL1 1AR**. Travelling here can be by train, bus or car.

Please do join us. Who could resist..... from Michelangelo to Caravaggio – the 'Bad Boy'. Please see the flier for details and do contact Barbara Beadle, the course coordinator to book you place or to answer your questions.

Flyer sent along with June's newsletter as a separate attachment in the email

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 and other Difficulties

If you have difficulty hearing our speaker or mobility issues, please email Mary Utton 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.



THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD

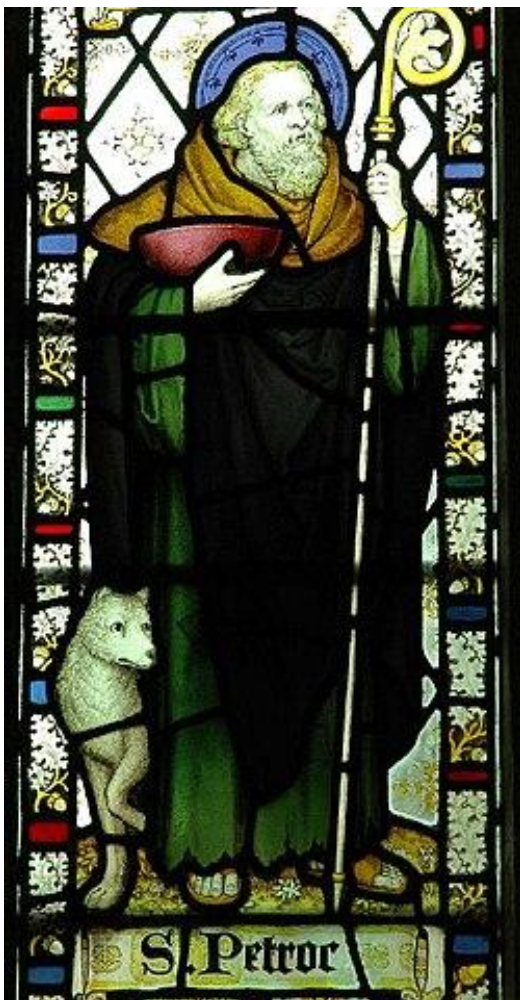
Visits to ST PETROC Church, Bodmin and
ST NEOT Church
to explore the enduring legacies of the Saints

Monday 19th October 2026

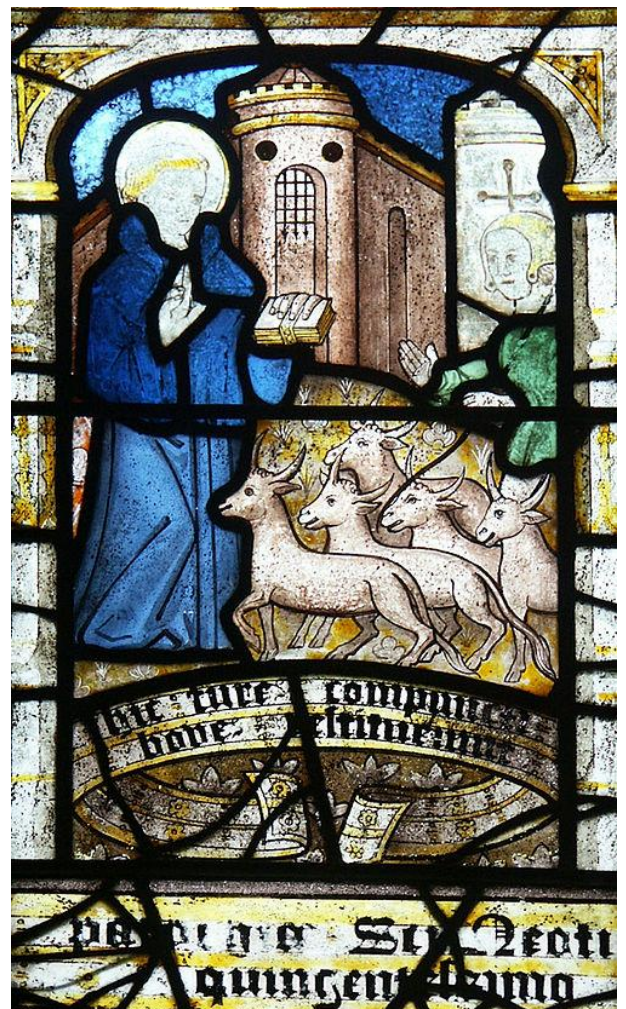
11.00 am – 3.30 pm

**Join local historian Evie Bond for an exploration of the saints of Cornwall,
with a particular focus on Bodmin, St Neot, and the enduring legacies of
Saint Petroc and Saint Neot.**

Together, we will visit the churches of St Petroc (Bodmin) and St Neot, two sites deeply woven into Cornwall's sacred landscape. Through a guided exploration and accompanying talk, we'll uncover the stories of the saints they are dedicated to and the communities that gathered around them.



© Detail of a stained glass window at Bodmin showing St Petroc



© Detail of a stained-glass window showing St Neot (St Neot Church, Cornwall)

Drawing on a wide range of historical and folkloric sources, Evie will explore the lives, legends and landscapes connected to Cornwall's saints — figures whose stories became deeply rooted in local memory, sacred sites and everyday life. From miracle tales and journeys across land and sea to the churches and holy places that still bear their names, this event offers a rich insight into Cornwall's early medieval spiritual landscape and the traces it continues to leave behind today.

Alongside a closer look at the histories of Bodmin and St Neot and their churches, the talk will also place these stories within the broader context of Cornwall's saint traditions, exploring how saints shaped identity, place and belief across the region.

Programme for the Day

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|---------------|---|
| 11:00 | Participants make their own way to Bodmin.
Coffee on arrival at St Petroc Church (<i>still to be confirmed</i>). |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Talk and tour of St Petroc Church. |
| 12:30 – 14:15 | Participants make their own arrangements for lunch in Bodmin before making their way to St Neot (<i>Unfortunately the London Inn, St Neot is shut on a Monday and St Neot has no other facilities</i>).
Participants to make their way to St Neot. |
| 14:15 – 15:15 | Talk and tour of St Neot Church |
| 15:15 | Final questions, look around the church, cup of tea and farewells. |

This event is ideal for anyone interested in Cornish history, folklore, sacred landscapes, and the deeper stories woven through Cornwall's churches and communities.

The cost will be **£15.00** per person. (*Min participants: 20; Max 25*)

Our Guide and Speaker **EVIE BOND**

Evie is a historian specialising in the early medieval period and the saints of Cornwall.

Her work combines careful research with accessible, story-led interpretation, bringing early medieval history to life in a way that is both grounded and engaging.



Booking and Payment

- By contactless/cash/cheque at a Liskeard Arts meeting.
- By **Online booking and payment**
 1. Please pay **£15.00 per person** (non-refundable) to:
The Arts Society Liskeard, sort code **20 68 10**, account number **70729515**, ref **Trip.SC**
 2. Then **email** mary.utton2@gmail.com
Subject: Saints of Cornwall trip
Message: how many places, how much you've paid, and your telephone number.
You should get a reply to your email within 24 hours, acknowledging your payment and booking.
- By posting this completed slip with your cheque for £15.00 (non-refundable payment) to The Arts Society Liskeard to:
Mary Upton, Tregantle, Barn Street, Liskeard PL14 4BL
01579 345140, 07731380715, 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) @ £15.00 per person (non-refundable payment)

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.