



LISKEARD ARTS

South East Cornwall

Chair's June Newsletter 2025

Dear Members

Greetings everyone, this is my first letter as your new Chair!

Firstly can I thank you for your confidence in me by electing me as Chair, and to give my deep gratitude to Mary for her service over a number of years as outgoing Chair. Mary will be staying in the Committee and has been very active recently in work to advertise the Society on the community. I also want to record my thanks to all of our Committee who put in such a great effort to keep the wheels turning. They are a great team.

Arts Society Liskeard is very special. I know of no other society locally which every month offers speakers of national standing and of such quality. We always seem to be able to come away from a talk knowing something new.

BUT... and this is a big "but", we are not in good shape financially. Since Covid our membership has fallen, and we are currently running a deficit. This cannot continue, and my highest priority is to ensure Liskeard Arts has a long term future. The Committee agrees with this and we have set a target of removing the deficit as soon as possible. We aim to do this by three measures; cost saving, increased membership, and reviewing visitor and membership fees. Of these measures by far the least painful is increasing our membership and it is that which I want to concentrate upon. If we can return our membership back to 100 by the end of this year, that is an achievable target. To do that we need 20 new members. This is where you can help. Can I ask you most earnestly to think about friends of yours who you could encourage to come along, experience our excellent lectures and to join up? This is really important, so please do have a think about anyone you know who you could encourage to join. If we all work at this we can maintain our Society for the future.

I will keep you informed monthly of our progress.

With many thanks

Ian
Chair

Programme Reminder

We are now approaching our two months summer break before we resume on 9th **September**. And what an excellent and varied programme it will be ranging from 18th century English Rococo silver, an exploration of the beautiful paintings of Jan Brueghel, the art of the collector King Henry VIII before ending with the talk on the making of landscape photographs. There will also be our next Discovery Day on 27th November led by Sarah Cove.

Pengenna Manor Summer Event

I hope the sun shines on all of us who have signed up for the Pengenna Manor summer event taking place on 14th June.

Not only do we get to see the house but we will also be able to wander the gardens before enjoying a cream tea.

About the Speaker

SARAH COVE
BA(Hons) ACR FIIC FBAPCR



Sarah Cove is an accredited paintings conservator-restorer, technical art historian and lecturer with more than 35 years' experience working on paintings for the heritage and private sectors. She is based in London and Falmouth and is a specialist in British portraits, 19th-20th century British landscapes and oil sketches on paper and board.

In 1986 she founded the Constable Research Project and she is now the leading authority on Constable's materials and techniques. She has appeared in several TV programmes for the BBC notably *Constable in Love* with Andrew Graham-Dixon and twice on 'Fake or Fortune?' where she was instrumental in the discovery of 3 'lost' Constables.

Other research interests include Tudor and Jacobean Portraiture, the 19th century Newlyn and St Ives schools and early-to-mid 20th century British painting generally. She has been a lecturer for The Arts Society since 2003 and is an experienced international speaker having lectured independently at major public and gallery venues across the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

FAKES AND FORTUNES: or have I discovered a Constable in my attic?

Sarah Cove

Tuesday 10th June 2025
at 19:30

Join us in Liskeard Public Hall from
19:00

Refreshments available

Guests (£10) are always welcome

Sarah has been instrumental in the attribution of three significant Constable oils for BBC1's *Fake or Fortune?* series, appearing in 2014 and 2017. In 2014 she set up a Facebook page that is hugely successful in raising awareness of her research so that now she is regularly contacted by people that think they have found a previously unknown Constable!! Some have, some have not, as you will see in this illustrated talk which gives a 'behind the scenes' look at how such decisions are made and will describe some extraordinary successes but also crashing disappointments. Stories will include, at opposite extremes, a hugely publicised oil sketch reputedly worth £250,000 that turned out to be a copy and the chance discovery of a fabulous, almost abstract, oil study of the 1830s that had formerly belonged to an American G.I.



Looking ahead

Talk on 9th September

Ralph Hoyle will be bringing with him his 18th century English Rococo Silver which he is going to talk about; its social context and Huguenot inspired design.

He then shows us how he discovered who the original owner was and the misfortunes that befell them.

THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD DISCOVERY DAY

The Paintings Conservation Roadshow

The nature of painting materials from the Middle Ages to the present day including their common problems

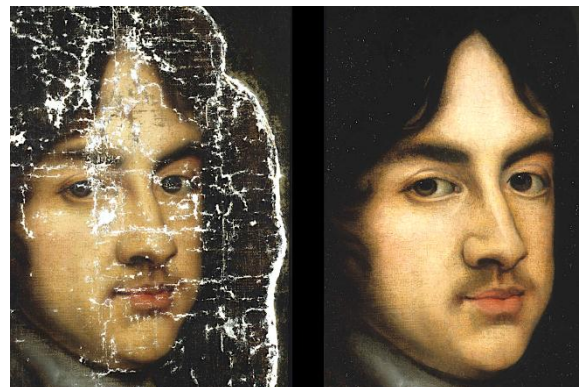
Thursday 27th November 2025

9:30 am for 10:00 am – 3:30 pm approx.

Liskeard Public Hall, PL14 6BW

Speaker: Sarah Cove ACR FBAPCR FHC

This Study Day discusses the nature of painting materials from the Middle Ages to the present day including common problems associated with the ageing and deterioration of easel paintings on canvas, panel, board or paper in a range of mediums: oil, acrylic, egg tempera and mixed media. Problems can involve natural deterioration and neglect, accidental damage, vandalism and even war –the most surprising event being a large hole caused by a Turkish cannon ball going through a picture in the 18th century!!



Modern 'museum standard' approaches to conservation and restoration are illustrated with superb detailed images 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, many from little known collections, taken during Sarah's conservation treatments of the last 30 years. Hints and advice on the proper care of paintings in homes is given in liberal doses throughout!

In the afternoon session members bring in paintings that they own for a hands-on 'Antiques Roadshow' style condition assessment and recommendations for conservation. Advice on packing and transport is given beforehand.

This Study Day has received excellent feedback from other Art Societies: "Exceedingly informative with great presentation", "The best Study Day I've ever attended!", "Outstanding, a fabulous day!".

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

'JUST ONE THING' Your One Pledge for 2025 and the Feedback form

Thank you to those of you who attended our May meeting and handed back your 'Just One Thing Pledge for 2025' and Feedback form.

'Just One Thing' is the launch of a new means of becoming involved in some small way by asking you to contribute 'just one thing' for 2025, whether it is to meet-and-greet at the door, befriend a new member or something else from the list. The Feedback form is about gathering your views as to whether an earlier start time to our meeting would better suit you and when we return to 9 talks per year in 2027, whether we should drop January or June's talk.

If you still have the forms from May's meeting but didn't hand them in, please do bring it along with you to June's meeting. We will be giving out forms on 10th June for anyone who was unable to attend in May. Liz will also be emailing the forms out to people. Please support us in this.

COADS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL ARTS PROJECT sponsored by LAS

The pupils of Coads Green Primary School, near Launceston, have just completed their project to create a mural on a wall in the playground near to where pupils, teachers and parents first enter that area. It is something that can be viewed by the whole community.

Initially Lydia Christine, an artist and ex pupil of the school, worked with all the children to help them develop their ideas for the mural. Together they came up with 6 different designs, all with nature themes, before the children voted on this one as the fun and eye catching design which they liked the best.



Initial design

The project was led by Claire Bader, the school's Headteacher. The work to paint the mural was due to start in February / March 2024. Unfortunately due to the very wet year 2024 turned out to be, the work kept getting postponed and by 2025, Lydia Christine had moved away. This meant that the school had to source another artist who paints murals. Fortunately, and with the aid of Facebook, they found Mrs Murals! She was able to take on the work in the latter part of March this year and the weather held for the week put aside to complete the job!

The finished mural is not quite the same as the original design. However it is still as eye-catching. Time constraints meant that Mrs Murals needed to tweak certain aspects which also allowed her to bring her own style to the work.



Finished mural

Choosing the design and watching the artist at work links to the children's studies in their PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons as well as their environmental outdoor activities. It has also helped them to appreciate the skills of the artist and how she went about painting the wall installation.

The children have been inspired and enthused by the project and from their faces it's clear they really love their mural. Here's what some of them had to say:

"I like all of the colours and the contrast of colours. I like the bird best and its colour". (Jessica, Yr.6)

"I like the owl as it's very colourful and all the bees are perfect; what they're like in real life. Children might feel happy when they walk past it". (Charlie, Yr.5)

"I love it; so realistic. It's like a real meadow and doesn't look like it's been painted. The bumblebee and the lily pads are fantabulous!". (Lily, Yr.5)



Mary Utton talks to some of the children about their mural



Liskeard Arts Society's contribution towards the costs allowed the school to purchase the resources needed to paint the mural and then to varnish over it to help it survive the elements as well as paying the artist for her time. A committee member thoroughly enjoyed visiting the school and seeing the work in progress before returning to see the installation on the wall.



This has clearly been a successful project (despite the delays) through which the children have had an opportunity not only to understand the work of an artist but also to talk about it through their PSHE, environmental and outdoor learning lessons. It has also given parents and other members of the community a talking point. The mural brightens up what was a very dull area within the playground. There is still more for the school to do. The parents have already donated money so that planters with seating around could be made and positioned in front of the mural. The next step is for the children to pot up flowers and climbers in front so it becomes a 'living' mural.

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

Trustee Elections

Chairs of Societies have been notified that we are seeking nominations for two additional trustees, to take office from the date of the AGM being held on 16 September 2025.

There will be a drop-in session on Zoom on **28th May** to enable any member interested in standing for election to meet some of the current trustees. Please contact jenny@theartssociety.org for more details.

Staff Updates

Dr. Jenny Gimpel has joined us as Operations Manager, taking over from Claire Livesey, and Jizelle Patah has been promoted to Events & Media Content Coordinator, and will be working with Katherine in the Education Department.

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

THE ARTS SOCIETY SW AREA Decoding History's Art Course

**An Artistic Journey through Europe from the 7th to 16th Centuries
led by our own Dr Geri Parlbby.**

The SW Area Support Team is delighted to announce that a History of Art course is to be held in Plymouth. For many years our SW Area has had a formidable reputation of coordinating these events with Taunton and Exeter keeping up the tradition and it is time for Plymouth to shine again.

A most informative, exciting, and entertaining programme awaits you.

A five week course on five weekdays in Autumn 2025.

Three sessions each day from 10.30am to 3.30pm

Course fee: £150

Thursday 16 th October	The Art of the not so Dark Ages
Thursday 23 rd October	From the rigidity of Gothic Art to the realism of Giotto
Thursday 6 th November	The birth and flowering of the Renaissance period from Florence to Northern Europe
Thursday 13 th November	The Renaissance unfolds – from Italy, Northern Europe and the Tudor Court
Thursday 25 th November	From Leonardo to Michelangelo – the great masters of the Renaissance

Venue: The Box (formerly Plymouth's Museum and Art Gallery), Tavistock Place, Plymouth PL4 8AX

Travelling here can be by train, bus or car.

Please do join us. Who could resist

Fliers for this event with further details will be available at our meeting on 10th June, and do contact Barbara Beadle, the course organiser, to book your place or to answer your questions. Her contact details are: barbarahistoryart@gmail.com or 01579 351922

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 (£10). 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.	

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

DISCOVERY DAY



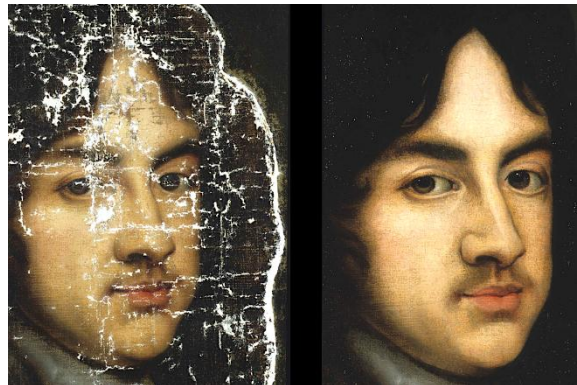
The Paintings Conservation Roadshow

The nature of painting materials from the Middle Ages to the present day including their common problems

Thursday 27th November 2025
9:30 am for 10:00 am – 3:30 pm approx.
Liskeard Public Hall, PL14 6BW

Speaker: Sarah Cove ACR FBAPCR FHC

We discuss 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.



Modern museum standard approaches to conservation and restoration are illustrated with 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. Hints and advice on the proper care of paintings in homes is given in liberal doses throughout!
Further details about the 3 sessions continue overleaf

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 **£32** per person and include coffee and cake at break time.

Bookings must be made prior to the event (maximum number of 36 so book early!)

- 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) @ £32 per person I am / am not a Liskeard Arts member

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.

For further information about **Liskeard Arts** visit www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk

Session 1 (10:00 am –11:00 am):

The nature of painting materials from the Middle Ages to the present day and their problems

As well as discussing the nature of painting materials, Sarah will focus on the common problems (natural deterioration and neglect, accidental damage, vandalism and even war (one event being a large hole caused by a Turkish cannon ball going through a picture in the 18th century!), associated with the ageing and deterioration of easel paintings on canvas, panel, board or paper in a range of mediums: oil, acrylic, egg tempera and mixed media.

Session 2 (11:30 am – 12:30 pm):

Modern 'museum standard' approaches to conservation and restoration

Sarah illustrates these approaches with superb detailed images 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, many from little known collections, taken during Sarah's conservation treatments of the last 30 years.



Session 3 (1:45pm – 3:30 pm): Bring in your own painting for a hands-on Antiques Roadshow' style condition assessment and recommendations for conservation

This is always fascinating as usually a wide range of pictures and frames are brought in and we will see many of the points illustrated in the two talks in our own paintings! We need easel paintings of any date or School, in oil, acrylic, mixed media on canvas, panel or board. They must specifically **not** be watercolours, prints, miniatures, engravings, etc., as this is not Sarah's area of expertise. Sarah can examine approx. 12 paintings on average. Nearer the date Mary Utton will email everyone, and anyone wishing to bring a painting will be sent proper wrapping instructions as we do not want to risk anything getting damaged in transit!

Sarah Cove ACR FBAPCR FHC



Sarah Cove is an accredited paintings conservator-restorer, technical art historian and lecturer with more than 35 years' experience. She is based in London and Falmouth and is a specialist in British portraits, 19th-20th century British landscapes and oil sketches on paper and board. In 1986 she founded the Constable Research Project and she is now the leading authority on Constable's materials and techniques.

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Booking and payment by BACS

1. Please pay **£32 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 should get a reply to your email within 24 hours, acknowledging your payment and booking.