



LISKEARD ARTS

South East Cornwall

Chair's March Newsletter 2025

Dear Members

Is Spring here at last? My first snowdrop has popped its head up in my garden! Will March be a warmer month with less wind and rain? I do hope so!

I'm already looking ahead to April when I'm off on holiday. Firstly I will be on a cruise to Norway. This will then be followed by an archaeological tour of Albania. Apologies as I won't be able to join you for our April talk.

Did you enjoy Doug Gillen's talk last month as much as I did, as he unpicked Street Art for us. I now have a much better grasp of the differences between graffiti, street art and murals as well as the messages behind the art.

This month we go back to the 18th century with Jane Gardiner for a very different talk. Jane will be exploring the art collected in particular by Sir William Hamilton.

Mary Utton
Chair

RAISING MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Please think about who you could give a copy of our Overview 2025 Programme sheet to (pick one up from the registration desk) and then encourage to come along to a LAS meeting to find out what we're all about.

Only by recruiting more people will we be financially viable.

LAST CALL for our

DISCOVERY MORNING 1ST APRIL 2025

I'm looking forward to you joining us to find out more about

What exactly is Byzantine Art and how do you pronounce it?
The early art and architecture of one of history's greatest empires – from Constantine to Justinian

Our speaker is LAS friend, **Geri Parlby**

The cost is £26.50 pp.

Full details can be found on the booking form, a copy of which is attached at the end of this email.

Hard copies available from the registration desk.

It can also be accessed through our website
www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk

TIME HAS ALMOST RUN OUT and I'm still waiting to hear from you!

We not only need to recruit more Members but we also need Members to step forward for the Committee

Only 2 months to go before our AGM in May when I'll no longer be your Chair.

I repeat: if you enjoy Liskeard Arts, if we're to survive and if we're to fill all our Committee positions in order to be strong enough to run our Society, we need people to come forward and volunteer their time.

About the Speaker

JANE GARDINER



Jane has a MA History of Art from the University of London. She trained at the V&A and continues to lecture there.

Jane was a Senior Lecturer at Sotheby's Institute of Art for 17 years, becoming a Deputy Director of Sotheby's, UK.

She has also lectured for the National Trust, the Art Fund, London University, Buckingham University, l'Institut d'Etudes Superieures des Arts in Paris, a private women's college in Saudi Arabia, on cruise ships and at antiques fairs and interior design conferences in America.

VASES AND VOLCANOES Sir William Hamilton and his Collection

Jane Gardiner

**Tuesday 11th March 2025
at 19:30**

Join us in Liskeard Public Hall from 19:00

Refreshments available

Guests (£10) are always welcome

This talk will focus on two overriding interests of the late 18th century – the study and collecting of Greek vases and a fascination with volcanic activity, encouraged by the excavations at Herculaneum and Pompeii.

It will look in particular, at the life and collections of Sir William Hamilton, British envoy to the Kingdom of Naples and the Two Sicilies from 1764 to 1798; a renowned collector of antiquities and student of the natural world whose fascination with classical art had considerable influence on artistic life in Britain in the eighteenth century.

The first part of his collection was offered to the British Parliament for sale in 1772, and entered the collections of the British Museum for £8,400. The British Museum subsequently received gifts of antiquities and natural history specimens from Hamilton.

The 'Second Collection' of vases was lost with the wreck of HMS Colossus off the Scilly Isles in December, 1798. Some 30,000 vessel fragments have since been recovered and entered the collections of the British Museum. Hamilton was a trustee of the British Museum.

Looking ahead: Talk on 8th April

Talk by: Ross King – Wild Men of the North

In 1924 an English critic acclaimed an exhibition of Canadian landscapes as 'the most vital group of paintings produced since the war – indeed the century'. These vibrant, Post-Impressionist landscapes of Canada's northern lakes and rugged backwoods were created by the 'Group of Seven', Toronto-based painters. Ross King explores how they broke through conservative barriers to gain international recognition as a distinctive avant-garde movement.

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

AGM 2025

The Board of Trustees is pleased to advise members that this year's AGM will be taking place on Tuesday 16 September 2025 at Friends House in central London.

Further details including the programme of events and timings for the day will be shared in due course.

New President



The Trustee Board is very pleased to announce that Hilary Kay has been appointed as President of The Arts Society with effect from 1 April 2025 for a 5-year term. Hilary is broadcaster, independent consultant, speaker and writer. She is probably best known for her work on the Antiques Roadshow and is now the longest serving member of the expert team having been involved for 47 years.

Commenting on the 2025 strategy, Hilary said: "I am delighted to see that there is a clear road map for The Arts Society and I am keen to play a part in helping to achieve these ambitions."

Volunteers needed to help drive the new strategy

Last month we launched our new strategy focussed on increasing our overall membership. Our Area and National support teams will play a crucial role in this: co-ordinating activities across each area, improving communication between societies, running study days and courses to attract new members, helping those societies facing particular challenges, and even forming new societies.

We are looking for volunteers to join both the National team and Area teams, particularly those in East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Scotland and Northern Ireland, Sussex, West Mercia and South Wales, West Surrey and Wyvern. Ideally volunteers will have had previous experience on a society committee, or involvement with another membership organisation, but enthusiasm and organisational or leadership skills are equally valued. If you'd like to help or would like more information about what is involved, please email james@theartsociety.org stating which society you belong to.

REMINDERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Refreshments Refreshments are available from 7.00pm. As well as teas and coffees we also serve wine which is £3.50 per glass. 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.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:

Apologies for the late notice!

BUDLEIGH ARTS SOCIETY "BUDLEIGH ANTIQUES ROADSHOW" with Antiques Roadshow expert LARS THARP Date: 12th March 2025 from 10.00 am at Budleigh Public Hall THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING UP TO ONE'S TEAPOT Two talks by Lars Tharp on ceramic pottery followed by lunch and an opportunity for valuations Non Members £45 Details from: Jan Sokell email: jan@lilactree.co.uk 01395 519028 Liz Cummings email: elizabeth.cummings1@btopenworld.com 01385 442347

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

Mary Utton
Chair of Liskeard Arts
mary.utton2@gmail.com or liskeardarts@gmail.com

THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD

DISCOVERY MORNING

Non-members are welcome to
attend all events.

www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk



What exactly is Byzantine Art and how do you pronounce it?

The early art and architecture of one of history's greatest empires – from Constantine to Justinian

Tuesday 1st April 2025

Speaker: Geri Parlby

9.10 am for 9.30 am – 12.00 noon approx.

Liskeard Public Hall, PL14 6BW

"You say By-zantine and I say Bizz-anteen" as the song almost goes! In fact there is no right way to pronounce it but it is certainly a subject worth studying. The Byzantine Empire flourished for over a millennium as the successor to the Roman Empire in the eastern Mediterranean. We will marvel at the beauty and spirituality of Byzantine Mosaics, Frescoes, Churches and Icons. We will also glimpse at how this magnificent art form was able to influence the developing artistic traditions of its powerful neighbours in the west and east.

Session 1 (9.30 am – 10.30 am):

4th and 5th centuries. The Emperor Constantine – the birth of Constantinople and the mosaics of Ravenna.

The Byzantine Empire began in 330 AD when Emperor Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Byzantium, later renamed Constantinople. Christianity flourished and gradually supplanted the Greco-Roman gods that had once defined Roman religion and culture. This religious shift dramatically affected the art that was created across the empire. We consider the sublime mosaics of Ravenna, known for their vibrant colours and exceptional depictions of biblical scenes and demonstrate how mosaic art was used to exploit religion to achieve political ends. *(continued overleaf)*



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The cost will be **£26.50** per person and include coffee and cake at break time.

- You may book and pay by cash/cheque at a Liskeard Arts meeting,
- Or 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) @ £26.50 per person I am / am not a Liskeard Arts member

NAME(S)

POSTCODE TEL NUMBER



A.Savin, Wikipedia

**Session 2 (10.50 am – 11.50 am):
6th and 7th centuries. The Emperor and
the Prostitute – the era of Justinian and
Theodora; ivories and icons and the
building of Hagia Sophia.**

Justinian and Theodora bowed to no man when they ruled the world's most powerful empire during the 6th century. A former prostitute and exotic dancer, Theodora was a woman with an unsavoury past, while her husband's roots lay in Balkan peasant stock and yet together they inspired some of most beautiful art in the Byzantine Empire. From the sublime mosaics of Ravenna and St Catherine's monastery to the miraculous architecture of Hagia Sophia - who could forget the most outrageous imperial couple in Byzantine history?

Dr Geri Parlby



Geri's first career was as a journalist working on a variety of Fleet Street newspapers before moving into entertainment PR. She has also run her own PR agency, especially in film and video PR, until retiring in the early 1990s to start a family.

Geri then decided to go back to school and gained a first-class honours degree in History and Theology from Surrey University, a Masters in History of Art with distinction from the Courtauld Institute and a Theology PhD from the University of Roehampton. The subject of her PhD thesis was the early iconography of the Virgin Mary.

Geri has taught at the universities of Exeter, Plymouth and Roehampton where she is an honorary research fellow. She also runs regular courses for the Arts Society South West Area and the Devon Archaeological Society, as well as travelling all over the UK and internationally as an accredited Arts Society lecturer.

Booking and payment by BACS

1. Please pay **£26.50 per person** to:
The Arts Society Liskeard, sort code **20 68 10**, account number **70729515**, ref **DMorn**.
2. Then **email** mary.utton2@gmail.com
Subject: Discovery Morning
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.

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.