

Chair's March Newsletter 2026

Dear all

Despite the predictably awful weather we had a very good turnout for our February lecture. I think the topic of Michelangelo, Raphael and Da Vinci was a draw but I am getting the feeling that a home-based diet of TV and on-line productions is not what everyone wants! Getting out and experiencing a first class speaker on an interesting topic does seem to hit the spot and I think we really did have a very good lecturer. I had a few requests for Antonia Gatward Cevizli to come again!

I have also had a few people say they are disappointed that there will not be a January lecture in 2027.

The Committee took the decision to return to our pre-Covid pattern of 9 lectures a year when our finances were looking particularly shaky. But the Committee did agree to review this decision if our 2026 financial position was good and we will review the situation in the spring, particularly if we continue to see signs of growth in membership. It costs us about £500 to put on a lecture, so that equates with a growth in membership of about 10 but if we can restore the January lecture I'm sure that will be very welcome.

Ian
Chair

It's not too late!

**DISCOVERY DAY
MONDAY 23RD MARCH 2026**

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

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

Speaker: Mark Cottle

Full details and the form can be found on our website, www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk

Bookings are now OPEN

Visit to EXETER CATHEDRAL and the TREASURES EXHIBITION

Guided tour focusing on the stained glass of **Exeter Cathedral** and a self-guided tour of the **Treasures Exhibition**.

**Thursday 14th May 2026
11.30 am**

Cost: **£9.00** per person, to include entry to the exhibition and the guided tour.



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**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

MARK OVENDEN



Mark Ovenden is a broadcaster and author.

He specialises in the subjects of industrial design and architecture - especially in the world of public transport. Since he became AS accredited in 2018 he's delivered scores of lectures to societies all over Britain and also in Europe: the most popular being his talk on the London Underground.

His first book (a New York Times "Bestseller") was a guide to the maps of Transit systems across the planet and it's been re-issued many times and translated into half a dozen languages. His titles include two books about the Paris Metro and others about: Railway Maps, the New York Subway; the London Underground; typeface design; Manchester's Metrolink; Airline Maps; Underground Cities and Cartography design.

He's worked at the BBC producing programmes for Radios 1's John Peel and Annie Nightingale, in commercial radio as a journalist and newsreader, and in television as a researcher and even for MTV as a music programmer. Mark recently fronted his own documentary for BBC Four (on the subject of typefaces) and he presented another documentary for BBC Radio 4 on architecture. Other programmes and books are in the works.

He is also currently reading as a mature student online for a Masters in Railway Studies.

HOW GREAT DESIGN INFLUENCED THE RAILWAYS

Mark Ovenden

Tuesday 10th March 2026
at 19:30

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

Guests (£12) are always welcome

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!



The British Rail "Double Arrow"
designed by Gerry Barney (1965)



This work created by the UK Government is in the public domain (Wikipedia)

Looking ahead:

OVERVIEW OF WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2026 – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- More detailed information about the talks can be found on the website, your Membership and Programme Card and in the monthly newsletter.
- Detailed information about the other events can be found on the booking form which is usually sent out 3 months prior to the event by email, in the newsletter, hard copy at meetings or on our website www.liskeardartssociety.org.uk

Date	Type of Event	Description
10/02/26	Talk	Antonia Gatward-Cevizli – The Big Three in Florence: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael
26/02/26	Visit	The Story of Emily - <i>Explore the Rectory and the Victorian world of the Hobhouse family, set in 1875 Step back in time in the War Rooms to experience a typical Boer homestead and witness the tactics used in guerrilla warfare and the terrible Scorched Earth Policy</i>
10/03/26	Talk	Mark Ovenden – How Great Design Influenced the Railways
23/03/26	Discovery Day	Mark Cottle – When England had scarcely begun: Sutton Hoo and the Lindisfarne Gospels
07/04/26	Talk	Isabelle Kent – The Century of Gold: Spanish art in the age of Velázquez
25/4/26	Social	Coffee, cake and chat , drop in between 10:30 – 12:00: Wheal Phoenix room, Liskeard Public Hall
12/05/26	Talk	Lynne Gibson – Colour and the Artist's Palette: Feeling Blue
14/05/26	Visit	Exeter Cathedral –guided tour of the Cathedral focusing on stained glass and a self-guided tour of the Treasures exhibition
04/06/26	Visit	Prideaux Place , Padstow – Guided tour of the house, time to explore the gardens before finishing with a cream tea
09/06/26	Talk	Cindy Polemis – John Singer Sargent and Fashion
08/09/26	Talk	James Vaux – Scandinavian Modern: Behind the Scenes
September – date to be confirmed	Social	Details to be confirmed
13/10/26	Talk	James Wright – Investigating Mediaeval Churches
19/10/26	Visit	St Petroc's Church, Bodmin and St Neot Church in the company of Evie Bond, a specialist in Cornish Saints. Talk and tour in each church
10/11/26	Talk	Sandy Burnett – From Tchaikovsky to Tin Pan Alley – Uplifting Music for Christmas
25/11/26	Discovery Day led by AS Mid Cornwall	Chantal Brotherton-Radcliffe – The Forensic Eye: Find your Inner Connoisseur. <i>How do dealers, auctioneers and museum staff determine whether a piece is by one painter or another? What role does the signature play, and what are the key clues to look for when deciding who painted the picture?</i>
08/12/26	Talk preceded by our social - Prosecco and Mince Pies	Emma Watts – Photography in Paint

Talk on 7th April

Isabelle Kent's talk is entitled '**The Century of Gold: Spanish Art in the age of Velázquez**'.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Spain rose as the great European superpower with an empire spanning the globe. This vast wealth, alongside the renewed catholic fervour of the counter reformation kickstarted the Spanish *siglo d'oro* – literally the century of gold - the great flourishing of painting, sculpture, literature and music. The talk explores this period, looking at the historical moment and vast array of art before focusing in on the work of the greatest painter of the age, Diego Velázquez.

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.

This month it's a small sample of **Evangeline Coomber's** work on display for you to see. Please do take the time to have a look and ask Eve any questions. She's only too willing to talk about her work.

After studying Fine Art to degree level in which she majored in sculpture, Eve spent almost a decade in teaching before moving to Cornwall in 1993. With her sculpture, mostly animalier, Eve has worked in clay, scrim-and-plaster, wax, bronze and welded metal - on a scale all the way up from miniature to life-size.

Eve has experimented with a wide variety of media and techniques from the very traditional to computer-generated imagery. In recent decades, she has concentrated more on painting. She now paints a variety of subjects in various media – from pastel portraits (mostly animalier), to mystical subjects in gouache-&-ink, and watercolour illustrations for her children's stories. Also, occasionally, she works in oils and acrylics.

Eve's exhibitions include a solo show at the Wharf Gallery, Tavistock (2003), a mixed 'for charity' exhibition with the East African Wildlife Society (Nairobi), and mixed exhibitions with The Croydon Art Society and the East Cornwall Society of Artists (current).

Some of her achievements include: Joint first prize for animalier (a bronze zebra) - Heredities Sculpture Competition, 1979; 2nd Place - painting in 'other Media' - Cornish Gorsedd 1999; Hurdwell Cup for Creativity (Wharf Gallery 2003) and artwork used as front cover illustration for the S.A.A. magazine 'PAINT'

If you are interested in being part of this where our creatives and artists have the opportunity to showcase their talent, please can you express your interest by emailing Mary at mary.utton2@gmail.com. We already have both April and May covered and it would be lovely to encourage more of you to show your work and talent.

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

Revised Articles of Association

Over the last year a group of members from societies across the UK has been considering changes to our Articles of Association whilst retaining the rights of societies as Voting Members.

The group has proposed some changes to the text of the existing Articles, including changing our legal name to The Arts Society. The proposed Articles have now been reviewed by the law firm Bates Wells and approved by the Board for wider consultation.

Please [visit this webpage](#) to read and download documents including the proposed revised Articles of Association together with an explanation of the changes. If you have questions about the proposed changes, a Q&A session will be held on Zoom at 11am on Friday 17 April 2026. Please [register here to attend the Q&A session](#). You can also [submit your feedback via this Google form](#).

The trustees will consider the result of the consultation process and expect to propose a final version of the Articles for approval by the Voting Members at the AGM on 25 June 2026.

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.	

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

Visit to EXETER CATHEDRAL and the TREASURES EXHIBITION

Thursday 14th May 2026
11.30 am

We are pleased to offer a guided tour focusing on the stained glass of **Exeter Cathedral** and a self-guided tour of **the Treasures Exhibition**.

You have most likely visited Exeter Cathedral in the past. Exeter Cathedral was founded in 1050 with the enthronement of the first Bishop of Exeter, in the presence of King Edward the Confessor and Queen Edytha, Exeter Cathedral. The building was significantly developed from the 12th to 14th centuries and remains the most complete example of a first rank church in the English Decorated architectural style. Our tour guide will provide us with more insight into the art works within the Cathedral concentrating on the stained glass. This should help us get a better understanding of what makes it one of Europe's great cathedrals.



The Exeter Book



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The Treasures Exhibition allows you to discover rare and ancient artefacts. It is a brand-new exhibition space showcasing over 1,000 years of Cathedral history. Set inside the 19th century Pearson Building just above Exeter Cathedral Shop, fascinating treasures from the Cathedral's collections, many on display for the first time, have been displayed to help visitors learn more about the Cathedral's history. See the Cathedral's foundation charter dating back to 1050; the only surviving examples of medieval wax votives in England; and the 10th century Exeter Book – the oldest book of English literature in the world! Alongside these historic gems, you will also find modern artworks created in collaboration with the local community.

We are offering a tour of the Cathedral, starting at **11:30** and lasting about an hour with one of the knowledgeable Cathedral Guides. Following the guided tour you are then free to visit the Treasures Exhibition which is included in the overall price. You may prefer to have lunch first and then explore the Exhibition afterwards. However if our group is more than 15 in number we will be split into two groups. Group 1 will go on the guided tour of the Cathedral whilst Group 2 will explore the Treasures Exhibition. Group 2 will then have their guided tour of the Cathedral starting at 1.30pm whilst Group 1 visits the Treasures Exhibition. The visit will end at approx. 2.30pm when you are then free to do your own thing before returning home.

You will make your own way by to Exeter Cathedral at a time that best suits you. For those who would like to travel by train, the **08:39** from Liskeard, stopping on route at St Germans, Saltash and Plymouth, arrives at Exeter St David's at 10:13 and the Cathedral is approx. a 20 minute walk from the station. (Taxis are available).

Possible trains for the return journey are the: the **15:27**, all stations as above, arriving in Liskeard at 17:13; the **16:14**, all stations as above, arriving in Liskeard 17:49; **15:49** but requiring a change at Plymouth. I know some of you will want to make the most of being in Exeter.

You may prefer to drive to Exeter and use the Park and Ride at Soweton which is situated conveniently off of jnct. 30 of the M5.

There is a café at Exeter Cathedral situated in the Refectory, and other cafés and restaurants nearby in the town. Coffee and lunch are not included in the ticket price.

The cost will be **£9.00** per person, to include entry to the exhibition and the guided tour.

You may book and pay:

- By contactless/cash/cheque at a Liskeard Arts meeting.
- By **Online booking and payment**
 1. Please pay **£9.00 per person** to:
The Arts Society Liskeard, sort code **20 68 10**, account number **70729515**, ref **TripEC**.
 2. Then **email** mary.utton2@gmail.com
Subject: Trip Exeter Cathedral
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 £9.00 to The Arts Society Liskeard to:
Mary Uton, 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) @ £9.00 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.