



LISKEARD ARTS

SOUTH EAST CORNWALL

Chair's March Newsletter 2024

Dear Members

Are you as fed up as I am by our great British weather; grey, wet days are not my idea of fun! My garden needs me but I'm not feeling the enthusiasm to carry out a well needed tidy up. Having said that many of my bulbs are flowering and my camelias are giving a superb display of colour this year which is helping to lift my spirits.

What a superb talk we had last month from Roger Mendham covering the development of photography. Please can I encourage you to go to our website and give your feedback. You'll find details as to how to do this at the end of my newsletter.

This month's talk is going to be very different as we explore "Great Operatic Rivalries – Handbags at Dawn?" with Tim Mirfin. You can find more information about Tim and his talk on the next page.

I'm pleased that we've had a reasonable take up for our **Discovery Day** on **20th March**. The day kicks off in St Martin's Community Hall, Looe where Dr Helen Wilson will be exploring the work of the Pinwill sisters. If you would still like to join us and haven't as yet handed me in your booking form, there are some places available but your last opportunity for doing so must be at our meeting on 12th March.

Sad news of Judith Markes' death

We are very sorry to learn of Judith's sudden death last week. Judith had been a long standing member and friend of Liskeard Arts and I would like to pay tribute to Judith for the contributions she made towards the successful running of LAS. Right from the Society's inauguration back in 2000 she volunteered her time and sat as a general officer on the committee until being elected to the role of Heritage Volunteer Lead in May 2004, a role she continued to do until May 2008 when she stepped down from the committee. Judith still helped out in different ways, one of which was to host our speakers. Judith had not been able to attend our talks for a while due to ill health but we were delighted that she joined us for our visit last year to Ugbrooke House. Our thoughts and prayers are with Judith's family and friends at this difficult time. Judith's funeral will be held at Bodmin crematorium, 1.30pm on 14th March.

Annual AGM

This will be held before our May meeting on 7th May. Information and documents will be sent out as per our Constitution in April.

Volunteers needed

We still need more of you to volunteer to sit on the committee or just to help out at meetings. Please do think about how you could contribute to LAS and have a chat with me or another member of your committee.

Mary Utton, Chair

About the Speaker

TIM MIRFIN



The English bass, Timothy (Tim) Mirfin, graduated in Law from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he was also a choral scholar. He studied singing at the Royal Academy of Music as a postgraduate scholar, followed by the National Opera Studio.

As a principal artist for Welsh National Opera from 2001 to 2003, Tim sang Don Pedro in *Beatrice and Benedict*, Don Ferrando in *Beethoven's Leonore*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, The Parson in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and Colline in *La Bohème*. He has also performed a variety of other roles for WNO and other opera companies.

Tim has a wide and varied concert repertoire, ranging from Baroque oratorios to modern day premiers. Performances include *Beethoven's Missa Solemnis* in St Alban's Cathedral, *Verdi's Requiem* at Guildford Cathedral and *Haydn's Creation* for the 2004 Three Choirs Festival at Gloucester.

Tim Mirfin's recordings on CD include Christus in J.S. Bach's *St Mark Passion* and the Caius Choir bass solos in music by William Child among others.

GREAT OPERATIC RIVALRIES HANDBAGS AT DAWN?

Tim Mirfin

Tuesday 12th March 2024
at 19:30

Join us in Liskeard Public Hall from
19:00

Refreshments available

Guests (£8) are always welcome.

Tim looks at some of opera's greatest rivalries, spats and tiffs, ranging from the throw-away remark to full in-public fighting.

They certainly make for a spicy history. Which individual or voice category might be the worst example? Are they an intrinsic part of opera? Whose fault are they?

We will hear and see examples of great singers from the past to the present.

Looking ahead: Talk on 9th April

Our speaker will be Dr. Mark Spencer. His talk is entitled "Murder Most Florid – How Plants Help Solve Crime!".

Mark, a forensic biologist, will explore how common plants like brambles can be used to help solve serious crimes such as murder, assault or arson.

Looking ahead to

23rd July 2024

BOCONNOC HOUSE SUMMER EVENT

**House Tour,
Cream Tea & Fizz!**

Come and join us for our "Summer Event"

A fascinating private history tour of Boconnoc House and Boconnoc's stunning Dorothy Garden and Shrubbery.

Followed by a delicious Cream Tea, including a glass of fizz!

Tickets cost £27.50

Deposit of £7.00 and the booking form is required to secure your place

Full information and the booking form is available in hard copy from the registration desk at our meeting. You will also find it online at www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk under the Visits and Tours tab. This event is open to members, their family and friends.

Looking ahead:

**TOUR of
'The Houses, Gardens &
History of Wells,
Gloucestershire &
Wiltshire'**

24th – 26th September 2024

**Run by Liskeard Arts in
conjunction with Tailored
Travel**

Day 1: En route to our hotel, the 3* Limpley Stoke Hotel, we stop off to visit the National Trust's Dyrham Park

Day 2: We visit Wells for a guided tour of the Cathedral followed by time to explore the Bishop's Palace and Gardens. In the afternoon we walk to Stoberry Park Garden for a welcome talk. We also enjoy an included cream tea.

Day 3: After checking out of our hotel we journey to Bowood House and Gardens for a tour of the house and time to explore the gardens and grounds landscaped by 'Capability Brown'.

Full information and the booking form is available in hard copy from the registration desk at our meeting. You will also find it online at www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk under the Visits and Tours tab. The PDF version has been emailed out along with this newsletter. The tour is open to members, their family and friends.

*It would be great to get our tours off the ground again. For this tour to go ahead we need a minimum of 25 people and we have a deadline of **22nd April** to gather that number of bookings!*

I'm very much looking forward to this event; an occasion to get to know other members. Please sign up and join me for a fun and interesting event.

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. 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.	

Do you know anything about?

We have had an enquiry through the website regarding an abstract work which according to the back label was framed in Liskeard. The work is signed JHWilson who was working around 2004 and may well be still working. Does anybody have any further information about this artist? If so could you let me know so that I can pass the information on.

If you have any ideas, comments or queries about anything to do with Liskeard Arts, please do contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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