



LISKEARD ARTS

Chair's May Newsletter 2024

Dear Members

Welcome to my May newsletter. Are we at last going to experience a period of dry and possibly sunny weather? Wouldn't that be a treat!

We are looking forward to this month's lecture with Dr Lois Oliver who will be exploring the theme of betrayal through both art and music portraying the Samson and Delilah story. Lois is an old friend of Liskeard Arts who was last with us in January 2020.

I'm hoping that this month we don't get any last minute problems! I know Ian, our Programme Secretary, can do without the phone call (he and Margie were enjoying themselves in Venice at the time) informing him that our speaker had had no choice but to cancel. As a forensic botanist he'd been called away to investigate a murder! Thank goodness for Geri Parlbay who was available to step in.

Very disappointing news. I have had to cancel the **Wells Tour**. Unfortunately we did not achieve the required number of people needed to make the trip viable.

However, thank you for your support of our Boconnoc House Summer Event. Full payment is now required by **22nd May** and you will find the LAS bank details in the information box opposite.

Mary Utton
Chair

AGM

Don't forget that we will be holding the AGM at 7.20pm this Tuesday prior to the talk from Lois Oliver which will begin at the usual time of 7.30pm.

I do need you all to join us for a 7.20pm start so we are quorate! You should all have received the papers for the AGM which Liz Undy sent out on 16th April.

BOCONNOC HOUSE SUMMER EVENT House Tour, Cream Tea & Fizz! 23rd July 2024

Tickets cost £27.50 and **full payment is now required by 22nd May 2024**

Please pay at our May meeting or by bank transfer:

Account Name: The Arts Society Liskeard
Account number: 70729515
Sort Code: 20-68-10

THE ARTS SOCIETY – GOVERNANCE REFORM

The EGM scheduled for the 15th April was cancelled by TAS and has been rescheduled for 3rd June 2024. Trustees state that the consultation carried out has made its mark on the latest iteration of the proposed Articles and that they have heeded that Societies would like more time to make our decision.

Your committee will have reviewed whether to vote for or against at the committee meeting held on 29th April.

I will report back in the next newsletter your committee's decision as to how we vote.

About the Speaker

DR LOIS OLIVER



Dr Lois Oliver studied English Literature at Cambridge University, and History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, completing an MA in Venetian Renaissance Art and a PhD thesis on *The Image of the Artist, Paris 1815-1855*.

Lois worked at the Harvard Art Museums before joining the curatorial team at the V&A and then the National Gallery, where she curated several exhibitions and contributed to major re-displays of the collections.

Currently Curator of Paintings and Sculpture at the Royal Academy, Associate Professor in History of Art at the University of Notre Dame in London, and a Visiting Lecturer at the Courtauld Institute, Lois also writes audio and multimedia tours for clients including the National Gallery, Royal Academy, Royal Collection and Tate, and has appeared on BBC Radio and TV.

Also a keen violinist, Lois plays regularly with Kensington Chamber Orchestra and the Endellion Festival Orchestra.

BETRAYAL – THE STORY OF SAMSON AND DELILAH IN MUSIC AND ART

Lois Oliver

Tuesday 7th May 2024
at 19:30
(AGM at 19:20)

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

Guests (£8) are always welcome

Erotic and exotic, the tale of the man who killed 1,000 Philistines armed only with the jawbone of an ass but who was fatally unmanned by the wiles of Delilah has proved irresistible to artists and composers through the ages.

Handel's oratorio on the subject was an instant box-office smash, and later Saint-Saëns produced some of his most alluring and sensuous music for Delilah and the Dragon-worshipping revellers in his opera *Samson et Dalila*.

This tale of love and betrayal also inspired virtuoso works by artists including Rembrandt, Rubens and Van Dyck.



A sketch for Peter Paul Rubens' *Samson and Delilah* (c. 1609)

From Wikimedia Commons

Looking ahead: Talk on 11th June

Max Jones will speak on the subject of "The Art of the Hero – Commemorating Scott of the Antarctic."

This talk will examine the different ways in which artists represented death in the polar wasteland and portrayed failure as heroic sacrifice.

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 (£8). 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:

THE ARTS SOCIETY TEIGNBRIDGE TOUR

THE CASTLES, HISTORIC HOUSES & HERITAGE OF KENT

Departing 29th September 2024 for 5 days; Cost from £769

Visiting Salisbury, Canterbury Cathedral, Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, Scotney Castle, Bateman's, Dover Castle & Secret Wartime Tunnels, Walmer Castle & Gardens, Ightham Mote

For full details contact John Addy by email johne.addy@lineone.net or go to the Tailored Travel website, www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quote tbgd241

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

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