



LISKEARD ARTS

South East Cornwall

Chair's November Newsletter 2025

Dear all,

I read recently that the average time a gallery goer spends in front of a painting is as little as 8 seconds! I must admit to being guilty of this on occasions. On the other hand there is one university Art History course that sets its students the challenge of spending three hours just sitting and looking at a single picture. I'm not sure I could manage that!

The reason I mention this is that our October speaker Chantelle Brotherton -Ratcliffe gave a fascinating talk on Jan Bruegel where she really revealed the fine detail to be seen in his work. Tiny animals and plants, beautifully detailed portraits and an intricate appreciation of how we can learn so much from looking hard at a painting. She really knows her stuff on the Bruegels, and I hope you all enjoyed the talk.



November brings us Siobhan Clarke. She is a Guide Lecturer at the Historic Royal Palaces and will be speaking on the Art Collections of Henry VIII. She is a specialist on this topic and will be bringing her book, King and Collector, for sale and has also donated a copy for our raffle, so do buy tickets!

December's talk will be by Charlie Waite. Charlie is arguably the finest landscape photographer in the country and his talks never fail to please. He is a master of the stunningly beautiful yet simple photograph. If you have any friends who are photographers do please bring them along as this talk will enthral them and also, of course, give us a chance to impress them with the quality of our monthly lectures!

As usual, I can't avoid mentioning our need to find more members! Our campaign is working well but we still need to sign up more new members. So if you can encourage any of your friends to come along, try out a lecture and then hopefully join up that would be wonderful.

Ian
Chair

REMINDER

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION 2026

Your subscription falls due by 1st December if paying by standing order or the December meeting if you still wish to pay by card, cash or cheque. Your committee has agreed that it is necessary to increase the subscription to £65 per person for 2026. Thank you to those who have already paid.

The price per guest will be £12.

FINAL CALL for DISCOVERY DAY THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2025

The Paintings Conservation Roadshow with Sarah Cove

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

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

About the Speaker

SIOBHAN CLARKE



Siobhan Clarke BA Hons has worked for Historic Royal Palaces for 20 years delivering tours and lectures on Hampton Court, Kensington, the Tower of London and the Banqueting House, Whitehall Palace.

Her experience includes education sessions and tours for schools, universities, corporate and private clients. She has lectured for the British Museum, National Trust, National Archives and the Smithsonian and featured on BBC Radio 'Woman's Hour' and Television's 'Secrets of Henry VIII's Palace'.

Her published work includes: 'A Tudor Christmas', in collaboration with Alison Weir, (2018), 'The Tudors: The Crown, The Dynasty, The Golden Age' with Linda Collins (2019), 'King and Collector: Henry VIII and the Art of Kingship' (2021) and 'Gloriana: Elizabeth I and the Art of Queenship' (2022).

KING AND COLLECTOR Henry VIII and the art of Kingship

Siobhan Clarke

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

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

Guests (£10) are always welcome

No English king is as well-known to us as Henry VIII. He is famous for six marriages, breaking with the Pope, dissolving the monasteries and creating the Church of England; and for his ruthless elimination of those who stood in his way.

But he was also an enthusiastic patron of the arts whose palaces, tapestries and paintings enriched the Tudor court and began the Royal Collection.

The forces that influenced Henry's life can be seen in the works he commissioned, by artists such as Pietro Torrigiano, Hans Holbein and Giacomo da Treviso. They tell us much about his kingship and (unintentionally) his insecurities.



'Field of the Cloth of Gold' Anonymous

Looking ahead:

Talk on 9th December

Charlie Waite will talk about **The Making of Landscape Photographs**. Landscape photography is a way of life and is an essential method of expression for Charlie Waite. This fully illustrated talk explores the relationship between the making of an image and the way in which it is perceived by the viewer. Further discussion centres around the eye and the brain being an extraordinary double act made up of visual references and intellectual interpretation.

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

New Treasurer:

The Trustees are pleased to announce that Trevor Walters has been elected as Treasurer of The Arts Society. A former chartered accountant and Chair of The Arts Society Woking. Trevor brings a range of valuable experience.

Artfully Said: A new video podcast series

Artfully Said is a video podcast series that brings together Accredited Lecturers of The Arts Society, along with leading voices in arts and culture. Every episode starts with two experts and a shared passion, but where the conversation goes next is anyone's guess. Expect stories, surprises and the kind of exchange that happens when curious minds meet.

The first episode sees Arts Society accredited lecturer, Leslie Primo, discuss what makes great art great with James Payne, Founder of the YouTube Channels Great Art Explained and Great Books Explained.

Where to watch / listen: [YouTube.com@TheArtsSociety](https://www.youtube.com/TheArtsSociety) Don't forget to subscribe to The Arts Society's YouTube channel so you don't miss an episode.

Church Recording Rejoins The Arts Society

Trustees were pleased to announce at the AGM that Church Recording will once again become a volunteering activity of The Arts Society. Church recording started as an Arts Society activity in its very early days with support from the Victoria and Albert Museum and church authorities, with the Archbishop of Canterbury becoming a Vice-President. For the Volunteers this is fascinating work, of national importance. As well as providing another outlet for our members' energies, bringing Church Recording back into The Arts Society aligns with our strategy of raising the Society's profile. David Medcalf, currently Chair of the Church Recording Society, has been welcomed as the Head of this volunteering arm.

The **Arts Society Liskeard** continued to support our active group of Church Recorders, led by Pat Francis, even after The Arts Society withdrew its support. This is therefore very good news that TAS has once again recognised that Church Recording should be one of its volunteering activities. It's not long since our LAS church recorders completed the work at St Marnarch's Church, Lanreath and they are now recording St Mary's and St Julian's Church, Maker.

CAN YOU HELP – A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Recently we were contacted by Brian McCartney who himself lives in Leicestershire.

Currently he is researching the painter, William Turner, 1877 – 1969, from Andover in Hampshire. William Turner lived and painted in and around the Liskeard area.

If anyone has any information about the painter, Brian would be very pleased to hear from you. His email address is bjmac@hotmail.co.uk and phone number 07941 044410.

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.	

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

THE ARTS SOCIETY MID CORNWALL

Is running a Discovery Day on Thursday 20th November on

THE PRE-RAPHAELITES, speaker **JULIAN HALSBY**

Lecture 1: Years of achievement – the first 12 years of the Pre-Raphaelite movement.

Lecture 2: The private lives of the Pre-Raphaelites and the Pre-Raphaelite landscape.

Lecture 3: The later Pre-Raphaelites 1860 – 1917.

For full details about the programme, venue, cost and how to book go to www.theartsocietymidcornwall.org.uk and scroll down the home page to access the information.

THE ARTS SOCIETY PLYMOUTH & SOUTH DEVON

Is running a Discovery Day on Thursday 20th November on

SICILY: CULTURAL CROSSROADS, speaker **RICHARD WHINCOP**

This day traces Sicily's extraordinary journey from Greek colony to Norman kingdom

For full details about the programme, venue, cost and how to book go to: www.theartsociety.org/south-devon

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

All images © Sarah Cove

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.

✂-----
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!

All images © Sarah Cove

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.

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.

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 will get a reply to your email within 48 hours, acknowledging your payment and booking, unless Ms Utton is away on holiday in which case there will be a delay.