LISKEARD ARTS

THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD

South East Cornwall

Chair's November Newsletter 2026

Oh dear, the clocks have gone back and storm season seems to be upon us! All the more reason to look forward to some good Arts Society lectures!

Many thanks to those of you who had a kind word to our very growing number of guests who attended last month's lecture. I know they appreciate feeling welcome. We are expecting a good number of guests at our November and December talks as the Arts Society mail shot has gone out and we are already receiving enquiries. We will be working hard to make guests feel very welcome and I know that Kathryn, our Membership Secretary, will be aiming to convert many of these guests to full members!

Because we are expecting a good number of guests, and to avoid congestion around the entrance, we are trialling a new entry process. This month, at the top of the stairs, current members will be directed left to the front of hall entrance and guests will be directed in the "usual" mid- hall entrance. We hope this will remove any bottlenecks and make for a smoother entry process. I will be on hand at the top of the stairs to give directions and to welcome our guests. Tea and Coffee will as usual be at the rear of the hall and the raffle stand will be more central and near to the members' entrance backed up by Mary who will be circulating with raffle tickets.

This month's lecture by Sandy Burnett kicks off the festive season with a review of Xmas music. I know some might say this is a bit early but no "bah humbug" please! Sandy is in great demand and this was the only available slot even though I booked him two years ago, which says something for how much in demand he is!

Best wishes
Ian
Chair

FINAL CALL for DISCOVERY DAY
Spaces still available
WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

The Forensic Eye – Find Your Inner Connoisseur
With Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe

How do the experts determine whether a piece is by master or pupil, master or copyist? What are the clues?

9:30 am for 10:00 am – 3:30 pm
St Mary's Parish Centre, BODMIN, PL31 1NF

Full details and the booking form can be found on our website or pick up a form from the registration desk.

DECEMBER'S GRAND RAFFLE

Be Prepared!

At December's meeting, as well as our Prosecco and Mince Pies, we will be running our Grand Christmas Raffle.

Lots of interesting prizes most of which link to the arts.

£2 a ticket, £5 a strip.

Please come prepared. Cash or card accepted.

About the Speaker

SANDY BURNETT



Sandy Burnett is one of the UK's most authoritative broadcasters in the field of classical music. His broadcasts, interviews, and lectures are all underpinned by the hands-on experience of being a practising musician.

After studying at St Catharine's College, Cambridge and working as music director for the RSC, National Theatre and in London's West End, Sandy Burnett spent a decade as one of the core team of presenters on BBC Radio 3.

Since 2017, Sandy has been an accredited Arts Society lecturer, his talks aimed at unlocking the worlds of classical music and jazz to general arts-loving audiences; his busy diary of speaking engagements takes him right across the world. After spending a season as the Academy of Ancient Music's Hogwood Fellow, in the spring of 2020 he set up a thriving online Listening Club to explore great works of classical music. He leads cultural tours to music festivals everywhere from New Orleans to Leipzig, and Bath to Budapest. Having learned his trade from Martin Randall Travel, he currently works in close partnership with ACE Cultural Tours (Cambridge, England) and Academy Travel (Sydney, Australia).

TCHAIKOVSKY TO TIN PAN ALLEY
Uplifting Music for Christmas

SANDY BURNETT

Tuesday 10th November 2026
at 19:30

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

Guests (£12) are always welcome

Looking ahead to our seasonal celebrations which are just around the corner, musician and broadcaster Sandy Burnett is on hand to share his selection of much-loved Christmas tunes.

Expect an hour of the finest festive music from across the globe – his selections include sparkling moments from Tchaikovsky's ballet The Nutcracker, a heartwarming ballad from Mel Tormé, something from Soweto, a heavenly chorus from Johann Sebastian Bach's Leipzig, an illustration of the English carol tradition at its finest - and something more cynical from Eartha Kitt…



Anna Podlesnaya and Andrei Stelmakhov at the end of the Nutcracker performed by the St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre during their European tour, Chichester Festival Theatre 03 Nov 2007

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Looking ahead:

Talk on 8th December

Speaker Emma Watts addresses the subject **'Photography in Paint'**
This talk will explore the relationship between paint and photography but from the unique perspective of how painting responds to photography. Emma explores the two worlds and the rather unexpected response of paint to photography.

Please note, as mentioned by our Chair, Ian:

TWEAK TO HALL LAYOUT

Members will now be asked to enter through the doors nearest to the stage. Guests will enter through the doors ahead of the main stairs.
At each area, information and forms for events etc will be available at your relevant entry point. The raffle table will now be towards the back. Refreshments will not have moved.

We hope this will stop any congestion.

REMINDER

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION 2027

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. Subscription remains at £65 per person for 2027, very good value at £6.50 per talk. Thank you to those who have already paid.
The price per guest will be £12.

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 Arts Society Website goes live
After a year of development, the new Arts Society website went live on 13th October this year and is available online at: discover.theartssociety.org

The new site offers an updated look and feel, in line with The Arts Society brand, as well as revised content and improved membership enquiry processes. The site is designed to attract new members, help them find their nearest Societies and put them directly in touch with the local Society committee.

We will be waiting whilst Central Office on-boards Liskeard to the new site. Whilst the process of migrating Society information and membership data takes place, the old website will remain live so that we can access Society resources.

New Societies:
An Exciting Time for The Arts Society
We are thrilled to share that The Arts Society is growing in some wonderful new locations. Three new Societies are currently forming and actively welcoming new members:

- The Arts Society Madrid - our first Society in the Spanish capital, with an inaugural lecture taking place this month.

- The Arts Society Lagos - our first Society in Portugal, based in the beautiful Algarve, with a second taster event planned for November.
- The Arts Society Flitwick & Ampthill - a brand new Society in Bedfordshire, already up and running with a fantastic first lecture.

If you know anyone living in or near any of these areas who might be interested in joining, please do encourage them to get in touch at membership@theartssociety.org. We would love to point them in the right direction.

Appointment of Andrew Rumsey as a Vice President
We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of St Albans, as a Vice President of The Arts Society. As well as being a singer and songwriter with a wide interest in the Arts, Andrew is Lead Bishop for Church and Cathedral Buildings within the Church of England. As such his appointment has a particular resonance with our Church Recording volunteering activities.

Change to the Trustee Board
Tony Callender has stepped down from his position as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Arts Society with effect from 12 October. The Board now has 9 trustees.

LISKEARD ARTS VISITS ST PETROC CHURCH, BODMIN and ST NEOT CHURCH

On Monday 19th October 2026, 12 members made their way to St Petroc Church, Bodmin for the start of our visit to find out about St Petroc's story and to explore the church. We may have been a small group but we were very interested and engaged in what our guide, local historian Evie Bond, had to tell us.

We received a very warm welcome from Joanna, one of the Church Wardens and her husband, a Church Steward, and were able to be suitably refreshed with coffee and biscuits; most welcome!



St Petroc Church, Bodmin

There were earlier churches on the site where St Petroc Church stands. Part of the Tower contains masonry of the Norman period. The present church was built in 1469 – 1472. Most of the masonry is the original 15th century work, the pillars being typical 'Cornish

Perpendicular' with small capitals. It is one of the few Churches of the period of which the building records survive almost complete.





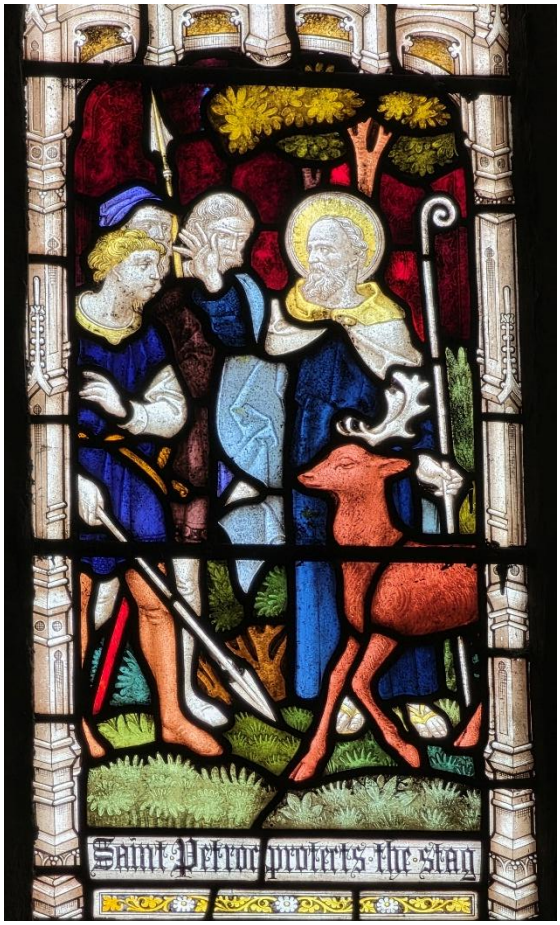
Evie gathered us together in the front pews, ready for us to start hearing the stories surrounding St Petroc, his life and exploits. As is always the case when researching early Anglo Saxon history, written records from the time St Petroc is said to have taken over the care of the early Christian community and land at Trebetherick, opposite Padstow don't exist. St Petroc was probably born in southern Wales in the early 6th century. He established a monastic cell and other buildings around the present church's site in Padstow. This is probably where the original Lanwethinoc monastery was and which Petroc further developed. The story goes that he was directed by an angel to leave Padstow and travel into the remote wilderness of inland Cornwall. Here he found the hermit Guron who was both hard working and prayerful. Petroc asked to stay before Guron left to found a new prayer cell further south at what is now Gorran Haven, leaving Petroc at Bodmin. Petroc's reliquary (which used to contain his relics) still exists in St Petroc's church at Bodmin. This is a 12th century Sicilian ivory reliquary casket.



After Evie's introduction to St Petroc and his background, we all moved over to view St Petroc's image in the stained glass window of the south aisle.



St Petroc



St Petroc protects the stag

The window is known as the St Petroc and Stag window. St Petroc is depicted along with the other chief patron saints of Cornwall, St Piran and St Michael. This window by Clayton & Bell explores the theme of St Michael's triumph of good over evil, again for the Egyptian campaign of 1882 – 1885. It introduces new themes to military memorials, where Longinus at the foot of the Cross marks the conversion of a soldier to Christianity. St Piran is shown preaching, whilst the patronal St Petroc protects a hunted stag. St Petroc is often depicted with a stag or a wolf due to legends of him taming and protecting animals. These were amongst the earliest representations (1891) in stained glass of these pivotal Cornish saints since medieval stained glass.



Finally Evie took us outside to St Guron's Well and Well House. The well first appears in the 12th century "Life of St Petroc". The church we see today was probably built over the original well site. Bodmin's 16th century Churchwardens recorded work on aqueducts beneath the building. These carried the natural spring water through the church and out into the churchyard.

Today this water runs into granite troughs and spouts from the mouths of two gargoyles (one has horns and the other pendant ears). The date above is 1545 but this site is probably much older and served as the town's main water supply well into Victorian times.

Up the steps is the well house (*see photo below with Evie beside the well house*). The church towers over what is a humble building there to protect the precious water. This is the starting point of the sacred spring. Made from rough granite slabs, the well house was probably added around 1545.

The waters here are dedicated to St Guron. St Petroc's Well is situated in Priory Park a short distance away from the church. The site was most probably originally part of the grounds of Bodmin Priory.



St Guron's Well House



St Guron's Well

What an interesting morning and so much information to take on board. We now had time for a break and some lunch. Everyone was able to make their own decisions as to whether they wished to stay in Bodmin or find a café nearer to St Neot ready for the start of our 2.30 pm visit to St Neot Church.

A beautiful ancient parish church widely praised for its magnificent late medieval stained glass. There has probably been a church on the site since the late 9th century when in a life

of King Alfred, St Guerir (Anietus) was said to lie there. By the early 10th century St Neot had joined St Guerir hence the church also being known as St Anietus Church. There only remains a very fine churchyard cross as a hint of this building. St Neot was rebuilt and enlarged from the mid-15th century onwards.



Evie gave us an insight into St Neot. There is some confusion as to whether he was Cornish or Saxon. In the "Life of King Alfred" written by a contemporary Bishop Asser in the late 9th century, it is recounted that Alfred, when on a hunting expedition in Cornwall, prayed at a shrine of a certain St Guerir, where he was healed of his sickness. There is no other record of St Guerir in Cornwall, or elsewhere, but in Asser's account the words, "and now also St Neot lies there" have been added at some later date. It is believed that the bones of St Neot apart from his arm, were removed to Huntingdonshire in the 10th century. Eynesbury in Huntingdonshire, where the bones had been taken then changed its name to St Neots.

Once Evie had introduced us to St Neot and the church she led us over to the north wall and the St Neot window. This window of the patron saint's life was given by the young men of the parish in 1530. It represents a series of incidents from the life of the saint in twelve designs. Evie used the images to expand on some of the stories surrounding St Neot's life. Evie also pointed out the four bosses in the north aisle which depict scenes from the miraculous fish legend from St Neot's life. These would originally have been painted and are placed to the right of the window thus complementing the story depicted in glass. *(See below for the photo of the beautiful St Neot window and one of the Bosses)*

Top row, left to right: (1) Neot resigns his crown to his younger brother; (2) He takes vows as a monk; (3) Neot saves a stag from a hunter while reading the psalter with his feet immersed in water of the holy well; (4) Neot receives instruction from an angel about the three fishes in the well. He was to take one, and only one, fish from the well each day and the food supply would never diminish.



Second row: (5) Neot is sick and commands his servant Barrius to bring him a fish for his dinner; (6) The servant thinking his master needs building up, brings two fishes from the well and prepares them for the saint's meal; (7) The servant brings the fish to his master; (8) The servant, sent back by his master, throws the two fishes into the well where they are restored to life.



Third row:
(9) Neot's oxen are stolen by robbers; (10) A man and a boy are ; ploughing the glebe with stags which, at the saint's prayers, offered their services; (11) The oxen are restored to St Neot; (12) St Neot receives the papal blessing at Rome.

Evie also gave us an opportunity to study the other windows within the church, providing us with points of interest, including the Young Women's window, Wive's window and Harrys window in the north aisle plus the Noah window on the south wall.

Evie also took us across to see the canopied recess on the north side of the sanctuary supposed to have contained the arm bone of St Neot. It dates from the 1330s and fragmentary paintings at the back appear to show two kneeling figures with haloes (possibly St Guerir and St Neot) – and winged heads (possibly representing souls) linked to the figures by ropes.



Again the welcome we received from St Neot Church was so warm and friendly. Andy Thompson, one of the churchwardens, was there to greet and welcome us. Clarice and Karen had volunteered to provide tea and cake. We were very happy to partake of this at the end of our visit! It was good to be able to sit, talk and reflect among ourselves about the day.

Those who took part enjoyed the day as summed up by their comments. If there was any criticism it would be that Evie relied on her notes rather a lot but as she herself said, *"Much better to make sure I get all the information and details correct".*

"I have been in both churches a few times before, concerts, funerals, but never to BE in the church. I found it very different and benefitted from studied looking. Both Helen and I found Evie delightful: very easy to relate to and so enthusiastic about her subject. This in turn made what could have been dull, interesting; plus her amusing little stories and anecdotes. I am just now thinking, breathing life into people who may never have existed. (Sue)

Anne commented, *"The day was very interesting and delivered by Evie who was full of information, interesting facts and answered all our questions with great knowledge; a lovely young lady."*

"We really are a very friendly crowd - an event with good company is always a success. There were lots of stories to enjoy and with sun streaming in through glorious stained glass we could not have wished for better." (Kathryn & Graham)

Finally as we said our farewells, Evie did suggest that we might like to visit the Holy Well by ourselves which is some 275m from the church near the Loveny river. However the heavens opened at this point so it wasn't such an enticing idea!

Many thanks are due to Evie for giving us such an interesting day. She herself commented, *"Monday was such a pleasure, thank you so much for having me, it was such a joy! What an interesting crowd you have! I had a really lovely day and thank you once again for your seamless organisation."*

REMINDERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

<table>
<tr><td>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.</td><td>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</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hearing and other Difficulties
If you have difficulty hearing our speaker or mobility issues, please email Mary Utton by 9.00am on the day of each talk if you wish to reserve seats at the front</td><td>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.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">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.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">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.</td></tr>
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If you have any ideas, comments or queries or you can help us in any way please contact me.

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Alternatively contact Mary Utton mary.utton2@gmail.com