

Chair's October Newsletter 2025

Dear all,

Well we are back, up and running for the autumn season. We kicked off with a good turnout for Ralph Hoyle's fascinating detective story on the history of a piece of antique silver.

Next we have a good traditional Arts Society lecture from the distinguished art historian Chantelle Brotherton-Ratcliffe who will be giving us an overview of the beautiful paintings of Jan Bruegel. This will be a good one to bring along any of your friends who you think might be persuaded to join up!

On Friday 19th September we held a members' Coffee Morning in the Public Hall. Good cake, tea and coffee were enjoyed by all, but I think beyond that the chance for members to have a relaxed chat with one another was the highlight. I certainly learnt a lot about the interests and background of a number of members. You have done so many interesting things! Do come along to the next one and have a chat with other members. We will circulate dates later in the year.

I'm pleased to say that my plea for help in attracting new members has already started to pay off. Thank you to those of you who encouraged guests to our September meeting; we were able to sign up two new members as a result! The more new members and guests we can attract, the stronger will be our long term future, so please do have a think about any friends you may have who are interested in the arts and might enjoy the great range of speakers we provide.

Thank you too to the good number of members who signed up to help in our various support activities. The relevant committee members will be in touch shortly.

See you soon!

Ian
Chair

**FOLLOW UP CALL
for our**

**DISCOVERY DAY on
THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2025**

The Paintings Conservation Roadshow

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**

Speaker: Sarah Cove
ACR FBAPCR FHC



Images © Sarah Cove

**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

CHANTAL BROTHERTON RATCLIFFE



Chantal has a MA in History of Art from Edinburgh and a PhD from the Warburg Institute, London University.

With 40 years' experience as a lecturer, Chantal has taught at Sotheby's Institute of Art on the MA in Fine and Decorative Arts since 1989, and as a freelance lecturer for a number of societies and institutions in London, including the National Gallery and the Wallace Collection.

Having also trained as a paintings conservator, she brings an understanding of the making and the physical painting to her lectures and study sessions.

"THE ENTIRE WORLD ON HIS PANEL"

Jan Breughel, the patience of a saint and the industry of an ant

Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe

Tuesday 7th October 2025
at 19:30

NB: *This talk takes place on the first Tuesday of the month*

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

Guests (£10) are always welcome

Younger son of the famous Pieter Bruegel, Jan did not inherit the right to copy his father's pictures as his elder brother Peter the Younger did. Instead he had to invent a different realm of subject matter for himself, and he turned what was doubtless his short-sightedness to good use, painting pictures of exquisite detail and entrancing miniature scale.

His landscapes are microcosms of the known flora and fauna of his day, and we can feel his delight in discovering new species of tulip, say, or of parrot.



© Faithful photographic reproduction of a 2-D,
public domain work of art

The beautiful scenes he painted are analysed in this talk, but above all, they are presented for the sheer enjoyment of the audience.

Looking ahead:

Talk on 11th November

Siobhan Clarke will talk about **Henry VIII as King and Collector**. Henry VIII was an enthusiastic patron of the arts whose palaces, tapestries and paintings enriched the Tudor court and began the Royal Collection. The forces that influenced his life can be seen in the works he commissioned, all telling one central story: the glorification of Henry and his England.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Our Programme year runs from January to December and therefore 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; still very good value for money at £6.50 per talk when you consider the quality of our speakers and the range of arts subjects we cover whilst dealing with ever rising costs. Thank you to those who have already paid. Membership Secretary, Kathryn Clark, won't start chasing outstanding subscriptions until after the December meeting!

It has been agreed by the committee that from January the price per guest will rise to £12.

MESSAGE FROM SARAH COVE

Sarah joined us as our speaker back in June. Sarah has been collecting for the Alzheimer's Society and we agreed that she could put out collection tins for members to donate if they wished. She asks that we pass on the following message: *"Please thank your members for donating an absolutely fabulous £95.38. I am very grateful and it moves my fund much closer to my £4k goal."*

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.theartssocietymidcornwall.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.theartssociety.org/south-devon

LISKEARD ARTS COFFEE MORNING, 19TH SEPTEMBER

Some photos of the occasion! As Ian has already mentioned, our coffee morning was enjoyed by all and a great opportunity to chat and get to know other members.



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.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.	

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.

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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.