# LISKEARD ARTS

THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD

South East Cornwall

## Chair's October Newsletter 2026

I was pleased to see you all for the start of our autumn programme. I must say I found James Vaux Scandi Design lecture revealing - I guess I had a general feel from Scandinavian furniture but I had not realised how design had been influenced by the history of each Scandinavian country! Next month we have Mediaeval Churches and this will link nicely to our upcoming visit to Bodmin and St Neot churches. Do get your booking and payment in; we still have a few spaces.

Our autumn recruitment drive is under way. You may have seen our leaflets with a free lecture voucher, and the Arts Society has now started advertising on Classic FM. We are also about to have a Mail Drop to all houses in Liskeard, St Germans, Sy Keyne, Looe, Polperro and Lostwithiel paid for by the Central Arts Society.

Hopefully all these initiatives will produce new guests and it is then up to us to ensure we convert them to becoming members.

As we hope to have a greater number of guests sampling our lectures over the next three months, I have a small request to make. We need to make our guests feel very welcome and so if you see someone new sitting near to you, can you give them a friendly smile, and maybe ask them how they enjoyed the lecture? Making our guests feel at home is an important way of keeping them as members!

See you all soon.

Best wishes
Ian
Chair

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**
**Spaces still available**

**Visit to ST PETROC Church, Bodmin and ST NEOT Church to explore the enduring legacies of the Saints**

**Monday 19th October 2026**
**11.00 am – 3.30 pm**
Cost: **£15** per person

***If you've missed the information email or phone Mary Utton on***
mary.utton2@gmail.com /
07731380715

**Mid Cornwall & Liskeard's DISCOVERY DAY WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER**

**The Forensic Eye – Find Your Inner Connoisseur**

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**

**Speaker: Chantal Brotherton - Ratcliffe**

*Full details and the booking form can be found at the end of this newsletter.*
**PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EVENT as TAS MID CORNWALL did for our MARCH DDay!**

**About the Speaker**

## JAMES WRIGHT



James Wright FSA is a buildings archaeologist, based in Nottingham. With over twenty years of professional experience, he has published a number of books and articles concentrating on mediaeval and early modern architecture. His latest book - *Historic Building Mythbusting* - investigates and debunks commonly believed and repeated stories about ancient buildings.

James is interested in how we can use the evidence of physical structures to understand the realities of the everyday existence of ordinary people living in elite buildings. He was part of a team which won Best Project in the British Archaeological Awards for his work at Knole in Kent.

He has spoken to a wide variety of organisations including Historic Royal Palaces, the National Trust, Gresham College, Shakespeare400 and the Museum of London as well as The Arts Society. Lecturing is his favourite part of his job as he firmly believes that there is simply no point in carrying out research unless you actually tell folk what you have been doing!

# INVESTIGATING MEDIAEVAL CHURCHES

## James Wright

Tuesday 13th October 2026
at 19:30

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

Guests (£12) are always welcome

Mediaeval parish churches are some of the oldest and most loved buildings in the British Isles. However, relatively few of them have been archaeologically surveyed and many unverified stories have grown up around them.

This talk will look at some of the commonly repeated tales about the architecture of churches, which are widely assumed to be true, but which ultimately fall into the realm of folklore and myth.

These stories include doorways apparently blocked to keep the Devil out, stones rumoured to have been used to sharpen archer's arrows, and windows said to allow lepers to watch the mass. These are tales repeated in good faith but are not based in the lived reality of the mediaeval world.

Instead, we will look at the how churches were used before the Reformation. By applying contextual archaeological and historical evidence the architectural functions of churches will be investigated and unlocked.



All Saints Church, Snelland, Lincolnshire

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## Looking ahead:

**Talk on 10th November**

**Sandy Burnett will be joining us to give his talk entitled "From Tchaikovsky to Tin Pan Alley – Uplifting Music for Christmas"**
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 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…

### COFFEE MORNING ON 21ST SEPTEMBER

***Members find out more about our exciting new Heritage Volunteering Project to be run with Liskeard Museum***

We recently held a coffee morning at the Public Hall. The Manager of Liskeard and District Museum, Iga Webb, and two Museum volunteers, Aimee and Holly came, and talked about the John Rapson archive which volunteers are cataloguing.



John Rapson (1923 -2020), as some of you will know, was a significant figure in Liskeard. He was perhaps best known as a photographer and left his archive to the Liskeard Museum. Volunteers at the Museum are cataloguing some of the negatives he left - the aim is to make them available to the public, and eventually digitally. Members of The Arts Society Liskeard are being invited to become involved with the project - the project will have to take place at the Museum and volunteers will need to have some training for what is involved.



We are planning to become involved with the project as part of Arts Volunteering - there are several different roles within the project.  More information to come.



**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***

*Artfully Said*: new episode of the 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.

In the latest episode, 'Are We Losing the Art of Painting?', Arts Society Accredited Lecturer Alice White joins artist, writer and broadcaster Lachlan Goudie to explore how artists have made paintings across thousands of years. From Prehistoric ochre and Renaissance workshops to Rembrandt's impasto, art-school training and AI, they discuss the materials, skills, accidents and technologies that shape a work of art. Together they investigate what understanding the process of painting can add to and even change, how we look at an artwork.

Where to watch / listen: YouTube.com@TheArtsSociety Don't forget to subscribe to The Arts Society's YouTube channel so you don't miss an episode. You can also follow the *Artfully Said* podcast on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

Members can also follow The Arts Society on Instagram for podcast clips and updates, as well as other arts news and stories from The Arts Society.

**YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:**

**Ebenezer Gallery, Polperro – submission date for new applications**

Ebenezer Gallery, Polpero's next submission date for any new applicant is 5th December.

If you are an artist working in Cornwall and would like to learn more about exhibiting with them or joining the East Cornwall Society of Artists, they'd love to hear from you.

If you would like information on how to join, contact Clare Roper Paris on croperparis@gmail.com

They look forward to receiving new applications.

## REMINDERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

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| **Refreshments**<br>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!**<br>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!<br>Membership contact: **07790 821714** |
| **Hearing and other Difficulties**<br>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 | **Raffle**<br>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**<br>Have you ever visited and explored our website – www.liskeardartssociety.org.uk ?<br>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**<br>Don't forget to provide your feedback on the speaker and their talk.<br>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. | |

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 MID CORNWALL and THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD

## DISCOVERY DAY

Wednesday 25th November 2026

in St Mary's Parish Centre
St Mary's Road, Bodmin, PL31 1NF

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

How do dealers, auctioneers and museum staff determine whether a piece is by one painter of another? What are the clues to look for when deciding who painted the picture? Artists before the 18th century usually worked with a number of assistants, who were trained to reproduce the style of the master, so how can we distinguish between master and pupil, master and copyists? During this Discovery Day we consider clues and learn some tricks of the connoisseur. The day ends with a chance to try out your skills where you will learn to develop a discerning eye.



The Art Gallery of Jan Gildemeester Jansz Adriaan de Lelie (image cropped)

9.30 Complementary tea and coffee on arrival

10.00 Lecture: **Looking with the Eyes Wide Open**
*We can stand for minutes in front of a painting and think we are seeing it, but how much have we noticed?*

11.00 Comfort Break

11.30 Lecture: **Family likenesses significant characteristics**
*How do artists reveal their identity through their work? Learn ways to distinguish individual artistic hands.*

1.00 Lunch. Complementary glass of wine or soft drink is included. Pre-order below.

2.00 Lecture: Finding your inner connoisseur
*Chantal will guide you through an opportunity to try out your skills, identifying artists in a "spot the artist", with a study of expert clues and give you a chance to try out your budding connoisseur skills of recognition.*

Tickets £37 per person including lunch. Payment is due at the time of booking and is not normally refundable.

### If you would like to reserve a place, please complete the application form below:

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Please reserve me …. place(s) at £37.00 each including lunch. Please choose your menu option below, a traybake sweet is also included. Soft drinks, a glass of wine and hot drinks are free.

Please tick: (a) Winter Vegetable Soup with roll and butter ☐ or (b) Quiche Lorraine and salad ☐

Name …….. ……..Tel No. ……..

Email ……..Address ……..

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Please pay online via BACS to: The Arts Society Mid Cornwall, Sort Code: 30-97-28, A/C no: 00565928 reference: DDay, or pay by cheque to The Arts Society Mid-Cornwall. Please email your form to kerensabeer@icloud.com or post it with your cheque to Kerensa Beer-Robson at Hobbyfield, Trebetherick, Cornwall, PL27 6SQ.