



LISKEARD ARTS

South East Cornwall

Chair's September Newsletter 2025

Welcome back everyone after the summer break. I hope you all enjoyed the summer weather, but now are ready for a bit of mental stimulation!

We have a crackingly good set of talks between now and Christmas, as ever given by speakers of national repute. In September we have Ralph Hoyle, a passionate expert on silverware. Following him is Chantelle Brotherton-Ratcliffe a nationally acclaimed art historian giving us her crowd-pleaser on the great Jan Breugel. Siobhan Clarke follows in November with a great overview of Henry VIII and his royal art collections. Finally in December we have arguably the finest landscape photographer in the country, Charlie Waite whose beautifully illustrated talk always goes down well.

I mention these lecturers not only to give you our members an overview, but also to make an appeal.....PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND BRING THEM ALONG!

There is a very serious need for us to increase membership. We used to have well over 120 and are now down to about 85. We are currently running a deficit and need urgently to increase our income. This means either raising our subscriptions and/ or increasing membership. Your Committee has discussed this and agreed that we shall need to raise subscriptions for next year. If we can encourage new members to join us we may be able to limit or avoid future increases. And we know that the best way to get new members is by word of mouth from you, our current members. So this autumn is going to see a membership drive. If you can all try to find a friend to join up, then our future as a society will be secure. Please do all you can to recommend us to your friends!

Ian
Chair

**Don't forget to book your place
for our**

**DISCOVERY MORNING 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

RALPH HOYLE



Ralph is a long standing member of the Silver Society and was a schoolboy member of the Wine Label Circle (a society devoted to the study of silver decanter labels) eventually becoming its President.

He has given talks to the Art Fund, Sheffield Assay Office, American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Historic Houses and at small charity raising events as well as being an acclaimed speaker for The Arts Society.

MID CENTURY ENGLISH ROCOCO SILVER

Its social context, and the adventures of its owners and makers

Ralph Hoyle

Tuesday 9th September 2025
at 19:30

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

Guests (£10) are always welcome

Ralph's interest is mid eighteenth-century English Rococo silver. He brings with him the pieces he is going to talk about for the listeners to handle and examine, together with a comprehensive collection of power point images, with close ups of features of interest.

The Huguenot influence on this most decorative period is discussed, where new silversmithing techniques fused with new designs; together with methods of manufacture, interpreting the engraved heraldry of the items, and the social context.

He makes the talk entertaining as well as informative by taking the audience on a journey to uncover the original owners by tracing the heraldry, shows portraits of them, and reveals some of the life story associated with them; fabulously wealthy aristocrats and middling sorts, they variously had a stint in the Tower of London, had tragic family circumstances, had their descendants gamble away their estates, found their wife in a bed she should certainly not have been in or were dragged to their death in an overturned carriage, adding considerably to their interest.

Looking ahead:

Talk on 7th October

Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe will be joining us to talk about "**Jan Brueghel**"

Jan Brueghel, the younger son of Pieter Bruegel, recorded much of the world around him. He delights us with fantasies and scenes of heaven. Short-sighted, he painted pictures of exquisite detail and entrancing miniature scale. His landscapes are microcosms of the known flora and fauna of his day. His beautiful paintings are analysed but, above all, they are presented for the sheer enjoyment of the audience.

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

Liskeard Arts Society Coffee Morning on Friday 19th September in the Wheal Phoenix room at Liskeard Town Hall

To celebrate the start of the new season we would like to invite Liskeard Arts Society Members to a **Coffee Morning**. This is your opportunity to meet the committee, chat with fellow members, discuss talks that you have enjoyed and of course to eat some delicious cake.

We do hope you will be able to join us.

Do drop in at any time between 10.30 - 12.30, we would love to see you.

Please RSVP to ktycl@btinternet.com by 9th September.

Regards
Kathryn Clark
Membership Secretary

Overview of the 2026 Programme

Looking ahead to next year you'll find the 2026 Programme sheet towards the of this newsletter.

Once again a mix of quality speakers and an extremely interesting range of topics. We've much to look forward to.

There will be hard copies for you to pick up from the registration desk. By handing the sheet out to prospective new members, this could be an ideal way of gaining their interest.

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.

Feedback Form Responses

57% of you responded.

From those responses 54% indicated that members do not wish to change the start time for talks and therefore we will be continuing to open our doors at 7.00pm for the talk to start at 7.30pm.

We also asked you to let us know whether you would prefer to drop January or June's talk if we return to 9 talks per year in 2027. This may not be necessary if we are able to build up our membership so we are in a better financial position.

The response we received was that 67% felt that January is the better month to lose.

Just One Pledge

Thank you to those of you who already help with those tasks needed to run Liskeard Arts successfully. Thank you also to those of you who have now put yourselves forward to help by indicating your area of interest on our 'Just One Pledge' forms.

Mary has now let the leads have the list of names for each of the different tasks. If you have shown an interest in something you will be contacted by the relevant lead who will want to discuss how you could help or arrange a meeting for the group to get together to discuss how to move that area of work forward.

The leads are as follows:

Graham Clark	Finance
Kathryn Clark	Membership
Mary Utton	Hosting Publicity Visits, trips & events
Liz Undy	Registration desk
Pat Francis	Church recording
Margie Tunbridge	Arts volunteering
Susan Barnes	Refreshments

LISKEARD ARTS VISIT TO PENGENNA MANOR

On Saturday 14th June 2025, 15 LAS members gathered at Pengenna Manor which is situated at Trelill, Wadebridge, for an afternoon tour. The sun was shining and our excellent, very knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide was Richard Blewett, the current owner. The Manor has been the home of the Blewett family for over 150 years. Richard took over running Pengenna in 2011.

We would never have discovered this lovely place on our own. The tour was great with such an enthusiastic owner. It is nice to know he is not too bothered about crumbling plaster and woodworm. Gives us hope for our own homes! (Carina Davis)

Pengenna Manor is an 800 year old private house set in over 300 acres of beautiful Cornish countryside. It is tucked away in a secluded valley and is just three miles inland from the North Cornish coast.



Richard gathers our group



The Manor and garden, south-east view

Pengenna began as a one room two-storey hall built during the mid-medieval period in about 1220. The earliest document mentioning Pengenna dates to 1523 with the Pentyre family in residence although there is a record of a Thomas Pentier claiming the land against John and Maud Pentier dated 1442. In the 1590s unknown residents (probably still the Pentyres) added a three-storey extension creating an entire new frontage to the house with adjoining north wing, comprising eight new bedrooms, a drawing room, parlour, great hall and even a private family chapel.



That was a wonderful visit to Pengenna Manor, I particularly found the unrestored room fascinating, to see the various layers of history on the walls and the original moulded beams in the ceiling, and hear the birds chattering above us. Part of me hopes he never gets around to bringing it into the 21st century. Thank you for arranging it. (Frances Impey)



'Adam and Eve', earliest example of plaster work in Cornwall, 16th century



The tour begins in the Drawing Room

It's only after the English Civil War (1642–1651) that there is reference to the new owners, the Reverend Thomas Pocock, his wife Honor and their children Edward, Mary, Thomas and Honor.

On the death of Thomas Pocock in 1722, Robert Corker, a wealthy Falmouth merchant bought Pengenna. Unfortunately he ran into huge debt and was forced to sign everything over to John Hedges, treasurer to the Prince of Wales. When he died in 1731 his estates went to the Prince of Wales to cover all his debts. In 1735 the Prince of Wales sold Pengenna to the Molesworth family of Pencarrow Estate who had the original medieval wing partly demolished.

In the 18th and 19th centuries Pengenna was occupied by a series of tenants before we move to 1925 when the Blewetts were able to buy Pengenna from the Molesworth family.

Richard says that growing up in a building such as Pengenna instilled a sense of curiosity about what had come before. He was always fascinated when historians would visit, following them around and asking lots of questions. The same was true when descendants of earlier tenants would get in touch asking to visit to soak up the atmosphere of what they called 'the family home'. From this his enthusiasm grew and he spent much time researching Pengenna's history at Cornwall Records Office and on research trips further afield. It became, and remains, his serious passion. It was such a joy to listen to him and hear about the manor's history and family tales.

After our wonderful 90 minute tour the afternoon ended with a very welcome cream tea and a chance to chat!

Another lovely day out with friends from Liskeard Arts. A chance to get to know each other a little better. Warm summer sunshine, an enthusiastic host, a close look at a wonderful old house all followed by a cream tea. A good opportunity to keep us all in touch over the summer months, and to reminisce over the recent lectures we have enjoyed. (Kathryn and Graham Clark)



We had a most enjoyable afternoon....such an interesting story how the house has developed over the years.... Plus a cream tea to end the afternoon....what else could you ask for! (Alan and Sheila Chambers)

Another successful Liskeard Arts tour. If more members would like to experience Pengenna Manor we can easily arrange a further visit.

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:



LISKEARD UNLOCKED 2024, Friday 12th to Sunday 21st September

As part of Heritage Open Days, Liskeard Unlocked will be celebrating ARCHITECTURE with walks, talks, displays and the chance to see behind doors which are usually closed.

Details about the programme can be found online at <http://bit.ly/liskeardunlocked>

Flyers outlining the programme will be available to pick up from our registration desk on 9th September.

STERTS THEATRE, Cornwall is proud to present the WORLD PREMIERE OF "INTO THE LIGHT", a brand new contemporary dance double bill by internationally acclaimed company PETT|CLAUSEN-KNIGHT (PCK Dance), on **Friday 19th September, 7.30pm.**

For full details and tickets visit Sterts website at:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sterts/into-the-light-pck-dance/e-oeajde>

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



Bouquet of Lilies made in 1899 for Alexandra Feodorovna as a gift from Nicholas II

January 13th

John Benjamin - Fabergé: The Life and Work of the World's Greatest Goldsmith

This talk analyses the mercurial rise of Carl Fabergé in pre-revolution Russia. By his late 30s he was producing incomparable jewels and objets d'art for the Imperial Court and bourgeois Moscow and St Petersburg. We will learn about Fabergé's early life and influences as well as exploring the objets d'art he created.



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David, completed by Michelangelo in 1504

February 10th

Antonia Gatward-Cevizli – The Big Three in Florence

For a brief but intense period at the beginning of the 16th century, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael coincided in Florence. These are the years of *Mona Lisa*, *David* and Raphael's many serene Madonnas. This talk explores the rivalry between these artists and the impact that their work had on the young Raphael.



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The British Rail "Double Arrow" designed by Gerry Barney (1965)



This work created by the UK Government is in the public domain

March 10th

Mark Ovenden - How Great Design Influenced the Railways

From those gorgeous 1930s travel posters, through nationalisation of the railways in 1948, to the creation of the famous BR Double-Arrow symbol in the 1960s...it's surprising how British railways have led the way in terms of design. We reminisce over those beautiful graphics, bygone days of railway architecture and travel. We'll pay homage to the wonderful Tube map by Harry Beck and look to future design.



Portrait of Pope Innocent X by Diego Velázquez, 1650

April 07th

Isabelle Kent - The Century of Gold: Spanish Art in the age of Velázquez

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Spain rose as the great European superpower. This vast wealth, alongside the renewed Catholic fervour of the counter reformation kickstarted the Spanish *siglo d'oro* – literally the century of gold - the great flourishing of painting, sculpture, literature and music. The talk explores this historical period and vast array of art before focusing in on the work of the great painter Diego Velázquez.



Madonna of the Book by Sandro Botticelli, 1480

May 12th

Lynne Gibson - Colour and the Artist's Palette – Feeling Blue

Blue is the colour of heavenly skies and the Virgin's gown. It is the haze of distant mountains. It is spiritual and moody. Bright royal purple was the dye reserved for the Roman Senate. Woad was the people's dye; cheap and not particularly cheerful. Ultramarine was the most prized pigment on the artist's palette, imported and costlier than gold. Modern chemistry brought inexpensive strong blues to all palettes.



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



Mrs. Fiske Warren (Gretchen Osgood) and Her Daughter Rachel, 1903

June 09th

Cindy Polemis - John Singer Sargent and Fashion

John Singer Sargent was THE international art star of the Gilded Age. He was most famous for his dramatic and stylish portraits of the elegant and wealthy. He brought his subjects to life, but also used fashion as a powerful tool to depict identity and personality. Cindy explores how John Singer Sargent 'fashioned' his world.

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



PH-Lamp (1958 version), Denmark

September 08th

James Vaux - Scandinavian Modern: Behind the Scenes

Just why did Scandinavian Modern design become so popular in the mid-century and how did it turn from a revolutionary movement into just another style? And was there a dark side to it? Because lurking in the shadows was a Nordic project to change consumer taste and shape the model citizen using scientific experimentation and social engineering. published under the GNU Free Documentation License



All Saints Church, Snelland, Lincolnshire

October 13th

James Wright - Investigating Mediaeval Churches

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.

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The Nutcracker performed by the St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre at Chichester Festival Theatre 03 Nov 2007

November 10th

Sandy Burnett - From Tchaikovsky to Tin Pan Alley – Uplifting Music for Christmas

Looking ahead to our seasonal celebrations, 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...

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Pose and elusive expression of Princess Metternich reappear in a Degas painting

December 08th

Emma Watts - Photography in Paint

This talk will explore the relationship between paint and photography, but from the unique perspective of how painting responds to photography. Exploring how the two worlds and the rather unexpected response of paint to photography.

 Photo by Disdéri, André Adolphe Eugène – Prince and Princess von Metternich
© Portrait of Princess Metternich, Edgar Degas National Gallery, London

DISCOVERY DAYS, TRIPS and EVENTS

Information about the 2026 Programme soon to be finalised and published.

All meetings start at 7:30pm in the Public Hall Liskeard PL14 6BW. Refreshments served from 7:00pm
Non-members are welcome to attend all events. www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk

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.