



LISKEARD ARTS

SOUTH EAST CORNWALL

Chair's September Newsletter 2024

Dear Members

Welcome to our newsletter for September which heralds the return of our 2024 Arts programme. I hope you have enjoyed the two months break as much as I have. I had two weeks exploring the Prehistoric archaeology of Shetland and Orkney and the weather was extremely kind to me – surprisingly sun and blue skies for much of the time!

Our programme resumes with a superb speaker, Douglas Skeggs, who will be focussing on 'Nicholas and Alexandra – Tyrants and Martyrs of Imperial Russia' (*see below for further details*). We then continue through to the end of the year with a varied programme ranging from the story of British pottery over 6000 years with Julian Richards, Kate Strasdin talking about 200 years of tailoring and Britain's success in this field before ending the year learning about the life and times of Oscar Wilde with Simon Whitehouse.

We also have a trip to look forward to. On Wednesday 6th November William and Janet Greaves-Stocker will be leading a tour of the **Minster Church of St Andrew** along with a visit to **Prysten House and Abbey Hall**, Plymouth. For further information please have a look at the booking form which is attached at the end of this newsletter. Maximum number for this trip is 20. If you are interested please don't leave it too late to let me know.

This month I'm covering a lot so I can keep you up to date. I hope you will take the time to read it all! I've given you some information about the work we've supported at **St Dominic Primary School, Saltash**. I'm delighted to report that their project has now been completed. I'm hoping that this September the weather will be kind to Coads Green Primary School so they can complete their external mural and again I'll be able to report back about the work and its impact on the children and the community.

I've also included Graham Clark's write up on the tour and cream tea July event at **Boconnoc House**. I was very disappointed to have missed it. Everyone attending seems to have had a very enjoyable time.

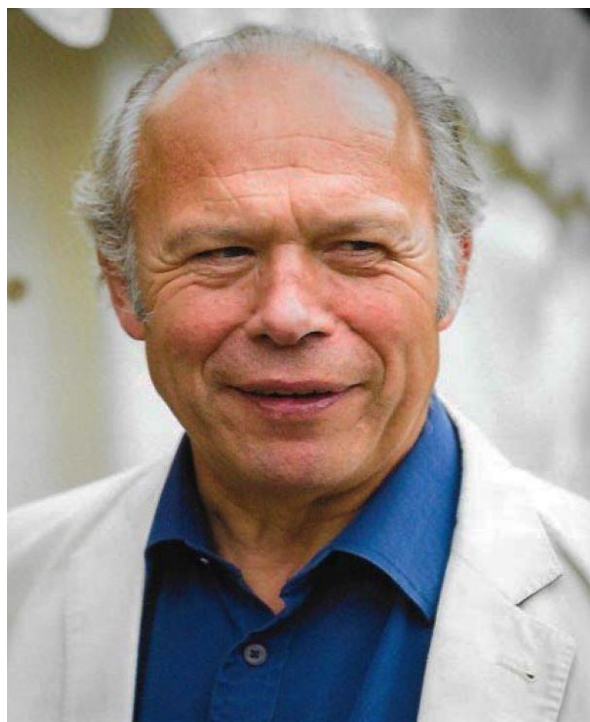
Looking ahead to next year you'll see an **overview of the 2025 programme**; once again a mix of quality speakers and an extremely interesting range of topics. Well done to our Programme Secretary, Ian Tunbridge, as we've much to look forward to.

I'm going to end with a plea. Please remember that I will be stepping down as Chair at the next AGM in May. We have a strong and committed group of members who support our Society in a number of ways, either as committee members or as volunteers who cover the myriad of tasks required for us to be able to run our meetings successfully. **BUT** there are not enough of us and without a Chair the Society can no longer function. Please think about how you could help whether it be on the committee or just assisting with one of the tasks.

Mary Utton, Chair

About the Speaker

DOUGLAS SKEGGS



Douglas read Fine Art at Magdalene College Cambridge and has been a lecturer on paintings since 1980. In that time he has given over 8000 lectures to universities, colleges and art societies.

He was the director of The New Academy of Art Studies for three years and is presently a regular lecturer at The Study Centre, Christie's course 'The History of Art Studies' and other London courses.

Among his more improbable venues for lectures are the bar on the QE2, MI5 headquarters, the Captain's Room at Lloyds, and an aircraft hanger in a German NATO base. Overseas he has lectured in Belgium, France, Germany and Spain, and has taken numerous tours around Europe.

NICHOLAS and ALEXANDRA Tyrants and Martyrs of Imperial Russia

Douglas Skeggs

**Tuesday 10th September 2024
at 19:30**

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

Guests are always welcome.
This month the talk is free to guests in
association with *Liskeard Unlocked*.

Although it has been told and retold in books and films, no story in the 20th century has caught the imagination more powerfully and poignantly than the tragic life and execution of Nicholas II, the last of the Romanovs. From his childhood where he stood sobbing by his grandfather's bedside in the Winter Palace, Nicolas's life seemed to be shadowed by the omens of disaster. At the celebrations for his coronation, the crowd of spectators ran out of control and thousands were trampled to death; when the people appealed to him personally during the strikes of 1905, he assumed they were rioting and had them shot down by the Imperial Guard.

Brought up by a powerful, iron-willed father, he was emotionally unsuited to rule the nation and allowed himself to be dominated by his wife, blinded to her short-comings. Alexandra was easily misled by mystical cults and charlatans peddling spiritual cures so that, when the boy she had craved so long was discovered to be suffering from haemophilia, she fell completely under the spell of Rasputin.

With the war threatening to destroy the nation and the people on the brink of revolution, Nicolas was forced to sign his abdication. For a time he was allowed to remain in captivity but with attempts to rescue him mounting, he was moved out east where finally, he and his family were shot in a cellar.

Looking ahead: Talk on 8th October

A welcome return of Julian Richards to Liskeard Arts. His talk is entitled "A Potted History of England".

Julian will be exploring the story of British pottery over 6000 years.

Looking ahead:

**TOUR ON
6TH NOVEMBER with
William and Janet
Greaves-Stocker**

Don't forget to book your place.

'MINSTER CHURCH OF ST ANDREW including a visit to PRYSTEN HOUSE and ABBEY HALL' 10:00 to 12:00 including a coffee break

John Piper and Patrick Reyntiens created the 6 stunning stained-glass windows for when the church was rebuilt after the war. Find out more about the meaning behind the designs of the beautiful windows as well as more of the history of the church and its most notable features.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to organise a tour of The Box Plymouth for the afternoon but you are free to visit for yourselves.

You will have received the booking form by email and you will find a copy attached to this newsletter. You will also find it online at www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk

I look forward to welcoming you along to this event which looks to be very interesting but numbers are limited to 20 so please register your interest with Mary Utton.

OUR CHURCH RECORDERS NEED YOUR HELP

Liskeard Arts is very proud of the work our Church Recorders achieve.

Currently they are tackling the record for St. Marnarch's Parish Church Lanreath.

To be able to complete the record they need some more help!

Would you be interested in **medieval stonework** or know someone who would be?

Do come forward and let us know.

You will receive lots of support from Pat Francis and her team.

For further information please contact Pat by email

pattifrancis@hotmail.com

ST DOMINIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ARTS PROJECT sponsored by LAS

The pupils of St Dominic Primary School, Saltash have just completed their project to create an exterior art installation for the school fence that can be viewed by the whole community.

Linked to their PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) as well as the art curriculum, every child from Early Years to Year 6 has been exploring what makes them unique as an individual and creating an image about themselves to reflect this. Once the children had completed their designs they painted the image on a round piece of wood. These 'dots' have been linked together to make a wave of personalities and hung on the school fence nearest the road.



The project was led by Shannon Angwin, the school's Early Years teacher with the help of several parents. One dad donated the round pieces of wood and one of the mothers worked with Shannon on the best medium for the children to use for an external installation.



The children were inspired and enthused by the project and from their faces it's clear they've enjoyed themselves and had fun.

Here's what some of them had to say:

'The story of the dot was inspiring'; 'I did mine in bright colours so it shows my bright personality'; 'It has been extremely fun to do the dots'; 'At first it was tricky to paint with acrylic but then with practice it got easier and easier'; 'I love seeing it on the way to the gate'; 'I like that we get to look at them all together'; 'I think they look fantastic all together'; 'Can we do another project soon?'.



As one teacher commented: 'I loved working with the younger children to help them to bring their drawings to life'.

Liskeard Arts Society's contribution towards the costs allowed the school to purchase the resources needed to paint the 'dots', varnish them so they will survive the elements and attach them as a 'wave' on the fence. A committee member thoroughly enjoyed visiting the school and seeing the work in progress before returning to see the installation on the fence.



This has clearly been a successful project through which the children have had an opportunity not only to develop further their artistic skills but also to reflect on who they are as a person. They have had fun and will remember the work for a long time! It has also given parents and other members of the community a talking point. The 'wave' will be added to every year as the new intake paint their 'dot' as part of their PSHE lessons.

BOCONNOC VISIT 23rd July 2024

At Liskeard Arts we always try to provide a varied programme of talks to cater for a wide range of tastes. But there's so much more to enjoy than just our wonderful lectures!

On 23rd July this year an enthusiastic group of Liskeard Arts members and guests met at Boconnoc for a private tour of this beautiful house and grounds.



We were welcomed with a glass of sparkling wine served in the sitting room and were given a brief history of the house and some of its famous and infamous owners. Prime ministers Pitt the Elder and Younger both being owners at one time.

We were then led on a tour of the house and were impressed by the extensive renovation that had saved it from ruin as well as a large collection of paintings, mostly of previous owners of the house and their families. Our guide explained how the fortunes of previous owners were linked to historic events, particularly the civil war.

The house is available for private hire and weddings, and we were all impressed with the luxurious accommodation on offer and were amazed to see ensuite bathrooms the size of most of our living rooms!

Our next stop was a visit to the small adjacent church and heard about its links to the house. On our way back to the house we were shown a Victorian outdoor swimming pool and were told of brides choosing to get married in the empty pool.

On return to the house, we were treated to the lightest possible scones with lashings of jam and cream.



Wonderful weather, history and good company - so much to enjoy with Liskeard Arts!

Outline for our 2025 Programme:

7 th January	Tyler Butterworth	A Bit of a Carry On! – tells the remarkable story of Carry On actor Peter Butterworth and his wife, Britain's first female television impressionist Janet Brown
11 th February	Doug Gillen	Empowering People – the real voice of street art
11 th March	Jane Gardiner	Vases and Volcanoes – Sir William Hamilton and his collection
8 th April	Ross King	Wild Men of the North – Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven
13 th May	Ashley Gray	A Yorkshire Textile Renaissance – the tale of Cryséde & Cresta
10 th June	Sarah Cove	Fakes and Fortunes – or have I discovered a Constable in my attic?
9 th September	Ralph Hoyle	Mid-18 th century English Rococco silver
7 th October	Chantelle Brotherton-Ratcliffe	Jan Breughel – the entire world on his panel
11 th November	Siobhan Clarke	King and Collector – the art of Henry VIII
9 th December	Charlie Waite	Landscape Photography
Discovery Days for 2025 still to be announced.		

REMINDERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Refreshments Refreshments are available from 7.00pm. As well as teas and coffees we also serve wine which is £3.50 per glass. 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 (£8). 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.	

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

LISKEARD UNLOCKED 2024, Friday 6th to Sunday 15th September

As part of Heritage Open Days, Liskeard Unlocked will be celebrating ROUTES, NETWORKS AND CONNECTIONS old and new. That includes Liskeard's links to the mines on the Moor and the routes to Looe, and Liskeard's recent twinning agreement with Kopychyntsi in Ukraine. And, as ever, there will be the chance to see behind doors which are usually closed.

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

THE ARTS SOCIETY WESSEX AREA

Are running two courses. Both can be accessed on Zoom

The Silk Road This is a 5-day study course running on 15th October, 12th November 2024, 14th January, 18th February and 18th March 2025

The Age of Enlightenment This is a 3-day course running on 11th March, 3rd April and 21st May 2025

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

FOLLOWING UP MY PLEA AT MAY's AGM
RAISING MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

We need to raise our membership. If **every one** of you could find someone else to be interested in Liskeard Arts, bring them along to a meeting and encourage them to sign up as a member, we would be in a much better financial position.

If you have any ideas, comments or queries please contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mary Utton
Chair of Liskeard Arts
mary.utton2@gmail.com or liskeardarts@gmail.com



THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD

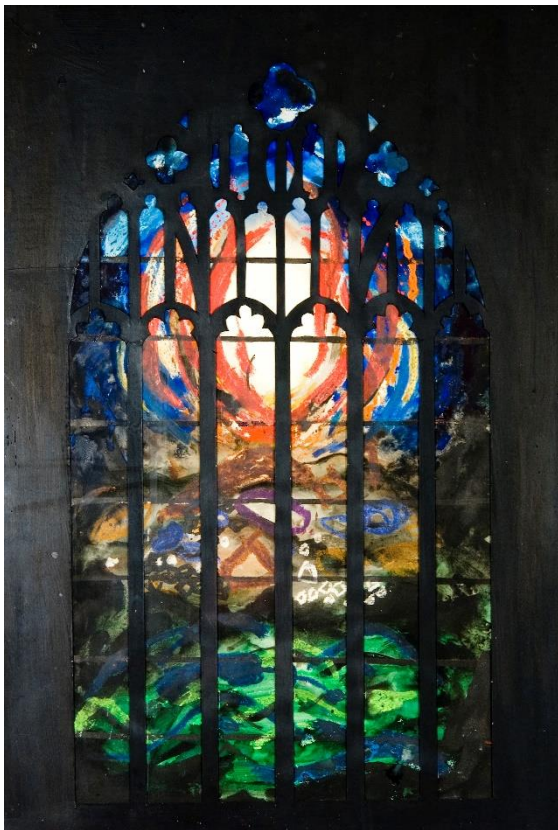
Visit to MINSTER CHURCH of ST ANDREW,
PRYSTEN HOUSE and ABBEY HALL, Plymouth

Wednesday 6th November 2024
10:00 am

We are pleased to offer a tour of **the Minster Church of St Andrew including a visit to Prysten House and Abbey Hall.**

A church has stood on the site of the current church for 1000 years. The church was badly damaged during World War II and became known as the Garden Church as services took place in the open.

John Piper and Patrick Reyntiens created the 6 stunning stained-glass windows for when the church was rebuilt after the war. Find out more about the meaning behind the designs of the beautiful windows as well as more of the history of the church and its most notable features



The tour will include a visit to the Prysten House which is behind the church along with Abbey Hall. Prysten House, built in 1495 by a prominent Cornish merchant as a base in Plymouth to send his goods to London and beyond, is one of the oldest in the city still standing. At its centre is one of the best preserved Elizabethan courtyard balconies in the country. This building is rarely open to the public but a special tour has been arranged.



The Church is accessible for all with a ramp access and level floors throughout the building. Prysten House has a number of steps and is on several levels.

The tour will begin at **10:00am** from outside the west door of St Andrew's Church and last approximately 2 hours including our coffee break.

A big thank you to William and Janet Greaves-Stocker who will be leading the tour.

Maximum number is 20 guests so please reserve your place asap to avoid disappointment. *(If there is a lot of interest then William and Janet are happy to organise a further visit at a later date.)*

You will make your own way by to St Andrew's Church, Plymouth ready for a 10:00am start.

The address is: **Minster Church of St. Andrew, Royal Parade, Plymouth PL1 2AD**

We had hoped to organise a guided tour of The Box Plymouth for the afternoon. This has not been possible. However we suggest that you may wish to have lunch in Plymouth, maybe at The Box, and then in the afternoon explore The Box for yourself if you haven't already had an opportunity to do so. The exhibition that will be running in November are:

Artist Rooms Vija Celmins who is best known for her obsessive, detailed images of ocean waves and the star-filled night sky.

J.M.W. Turner and Ingrid Pollard MBE exploring landscape and how it impacts on our sense of belonging and identity.

Further details can be found at www.theboxplymouth.com

Please see the following page for details on how to book your place on this tour.



THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD

Visit to MINSTER CHURCH of ST ANDREW,
PRYSTEN HOUSE and ABBEY HALL, Plymouth

Wednesday 6th November 2024

10:00 am

*There is **no charge** for the day. However St Andrew's Church is very grateful for any donations received. If you would like to make a donation then you will be able to do so on the day.*

To book your place please provide Mary Utton with the following details using the slip below.

This can be handed to her at a Liskeard Arts meeting or sent by post to **Mary Utton, Tregantle, Barn Street, Liskeard PL14 4BL**. Telephone 01579 345140 or 07731380715

Alternatively email Mary on mary.utton2@gmail.com:

Subject: Trip St Andrew's

Message: how many places you would like plus your telephone number

Please reserve me place(s) *There is no charge for this trip*

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.*