



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TRURO

Tidal Pathways (detail) © Amy Albright

February 2024

NEWSLETTER

truro.theartsociety.org

Lecture — Wednesday 14 February at 7pm AS Truro AGM followed by The Art of the Automobile by Roger Mendham *Held in Mylor Theatre, Truro College*



The earliest cars were purely functional and lacked even the most basic of passenger comforts, such as doors or even windscreens to protect passengers from the elements.

However, progress was rapid and by the mid-1920s we entered a golden age of automobile design. A new generation of stylish cars were influenced by the art deco movement and the 'Great Gatsby era' included some of the most famous and fabulous cars ever built.

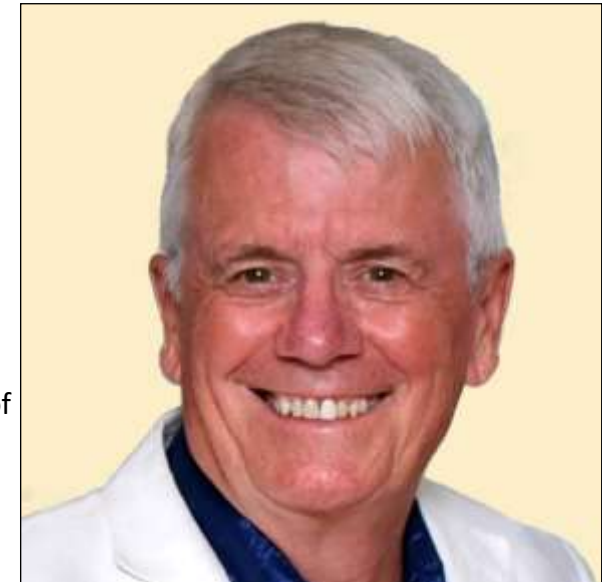
This period was followed by the Streamline Moderne influenced

cars of the 1930s and 40s, with aerodynamic shapes and lots of chrome detailing. This talk covers some of the most beautiful cars ever built, and focuses on the work of the coachbuilders, who were inspired by the art movements and created 'mobile works of art'.

About the Lecturer

A keen and accomplished photographer Roger has gained Distinctions from the Royal Photographic Society and is currently the President of the Surrey Photographic Association.

His artistic taste is predominantly 20th century and he is particularly interested in the visual aspects of art. He has studied the evolution of photography from its earliest days in the early 1800s to becoming a major art form in the late 20th and now 21st centuries.



An experienced public speaker, his talks are all richly illustrated with both his own and images from some of the leading photographers in history.

Guests

Anyone is welcome to attend our lectures, as a guest. You do not need to book, just turn up on the night and pay your £8 guest fee at the Registration Desk. A map of Truro College is on page 5 of this Newsletter.

truro.theartsociety.org

Membership for 2024

If you have been enjoying our Newsletters then please do consider becoming a member.

As Karen, our Chair, says we need MORE members!

This will allow the Society to remain viable and also enable us to provide more for our members.

Did you know that as a member you will automatically receive three Arts Society Magazines per year, by post?

Do look at our diverse and interesting Lecture Programme for the year in this Newsletter on page 4.

Please click the link below for our Membership Application Form. Just fill it in and SUBMIT it to us.

The Membership Fee for 2024 is £60 per person.

[Link to Membership Application Form](#)

** It is really important that you only use this link, links in other Newsletters are no longer valid**

Payment options are detailed on the Membership Application Form but are also given here:

BACS Payment - Lloyds Bank Sort code 30 98 76 A/C No. 02189984

Please use your surname as your BACS payment reference.

Cheque – Made payable to The Arts Society Truro.

Post to: The Treasurer, 6 Tehidy Gardens, South Tehidy, Camborne TR14 0ET

Once your application form and payment have been processed I will send you an email confirmation of your membership for 2024.

If you have any questions regarding your membership application, then please contact:

Lois Humphrey. Membership Secretary

membership.astruro@gmail.com



From the Chair

Hi everybody

Hope you have managed to escape all the coughs, colds and bugs going around. As I look out of my window I see Spring is on its way with snowdrops out and bulbs coming up.

Time to get more new life into the Arts Society too. Every year about 25 people don't rejoin for genuine reasons. To stay viable we do need to increase our numbers again. So keep encouraging your friends and neighbours to come along, offer a free guest ticket - available from Lois on the reception desk. Membership leads to other opportunities not just our meetings.

The other 4 societies in Cornwall always invite us to their Discovery Days. Liskeard are planning a trip in late September to Wells and a variety of rarely visited gardens - so watch this space!

As you know we are a couple of people short on the committee. Please come along to a committee meeting (approx 5 a year) as an observer - promise no pushing to join!

Karen

February AGM

Those of you who didn't attend our Annual General Meeting in October will no doubt be wondering why we are holding another AGM in February. The reason is that, as some of you will remember, after Covid when we had had to suspend lectures, we gave members a subscription moratorium and this resulted in a variation between the subscription year and our financial year. In order to rectify this the Committee decided that, at the AGM in October 2023, we should report only on the last four months of 2022 and then alter our financial year to run from 1st January to 31st December 2023 in line with the period for which subscriptions are paid.

This means that at the forthcoming AGM in February we will present the accounts for the twelve months ended on 31.12.2023.

Lecture — Wednesday 13 March at 7pm Colourful Characters - Laura Knight's Models by Catherine Wallace

This lecture replaces the advertised lecture 'Once Upon a Time' by Jeni Fraser.

Thank you to Catherine Wallace for stepping in at late notice.

In this lecture, local art historian Catherine Wallace delves into the fascinating range of models portrayed by renowned UK figurative painter Dame Laura Knight RA (1877 – 1970) throughout her illustrious career, highlighting the vivid and diverse characters depicted. From children, to fellow artists such as Eileen Mayo and Ella Naper; stars of the ballet including Pavlova and the theatre such as John Gielgud. Laura Knight also made many studies of the circus acts during her travels with them in the 1920s and 30s, including some of the most colourful clowns. She also painted the Romany gypsies of Epsom and Ascot horse races from young and old in all their finery. As an official War Artist in Second World War she also painted portraits of women doing men's work in the factories such as Ruby Loftus.



Fine Feathers by Dame Laura Knight at Nottingham Castle Museum © the estate of Dame Laura Knight RA

Dear all,

As many of you knew her I am very sad to have to let you know that Jeni Fraser, a TAS lecturer and Falmouth committee member, died on Friday 26th January in Treliske from a lung condition.



Jeni was due to give our lecture next month on 13th March. We had also been invited to join a Discovery Day at the Falmouth society on 15th March that she was presenting. Further information on these events will be sent out when available.

Jeni was Chair of TAST 20 years ago. In fact it was through Jeni we started to have our meetings at the college. She has always been a great supporter of TAST Providing courses, lectures, Zoom study day, produced Newsletters etc and more recently wrote 'arty' articles for our Newsletter.

This has been a terrible shock as Jeni appeared to be making really good progress, and we will miss her huge depth of knowledge on art history, and her exuberant personality very much.

Karen

The Arts Society Truro Programme for 2024 — click on a lecture for more details

Evening Lectures

January 10 Food and Art Through the Ages

by Tasha Marks



This lecture is a whistle-stop tour of the history of food as artistic medium; starting with 16th century sugar sculpture and venturing all the way up to 3D dessert printing and beyond.

February 14 AS Truro AGM followed by The Art of the Automobile by Roger Mendham

The Art Deco movement inspired a golden age of car design, including the 'Great Gatsby era', when some of the most fabulous cars ever created were produced.



March 13 Colourful Characters - Laura Knight's Models by Catherine Wallace



In this lecture, local art historian Catherine Wallace delves into the fascinating range of models portrayed by renowned UK figurative painter Dame Laura Knight RA (1877 – 1970) throughout her illustrious career, highlighting the vivid and diverse characters depicted.

April 10 Murder Most Florid by Mark Spencer

Plants are silent witnesses to crimes. This lecture explores how common plants like brambles can be used to help solve serious crimes such as murder, assault or arson.



May 8 The Impressionist Landscape

by Lois Oliver



Following in the footsteps of Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro and Pierre-Auguste Renoir we analyse what was new about Impressionist landscape paintings: their experiments with colour theory, new synthetic pigments, and, most importantly, the distinctly modern landscape that they chose to depict.

June 12 Gordon of Khartoum and the Power of Art

by Max Jones

George William Joy's painting of the death of General Gordon in 1885, 'murdered' on the steps of the governor's palace in Khartoum by the Mahdi's 'dervishes' was ignored by critics and dismissed as inaccurate by scholars, but became one of the iconic images of the British Empire.



September 11 James Whistler

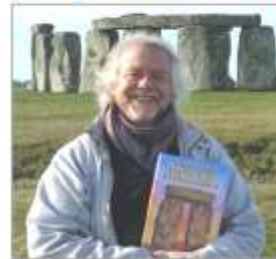
by Douglas Skeggs



This lecture explores the paradox of Whistler whose flamboyant and eccentric ways made him both admired and detested in equal measure yet whose quiet, meditative paintings ultimately assured him a place as one of the high priests of the Aesthetic Movement.

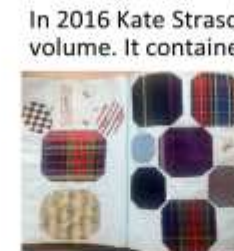
October 9 Inspired by Stonehenge by Julian Richards

Stonehenge will be examined as a piece of prehistoric architecture before looking at its influence on painters, potters and poets over the centuries and how it has become a cultural icon.



November 13 Dress Diary of Anne Sykes

by Kate Strasdin



In 2016 Kate Strasdin was given an unusual volume. It contained over 2000 swatches of fabric pasted into a marbled album but it had no provenance and no known background. Kate spent the next six years uncovering its secrets, discovering its author and the life that she led.

December 11 Wilde About Oscar by Simon Whitehouse

Oscar Wilde: writer, wit & the first modern celebrity. From his childhood in Ireland to his artistic circle in Chelsea and glittering West End first nights, to the criminal trial of the age, we chart Oscar's extraordinary journey and discuss his enduring appeal & legacy.



Visits and Tours

We organise visits to places of architectural, artistic and horticultural interest. These often include expert talks and private access to venues.

Young Arts

The Arts Society Truro supports and sponsors a number of local Young Arts projects aimed at providing pupils and young adults with new exciting opportunities to learn and explore different creative arts.

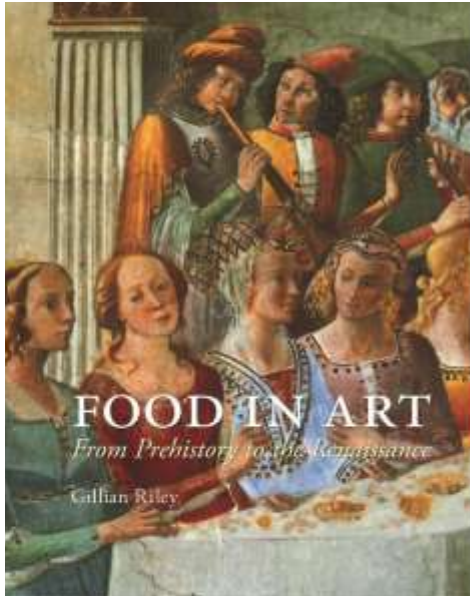
Volunteers

The Arts Society Heritage Volunteers undertake many interesting projects: research, conservation and restoration in many different areas, and in Truro The Arts Society has a lively group of volunteers working in the Courtney Library in the Royal Cornwall Museum helping to conserve its large number of books.

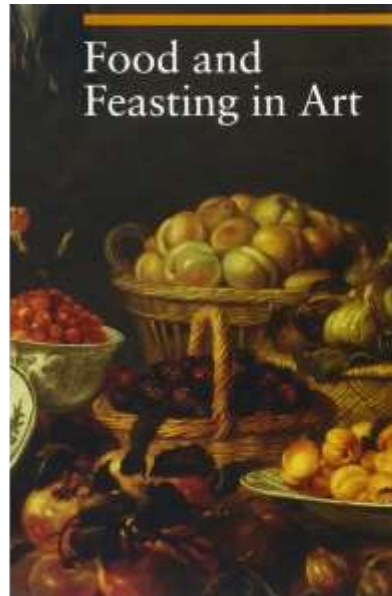
Printed programmes are available at the evening lectures

Further reading after last month's lecture by Tasha Marks

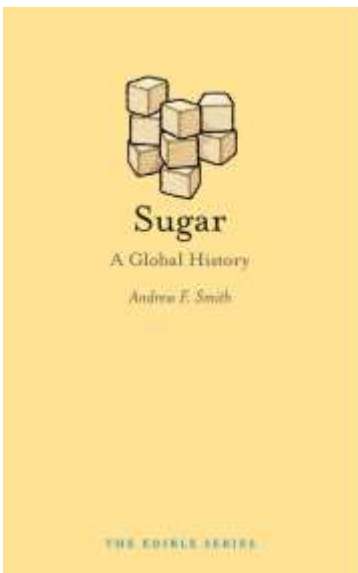
On the AST Members Feedback Form, Tasha's lecture from 27 responses was rated:
18% Outstanding, 74% Excellent, 8% Good.



Food in Art by Gillian Riley

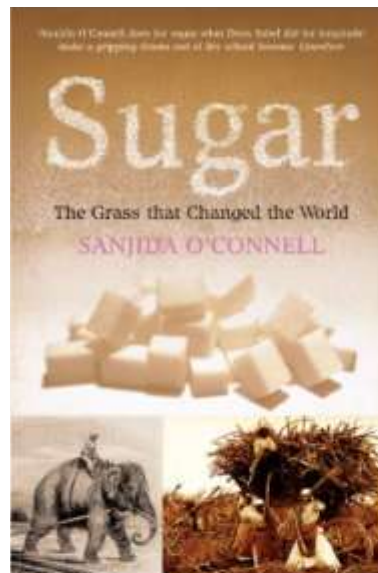


Food and Feasting in Art by Malaguzzi



Sugar by Andrew F. Smith

<<<<<

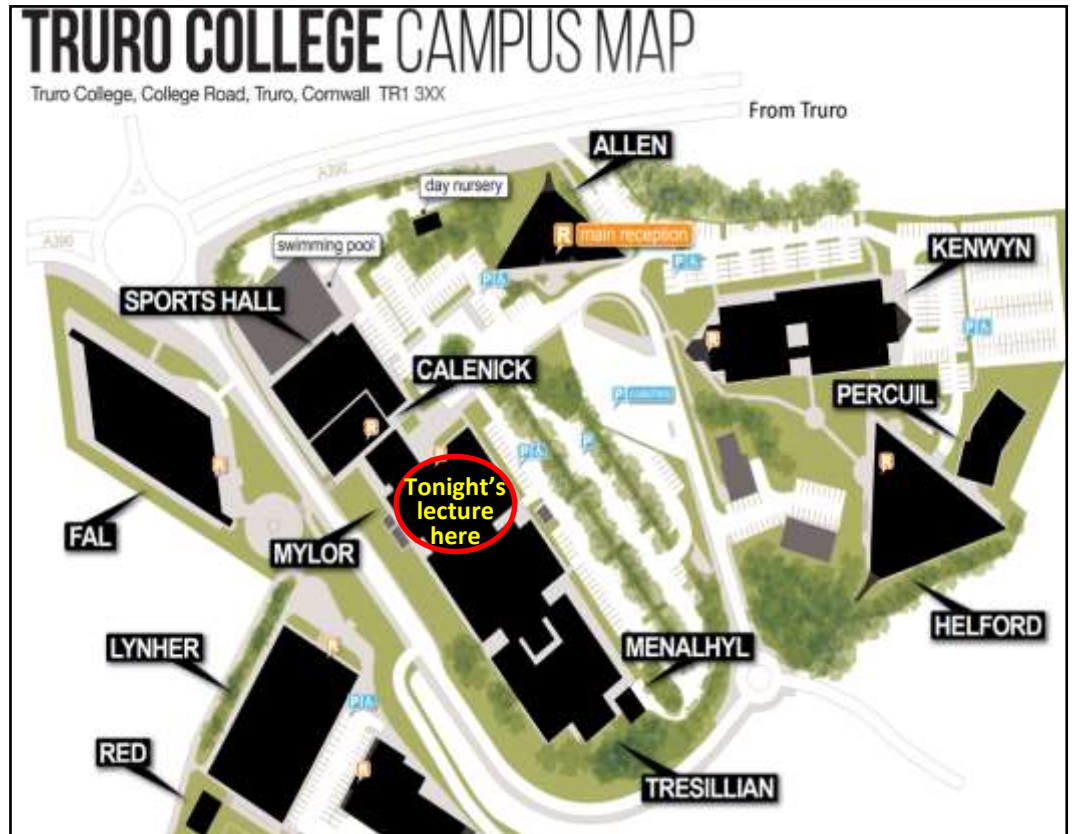


Sugar by Sanjida O'Connell

>>>>>

I hope you all like the golden tickets for guests to come to a lecture without paying - beautifully designed by Hugo.

Please take one to give to a friend or





THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD
DISCOVERY DAY
The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters
 Wednesday 20th March 2024

The author Dr Helen Wilson whose research led to her book 'The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters', will be joining us to recount their story. At a time when running a company was deemed an exclusively male preserve, the sisters, Mary, Ethel and Violet, established a thriving business in the late 19th century into the 20th century whose output in terms of quantity and quality is only now being recognised as among the most significant in ecclesiastical woodcarving at which craft the Pinwills were sublime artists. Our own LAS team of Church Recorders met Helen whilst she was researching St Martin's Church, Looe.

VENUE: The day starts in **St Martin's Community Hall, Looe (PL13 1FA)**. In the afternoon we move to **St Martin's Church, Liskeard (PL14 3AQ)**

FROM: 10:00 with registration opening at 9:45 **Day ending: approx. 15:00**

TOTAL COST: £27 - £22 per person with a suggested donation of £5 for the two churches' upkeep fund (*donations can be gift aided with your consent*)

Lunch independently; you're welcome to either bring your own packed lunch and eat in St Martin's Community Hall, Looe or venture out for lunch in one of Looe or Liskeard's cafes.

Parking: AM - ample free parking at St Martin's Community Hall, Looe. PM - there is some parking available in the Church Centre opposite St Martin's Church, Liskeard which we have permission to use. If all spaces have been taken then you will need to use a car park.

You may book and pay by cash/cheque at a Liskeard Arts meeting, or online. Or post this completed slip with your cheque payable to The Arts Society Liskeard to:

Mary Utton, Tregantle, Barn Street, Liskeard PL14 4BL

01579 345140, 07731380715, 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) @ £27 per person including donation.

NAME(S)

POSTCODE TEL NUMBER

EMAIL

I am a member of Liskeard Arts

Please Gift Aid my donation; I am an eligible UK taxpayer

Online booking and payment

1. Please pay **£27 per person** (£22 with donation of £5 for donations to each church) to:
 The Arts Society Liskeard, sort code **20 68 10**, account number **70729515**, ref **DD** +your surname

2. Then **email** mary.utton2@gmail.com:

Subject: Discovery Day

Message: how many places, how much you've paid, agreement to Gift Aid donation amount, and your telephone number.

You should get a reply to your email within 48 hours, acknowledging payment and booking.

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.

THE REMARKABLE PINWILL SISTERS

PROGRAMME

From 09:45
10:00

Registration
Welcome

Introduction to Church Recording from the LAS team

Break for coffee and cake

10:30

11:00

Illustrated talk by Dr. Helen Wilson
 "The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters"

finishing with participants' questions

12:10 – 12:45

Exploring the Pinwill Sisters' carvings in St Martin's Church, Looe with Helen talking about specific carvings



St Martin's Church, Liskeard Bench Front – example of the Pinwill sisters' work

12:45 – 14:15

Lunch independently before making one's own way to St Martin's Church, Liskeard

14:15 – 14:55

Exploring the Pinwill Sisters' carvings in St Martin's Church, Liskeard with Helen talking about specific carvings

14:55

Thanks and farewell

About the speaker

DR HELEN WILSON

Helen was born and brought up in Plymouth, Devon, and studied for a BSc and PhD in Environmental Science as a mature student at the University of Plymouth, teaching there for a number of years. She has since developed interests in local history, architecture and churches, applying research skills to her main project of the last decade, studying the life and work of the Pinwill sisters, ecclesiastical woodcarvers. This research has led to numerous speaking engagements across Devon and Cornwall and more recently developed into the production of a book entitled 'The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters'.



Giving a presentation on the Pinwill sisters to the Devonshire Association Buildings Section at Lew Trenchard, Devon. (Photo: Sue Andrew)



THE FRIENDS OF
TRURO CATHEDRAL



**GEORGE TINWORTH of
ROYAL DOULTON POTTERY
AND HIS TERRACOTTA PANELS**

An illustrated talk by

MICHAEL SWIFT

Wednesday 6 March 2024 2.30pm

**In the Chapter House of
Truro Cathedral**

George Tinworth's terracotta panel "Our Lord on His way to the Crucifixion", in the North Quire Aisle, is one of the most loved attractions in Truro Cathedral. We shall hear the story of this great Arts & Craftsman, who rose from humble beginnings to become Chief Designer at Royal Doulton Pottery.

Truro's enormous panel was the first one he made, and is now the only one still on public view.

Tickets £12.50 (to include tea / coffee / cake) can be purchased:

From the Friends Table after the Sunday Morning Eucharist

By phoning 01872 274986 and leaving a contact number

By emailing Angela Hare, the Chair of Fundraising, at: i.a.hare@btinternet.com

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL

**FRIENDS COFFEE MORNINGS
ALL WELCOME 10am to 11.30am**

**The Friends coffee mornings take place on the
second Wednesday of every month in the
Old Cathedral School.**

**Do come and join us as we shall be
delighted to see you.**

Next few dates: 14 February 13 March 10 April



**The Truro School Art Collection on display at the
Royal Cornwall Museum — 30 January - 18 May**



In the early 1980s David Heseltine, then Head of Art at Truro School, found himself frustrated that the independent status of the school barred it from borrowing artworks from the Cornwall Council Schools Art Collection. He was convinced that the school should begin its own Collection in order that generations of students might learn from looking at the real thing. Today, the Collection encompasses nearly 300 artworks representing a veritable A-Z of late 20th and early 21st century artists, the majority of whom lived and worked in Cornwall and some of who attained international recognition.

The Collection is rarely seen, and this is only the second time that the Collection has featured in an exhibition at the Royal Cornwall Museum in forty years. The exhibition draws from Heseltine's unique personal archive and stories he gathered when visiting the many artists who gifted to the Collection or from whom he purchased.

Iconic artworks from St Ives, West Penwith/Newlyn halls of fame, and Falmouth Art School showcase diverse subjects and media, creating a 'living' teaching resource.

The Collection is unusually well gender-balanced and alongside Patrick Heron, Terry Frost, Peter Lanyon, Bryan Pearce and Breon O'Casey you will find works by Kate Nicholson, Margot Maeckelburghe, Daphne McClure, Sandra Blow and Wilhelmina Barnes-Graham as well as discovering artists whose work you might not know so well.

<https://www.royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk/exhibition/truro-school-art-collection>

Norman & Alethea Garstin - Two Impressionists in Cornwall

An Art History Lecture by Catherine Wallace



The Rain, It Raineth Every Day, 1889 by Norman Garstin ©Penlee House Gallery

In this talk, Art historian Catherine Wallace delves into the often-overlooked legacy of **Norman Garstin (1847-1926)**, an esteemed artist of the original Newlyn School. Discover Garstin's mesmerizing landscapes around Newlyn, as well as his evocative paintings capturing the essence of Belgium and Brittany, where he dedicated significant time to teaching painting courses. Wallace will discuss the influence Norman Garstin imparted on his daughter, **Alethea Garstin (1894-1978)**, who, inspired by renowned Newlyn painters such as Dod Procter, emerged as a prominent impressionist in the United Kingdom from the 1940s to the 1960s.

Wednesday 28 Feb. 10.30

- 11.30am on ZOOM also

available as a recording on

YouTube Cost £13 book via

www.cathwallace.co.uk

where you can pay by credit or debit card or catherinewallace2@icloud.com

to pay by BACS or send cheque

Pendarves,

Tremough Dale, Penryn TR10 8JA

or

Thursday 29 February

@ The Poly, 24 Church Street

Falmouth 6.00pm.

Cost £12 +£1 Poly Fund

Book via www.thepoly.org

A LEVEL ART COMPETITION

VOTING CLOSES ON 29th FEBRUARY 2024

As you are all aware from previous newsletters the Arts Society decided to put the annual A-level art competition online. During the summer 113 entries from all over the country were submitted. The students' artwork ranged from textiles, ceramics, sculpture, photography to fine art. A panel of judges have selected a shortlist of 15 and the Arts Society has given the responsibility of selecting a winner to a public vote. This can be done via the January 2024 monthly Highlights newsletter received by all members. Alternatively, you can go online and vote using the arts society website:

theartsociety.org/art-gallery

TAST is particularly proud of submitting work from six students and having two of them shortlisted. **Emily Trendell and Florence Cooper.** Last month we were told that one of the judges was the President of the RBA and he has asked if Florence Cooper would give permission for her work to be exhibited in the Royal Society of British Artists Summer Exhibition.



By Florence Cooper (Truro College)



By Emily Trendell (Truro School)

A Short History of Plaza Cinema, Truro



Halfway up Lemon Street in Truro is the art deco inspired Plaza Cinema, built in 1936 as a purpose built cinema. When it first opened it had one screen, stalls and a balcony and seats to accommodate 1,176 people. Above the entrance there were 3 dressing rooms, a café and a ballroom.

The Plaza was taken over by the Rank Organisation in 1976/77 who applied for a bingo license which was refused. An offer to purchase the cinema by the Cornwall based WTW Group was turned down in March 1977, the building eventually being acquired by a Somerset businessman who added a second screen in the cafe area seating 175.

The cinema hit hard times in the 1990s with attendances dwindling, and entered receivership in November 1996. It was subsequently closed on safety grounds by Carrick District Council, leaving Cornwall's only city without a cinema.

20 years after they had unsuccessfully opened negotiations to purchase The Plaza, WTW Cinemas acquired the freehold of the premises in May 1997 and immediately began an extensive reconstruction and refurbishment of the building. The modernisation programme enabled The Plaza to reopen on 10th July 1998 with 4 cinemas.

Well known film critic Mark Kermode has shown great support for the Plaza over years. One reason is that the Plaza has retained the ability to show 35mm films (rather than solely digital) of which Mark is an advocate. In recent years he has hosted evenings showing such science fiction classics as 2001-A Space Odyssey, Silent Running, and Moon.

Information from WTW website

Calligrapher Required by Truro Cathedral

This is to enter names in the Books of Remembrance.

There are two Books; the main roll of folk who have died and the other is Remember our Child—for those who have lost a child. It is simply adding the names to the appropriate page on the date of death.

The Books are kept in a glass cabinet in the Chapel of Unity & Peace and the pages turned every day for all to see.

Those whose names appear on any particular day are prayed for at the morning Eucharist.



LOOK GROUP at Royal Cornwall Museum

Look Groups are small gatherings of people who get together regularly to talk informally about art, artists, and ideas. They are sponsored and supported by the Tate Gallery.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 6th March, from 2 – 4pm.

Our exhibition will be 'One and All Portraits' by Seamus Carey in the Philbrick Gallery and the Truro School Art Collection will be in the Chapel Gallery.

The Spotlight Gallery will contain a small selection of minerals and will be titled 'Spotlight on the Mineral Collection'.

Kate Clayton-Jackson

ARTY SNIPPETS

This is a new section in the Newsletter so if you see anything interesting or a bit quirky that we could use, please send to newsletter.astruro@gmail.com, just a picture and a few words will suffice.



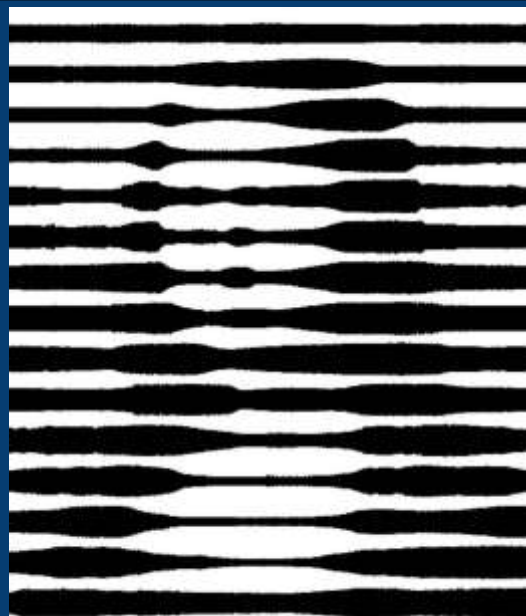
'The Veiled Lady'
by Raffaele Monti
1860 (Metropolitan
Museum of Art)

*A mind-blowing
sculpture in marble
creating the illusion
of transparency
with the veil is
unbelievable!*

<<<<<<

**In remembrance
of Daphne du
Maurier (who
lived in Fowey)**
this sculpture was
recently erected
on the town quay.

>>>>>>



*Amazing how
little information
you need to
create a well
known image.
Screw up your
eyes a bit!*

<<<<<<

*Seen on a house in
Fowey.*

>>>>>>



Early Medieval Cornwall - Life at the Crossroads, John Fletcher Wednesday 21st February 2024, 1-2pm

About the Talk

As the Roman Empire collapsed at the beginning of the 5th century, a powerful kingdom emerged in South West Britain based on the former tribal boundaries that came before. These were the ancestors of the Cornish; and far from being alone or cut off from the world they were at the centre of a maritime trade network that reached from the Irish Sea all the way into the Mediterranean.

John Fletcher discusses what we know about these turbulent centuries and how the Cornwall we know today can be traced directly back to this period. This talk is FREE with an RCM annual pass (£7.50 per visitor - under-18s and RCM Members are free), which can be purchased from our reception on the day. Please secure your booking for this talk through Eventbrite!

About John

John Fletcher is a local historian and reenactor who specialises in South West Britain in the Early Medieval period. His first book, *The Western Kingdom: The Birth of Cornwall*, was published in 2022 and tackles the story of the Cornwall and the Cornish identity between 400 and 1100CE.

Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-medieval-cornwall-life-at-the-crossroads-john-fletcher-tickets-808870071157>



One & All

6 February - 23 March 2024

The third and final instalment to Seamas Carey's trilogy of work on Cornwall, nationalism & identity. Following the success of the *The Reason Why* podcast and the award winning live show *Help! I Think I'm A Nationalist*, comes the resulting visual companion piece, *One & All*.

Boldly referencing and subverting the iconic image of the Cornish crest (a miner and a fisherman flanking a shield), the collection of portraits (captured by photographer Steve Tanner) explores what the people of 21st century Cornwall look like now.

Disparate figures from different communities (many of whom Carey met during the making of his podcast) standing side by side, representing a plurality of opinions, a contrast in genders, backgrounds and beliefs. The images provoke questions around belonging, inclusivity and act as a closing moment for this significant body of work.

Alongside the photographs, we'll also be hosting the exclusive, world premiere screening of *Who's The Most Cornish Person You Know?* In this 2024 comedic documentary Carey is joined by filmmaker Neal Megaw, as they embark on a quixotic quest to find the "most Cornish person there is". The pair follow a chain reaction sequence of interviews, meet fascinating characters, hold unique & thought provoking conversations and eventually discover (in theory) the epicentre of Cornishness.

The film will be played on loop throughout opening hours.
Funded by Arts Council England, FEAST, Royal Cornwall Museum and Deborah Hinton.

Supported by Impossible Producing.

