



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
TRURO

Tidal Pathways (detail) © Amy Albright

March 2024

# NEWSLETTER

[truro.theartsociety.org](http://truro.theartsociety.org)

## Lecture — Wednesday 13 March at 7pm Held in Mylor Theatre, Truro College 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. 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 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 the 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

### About the Lecturer

Catherine Wallace is a freelance art historian, writer and lecturer specialising in British and European 19th and 20th century art with a focus on artists who were based in Cornwall, England. Catherine also has an in depth knowledge of commercial contemporary art and artists from Cornwall. Catherine has over 30 years experience as a curator and writer on art. This informs the lectures and guided tours she now offers online and live.

Recently she has made contributions to TV shows such as Rick Stein's Cornwall on the BBC and Watercolour Challenge (Trebah Garden) on Channel 5.

Catherine has also contributed to a film about an exhibition featuring Stanhope and Elizabeth Forbes for the Borlase Smart – John Wells Trust.

(Further biog about Catherine on page 8).



*Catherine will bring to the lecture a couple of copies of the book 'Laura Knight—A Celebration' for purchase at £20 each*

### 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](http://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 3.

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](mailto:membership.astruro@gmail.com)



## From the Chair ....

Hi all

A busy week with the grandchildren - Pancake tossing was a great success. We thought of building an Ark ! It was a very soggy week. I must now concentrate on the Arts Society. There is quite a bit happening so do read the newsletter carefully. Pam Miller has organised a morning in the cathedral with Michael Swift our stained glass window expert.

The museum has Truro Schools art collection on display. Some members have accepted the invite to the private view. Other local societies have invited us to join their events. I am hoping to attend Bodmin's Symbols in the Golden Age of Dutch Painting.

Please don't think of our society as just a monthly meeting there is much, much more to the Arts Society.

Keep giving out those tickets admitting people to a lecture for free. They really help to spread the word.

**Karen**

### Does anyone recognise this jumper?

It was left behind after one of the lectures, we think January.

To claim it please see Lois on the registration desk at the next lecture evening.





# 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**

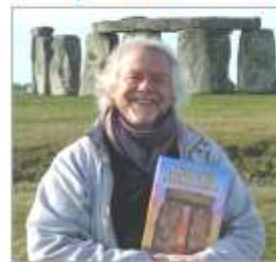
**by Douglas Skeggs**



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

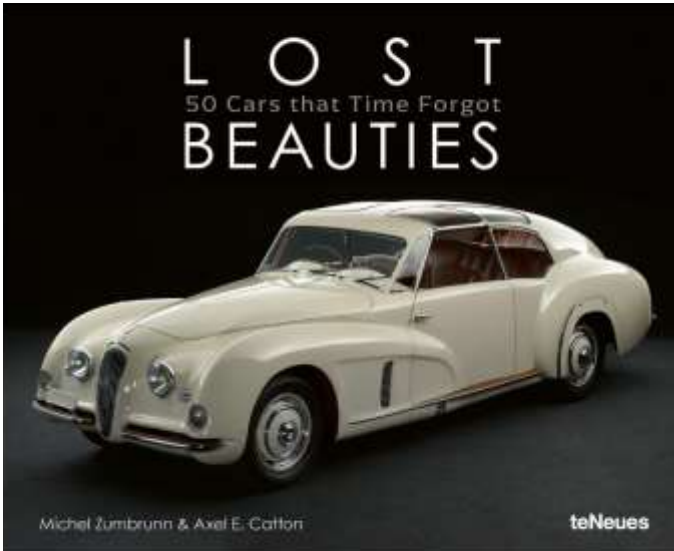
The Arts Society Heritage Volunteers undertake many interesting projects: research, conservation and restoration in many different areas, and in Truro The Arts Society has a lively group of volunteers working in the Courtney Library in the Royal Cornwall Museum helping to conserve its large number of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

Printed programmes are available at the evening lectures



# Further reading after last month's lecture by Roger Mendham

On the AST Members Feedback Form, Roger's lecture from 31 responses was rated:  
39% Outstanding, 45% Excellent, 13% Good, 3% Passable.

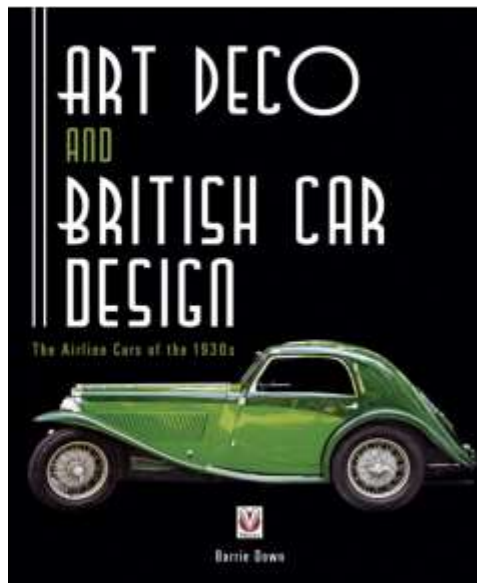


Lost Beauties — 50 Cars That Time Forgot  
By Michael Zumbunn and Axel Catton

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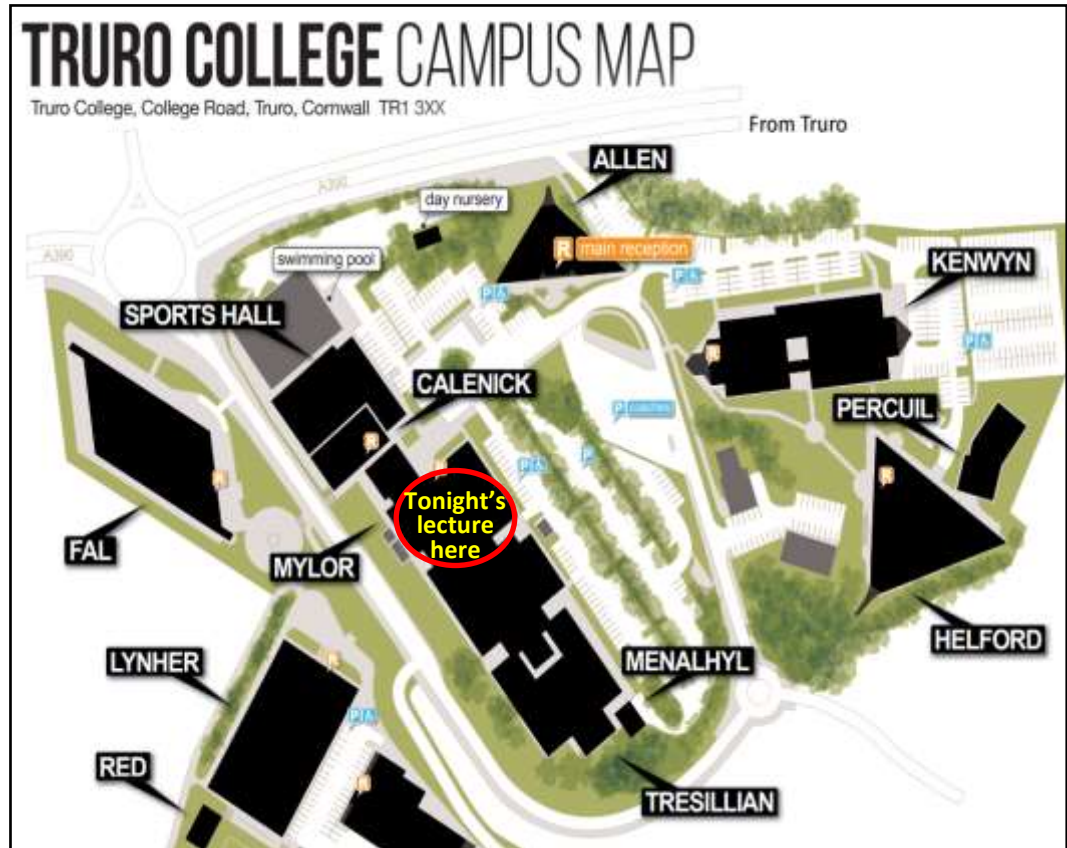
Adult Colouring Book — Bugatti to Delahaye by Edward Barber



Art Deco and British Car Design by Barrie Down

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 relative.





*Some interesting 'arty' showings are happening at the Plaza Cinema, Lemon Street, over the next few months*



**Painting The Modern Garden: Monet To Matisse – Exhibition On Screen**

**Sunday 3 March**

**3pm**

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**John Singer Sargent – Exhibition On Screen**

**Tuesday 16 April**

**6pm**

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**Sunday 21 April**

**3pm**

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**My National Gallery – Exhibition On Screen**

**Tuesday 4 June**

**6pm**

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**Sunday 9 June**

**3pm**

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The Arts Society Liskeard presents

## The Houses, Gardens & History of Wells, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire

3 days from £444 Departing 24th September 2024

**tailored travel**  
Inspiring Group Tours

### FEATURES

- Half board accommodation
- All excursion travel & guided tours included
- Entrance fees to non-National Trust properties included
- Executive coach throughout
- Included cream tea on Day 2

### WHAT WE WILL SEE

- Dyrham Park
- Wells Cathedral – guided tour
- Bishop's Palace & Gardens
- Stoberry Park Garden – welcome talk & included cream tea
- Bowood House & Gardens – guided tour

### ACCOMMODATION

We stay two nights on a half board basis at the 3\* Limpley Stoke Hotel ([www.limpleystokehotel.co.uk](http://www.limpleystokehotel.co.uk)). This Georgian country hotel is conveniently situated on the outskirts of Bath in a delightful village setting. Facilities at the hotel include a restaurant and a bar, and all rooms are ensuite and feature a hairdryer, television, and tea & coffee making facilities.

### EXTRAS TO YOUR TOUR

- Single room supplement £69
- Insurance (including Covid cover) £26
- Entrance fee to Dyrham Park (free to National Trust members)
- Gratuities
- Lunches
- Donation at Wells Cathedral

Price based on twin share. Minimum numbers required. Normal booking conditions apply.



Dyrham Park

For more information on this tour contact your Group Organiser

**Mary Utton**

Tel: 01579 345140

Mobile: 07731 380715

Email: [mary.utton2@gmail.com](mailto:mary.utton2@gmail.com)

Tregantle, Barn Street, Liskeard PL14 4BL



Tailored Travel's ATOL Number is 1033



Wells Cathedral

View and share this tour online - click on View Your Tour at [www.tailored-travel.co.uk](http://www.tailored-travel.co.uk) and quote 11sd241





THE ARTS SOCIETY TRURO

***Colour, Art and Light -  
Stained Glass Treasures of Truro Cathedral  
with Michael Swift***

***Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am prompt***

This is an hour's tour of six of the most important windows in the cathedral, concentrating on their artistic design and the influence of medieval and Victorian art rather than their religious content.

It is mostly a walking tour and binoculars might add to your enjoyment!



***Cost £10 including refreshments available  
at the end of the tour (Pay at the door on the day)***

***Meet in the Quire Maximum Number 25 so book NOW!***

***[Click here for application form](#)***

THE ARTS SOCIETY MID CORNWALL  
**Discovery Day**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

in The Keep Meeting Room  
Bodmin Keep, Cornwall's Army Museum, PL31 1EG

**Double Dutch**

Symbols, Emblems and Double-Entendre in Dutch Painting  
with Lynne Gibson

The merchants of seventeenth century Holland filled their town houses with paintings. But these upright Calvinist citizens rejected biblical subjects and Baroque melodrama. Favourite themes were found closer to home. Still lifes and scenes of everyday living (genre scenes) reflected the prosperity and self-esteem of the new Republic. The detailed realism of these paintings convinces us we are looking at a window onto a past world. But is there more to Dutch art than meets the eye?



*Still Life with Fruit, Oysters, and a Porcelain Bowl, 1660-79, oil on panel, Abraham Mignon Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam*

- 9.30 Coffee on arrival at The Keep
- 10.00 Lecture 1 Reading symbols and meanings in Dutch still life, pronk, vanitas and flower paintings
- 11.00 Comfort Break
- 11.30 Lecture 2 Symbols and meanings in Dutch genre paintings
- c.1.00 Lunch – either bring your own packed lunch or pre-order a pasty (see below). A glass of wine or soft drink will be provided
- 2.00 Interactive discussion of a small selection of paintings.
- 3.00 approximate time we finish

Tickets £39 per person. 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:

**Double Dutch, Discovery Day with Lynne Gibson**

**Please reserve me ..... places at £39.00 each or £42.85 each** if you would like to pre-order a Barnecutts' medium pasty for lunch.

- Steak       Cheese & onion

Name .....

Telephone no..... Email address .....

Address .....

Pay on-line via BACS to: The Arts Society Bodmin, Sort code 30-97-28, Account number 00565928 Ref: DDay or by cheque made payable to The Arts Society Bodmin

Please email your form to [sandyfrench5@gmail.com](mailto:sandyfrench5@gmail.com) or post it with your cheque to Sandy French, Woodcroft, 5 Trevone Crescent, St Austell, PL25 5EB





*A visit is being organised to the Automata exhibition at the Royal Cornwall Museum on the morning of Thursday 9th May with Henrietta Boex who is co-curating the exhibition.*

*So pop the date in your diary. Details available soon.*

## BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

You may, or may not, know about one of Truro's hidden treasures, the Courtney Library, upstairs in the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro. It is an amazing place! Full of 40000 books about Cornwall in all its facets – language, geology, industries, art, buildings, gardens, estates.... and so on.



For 30+ years, members of the Arts Society Truro have been working in this wonderful place, preserving its books for generations to come. A fascinating hobby indeed. Each of us works once a month, on a Thursday morning.

We need more of you to join the team! If you'd like to know more, or are even a little bit interested, please talk to me at a Lecture evening, or [email me on: joy.reynolds@reynoldsresearch.co.uk](mailto:joy.reynolds@reynoldsresearch.co.uk).

## BECOME AN INSTANT EXPERT ON... AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ART

Australian Aboriginal art is one of the most fascinating art forms in history. **Rebecca Hossack, expert in this field, reveals the key things you need to know about the medium**

### Then and now

One of the most important things to know about Australian Aboriginal art is also one of the most curious: this is an art form that is both the oldest continuous artistic tradition in the world, and one of the newest 'art movements' in contemporary culture.

It's a story that can be traced back over thousands of years. There are rock paintings and rock carvings from over 40,000 years still extant in Australia. Among them is the earliest known representation of a human face. This two-toned petroglyph, or stone carving, was found, with many other extraordinary carvings, at a remote site on the Burrup Peninsula on the coast of Western Australia.

Most of the art created by Australian Aboriginal people during past millennia was ephemeral. It was painted on the body (using natural ochres), arranged on the ground (using seed pods and feathers), or carved into living tree trunks. This art was just one element in a traditional ceremonial life that also included dance and song.



*Untitled by Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri (c.1932–2002). Image: Courtesy of the Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery*



*Rock Art (i), Askin (Ric) Morrison. Image: Courtesy of the Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery*

**For more on Australian Aboriginal Art please click the link below**

<https://theartsociety.org/arts-news-features/become-instant-expert-%E2%80%A6australian-aboriginal-art>



## About Catherine Wallace

Catherine Wallace was born in Cuffley but grew up in Otley, West Yorkshire. She studied Fine Art at Leeds and Canterbury before completing a Master's degree in Art History and Museum Studies at St Andrews University. Having focused her studies on Wyndham Lewis, she researched and organized a major loan exhibition at London's Imperial War Museum in 1992.

Moving to Cornwall in 1993, she was responsible for Falmouth Art Gallery for eight years, curating both contemporary and historic art exhibitions as well as overseeing the redevelopment of the gallery. Since 2000 she has been a freelance curator, author and lecturer. Major exhibitions include "Catching the Light: The Art and Life of Henry Scott Tuke (1858 – 1929)" in 2008 held at Falmouth Art Gallery and Royal Cornwall Museum simultaneously. She has also worked as a fundraiser and project manager for arts charities including the Borlase Smart – John Wells Trust and the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. From 2006 – 2016 Catherine organised exhibitions of contemporary art for the Lander gallery in Truro.

Catherine has written articles on Cornish art for local magazines and she is also the author of several books on historic Cornish Art. Catherine contributed two essays to the publication "Laura Knight : A Celebration" with Penlee House in 2021 and gave a paper at the "Show is On" Laura Knight Conference, Milton Keynes Gallery in 2022. Catherine has considerable experience in giving lectures on aspects of historic and contemporary British Art. She recently undertook a lecture tour of New South Wales, Australia for Arts National- the sister organisation to the Arts Society in Australia.

Alfred  
Wallis  
Naïve  
Painter and  
Modernist  
Inspiration  
An Art History  
Lecture by  
Catherine Wallace



Join art historian Catherine Wallace as she explores the captivating art of **Alfred Wallis**, a genuine naïve painter. Wallace, explains how to read Wallis' paintings and identify the Cornish coastline he is depicting along with other landscapes. His unique way of painting, architecture, boats and trees is also explored. Wallace analyses how Wallis influenced renowned St. Ives Modernists **Ben and Winifred Nicholson, Christopher Wood, and W. Barnes-Graham**. Uncover the significant moment when Wood and Nicholson discovered Wallis in 1928, leading to the collection of Wallis' works by artists and curators such as **Jim Ede**. Wallace also references the exceptional collection of Wallis' paintings housed in **Kettle's Yard, Cambridge**, curated by Ede, providing invaluable insights into Wallis' artistic journey.

**Thursday 28 March**  
**The Poly, 24 Church Street**  
**Falmouth 6.00pm.**  
**Cost £12 +£1 Poly Fund**  
**Book via [www.thepoly.org](http://www.thepoly.org)**  
or

**Wednesday 3 April**  
**10.30 - 11.30am on on**  
**ZOOM also available as a**  
**recording on YouTube**  
**Cost £13 book via**  
**[www.cathwallace.co.uk](http://www.cathwallace.co.uk)**

where you can pay by credit or debit card or [catherinewallace2@icloud.com](mailto:catherinewallace2@icloud.com) to pay by BACS or send cheque  
**Pendarves, Tremough Dale,**  
**Penryn TR10 8JA**





***Our former Chair, Celia Julian, recently visited an intriguing church in Herefordshire and sent in some photos and report.***

The more I read about this church, the more fascinating it becomes!

Officially it is St Mary and St David Church, Kilpeck, Herefordshire, but it lies five miles from the Welsh border into Monmouthshire and originally belonged to the Welsh. It was later given to St Peter's Abbey, which became Gloucester Cathedral. It is believed that there has been church on this site since 640 AD and the current building has been there since 1140.



Pesvener felt it to be one of the most perfect examples of a Norman church in England. It is Grade I listed.

Close by is the ruin of a castle, believed to have been built in wood in 1086. The church is Romanesque, with an ornately carved South door. There are snakes of regeneration, represented by the tail of one snake being in the mouth of another. On the left side of the door column are two warrior figures wearing trousers, unusual at the time. These appear to be from the Middle East and it may be that the founder of the church, Hugh de Kilpeck was himself a Crusader and fought there.

The outside of the church is carved with

almost ninety corbels (not gargoyles) in sandstone and very well preserved. Inside, is the nave, then chancel and finally the apse. In 1849 the windows were designed by Augustus Pugin. There is extensive detail about the church on a free app.

Visitors come from many corners of the world to see this extraordinary church and it is well worth a visit.



Please click on the link for more on their informative website

<https://kilpeckchurch.org.uk/>

If you have visited an interesting garden, church, ruin, etc, please send a few pics and words and I'll publish in the Newsletter —

Jonathan Barker

[newsletter.astruro@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.astruro@gmail.com)



# A Short History of The Brunel Viaduct, Truro

The Cornwall Railway linked Plymouth with Falmouth. The section from Plymouth to Truro was opened on 4 May 1859, and the remainder to Falmouth on 24 August 1863. Although the line had been designed by Brunel, this was after his death and the construction under the supervision of R P Brereton. It was built as a single-track 7 ft broad gauge line.

The 70 miles of railway crossed 45 rivers and deep valleys. Of these 43 were spanned by viaducts of various types built partly or entirely from timber. Workshops were established at Lostwithiel where timber could arrive on barges to be preserved and cut to size. The offcuts from the timbers used for the viaducts and track were then used for the construction of the railway's buildings.<sup>[1]</sup> The choice of timber was made to keep initial costs down, but Brunel had warned that this meant more expensive maintenance—running to £10,000 annually. Replacement of the viaducts started in 1875 but led to a dispute in 1884 between the Cornwall Railway and the Great Western Railway which was leasing the line. The lease precluded the conversion of the line to 4 ft 8½ in standard gauge, and the Cornwall Railway refused to pay for the widening of the viaducts during rebuilding sufficient to accommodate a double line of standard gauge tracks.



Following the amalgamation of the two companies on 1 July 1889 all the remaining viaducts on the main line to Truro were replaced. Most were either rebuilt in situ or by a replacement viaduct built immediately alongside, and in the latter case many of the original piers still remain today. Between Saltash and St Germans, a deviation line was built in 1908, eliminating the wooden viaducts on by-passed section of line. Those on the Falmouth branch were all replaced between 1923 and 1934.

*Text from Wikipedia*

< *One of the original viaduct supports near Victoria Gardens, Truro*



*Carvedras Viaduct, St Georges Road, Truro, Cornwall before 1902*

© *From the collection of the RIC*

## **LOOK GROUP**

**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 6<sup>th</sup> March, from 2 – 4pm.**

We will be based in the Barham Room as usual but will go and look at both the Seamas Carey exhibition and the Truro School Art Collection, two new exhibitions. The LOOK group is free to attend but you will need RCM membership or an annual pass.

If you could RSVP so I have an idea of numbers, that would be great.

[kate.clayton@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk](mailto:kate.clayton@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk)

This is also a friendly nudge to say that I am still looking for a volunteer to take on the administration of the group. RCM will continue to host and provide the teas and coffees but the emailing and so on would ideally be done by a volunteer, as I understand it that is the model that the Tate intends the LOOK groups to run on. If anyone would be interested in taking this on then please let me know, you'll have my eternal thanks!

**Kate Clayton**



# ARTY SNIPPETS

In this section of the Newsletter there is room for you to send in anything interesting or a bit quirky that we could use, please send to [newsletter.astruro@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.astruro@gmail.com), just a picture and a few words will suffice.



## 4th century BC sculpture

Cats have been waking up their owners this way for centuries!

<<<<<<

## Seen better days!

You'll pass this on a walk up to the cliffs at St Agnes.

>>>>>



## French advert

A creative way of advertising spectacles!

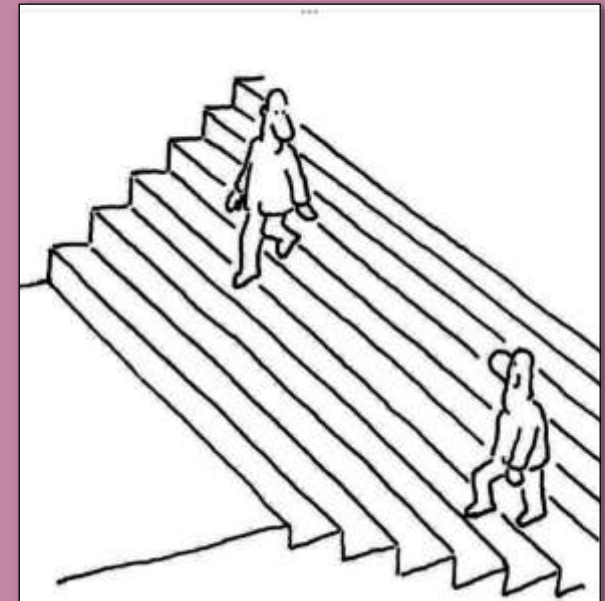
*You may have to zoom in a bit.*

<<<<<<

## Oh no!

Not another Escheresque drawing!

>>>>>





## Museum Late: Cornish Storytelling Friday 15 March, 7-10pm

Join a renowned group of Cornish storytellers at Royal Cornwall Museum this March.

As part of our 'Spirit of Cornwall' programme, we will be joined by authors and performers to explore the spirit of Cornwall through literature, storytelling, and spoken word:

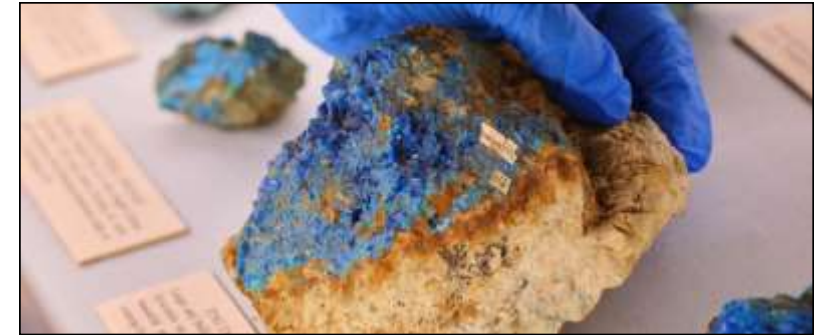
- **Wyl Menmuir** will read from his award winning book, 'Draw of the Sea', which tells the story of those whose lives revolve around the sea in the Cornish community where he lives, and how the sea has beckoned, consoled, and restored him
- **Sasha Swire** will bring you with her as she walks the South West Coast Path over a decade-long period – an immersive, beguiling, and literary exploration of a beautiful coastline from an author brought up in West Cornwall, reading from 'Edgeland'

**Story Republic** will share spoken word, poetry, song, and more. Their repertoire includes new Cornish stories and poems inspired by Cornish authors and places.

Authors will also be signing copies of their books, which will be available to buy. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/museum-late-cornish-storytelling-tickets-710216305087?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

## Spotlight on Cornish Minerals 13 Feb - 1 June

In 1818, Royal Institution of Cornwall was founded, and for a long time its Mineral Gallery has been considered a jewel of the museum. As this well-loved space undergoes an upgrade, come and glimpse some of our vast collection on display. Cornish minerals tell us so much about the history of Cornwall, from a thriving mining industry, to the ancient histories of our lands and how they formed. Since the Mineral Gallery first opened, these found and excavated specimens have formed inspiration for geologists, school children, and artists who have journeyed to visit the museum. Explore a selection in the Spotlight Gallery.



## Marvelous Mechanical Museum 19 March - 6 July

The Marvelous Mechanical Museum is a visually stunning blend of art, science and engineering full of fun.

**Automaton (n.)** (*plural: Automata*): a small, mechanical figure that can move automatically.

From the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre comes an entertaining, interactive, and whimsical show. Explore automata created by Cornish artists, discover their inner workings at the push of a button or turn of a lever, and learn



about the mechanics, engineering and art that goes into the delightful creations.

**Cabaret Mechanical Theatre** have played an integral role in the revival of automata and in supporting a growing number of automata makers. Recognising the potential popularity of these moving machines, CMT actively encouraged a group of makers in Falmouth, Cornwall to make automata to sell in their local craft shop, Cabaret. CMT often actively guided the artists' creative direction, looking for wit and entertainment in the automata that they collected.