



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TRURO

Tidal Pathways (detail) © Amy Albright

April 2024

NEWSLETTER

truro.theartsociety.org

Lecture — Wednesday 10 April at 7pm Held in Mylor Theatre, Truro College Murder Most Florid by Mark Spencer

An exploration of how common plants like brambles can be used to help solve serious crimes such as murder, assault or arson.

Plants too are silent witnesses to crimes. Their presence in many crime scenes can help an investigator identify a suspect or locate a victim. Apparently mundane plants such as brambles and nettles can provide valuable insights into when a crime was committed.

Fragments of leaves and seeds embedded in soil on the footwear of a suspect can place them at the scene. An understanding of landscape history and land-use helps an investigator discriminate between a clandestine burial and a mediaeval feature in a woodland. Forensic botany is not a new science, plants have played a role in solving major cases for decades, including the infamous murder of aviator Charles Lindbergh's infant son.



About the Lecturer

*Dr Mark A. Spencer F.L.S.
Consultant/Forensic Botanist
The Botany*

Consultancy www.markspencerbotanist.com

*Hon. Curator (Plants), Linnean Society of London
London Natural History Society, Vascular Plant
Recorder*

*Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, Middlesex
Recorder*

I have been fascinated by plants since I was a small boy. Originally a horticulturist, I later studied botany at university after which I worked as a field botanist for a regional conservation organisation.

After 12 years as a botany curator at the Natural History Museum, London I am now a consultant forensic botanist, public speaker and occasional radio and TV

'personality'. I also retain a strong interest in the history of botany and botanic gardens, invasive non-native species and the flora of North-West Europe.



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 4 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 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



From the Chair

I was sorry to miss the March lecture and it was great to read the feedback and see it had been well received. Well done to Alison for finding a great replacement for our advertised one.

The reason I wasn't around is I was in Vienna. The aim was to see some Klimpt paintings and I certainly did. My favourite was 'Church in Unterach am Attersee' (right) part of a series of lovely landscapes of an area he visited. Far removed from his symbolical work. This painting is in a new gallery. The Heidi Horten collection. Only opened in 2022. Great art in a spectacular building. Put it down as a must if you are visiting Vienna.



I have been busy with a variety of Art Society meetings concerning changes afoot in high places. There are proposed adjustments to the governance which are to be voted on shortly. I won't bore you with the details but the member societies were not happy with various points and bombarded HQ with our concerns. As a result of this various tweaks have been agreed. The new document arrived in my inbox this morning. So they did listen to us. I hope you will sign up for the Automata morning at the museum (see booking arrangements in this newsletter on page 5). Automata have always fascinated and amused me and when Henrietta offered us a tour I couldn't refuse and am so looking forward to it.

Four of us have signed up for the trip to Wells in September organised by the Liskeard Society - do consider coming along. Leaflets are available at reception on lecture night and info in this newsletter.

I always love the next few months in the art society. More events and lighter nights! Please let us know if you can organise an outing, eg to a garden or musical event, you don't need to be on the committee.

Meanwhile have a good rest of Easter and see you on April 10th.

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.

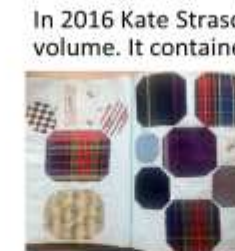
October 9 Inspired by Stonehenge by Julian Richards

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.

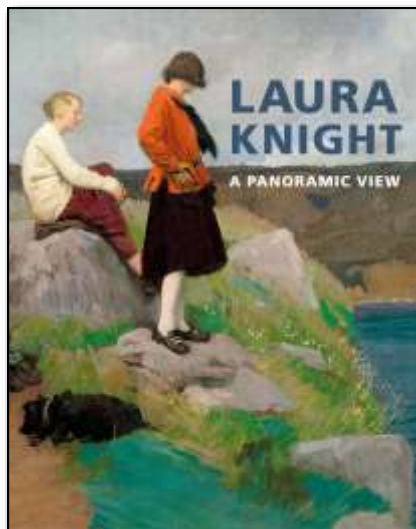
Printed programmes are available at the evening lectures

Further reading after last month's lecture by Catherine Wallace

On AST Members Feedback Form, Catherine's lecture from 31 responses was rated:
47% Outstanding, 45% Excellent, 6% Good, 2% Passable.



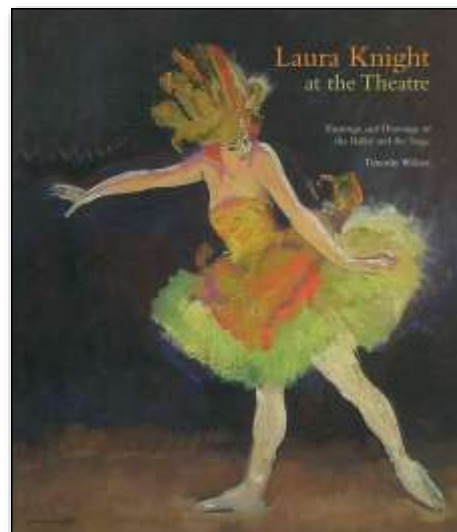
Laura Knight: A Life
by Barbara C. Morden



Laura Knight: A Panoramic View
by Anthony Spira and Fay Blanchard



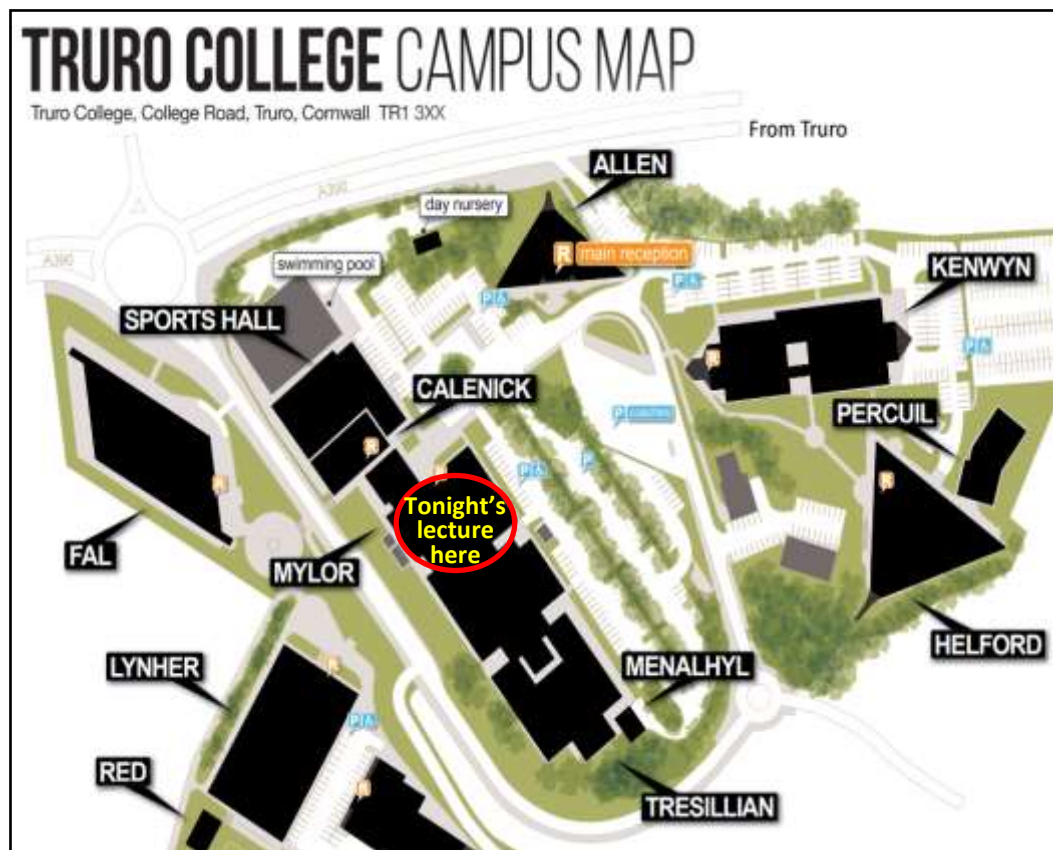
Laura Knight: A Celebration
by Elizabeth Knowles



Laura Knight at the Theatre
by Timothy Wilcox

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.





**WEDNESDAY
8th MAY
at 11am**

Marvel I ous Mechanical Museum 'Curious Contraptions' Exhibition

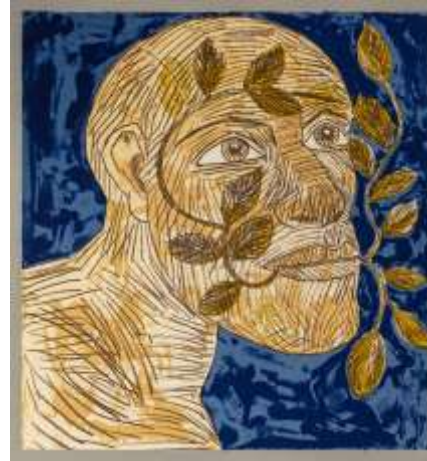
A visit is being organised, for Arts Society Truro members, to the Automata exhibition at the Royal Cornwall Museum with Henrietta Boex, who is co-curating the exhibition.

Meet in Arts Café, adjoining the Museum, from 10am

***£8 per person Maximum 15 people
so book early using the link below***

[Booking Form](#)

DISCOVER THE STORY BEHIND ELISABETH FRINK'S GREEN MAN (BLUE)



Elisabeth Frink's Green Man (blue) has links to spring and rebirth. The work also speaks, says Frink expert Annette Ratuszniak, of a key time in the artist's life

British sculptor Elisabeth Frink RA (1930–93) used the image of a head as a way to express her feelings about humanity. The impetus for her artwork was the tension between aggression and vulnerability.

This 1992 screenprint, Green Man (blue), is based on an ancient architectural motif, the Green Man, a symbol of rebirth that occurs across many cultures. Frink imbues it with a

modernity and vitality through powerful drawn marks, colour and the figure's unflinching gaze.

The screenprints for this were started at Woolland in Dorset, Frink's home. Master printer Kip Gresham, Curwen Chilford Press, took materials to Frink's studio. There she drew with graphite and dilute colour washes onto a surface from which Gresham made proofs and final prints in an edition of 70.

Why the Green Man?

Frink was diagnosed with cancer in 1991 and while undergoing treatment was given a copy of Green Man: The Archetype of Our Oneness with the Earth by William Anderson. Ideas of regeneration and rebirth gave her hope and direction for new artworks. The idea of the head as a vessel for feelings dated to her early career. In the 1950s she had made abstract animal heads, where a gaping mouth or bared teeth, a nostril or eye socket expressed a life force. These sculptures blurred the line between violence and defencelessness. This duality within a head continued in her work: brutish soldiers depicted as scarred victims; aggressors hiding behind reflective goggles; survivors of oppression portrayed with heroic dignity. Resilience of the human spirit as a theme culminated in monumental heads with an introspective, enigmatic presence.

Image: Dorset Museum Collection 2020.1.173/Artist copyright in image kindly approved by Tully and Bree Jammet .

For further reading on this subject click the link below.

<https://theartsociety.org/arts-news-features/discover-story-behind-elisabeth-frink%E2%80%99s-green-man-blue>



THE ARTS SOCIETY TRURO

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

Wednesday 17th April at 10.30am prompt

This is an hour's tour of six of the most important stained glass windows in the cathedral, concentrating on their artistic and historical significance of medieval and Victorian art. It is most interesting.

SOLD OUT!



***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



A Labyrinth and Maze in Cornwall

Labyrinth is unicursal (one path) whereas a maze is multicursal (many paths).



The Troy Town Maze at St Agnes, Isles of Scilly (above).

Since Ariadne gave Theseus the ball of string to allow him to escape the labyrinth, these puzzles have fascinated people over time. Here in Cornwall we have two such puzzles, however a new one is being built on

Bodmin Moor called Kerdroya.

The Troytown reference is probably from the city of Troy whose walls were constructed in a complex maze-like manner to confuse any intruders.

The seven rings of this labyrinth are constructed of smooth pebbles.

The age of this example is unknown. It is thought to be the only example of its

kind in the UK, however, there are many examples in Norway.

A story attached to this structure that is cut on the sea shore is, that it is to protect sailors. Before going out to sea the last fisherman/sailor to board the vessel would run around the maze to tease or confuse the trolls and stop them getting on board the boat.

The Hedge Maze at Glendurgan Gardens, Mawnan Smith, Falmouth (right). This maze, constructed in 1833 is made of a laurel hedge. It was commissioned by Alfred and Sarah Fox, the owners of Glendurgan, no doubt to amuse and entertain their 12 children as well as friends and family.



This coiling serpent-like maze stretches for three quarters of a mile from entrance to exit.

The symbol of the labyrinth has been used by Christianity to show how to take the correct path in life with meaning and fulfilment at its centre.



Newlyn Society of Artists: Where the Line Breaks 29th March – 21st April 2024

The Newlyn Society of Artists (NSA) will bring together two distinctive art forms in its upcoming spring show. Katrina Naomi, a distinguished poet (winner of numerous awards and Chair of the Society of Authors' Poetry & Spoken Word Group) will collaborate with the NSA to select and curate the exhibition. She will be also be writing a specially commissioned poem to coincide with the exhibition.



Become an Object 27th April - 1st June 2024

"From the sculptor's point of view one can either become the spectator of the object or the object itself. For a few years I became the object." Barbara Hepworth

An exhibition of four emerging artists from across the country, brought together at Tremeneheere Gallery to display sculptures born from surprising combinations of material and process with unexpected outcomes.

Become an Object will include work by Will Cruickshank, Jemma Egan, Jesse Pollock and Jonathan Michael Ray. Curated by Martin Holman and Jonathan Michael Ray.

[Tremeneheere Sculpture Gardens and Gallery](https://www.tremeneheere.com/)

Near Gulval, Penzance TR20 8YL



TRURO CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENT MENDELSSOHN: ELIJAH

SAT 13 APR 7:30 PM - 9:45 PM

Truro Choral's singers are joined in the cathedral by outstanding soloists and many of Cornwall's finest musicians in the Truro Symphony Orchestra.

"Elijah" is a great favourite with audiences and singers alike. It contains some of Mendelssohn's greatest music with grand choruses and beautiful arias telling the prophet's story in a series of dramatic episodes.

The steadfast Elijah encounters the vengeful queen Jezebel amongst drought, rain, earthquake and fire – all portrayed by Mendelssohn's fine writing!

Doors Open at 18:45

**TICKET PRICES: Adult: £20 (£22 on the door)
Under 19: Free (£2 on the door)**



Join OceanFlow on Saturday 27 April at 17:30 for a FLOW YOGA journey like no other - Silent Disco Yoga in the cathedral! Then, following this, at 7pm for a sublime MEDITATION session, both under the roof of the cathedral.
THE YOGA SESSION 17:30 - 18:45
THE MEDITATION SESSION 19:00 - 19:45

<https://www.silentdiscoyoga.co.uk/silent-disco-yoga-truro-cathedral/>

The Arts Society Liskeard presents

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

3 days from £444 Departing 24th September 2024





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). 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.

For more information on this tour contact your Group Organiser

Mary Utton
Tel: 01579 345140
Mobile: 07731 380715
Email: mary.utton2@gmail.com

Tregantle, Barn Street, Liskeard PL14 4BL



Tailored Travel's ATOL Number is 1034

View and share this tour online - click on View Your Tour at www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quote 11sd241

An exhibition by an Arts Society Truro member

Lifescapes

A mixture of paintings including symbolic still lifes by Poul Dempsey



Exhibited at the **Morvah Schoolhouse** gallery
Saturday 13th April to Friday 26th April 2024

Opening hours Monday to Sunday 11am to 5pm

Morvah Schoolhouse gallery, Pendeen, Cornwall, TR20 8YT.

Tel: 01736 787808

www.morvah.com

Celebrity Gala Concert

Cornwall Symphony Chorus

Musical Director - Alastair Taylor

featuring

Wynne Evans

International Tenor

2023 Celebrity Masterchef Winner and star of the Go Compare adverts



Programme to include: 'The Phantom of the Opera' medley, 'Something Wonderful' from The King and I, 'One Day More' from Les Miserables, 'How Great Thou Art' and many more.

Tickets: Adults £20 and Under 16 £10 available from
Cornwall Symphony Chorus members and 01209 842977



Saturday 20th July 2024
7:30pm at Redruth Wesley

www.cornwallsymphonychorus.co.uk

Charity no: 1202689

truro.theartsociety.org

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, just a picture and a few words will suffice.



Pillar box near Trafalgar roundabout

Great to see the RNLi
200th anniversary
being celebrated.

Photo by P. K.

<<<<<

Trompe d'oeil

One of the best
trompe d'oeil I've
seen , on this
building in Poland.

>>>>>



*I've got some
more examples
in the pipeline!*



Old Bakery Studios Malpas Road

The sanded door
revealing various
layers of paint is
intriguing
I can also see an
unintentional
seahorse, and an
ostrich head

<<<<<

Opening Hours

Tuesday to Saturday 10am — 4pm

Sunday and Monday — Closed

<https://www.royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk/exhibition/events>

EVENTS

Curious Contraptions

Create mechanical art and be a part of this large performance piece. Part workshop, part performance, part exhibit, the Marvellous Mechanical Museum Workshop, 'Curious Contraptions', combines construction, art and engineering while letting you learn the basics of mechanical movement and control.

Take part to create an individual, cam driven automata out of curious and colourful objects. Your automata will be linked together with other creations to form a single, snaking line of spinning cams, colours and shapes turned by a single handle or motor.

Find out more about [the Marvellous Mechanical Museum](#).

Curious Contraptions will run through the Easter Holidays, Saturday 30 March – Saturday 13 April



Marvellous Mechanical Museum Late

An evening of conversation from makers and curators of the Marvellous Mechanical Museum

Thursday 25 Apr 6:00 - 8:00

Join us for an evening of inspiration and ingenuity, as we explore the world of automata, with key makers and curators from the Marvellous Mechanical Museum.

Hear from Henrietta Boex, Fi Henshall, and Paul Spooner, with a chance for Q&As!

Doors open 6:00

6:30 - 7:00 An Introduction to the Marvellous Mechanical Museum with Henrietta Boex

7:00 - 7:30 A Conversation with Fi Henshall

7:30 - 8:00 A Conversation with Paul Spooner

Drinks available from the bar | The whole museum will be open | Talks will take place on the downstairs floor | Lift access will be available for the 1st floor | Click the link below to book

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/marvellous-mechanical-museum-late-tickets-852769836537?aff=oddtcreator>

Easter Activities

Join us for a fortnight of Easter Activities. Have a crack at our Easter trail and find an ancient animal hidden in the galleries. Plus, get stuck in with our Easter make and take table and have a go at creating some holiday crafts to take away with you – including door hangers and decorations.



Wednesday, April 17 · 1 - 2pm

Dr Jago's English-Cornish Dictionary and the status of Cornish in the 1880s

Kensa Broadhurst leads our April instalment of our Lunchtime Talk programme at Royal Cornwall Museum.

About the Talk

Fred W.P. Jago's 'An English-Cornish Dictionary: compiled from the best sources' (1887). The Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro is home to Jago's working copies of his dictionary.

This talk offers an overview of the wider information which these working editions of Jago's dictionary contain, and what this tells us about interest in and the status of the Cornish language in the 1880s. 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!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dr-jagos-english-cornish-dictionary-and-the-status-of-cornish-in-the-1880s-tickets-845945213907?aff=oddtcreator>

