



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TRURO

Tidal Pathways (detail) © Amy Albright

Summer 2024

NEWSLETTER

truro.theartsociety.org

The Arts Society Truro - Remaining Lectures for 2024 — click on a lecture for more details

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.



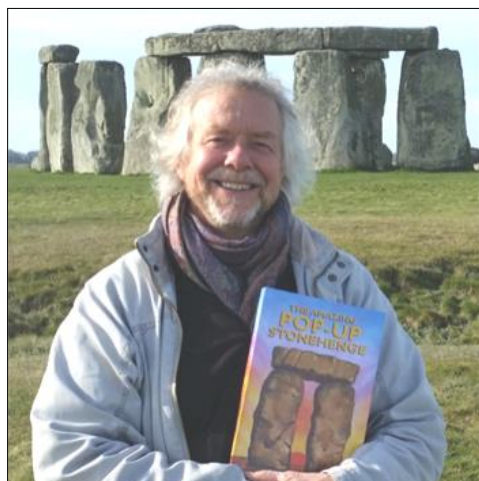
November 13 Dress Diary of Anne Sykes by Kate Strasdin



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.

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.



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.

truro.theartsociety.org

From the Chair

By the time you read this I hope we will be finally basking in summer sun.

It was great to read your responses to Max Jones's lecture. It wasn't a subject I was particularly looking forward to but thoroughly enjoyed it and the approach he took. I learnt lots. So many of you I chatted to said exactly the same.

Since our last lecture there have been several things happening. We have had the new members lunch which everyone enjoyed. Also a committee meeting - we only have 5 meetings a year so always lots to discuss. Jonathan showed us next year's brochure. The front cover, I am proud to say, is a section of a painting by one of our members. I think the lecture choice is the best we have ever had. Alison and the Bodmin and Liskeard programme secretaries have done a great job. Can't wait for you to see it. By booking lectures with two other societies we keep costs down not only on travel but lecturers often reduce their fee too. It all helps.

Polly and Jonathan (with me tagging along) are busy visiting local schools to choose and photograph the art to enter in next year's Art Society competition. We have some very talented teenagers in Truro.

This week I went to see Miracle Theatre in 'Love Riot'. Really recommend if you want some light hearted fun. They are in a variety of venues around Cornwall.

Enjoy the summer remember to tell us what you are up to on your travels and any new finds.

Looking forward to seeing you in September.

Karen



If you have any questions about becoming a member of the Arts Society Truro, then please contact the Membership Secretary,
membership.astruro@gmail.com



A 7 mile traffic jam on the M62 earlier this year gave an enterprising ice-cream seller a bit of extra business!



NEW MEMBERS LUNCH

The committee had a lovely afternoon meeting up with this year's new members. A very nice sandwich lunch was provided by Epiphany House and we added strawberries and drinks.

16 new members were able to come along. I will do my best to remember names but no promises!

Everyone said how much they enjoyed the chatty afternoon and found it good to meet other newbies. I know it's an occasion the committee always enjoy.

It would be good to start our members summer lunch event again. We have not had one since Covid - something to plan for summer '25 maybe.

Karen



THE ARTS SOCIETY GOVERNANCE REFORM

The last 6 months I have been busy reading, understanding and questioning the proposed changes to governance of the

Arts Society. There have been several twists and turns along the way. Following discussion and agreement with the committee I voted on your behalf by proxy, prior to the AGM on 3rd June. Our decision was to vote against the proposed changes to governance. Your committee felt that to reduce the number of Trustees chosen from local Societies and the removal of the right of each society to be able to vote on matters at the AGM would lead to our disenfranchisement.

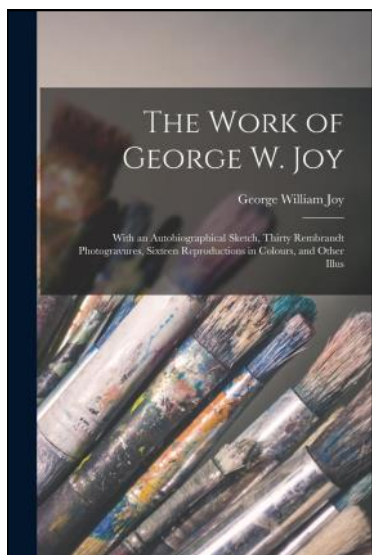
The result of the national vote was a resounding defeat of almost 70% against the motion. So for now things remain the same and we work towards restoring trust between the societies and the Arts Society.

Please contact me if you would like more information.

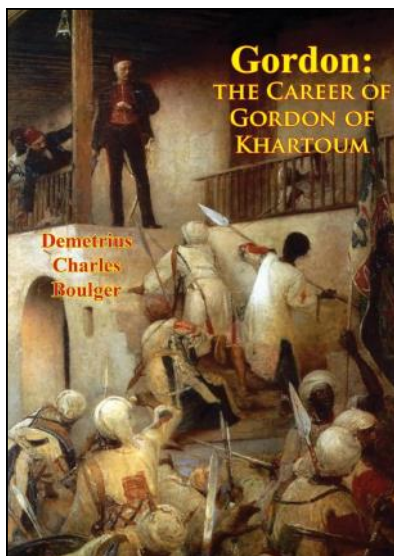
Karen

Further reading after last month's lecture by Max Jones

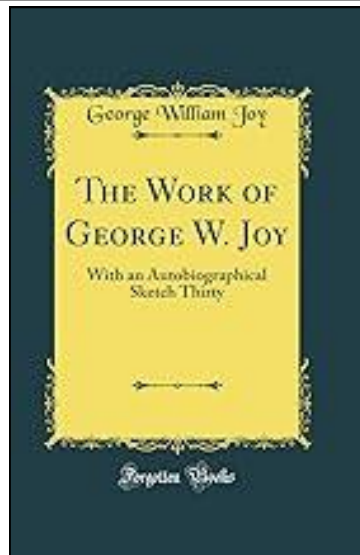
On AST Members Feedback Form, Max's lecture from 23 responses was rated:
44% Outstanding, 48% Excellent, 8% Good.



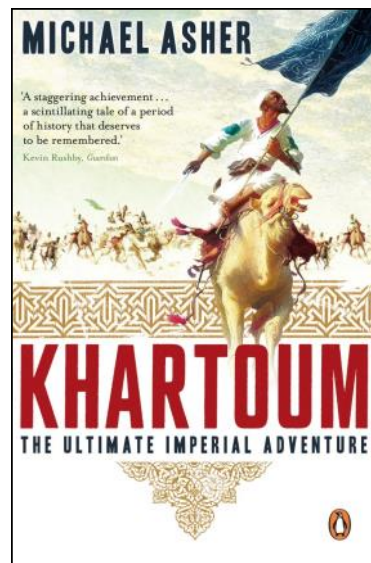
The Work of George W. Joy



The Career of Gordon of Khartoum
by Demetrius Boulger



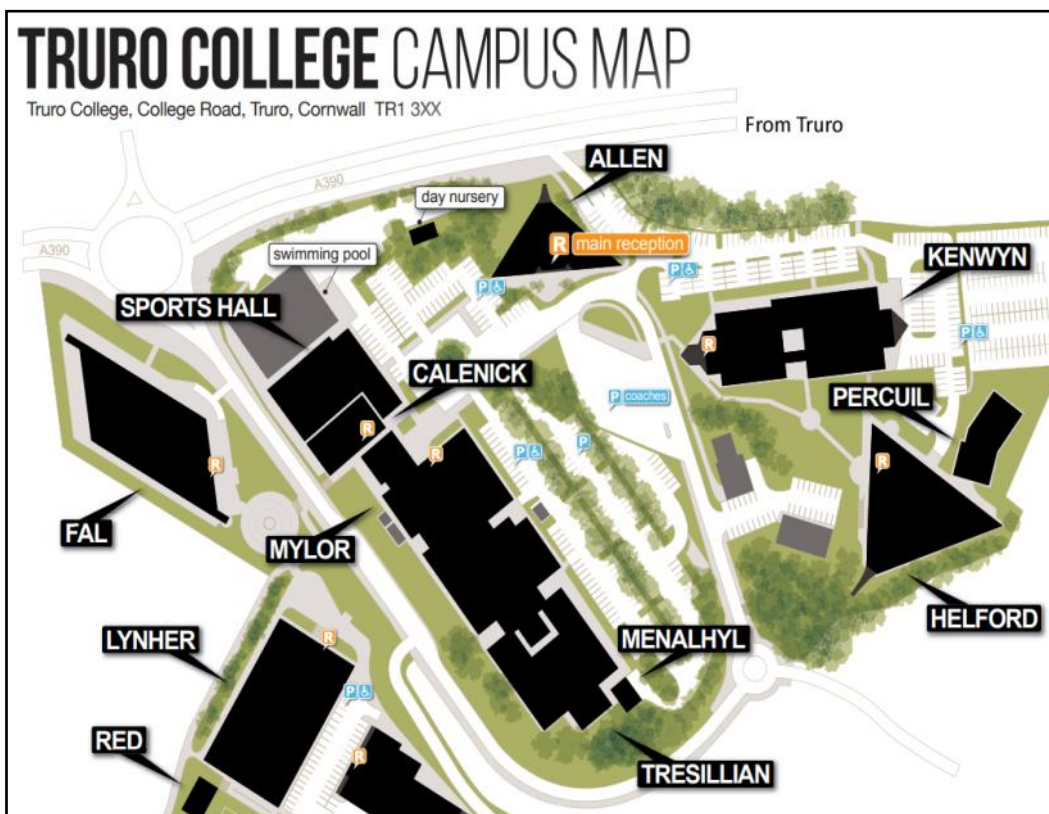
The Work of George W. Joy



Khartoum by Michael Asher

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.



The Arts Society Truro lectures are held at Truro College, usually in
Mylor Theatre.



Denzil Returns

Having left Truro on 13th May to take part in the Chelsea Flower Show. A smart, refreshed Denzil joins his fellow hedgehogs Kizzy, Patricia and Cecil on the Trafalgar roundabout where they have delighted residents and visitors since 2019 when the Trafalgar roundabout won roundabout of the year from the Roundabout Appreciation Society.

All the hedgehogs have been spruced up as it is the judging of the Britain in Bloom competition this week; also if you notice the planting this year has been extremely generous with plants being packed into the spaces for greater impact. Fingers crossed the hedgehogs bring it home for Truro.

The hedgehogs were designed and created by Emma Scott in Mellingey Mill near Padstow.

THE COURTNEY LIBRARY IN THE ROYAL CORNWALL MUSEUM

The Arts Society Truro has had teams of members working in book conservation, in the wonderful, special, Library, full of books, pamphlets etc all about Cornwall, for three decades and more. This year, a number of the team retired, or moved, leaving only three of us.

Eight members have now joined us, and in mid-June we had a fascinating training day in book conservation, given by Caroline Bendix, trainer to all Arts Societies, and the National Trust, House of Lords, etc, - the best specialist in book conservation in the country. She worked us hard, glueing, stitching, making a box for an old book, learning about varied covers; but with coffee and lunch breaks, we all had a wonderful day.



Here we are, busy learning – come and visit us one day, if you go to the Museum on the first or third Thursday of each month, between 10.00 and 1.00. We'd be delighted to see you!



The Arts Society A Level Online Art Competition

As the school year ended three members from TAST committee visited Truro School, Truro High School for Girls and Truro College to select possible entries into the Arts Society A Level online competition.

It was the first year we have invited Truro High School for Girls to be part of the competition and were delighted to be asked along to their end of term exhibition.

This was a special treat as we were able to meet the students whose artwork has been selected and you will see featured in this newsletter.

Truro High School for Girls



***Sunset 1
and
Sunset 2
by
Anisha
Lucas***



***Fruit Tart
by
Phoebe Chiu***

Truro School



Trio of Self Portraits by Abigail Harrower



Granny and the Washing by Meila Fabby



Granny at the Table by Melia Fabby

Truro College



Interior Light, Exterior Dark by Emily Jaffey



Mylor, Looking Seaward by Poppy Luxton



Untitled Portrait by Rosie Rundell

Have you ever heard of a *ninot*?

Ninots are each of the satirical figures that make up the *fallas* (sculptures) displayed during the annual Fallas Festival held in March in Valencia, Spain.

The culmination of the celebration is the burning of the artistic constructions that crowd the streets in preceding days, structures built over the course of the year.

However, since 1934, two *ninots* chosen by popular vote have been saved from being burnt, and form the basis of the Fallas Museum in Valencia.

In addition to presenting these representatives of Las Fallas, the museum shows how they have been made since the early days with papier mache and wax, although now they can be made of polystyrene.

The techniques used to set up the *fallas*, and posters and photographs from the history of this festival are also on display.

While the best option is of course to experience Las Fallas, which has been on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list since 2016, during the week of the event itself, if you can't visit in March the Fallas Museum is a great way to discover this unique tradition, which is sometimes difficult to grasp if you don't see it in person.



Photos show both the life size ninots and some preliminary models, also posters from the event and some the 'mayors' - teenage girls who act as mascot for the week and who have their portraits painted.

[Many more photo pages click here](#)



KING HARRY FERRY

On the 18th April 1888 King Harry Steam Ferry Company Limited was founded. The driving force behind this was Colonel Arthur Tremayne. This new ferry was to replace the man-propelled barge that crossed the river Fal allowing a connection to be made between the Roseland Peninsula with Feok, Falmouth and Truro; reducing the distance by 27 miles if travelled by road.

After a few years the ferry was converted from steam to diesel power.

The present ferry was built in 1974 and is one of the only five remaining chain ferries operating in the UK.

The current ferry weighs 3500 tonne, the chains measure 270 metres and need replacing every 18 – 24 months, the ferry completes up to 80 crossings a day, 364 days a year.

There are two favoured ideas as to why the ferry is named King Harry. One is after King Henry VIII who used the crossing when visiting the castles he had commissioned. The alternative King Henry is Henry VI, and the name came from the Arundels of Tolverne who had dedicated a chapel on the site of an ancient holy well to St Mary the Virgin, this became the chapel of Our Lady and King Henry (*as seen in a Will of 1528*), the site of this chapel is in a field above King Henry's Passage.

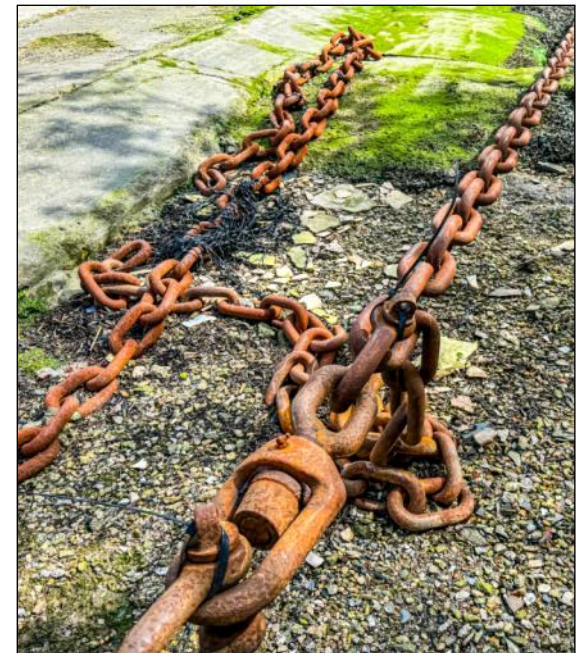
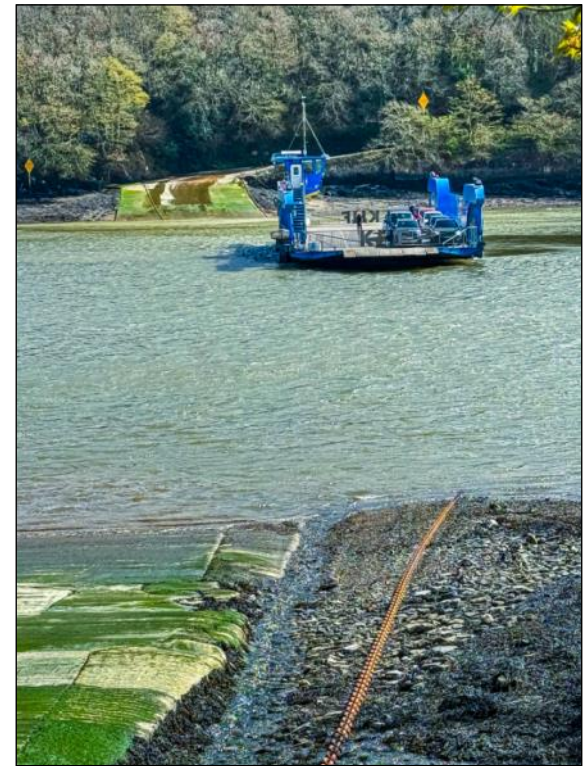
How it works: after entering the ferry over small 'jockey wheels' at each end, the chain is fed onto the main 'drive wheels' which pull the ferry across the river. These large wheels are over 2 metres in diameter and are driven by hydraulic motors which in turn are powered by one of the ferries three diesel engines.



Ferry No 1 1899 – 1913
The first steam powered ferry.



The old sea cap'n who over-
sees all the comings and
goings.





Truro
Cathedral
sacred space, common ground

SAT 03 AUG 24



ARTISAN MARKET

Over forty fantastically talented artisans showcase their skills with their wonderful products. You will be treated to many different types of work ranging from fused glass to gin, jewellery to ...

[Please click to view Catherine Wallace's latest CORNISH ART HISTORY NEWSLETTER](#)

DON'T FORGET ON OUR ARTS SOCIETY
LECTURE EVENINGS TO HAVE SOME
CASH WITH YOU FOR:

★
RAFFLE

★
TEA

★
WINE

ALSO:

IF YOU HAVE ANY SPARE
ITEMS, WE CAN ALWAYS
MAKE USE OF THEM AS
RAFFLE PRIZES!
MANY THANKS

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.



We used to have a bouncy Bijon Frise which looked just like this cloud!

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A sad end to the old semaphore signals at Truro station.

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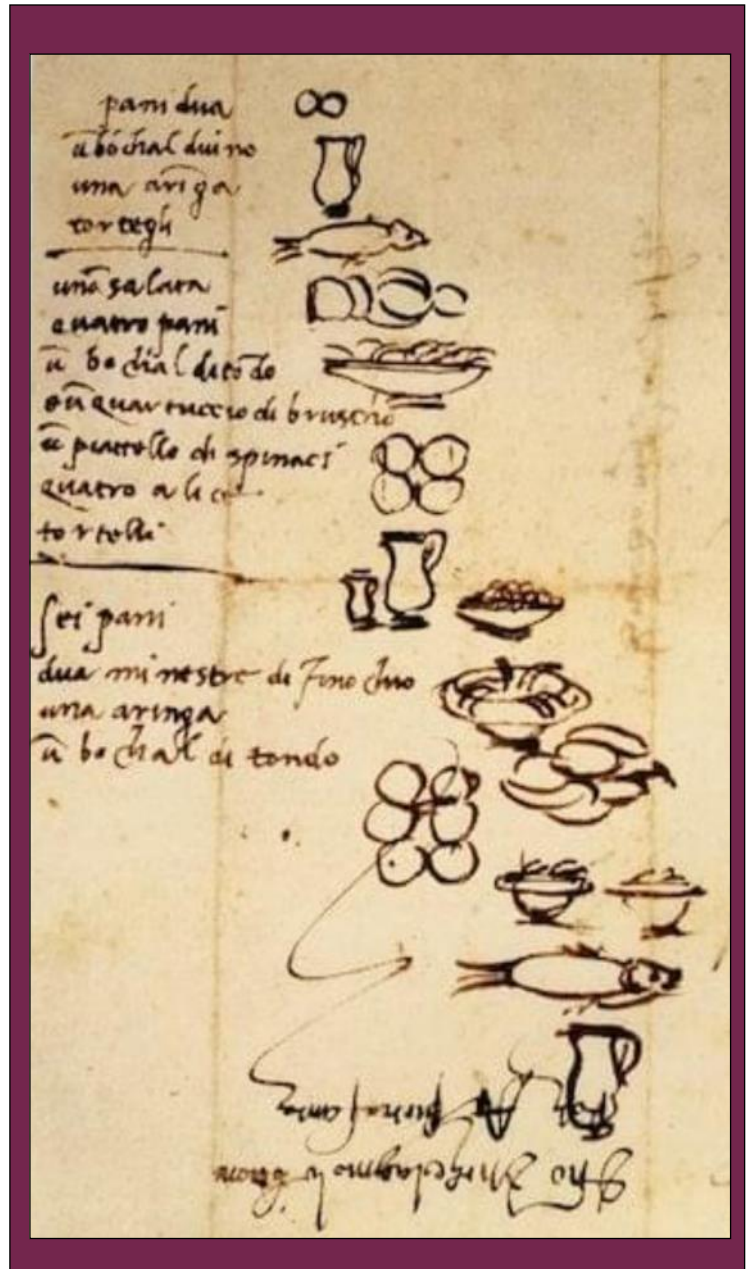
When Michaelangelo wanted some shopping doing he sent one of his assistants to the market.

One problem was that the assistant was illiterate, so the artist illustrated the shopping list.

A herring, tortelli, two fennel soups, four anchovies and a small jug of rough wine.

Credit: Freya Middleton

>>>>>



ARTY SNIPPET —

Bit of an extra chuckle for the summer!!

Thanks Stephen



Sheep made from old telephones are part of an art installation by French artist Jean-Luc Cornec. These unique sculptures are made from old rotary dial telephones and telephone cables and are on display at the Museum of Communication in Frankfurt am Main. The installation is intended to remind visitors of simpler times while raising awareness of the problem of electronic waste.

PEACE DOVES

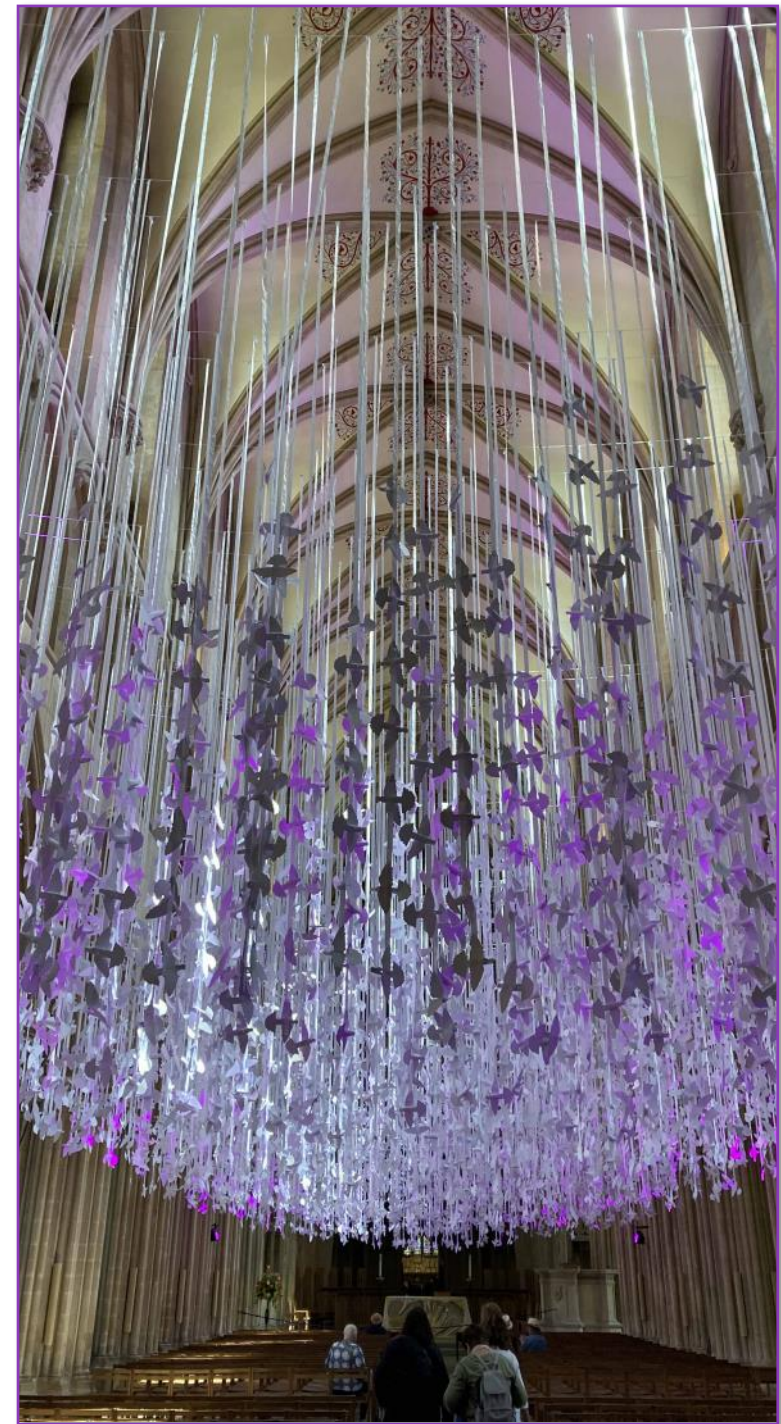
This stunning art installation happened to be on display when we recently visit the one of my favourite Cathedrals—Wells.

Peace Doves is a mass-participation artwork created by sculptor and artist Peter Walker. Thousands of paper doves carrying messages of peace, hope, and love are suspended in an illuminated installation above the Nave of the Cathedral accompanied by music composed by David Harper. For two months, visitors to the Cathedral and members of the local community, including school children, have written messages on paper doves which were included in the installation.

The artist, Peter Walker, has worked professionally for over 20 years in the development of public art, monumental bronze and other materials for his installation art. This display has been travelling around the country for the past five years visiting various Cathedrals—maybe Truro Cathedral can be persuaded to host the display here!

Have you seen some interesting artwork, visited a country house etc, during the summer?

If so, why not write a few words and send in a photo and I'll make sure it gets included in the Newsletter. JB





UPCOMING RNLI – 200 Years of Saving Lives at Sea

23 July - 16 Nov

For 200 years, the RNLI has been saving lives at sea. From wooden lifeboats with oars and sails to today's motor-powered all-weather lifeboats, crews across the country have been making our waters a safer place.

At Royal Cornwall Museum, we're teaming up with the RNLI to celebrate their 200th birthday. With dress up, games, and a glimpse into the lives of the crew and women behind the rescues, our summer exhibition has something for everyone. Learn more about [RNLI 200](#).



Join us at Royal Cornwall Museum to celebrate women and the sea and fundraise to help save lives at sea. This evening event brings together speakers who have worked and volunteered with RNLI and other sea-based ventures.

This event is part of our collaborative exhibition, 'RNLI - 200 years of Saving Lives at Sea' which runs from 23rd July - 16th November.

Find out more about the exhibition — see left.

Full programme to be announced soon..

Pay what you feel £6/£8/£10

50% of ticket proceeds will go to RNLI.

This event will take place **Thursday 22nd August** and will include entry to the event, evening entry to the museum, and access to the museum shop. A bar will also be open on the night, serving wine, soft drinks, tea, coffee, and snacks for an additional cost.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/museum-late-rnli-women-water-tickets-877416796257>