

## Lecture — Wednesday 11 September at 7pm in Mylor Theatre, Truro College **James Whistler by Douglas Skeggs**

**Whistler. (1834-1903)**

*"The Gentle Art of Making Enemies"*

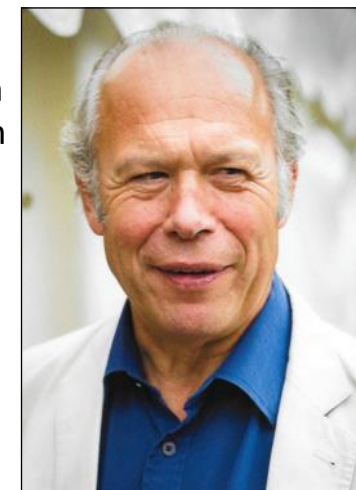
Self assured, affected and irreverent, the owner of a razor sharp wit, Whistler scandalised London society during the 1870's. American by birth, he trained as an artist in Paris where his bohemian lifestyle made him one of the personalities of the city. Annoyed by the criticisms of his work at the Salon des Refuses he moved to London only to find the English even more opposed to his ideas. When John Ruskin savaged one of his Nocturnes in an article, accusing him of "flinging a pot of paint in the public's face", Whistler took him to court where he scored a moral victory, received a farthing in damages and ruined himself financially.



The lecture explores the paradox of this man whose flamboyant and eccentric ways made him both admired and detested in equal measure and yet whose quiet, meditative paintings, in which more is suggested than actually seen, ultimately assured him a place alongside Oscar Wilde as one of the high priests of the Aesthetic Movement.

## About the Lecturer

**Douglas Skeggs** read Fine Art at Magdalene College Cambridge and has been a lecturer on paintings since 1980. In that time he has given over 4000 lectures to universities, colleges and art societies. He was the director of 'The New Academy of Art Studies' for three years and is presently a regular lecturer at 'The Study Centre', 'Christie's' course 'The History of Art Studies' and other London courses. Among his more improbable venues for lectures are the bar on the QE2, MI5 headquarters, the Captain's Room at Lloyds, and an aircraft hanger in a German NATO base. Overseas he has lectured in Belgium, France, Germany and Spain, and has taken numerous tours around Europe. He helped set up the *Abercrombie & Kent* "Private Label tours" and is presently cultural adviser to *Ultimate travel*.



## 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 3 of this Newsletter.**

## Membership for 2024

If you would like to become a new member for the rest of 2024, then you can join us by paying the reduced fee of £30 to enable you to attend the last 4 lectures of the year.

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

### [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 the rest of 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 ....

*Hello all !*

I do hope you've had a lovely summer. We may not have had the best weather in Cornwall but at least we haven't melted like some areas.

We are all set for our winter programme. There are 4 fabulous lectures coming up.

Do try to bring visitors along who may be interested to join us.

Remember to pick up a ticket for a free

lecture from Lois on the registration desk as you come in.

The college has significantly increased our fees so we need

to work hard to keep afloat. Any ideas gratefully received.

Some more sad news, our wonderful IT guy, Arthur, has left the college. I have been working with him for over 20 years. I can't tell you how many tech problems he's solved along the way. We wish him well. Fingers crossed the college find us a good replacement.

This is a short letter as I am still knee deep in grandchildren !

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

*Karen*





## Book Conservation Group Courtney Library

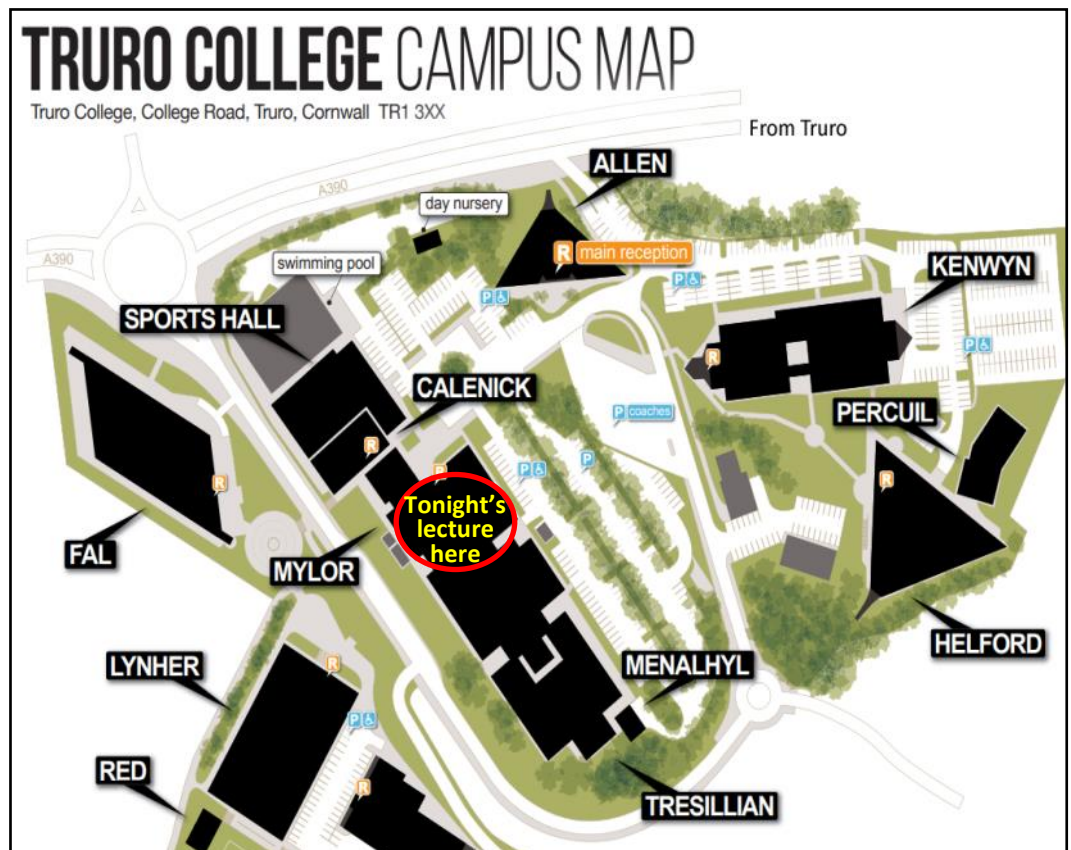
This seems the right time to give huge acknowledgement and thanks to all those who have been involved over the last 30 years. Many members have found this a very worthwhile and enjoyable task and have been a part of the group for over 20 years. The training given by Caroline Bendix was exceptional and many skills have been learnt. However, several of those involved for many years have decided to leave recently.



Joy Reynolds was determined the group would not fold and set to successfully raising the money for a training day and recruiting new volunteers. I hear the new team are working well together and are very enthusiastic. Good luck to you all!

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.







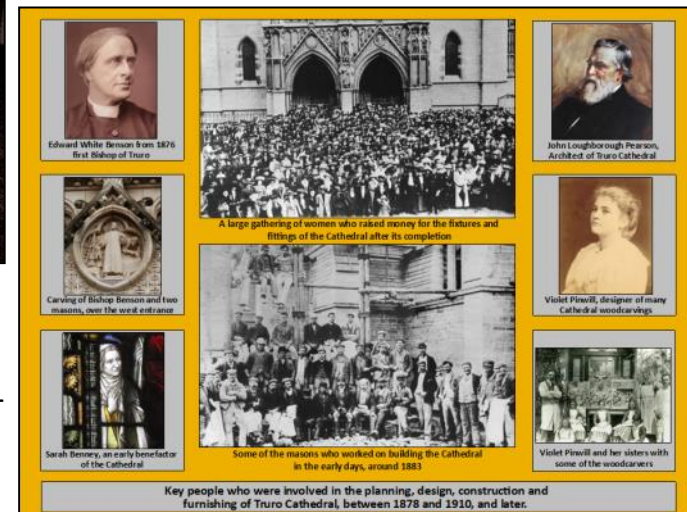
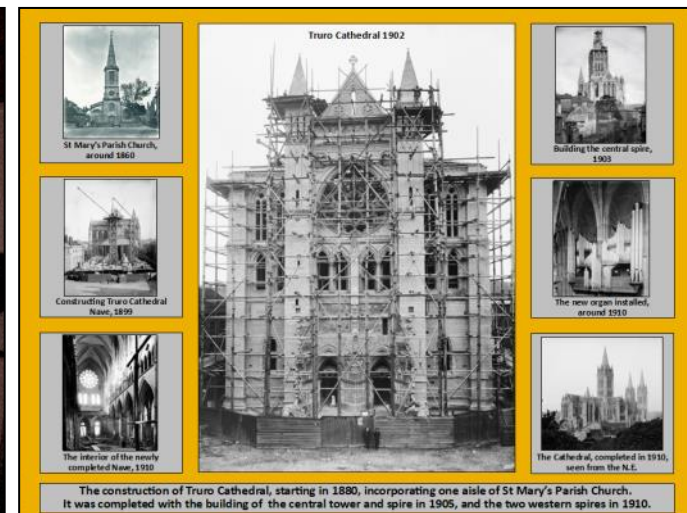
**Long ago, in early 2022, the Board of Truro Cathedral Ltd discussed how to make the boring white corridor to the Restaurant (then in the Chapter House) more inviting and interesting for the public.**

Have you seen that corridor recently? Sadly, the Restaurant at the end of it isn't open at the moment – but go and look at what adorns the walls! There is a fascinating exhibition of several boards showing the story of the building of the Cathedral, and some of the key people involved in this wonderful work, between 1880 and 1910.

A team of 7 of us from The Arts Society Truro worked for over a year, studying masses of photos, books, guides, choosing the best, getting copyright permission to copy them; then designing the boards; and finally, with a grant from The Arts Society, having them printed – and, recently, put on display!

So now, in August 2024, here are four of us to represent the team of 7, in front of the boards, which we hope will be enjoyed by you, and some of the hundreds of visitors to the Cathedral. Maggie Jacobs, with her artist's skills, helped selecting the pictures; Jonathan Barker designed the boards; and Michael Swift helped with the wording on the picture boards and the information boards. Thank you to them all, and the others who contributed!

Joy Reynolds



**[For a more detailed view of the display boards please click here.](#)**



## Local Artist Denzil Forrester

As part of a fund raising project for Cornwall Crafts Association, Denzil will give a talk about his life and art.

It will be at 11 am on the 21st September at the Barn Trellissick.

Tickets are £12.50, please contact Tim Rogers to book at

[drtarogers@googlemail.com](mailto:drtarogers@googlemail.com)



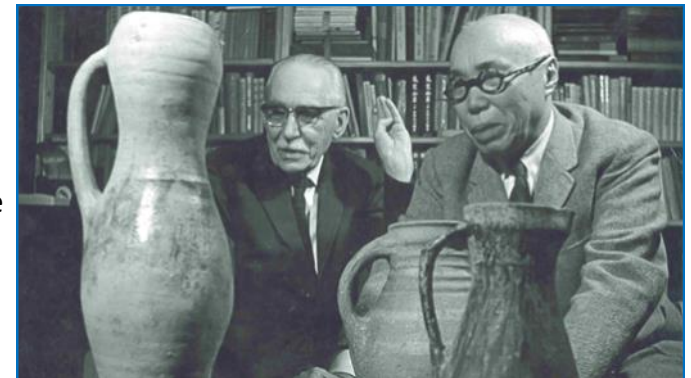
*Inside the Leach Pottery. Photo: Jonny Weeks*

Check out our seven reasons visit The Leach Pottery in St Ives a fabulous Cornish museum dedicated to the life and work of Bernard Leach, his co-founder Shōji Hamada and the story of studio pottery in Britain.

**[Click here for the 7 reasons to visit](#)**

This famed workshop was founded by Bernard Leach (regarded by many to be the father of British studio pottery) and his friend, the Japanese potter Shōji Hamada, in 1920. (Both pictured, right)

The pair met while Leach was working in Japan, where he trained under the renowned artist Urano Shigekichi (known as Kenzan VI).







## Truro Cathedral Spire

Truro Cathedral is one of only three cathedrals in the UK with three spires, others being St Mary's in Edinburgh and Lichfield. The three simple spires it is said, are reminiscent of some French cathedrals.

As part of the 2010/11 restoration of the central tower and spire the weathervane cockerel was cleaned and re-gilded.

*What is a weathervane, often seen on the top of a steeple, cupola, barn or freestanding?*

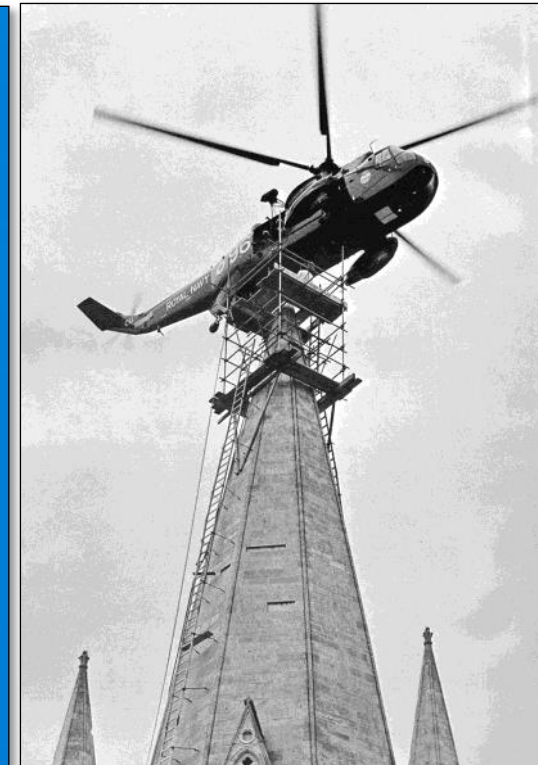
To find out the direction of the prevailing wind, people would tie a piece of cloth or string to the topmost part of a building. Overtime the piece of cloth became a flag or banner – 'vane' being the old English for flag or banner.

*Why a rooster or cockerel?*

Referring to the biblical story of St Peter after the Last Supper and how he would deny Christ three times before the rooster crowed. The rooster then becoming to Christians the sign of St Peter. Pope Gregory declared the rooster emblem of St Peter to be the most



*The golden cockerel weathervane on top of the cathedral spire looking stunning against the blue sky.*



*The weathervane being replaced, by a helicopter from RNAS Culdrose, after remedial work on the spire in the 1970s.*

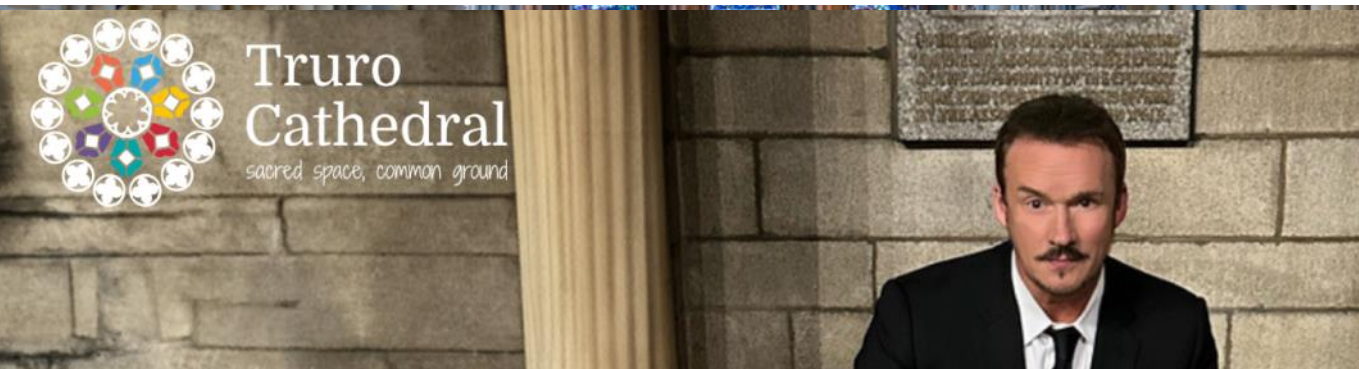
appropriate symbol of Christianity hence the use on the top of weathervanes. Pope Nicholas decreed all churches must display the rooster on their steeples or domes as a symbol of Peter's betrayal of Christ.

Returning to the Truro Cathedral Spire, help in restoration has been sought from unlikely sources, in the past a helicopter from RNAS Culdrose has assisted. In July 1972 a helicopter from RNAS Culdrose was used to deliver a wrought iron cross to the top of the cathedral. It is this cross that holds the copper and gold leaf cockerel weathervane.

The weathervane stands 245 feet above the streets of Truro.



Truro  
Cathedral  
*sacred space, common ground*



MON 23 SEP 24 | 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

## **RUSSELL WATSON and special guest: NANCY MAY**

Come join Multi-Award Winning tenor Russell Watson accompanied by world renowned Pianist/arranger /writer Mike Moran in the magnificent setting of Truro Cathedral. This will be a magical evening which should not be missed.

Russell Watson never imagined he would someday be hailed as one of the world's greatest classical singers. Since being described by the New York Times as a performer *"who sings like Pavarotti and entertains the audience like Sinatra"* he subsequently released ten studio albums, each one receiving more critical acclaim than the last. His debut album 'The Voice' shot up the UK charts where he held the number one spot for a world record 52 weeks. A very special evening and a real exclusive Four-time Brit Classical Award winner Russell Watson, accompanied by his pianist, Mike Moran.

The world-renowned tenor will be Plus Special Guest: Nancy May  
Nancy May is an Essex based classical crossover soprano. Nancy trained at the Royal Northern College of Music and has now gone on to forge her own career performing in and around the Essex area, with many concerts in the diary for 2023.

This show is Reserved Seating.

For all enquiries / disabled bookings, please call the Box Office on [01256 416384](tel:01256416384).

Doors Open from 18:45.

To Book, please click the link below.

Reserved Seating from £41.25 to £76.45 (inc booking fees)

<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/oeplive/book/event/198243>

**DON'T FORGET ON  
LECTURE EVENINGS  
TO HAVE SOME  
CASH WITH YOU  
FOR:**

**RAFFLE**



**TEA**



**WINE**





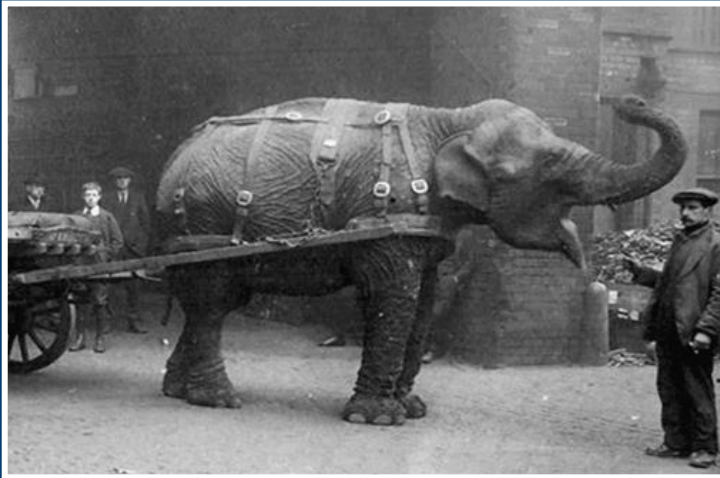
# ARTY SNIPPETS

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.



**Sculpted faces on walnut shells!**

<<<<<



**Lizzie the elephant came to Sheffield with a travelling circus at the start of World War One.**

She was conscripted to help move machinery and munitions as the usual haulers, horses, were sent to the battlefield. She became a local celebrity and now has a blue plaque.

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**The life cycle of the blackberry**



## 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.

I hope you're enjoying the Summer!

So, after a lengthy pause I am pleased to let you know that the next LOOK group meeting will take place here at the museum on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, from 2pm to 4pm. There will be lots to look at – the newly opened mineral gallery, the RNLI 200 exhibition and our Cryseide exhibition which went up at the beginning of June. We may make just one of these the focus, but we'll see how people feel on the day!

We are still looking for someone to take on the administration of the group so if there are any interested parties, please let me know.

If you could RSVP to let me know whether you're planning to attend I'd be most grateful, and please do feel free to forward this email to anyone else who may be interested in attending.

**Kate Clayton**

*Learning Manager, Royal Cornwall Museum*

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



*CRYSEDE: Iconic Imagemakers*



*RNLI: 200 Years of Saving Lives at Sea*



*Reimagined Mineral Gallery*

## 'Whistling Billy' in Truro!



One of the most intriguing vehicles in the car rally display on Lemon Quay at the end of July was 'Whistling Billy', detailed below.

Originally built by the White company, this steam works sprint car was made for the popular, new, motor racing on the dirt trotting horse tracks throughout North America. It was called 'Billy' but was soon renamed Whistling Billy' because of the howl that its burners made going down the straights. Its engine was a 1905 compound 20 hp White steam car engine with Stephenson's link motion that was soon modified to have a piston valve instead of a slide valve on the high pressure side, something all White's had after 1907. The Steam generator was a 3D hp mono-tube as used then in the 30 hp and 40 hp White cars from 1907 onwards. Most of the other components were Stock items from the White production cars Whistling Billy's enormous burner jets were fuelled by either gasoline or kerosene. From its debut race the car began almost immediately winning races and On 4th July 1905 took nearly four seconds off the World track record for the mile with a time of 48.35 seconds (around 74 mph), Webb Jay was Whistling Billy's driver and he truly believed that he was driving the fastest car in the World. The highest speed ever recorded by Whistling Billy was 120 mph!



# Cornwall as an Inspiration for Henry Scott Tuke (1858 - 1929)

Art History Lecture with Catherine Wallace



Thursday 26 September live at the Poly, Falmouth @6.00pm or  
Thursday 3rd October 10.30am on Zoom/Recorded YouTube

**Cost £13 One of six monthly lectures buy all 6 for £65**

Henry Scott Tuke RA (1858 – 1929) was an artist synonymous with Falmouth and Cornwall. Although born in York in to a Quaker dynasty, he grew up in Falmouth and later, after his extensive art education, he returned firstly to Newlyn where he became associated with the Newlyn School and then settled in Falmouth in 1885. Due to Cornwall's mild climate, Tuke could paint outside for most of the year and he became famous for his figure paintings of both the clothed and nude models. He had an equal skill at painting boats and sailing ships particularly in watercolour which came from his own knowledge of sailing. Illustrated by many works from the RCPS Tuke collection, this talk by Catherine Wallace, a leading author on Tuke, surveys one of Falmouth's most famous artists.

**How to book a Live talk @ The Poly go to [www.thepoly.org/whats-on/talks](http://www.thepoly.org/whats-on/talks) To book an online talk visit [www.cathwallace.co.uk](http://www.cathwallace.co.uk) pay by credit or debit card or [catherinewallace2@icloud.com](mailto:catherinewallace2@icloud.com) to pay by BACS or send cheque to Pendarves, Tremough Dale, Penryn TR10 8JA.**



# Art History Lectures @The Poly Falmouth and on Zoom/You Tube 2024-2025

with Art Historian Catherine Wallace £13 each or 6 for £65

26 September 6.00pm @The Poly, Falmouth  
or 3 October 10.30am on Zoom/ recorded YouTube  
**Cornwall as Inspiration to Henry Scott Tuke RA (1858-1929)**

A survey of one of Falmouth's most famous artists, Henry Scott Tuke, illustrated by many works from the RCPS Tuke collection.



24 October 6.00pm @The Poly, Falmouth  
or 31 October 10.30am on Zoom/recorded YouTube  
**A Sympathetic Eye: Walter Langley's Depictions of Women and Children** This talk focuses on Walter Langley's depictions of women and children in Newlyn, Cornwall in the late 19th century.



28 November 6.00pm at the Poly Falmouth  
or 5 December 10.30am on Zoom/ recorded YouTube  
**Beyond Newlyn: Newlyn artists before and after Newlyn**

This lecture traces the story of the Newlyn school of artists before and after their stay in Cornwall.



30 January 2025 6.00pm @The Poly, Falmouth  
or 6 February 10.30am on Zoom/recorded YouTube  
**Dod Procter RA (1892- 1972) A Forgotten Newlyn figure painter**

A talk on the art of Dod Procter née Shaw RA, a once famous figure and still-life painter based in Newlyn, Cornwall in the late 19th century.



27 February 6.00pm @The Poly, Falmouth  
or 6 March 10.30am on Zoom/recorded YouTube  
**Cornish Art Down Under (1870 - 1970) - Art from Cornwall in Southern Hemisphere Galleries** This lecture gives a glimpse of some of the many works of art created in Cornwall that are Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.



27 March 2025 6.00pm @The Poly, Falmouth  
or 3 April 10.30am on Zoom/recorded YouTube  
**Hidden Treasures: The Art Collections of St.Ives**

This lecture features the paintings, sculptures and ceramics in the art collection of St. Ives Town Council and other collections in St. Ives.



**Tickets for the Poly via <https://thepoly.org/whats-on/talks> £12 each +£1 Polyfund 6 for £65 or Zoom/YouTube lectures £13 each or 6 for £65 via [www.cathwallace.co.uk](http://www.cathwallace.co.uk) or by BACS email [catherinewallace2@icloud.com](mailto:catherinewallace2@icloud.com) or by cheque to Pendarves, Tremough Dale, Penryn TR10 8JA.**





## UPCOMING:

### Uncharted: Sea journals of a Cornish mariner

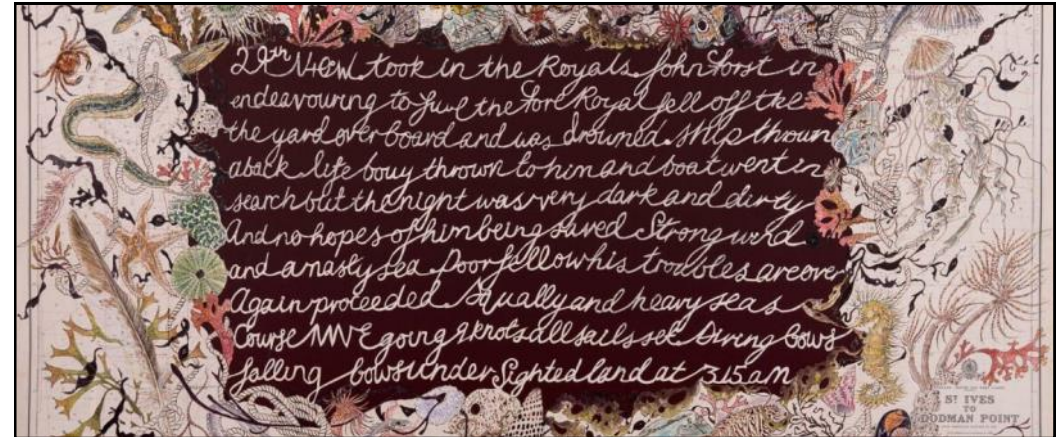
**17 September – 2 November 2024**

Artist Julia McKenzie has created a body of artwork inspired by three small diaries discovered by her in 2014.

The diaries from the 1890's were written by her Cornish Great Grandfather, John Henry Lowry (1867-1935) and remained hidden from view until ten years ago when her father was in the last stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Julia was staying with her family at this difficult time and came across these little books in her father's study. The day-to-day experiences of a relative from over a century ago started to become rich and vivid as her own father's own memories and presence faded away.

John Henry was a master mariner born into a working class family in St. Mawes in 1867. As Julia read the diaries, his voice from 120 years gained strength. It formed a bridge from one time to another. How brave and tenacious was this young Cornish sailor born over a century ago? John Henry worked on the fast sail ships taking cargo such as coal and steel to South America, returning with minerals, guano and beef. To reach Chile he had to negotiate the frozen sea off Patagonia as the Panama Canal was not yet built. He survived icebergs, great storms, lack of water, war, the doldrums and



disease. He single-handedly saved one ship's crew from certain death navigating the sea ice of the Southern Atlantic.

The diaries have inspired Julia to explore this world and make work that celebrates his adventures and the fates of those around him at sea who were not so lucky. She says, 'if my Grandfather had not survived the voyages documented in these three diaries, I would not be here to visually explore this part of his story'.

John Henry was no great adventurer, he loved his family and Cornwall above all, he risked his life to create a better one for those he loved. From Patagonia to St. Mawes, come and immerse yourself in tales of the Southern Ocean and contemplate the fragility of all of our lives and how we find ourselves here because of all those who have gone before.

*Julia McKenzie is an artist and illustrator living in Somerset. She makes drawings, paper-cuts paintings and prints. Maps and charts have always featured in her work. Julia has illustrated books, she has also been an art educator for over twenty years and has work in collections including the British Library and the V&A.*