



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TRURO

Missing (detail) © Poul Dempsey

April 2025

NEWSLETTER

truro.theartsociety.org

Lecture — Wednesday April 9 at 7pm

in Mylor Theatre, Truro College

**The Accidental Masterpiece: Leonardo da Vinci and
the Painting of The Last Supper by Ross King**



The image of the *Last Supper* is as readily familiar, Kenneth Clark once wrote, as the book shape of Italy on a map. However, the history of how this famous mural came to be painted, how precisely Leonardo painted it, and who he painted it for, are much less well known.

This illustrated lecture recounts how Leonardo received the commission for whose execution he had little experience and even less inclination from the Duke of Milan, Lodovico Sforza, and how he went about creating his masterpiece through an experimental new style. While the mural is burdened with many myths - most of which have little if any basis in fact - the true story of its execution is even more remarkable and interesting.

About the Lecturer

Dr. Ross King is the award-winning author of books on Italian, French and Canadian art and history. Among his books are *Brunelleschi's Dome*, *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*, and *Leonardo and The Last Supper*. He is a member of the Leonardo da Vinci DNA Project, which seeks to reconstruct the artist's genome, and he has compiled and edited a book of Leonardo da Vinci's fables, jokes and riddles.



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.

truro.theartsociety.org

Membership Application for 2025

It is essential that you fill in an Application Form.

[Please click here for the Application Form](#)

Just fill in your details on the form, then SUBMIT it to us.

The payment options are detailed at the top of the Application Form, when you click on the link.

Then just make your payment separately by BACS or cheque.

The membership fee remains the same as last year, £60 per person.

Once both your Application Form and payment have been processed, you will receive an email confirmation of your 2025 membership.

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

Lois Humphrey, Membership Secretary

membership.astruro@gmail.com



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



From the Chair

Dear all,

It's so lovely to see the Spring arrive. I'm sure like me you are enjoying the sunshine.

I was delighted with the 'Antiques Roadshow' event. Carlyon

Bay was the perfect setting and the hotel looked after us well, the food was lovely. Roger Tappin kept us entertained, he is very knowledgeable. Thank you to all those that came along and brought such fascinating items. It's great to feel we have started the momentum of visits again. I hope those that didn't come will join future happenings.

Although a couple of people have expressed an interest in joining the committee to keep the society alive, we still need more - particularly with finance, IT and secretarial skills. Please let us know if you can help in any way.

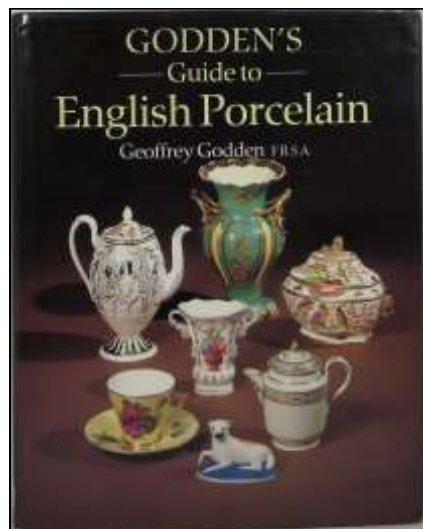
Sadly, I won't be at the April meeting. I was really looking forward to it. I will see you all after Easter!

Karen

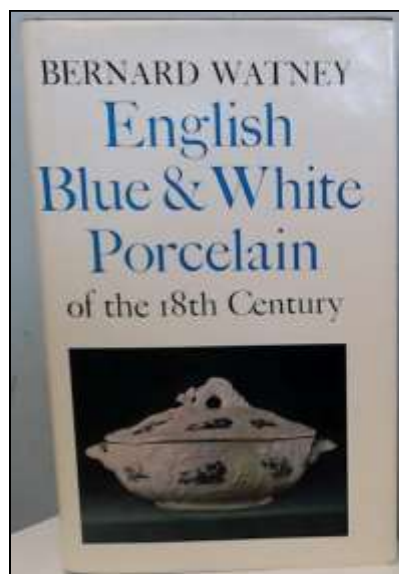
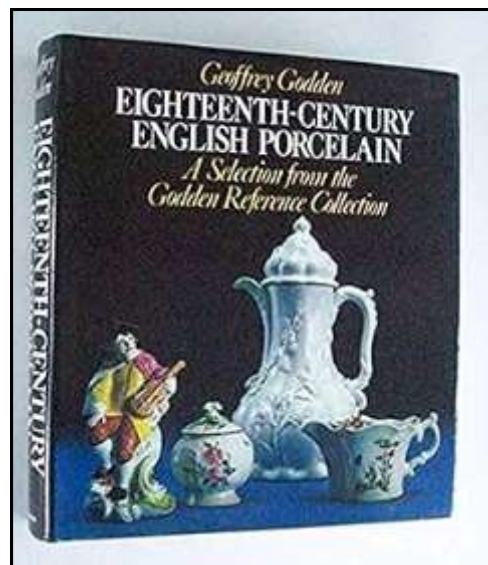


Further reading after last month's lecture by Jane Gardiner

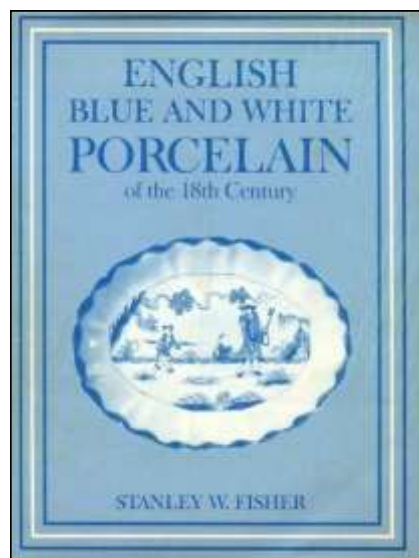
On AST Members Feedback Form, Jane's lecture from 37 responses was rated:
12 Outstanding, 17 Excellent, 7 Good, 1 Passable, 0 Poor



by Geoffrey Godden, FRSA



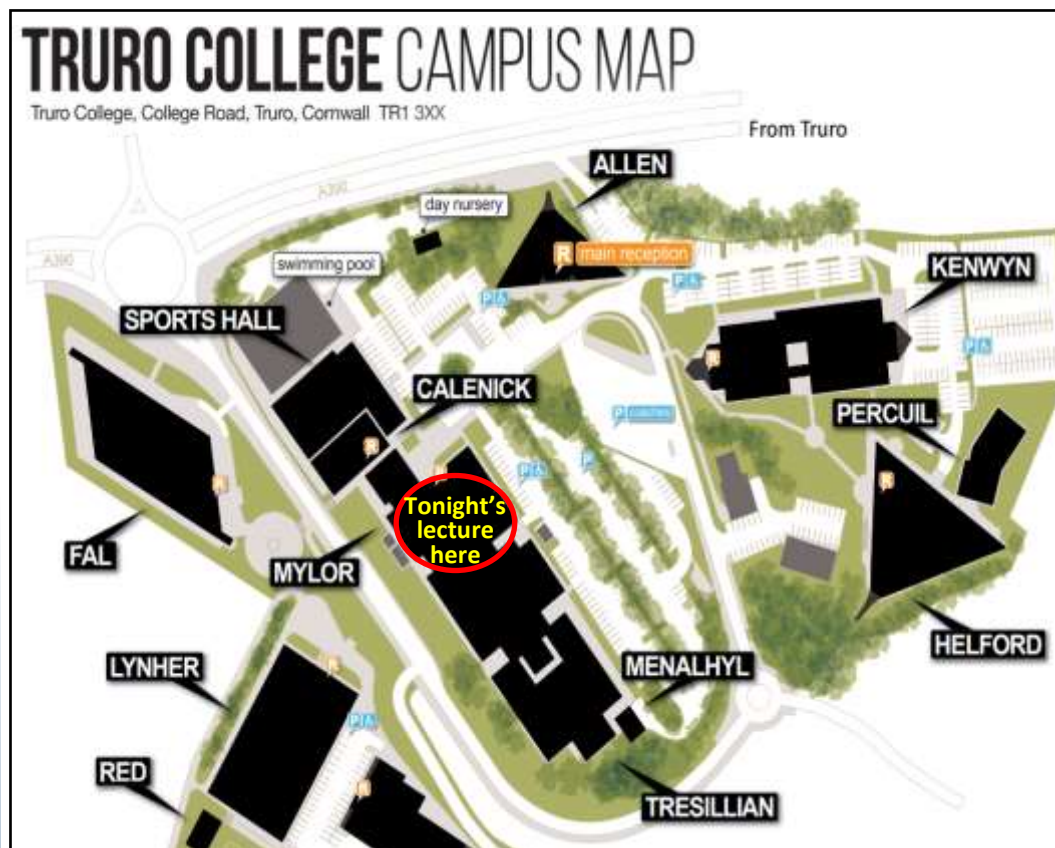
by Bernard Watney



by Stanley W. Fisher

I hope you all like the golden tickets for guests to come to a lecture without paying .

Please take one to give to a friend or relative.



Evening Lectures — 2025

Jan 8 Pantomime: When the Fairy's over 50

by Tyler Butterworth



This amusing, seasonal lecture is all about the seemingly polished world of professional, family pantomime - and reveals what it's really like behind the scenes...

Feb 12 AS Truro AGM followed by Empowering People: The Real Voice of Street Art

by Doug Gillen



Art lies at the heart of social unrest, a voice for those who cannot be heard. Graffiti is more than mindless vandalism - it's the early stages of revolution.

Mar 12 18th Century English Porcelain: Chelsea, Worcester, Bow and Derby

by Jane Gardiner



This lecture will look at the early experiments into porcelain making in England. It will look at what influenced the design and decoration, describe the ways in which porcelain was both displayed and used as well as discussing the fashion for porcelain figures.

Apr 9 The Accidental Masterpiece: Leonardo da Vinci and the Painting of The Last Supper

by Ross King



The image of the *Last Supper* is as readily familiar as the boot shape of Italy on a map.

However, the history of how this famous mural came to be painted, how precisely Leonardo painted it, and who he painted it for, are much less well known.

May 14 Yorkshire Textile Renaissance: Tom Heron, Cryséde and Cresta at the Birth of Modernism

by Ashley Gray



An epic tale of two extraordinary figures from the same valley in Yorkshire who were destined to change the world of fashion and design for all time.

June 11 Fakes and Fortunes (or, have I discovered a Constable in my attic?)

by Sarah Cove



Sarah Cove is an accredited paintings conservator and technical art historian. She has been instrumental in the attribution of three significant Constable oils for BBC 1's *Fake or Fortune?* series.

Sept 10 Mid 18th Century English Rococo Silver: its Social Context and the Adventures of its Owners and its Makers

by Ralph Hoyle



Ralph will bring some silver for the audience to handle and examine, and after discussing its manufacture and social relevance, he reveals the trials and tribulations that befell the original owners.

Oct 8 The Entire World on his Panel:

Jan Breughel *by Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe*



Jan Breughel recorded much of the world around him and delights us with fantasies and scenes of heaven, all in astoundingly miniscule detail.

Nov 12 King and Collector: The Art of Henry VIII

by Siobhan Clarke



Henry VIII was an enthusiastic patron of the arts whose tapestries and paintings enriched the Tudor court and began the Royal Collection. Ultimately, each work told one central story: the glorification of Henry and his England.

Dec 10 Influences in Photography

by Charlie Waite



Charlie describes artists and photographers who have inspired him and shaped his work, especially Ansel Adams, the great American landscape photographer and the first to use the concept of 'pre-visualisation'.



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TRURO

Please click on a lecture to see further details.

Or visit our website and click EVENTS

truro.theartsociety.org

The Arts Society is the operating name of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (1089743.)

Antiques Roadshow

We all had a fabulous day with Roger Tappin, Bonham's auctioneer, at the Carlyon Bay Hotel. 35 started the day by setting out treasures and having a coffee. There was an immediate buzz in the room as we looked at the amazing array of items arriving. Roger expertly chatted about them with stories intertwined. We learnt that ivory of any date can now not be sold as we looked at

the exquisite little ivory needle cases. I learnt my Tang horse is a fake! Roger clearly loved the 3D viewer for early photographs. My favourite items were a beautiful hand painted material flower catalogue from Treseder's nursery and a singing caged bird just like the one that introduced the Antiques Roadshow years ago. Everything was interesting and different.

We then had a delicious lunch served at tables set with white linen. Everyone chatting happily clearly enjoying the occasion. What a lovely bunch!

Thank you to all that came and brought such brilliant items. You made the day a great success. Let's have another outing soon - suggestions always welcome.

Karen



Storms have revealed ancient forests on several beaches in the South West.

Mounts Bay is home to one of the largest submerged forests in Cornwall. At very low spring tides, sections of trees emerge from the sands.

Geologists believe extensive forests extended across the bay in Penzance between 4,000 and 6,000 years ago. Having spent thousands of years below the sand, these trees are well preserved and would have stretched across the bay, inland and out to sea.

The shifting sands have also revealed wrecks, an iron age settlement in Devon and wartime explosives in Devon, Somerset and Dorset.

Remains of ancient forests have also been seen on Portreath beach, Daymer Bay in Cornwall and Bigbury Bay in Devon.

Frank Howie, Cornwall Wildlife Trustee and chair of the county's Geo-conservation Group, said submerged forests were evidence of changes in Mount's Bay as the sea level had risen.

He said: "The storms have revealed trunks of pine and oak as well as the remains of hazel thickets with well-preserved cob nuts and acorns washed out by streams running across the beach.



Tree trunks, probably oak or beech, can be seen at Chyandor, east of Penzance.

(Photo by Frank Howie)

GWELLEN

Gwelen is an artwork by artist Emma Smith and residents.

The work consists of a series of sculptures installed along the Penzance to Marazion coastal path and is inspired by Cornwall's largest submerged forest.

At each 'seeing stick', people can take a pause, sit or lean, and imagine the ancient, wooded bay. Each sculpture has been tailor made to support the poses and measurements of over 600 residents who contributed drawings of themselves in their ideal resting poses for imagining the forest.

James has written his 'story', displayed on one of the boards accompanying the installation.

He was born in Newlyn and spent his childhood in and under the water of Mount's Bay. Learning to dive with the Penzance Sub Aqua Club in the 1960s, he was one of the first to dive here. His poem is titled 'Every Dive was a Mystery'.



*How many people have seen the bottom
of Mount's Bay?
I have
I started my first diving without a suit
You just had a wool jumper on
You can imagine how cold it was
It was a different world I was in
It's been well known that the fossilised forest was there
When diving off Marazion it was beautiful
because you had these lovely tree stumps
with the roots protruding through the sand
Mount's Bay
It's undulating, rolling, topography
a lot of shale
a lot of sand
and suddenly you come to some big groups of rocks and
small reefs
You get some spectacular sights
underwater jewels
sea anemones
blues, reds, greens, purples, yellows
It was like opening a jewellery box*

Dear all,

Hello, I'm Sue H, Editor of *The Arts Society Magazine*.

I wanted to get in touch to ask a question of your members.

We are currently working on an editorial project that will bring in Barbara Hepworth's hidden studio, the Palais de Dance in St Ives.

It was once a cinema and, from 1925 onwards a dance hall. It was also, briefly, a ballet school. Hepworth bought the building in 1961.

This is a long shot, but we think worth asking: we wonder if any members connected to our Cornwall Arts Societies have any family recollections of the building when it was a cinema, dance hall or ballet school or anything else? Even when it was Hepworth's studio? Perhaps there are members who can recall the artist being there? Even meeting her?

We would be intrigued to know and should we get any pertinent responses we would be looking at possibly including some of them within the magazine.

It would be so helpful to know if this was a message that could go out to your members? With any responses to the magazine being sent to this email address: magazine@theartsociety.org We would need the recollections along with the members full name and the Society to which they belong.

It would be good to hear your thoughts on all the above,

With my thanks and very best wishes,

Sue Herdman

Editor, The Arts Society Magazine

2024 Memcom Excellence Awards: Best Magazine Finalist

2023 PPA IPN Membership Publication of the Year

Editor | Writer | Media Consultant

E: sue.herdman@me.com

I: @sueherdman1

W: theartsociety.org



[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS](https://truro.theartsociety.org)

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.

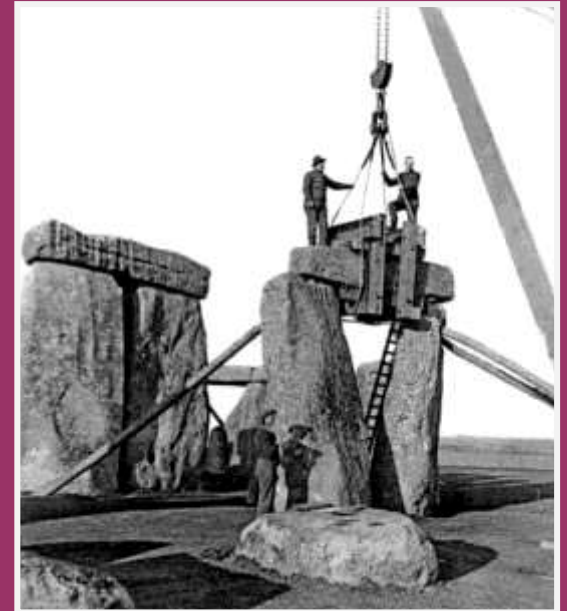


Save your old
magazines and
we'll create a
zoo!

<<<<<

Busy night at
Stonehenge as
they move the
stones forward
one hour!

>>>>>



The Trafalgar
roundabout post
box knitters strike
again, this time
with Bagpuss, first
aired on TV in
1974

<<<<<

Jack and Jill had
made it up Lemon
Street hill,
in the guise of a
couple of cheery
scarecrows

>>>>>

**THESE TWO ITEMS HAVE NOW
DISAPPEARED, THOUGHT TO
HAVE BEEN STOLEN!!**

