

THE ARTS SOCIETY LISKEARD

DISCOVERY MORNING



What exactly is Byzantine Art and how do you pronounce it?

The early art and architecture of one of history's greatest empires – from Constantine to Justinian

Tuesday 1st April 2025

Speaker: Geri Parlby

9.10 am for 9.30 am – 12.00 noon approx.

Liskeard Public Hall, PL14 6BW

"You say By-zantine and I say Bizz-anteen" as the song almost goes! In fact there is no right way to pronounce it but it is certainly a subject worth studying. The Byzantine Empire flourished for over a millennium as the successor to the Roman Empire in the eastern Mediterranean. We will marvel at the beauty and spirituality of Byzantine Mosaics, Frescoes, Churches and Icons. We will also glimpse at how this magnificent art form was able to influence the developing artistic traditions of its powerful neighbours in the west and east.

Session 1 (9.30 am – 10.30 am):

4th and 5th centuries. The Emperor Constantine – the birth of Constantinople and the mosaics of Ravenna.

The Byzantine Empire began in 330 AD when Emperor Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Byzantium, later renamed Constantinople. Christianity flourished and gradually supplanted the Greco-Roman gods that had once defined Roman religion and culture. This religious shift dramatically affected the art that was created across the empire. We consider the sublime mosaics of Ravenna, known for their vibrant colours and exceptional depictions of biblical scenes and demonstrate how mosaic art was used to exploit religion to achieve political ends. *(continued overleaf)*



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The cost will be **£26.50** per person and include coffee and cake at break time.

Bookings must be made prior to the event

- By BACS (for instructions and LAS Bank details see overleaf).
- Or post this completed slip with your cheque to The Arts Society Liskeard to:
Mary Utton, Tregantle, Barn Street, Liskeard PL14 4BL
01579 345140, 07731 380715, mary.utton2@gmail.com

If you give your email address (or send a sae), your cheque will be acknowledged in writing.

Please reserve me place(s) @ £26.50 per person I am / am not a Liskeard Arts member

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EMAIL



A.Savin, Wikipedia

**Session 2 (10.50 am – 11.50 am):
6th and 7th centuries. The Emperor and
the Prostitute – the era of Justinian and
Theodora; ivories and icons and the
building of Hagia Sophia.**

Justinian and Theodora bowed to no man when they ruled the world's most powerful empire during the 6th century. A former prostitute and exotic dancer, Theodora was a woman with an unsavoury past, while her husband's roots lay in Balkan peasant stock and yet together they inspired some of most beautiful art in the Byzantine Empire. From the sublime mosaics of Ravenna and St Catherine's monastery to the miraculous architecture of Hagia Sophia - who could forget the most outrageous imperial couple in Byzantine history?

Dr Geri Parlby



Geri's first career was as a journalist working on a variety of Fleet Street newspapers before moving into entertainment PR. She has also run her own PR agency, especially in film and video PR, until retiring in the early 1990s to start a family.

Geri then decided to go back to school and gained a first-class honours degree in History and Theology from Surrey University, a Masters in History of Art with distinction from the Courtauld Institute and a Theology PhD from the University of Roehampton. The subject of her PhD thesis was the early iconography of the Virgin Mary.

Geri has taught at the universities of Exeter, Plymouth and Roehampton where she is an honorary research fellow. She also runs regular courses for the Arts Society South West Area and the Devon Archaeological Society, as well as travelling all over the UK and internationally as an accredited Arts Society lecturer.

Booking and payment by BACS

1. Please pay **£26.50 per person** to:

The Arts Society Liskeard, sort code **20 68 10**, account number **70729515**, ref **DMorn**.

2. **THEN email** mary.utton2@gmail.com

Subject: Discovery Morning

Message: how many places, how much you've paid, and your telephone number.

You should get a reply to your email within 24 hours, acknowledging your payment and booking.

GDPR: Your details will be retained only until the event has taken place, solely for Liskeard Arts to inform you of any updates about it.

For further information about **Liskeard Arts** visit www.liskeardartsociety.org.uk