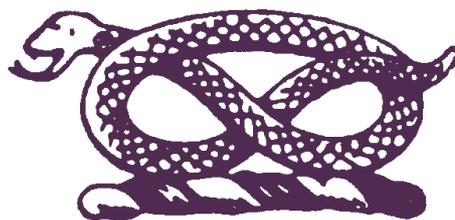




THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
CAVENDISH



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020



Newsletter No 103  
September 2020

# THE ARTS SOCIETY CAVENDISH

## Chairman's Notes

Dear members,

Being a member of the Arts Society Cavendish is being part of a vibrant, social organisation. I, for one, really miss our monthly meetings and lectures and I miss speaking to you over a cup of coffee and sharing views and ideas. Since the last newsletter you are all aware that we have been unable to resume our monthly lecture meetings at the Pavilion Arts Centre. At the present time, within this pandemic, it is unknown when the centre will re-open and if it does, how social distancing will impact on our lectures. Consequently, having cancelled the last three lectures for the year, we re-booked these for 2021/22.

Meanwhile, we have purchased a commercial Zoom licence and we are arranging for the programme from September 2020 to be presented to you live on Zoom. The first lecture on 29 September 2020 is '**The Hidden World of Canal Architecture**', presented by Roger Butler. This will be available on a Zoom link which will be sent to you by our Webmaster in good time. Although this will be our first attempt at presenting lectures online, many other societies have already mastered the art so we are optimistic that it will be successful and you will all take the opportunity to join in.

Over the last few months we have progressed our sponsorship of the Koestler Arts and Derby University Arts Department as you will see from the attached articles. Sadly, the Buxton International Festival was also cancelled but we maintain our sponsorship for next year.

Our delayed AGM will also take place on Zoom on 14 September at 10.30 am. Once again you will receive a link to join us for this meeting. It is an important part of the society's organisation that members take this opportunity to discuss any issues arising and to elect your committee. On that note, I would remind you all that as valued members, we would be delighted if you would like to take part in being either a committee member or in assisting in the organisation. There are four committee vacancies outstanding:

- Deputy Chair
- Deputy Secretary
- Visits Organiser
- Church Recorder

Please contact me if you would like to be part of the team.

Best wishes for the coming months as, hopefully, lockdown is eased. I look forward to seeing many of you on Zoom.

**Sylvia McKenzie**

### **Our membership Secretary, Joan Knox adds this note**

Hello loyal members,

Thank you for the many messages of support that you have sent with your renewals. It makes my task as Membership Secretary so much more pleasant. Your committee appreciates your understanding of the fact that we have faced additional problems due to the pandemic. Some of us have been bereaved and have had to isolate which has added to the challenges. Getting to the post was not possible for me for many months – thank goodness for email and Zoom etc. Finally, it is always easy to be loyal when things are going well but in times of difficulty, such as these, loyalty is tested. Thank you again and welcome to a new season.

**Joan**

## A Message from the Arts Society, North East Area Chair

When I last wrote at the end of May, we were all in lockdown with no end in sight. Three months on and we are beginning to lead a slightly freer existence, to socialise a little and to catch up with family and friends.

In my previous message, I wrote of being a member of The Arts Society as like belonging to 'a big family'. I confess I am missing that family. I miss the people, my Arts Society colleagues and friends. I miss my travels through the wonderful countryside that our area boasts. I miss the chat over a cup of coffee, a sandwich, a glass of wine and I miss the buzz of lecture meetings and the animated discussions of committee meetings.

Things will get better but, in the meantime, I want to reassure everyone in the North East Area that your Societies are doing all they can to help The Arts Society come through this pandemic. Some are keeping in touch with their members through newsletters and telephone calls. Many are embracing new technology, learning about Zoom meetings and webinars. It is a very steep learning curve but it is all helping to keep us together.

Details of Zoom lectures being held in our area will be posted on <https://theartsociety.org/welcome-arts-society-north-east-area> and will be available to all our Society Members so do keep an eye on this website. Equally, this autumn The Arts Society nationally (<https://theartsociety.org/>) will be featuring live online hour-long lectures, exclusively for Members of The Arts Society. To avoid clashes with local Society events these will take place on Friday lunchtimes:

- Friday, 18th September 2020, 1pm
- Friday, 23rd October 2020, 1pm
- Friday, 27th November 2020, 1pm
- Friday, 18th December 2020, 1pm

The films will be broadcast via YouTube, and the link will be shared with Members via email in early September.

I believe we have got to where we are by embracing what we do with passion and in a spirit of friendship. Our future relies on us continuing to do so. We will meet again in person as soon as it is safe to do so. Let us hope that time will not be too far away.

With my best wishes

*Lizzie Darbyshire*

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### Arts Society Cavendish is delighted to support the Buxton International Festival which takes place every July for three weeks.



Based on the wonderful Frank Matcham Buxton Opera House, the Festival presents rare operas and the best in music and books. As a charity they embrace and explore new ways of thinking through excellent literary presentations and cultural participation in the glorious setting of the Peak District. Sadly, because of Covid, the Festival was unable to take place in 2020 but we are hopeful it will ride the storm and open for 2021.

There is a young artists Programme putting young singers centre stage and the mission is to connect artists and audiences in ways that lift the spirit by having a really innovative programme. The Festival plays a large part as does the Arts Society Cavendish in the cultural regeneration of Buxton. The opening of the highly anticipated Ensana Crescent Hotel in Buxton will give a five-star hotel presence and encourage travellers from all over the world. We do hope that members of the Arts Society nationwide may consider a visit in 2021 to the Peak District and book some events at the festival, along with the other joys the Peak District can offer like Chatsworth and Haddon and Hardwick Halls. Also very much in the news, the village of Eyam where the plague originally broke out in 1665 and the village was then in its own lockdown quarantine for 14 months preventing the disease from spreading.

Do dip in to Buxton Festival website and we look forward to welcoming you to Derbyshire soon when, hopefully, life may have returned to something near the old normal.

**Jennie Ball**

## Arts Society Cavendish Awards – University of Derby

The Arts Society Cavendish is delighted to announce it is sponsoring awards to support budding artists from the University of Derby's School of Arts. The awards will run for three years starting in summer 2020 and each will be recognised as 'The Arts Society Cavendish Award'.

We have been keen to support new and emerging artistic talent in Derbyshire, helping them to be future focused and to develop their practice. The creation of 'The Arts Society Cavendish Awards' to support students studying art at the University of Derby does just that. We look forward to working with the University and its talented students.



Pro-Vice Chancellor Dean for Arts, Humanities and Education at the University of Derby, Professor Keith McLay said: "We are very grateful to The Arts Society Cavendish members for their support and for providing this brilliant opportunity which will be invaluable to our students. There is a huge amount of talent within the School of Arts so it is fantastic that this will be nurtured even further through these awards. We look forward to working with the Society to identify students who can benefit from their generosity."

The history of studying arts in Derby can be traced back to 1853. The current School of Arts is based at the University's Markeaton Street site which is also home to engineering, computing and mathematics. It provides courses in art, design, photography, textiles, media and performing arts.

The Dean said that thanks to the support of our society, the University has awarded two prizes to graduating students this year to support their practice. In addition, support to an undergraduate student who is need of extra funds will also be awarded. This funding would be classed as a scholarship and be named 'The Arts Society Cavendish Scholarship'.

We hope to be able to continue this sort of sponsorship over the coming years to enable emerging artists to progress their work.

### Sylvia McKenzie Chair

## Koestler Arts



*Cornflower Blue, HMP Leyhill, Bronze Award for Needlecraft, Koestler Awards 2017*

A significant aspect of membership of the Arts Society is the opportunity to be involved in an art project that encourages the talents of aspiring artists. The Arts Society Cavendish has embarked on a three year project with Koestler Arts to sponsor their art initiatives with prisoners in establishments in the county of Derbyshire. Koestler Arts is the leading prison arts charity and has been working, since 1962, to enthuse and encourage prisoners to find a positive direction and to develop a confidence and sense of self-worth through creating art, including painting, drawing, poetry, music and embroidery. The culmination of much of this creative work is the annual exhibition at the Southbank Centre which enables the public to enjoy the variety of contributions and to appreciate the power of art to engage and develop many individuals in secure environments whose work may otherwise be unrecognised. The Koestler Arts Award system celebrates a range of categories from emerging talent to outstanding work. This public recognition and feedback, accompanied by funds to further individual skills, helps to develop a sense of purpose. The Arts Society Cavendish is very pleased to be associated with the award programme and hope that the Cavendish Award will include some art work by women in Derbyshire.

Our interest in Koestler Arts was sparked by the work of Angela Findlay who was scheduled, before Covid, to lecture to us in May 2020 and now is rescheduled for November 2021. Angela's inspiring work in secure institutions has helped to transform many lives and her powerful lectures help us all to appreciate how relevant and potentially life-changing art, in all its forms, can be.

We are privileged to have this opportunity to support, in a small way, the Koestler Arts initiative which is working in some of the most challenging areas of our society.

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2020/21

All this year's lectures and probably many of next year's will still continue on the published date but on Zoom. Some days before each lecture you will be sent joining instructions which we will ask you to keep private. For copyright reasons most lectures will only be shown live so no recording will be allowed.

## 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020



### The Hidden World of Canal Architecture

This lecture examines the unique buildings and structures associated with the UK's canal network with a vast array of distinctive designs, landmark features and unusual artefacts: only the National Trust and the Church of England have more listed structures than our canals.

Look out for lock flights and lighthouses; cottages and clock towers; warehouses and lots of whimsical architecture - our canals delight the eye and refresh the spirit.

**Roger Butler**

## 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### 'Something of Me': (Self) Presentation in Portraits of Cecil Beaton

In the National Portrait Gallery, London, there are 347 different portraits of (royal) photographer, costume designer and serial socialite Cecil Beaton. By way of comparison, there are 819 of Queen Elizabeth II and just 47 of Princess Diana. Why should this be so? This illustrated lecture examines the many self-portraits of Cecil Beaton (in paint and print) and considers how contemporary friends and artists, not least Beaton himself, regarded and depicted his intriguing character. More generally, it considers the role of portraiture and self-presentation during the interwar period. Figures included in this humorous and humbling story include Henri Cartier-Bresson, Rex Whistler, Lady Diana Cooper, Christian 'Bébé' Berard, Patrick Procktor, David Hockney, Augustus John and Francis Bacon.

**Dr Benjamin Wild**

## 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Francis Bacon

Many people have claimed that Francis Bacon was the most significant British painter of the twentieth century and, possibly, ever. He has also been called the most important painter in the world after the death of Picasso. Yet his work is often described as horrific, violent, nihilistic and ugly. The artist always denied this but there is no doubt that some of the images he produced can be difficult to look at. He was profoundly influenced by old masters like Titian, Velázquez and Degas and continued to work in the figurative tradition at a time when other artists thought it had been exhausted. He tried to push that tradition to its absolute limits in order to try and deal directly with the nature of the human condition as he saw it.

This lecture will examine Bacon's career, focussing on his most important works in order to explain why they came to look the way they do. His influences, both artistic and personal, will be examined along with his techniques and source material.

**Linda Smith**

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2020/21

26<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The Art of the Hero: Commemorating Scott of the Antarctic



Captain Scott and his four companions died in the Antarctic in 1912. Although they had lost the race to the South Pole to Norwegian Roald Amundsen, their deaths unleashed an astonishing wave of tributes not only in Britain but around the world. This lecture will examine the different ways in which artists represented death in the polar wasteland and portrayed failure as heroic sacrifice.

Dr Max Jones

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

The Captain, the Duchess and their 23,000 children - London's great Foundling Hospital

In the early 1700s, shipwright Thomas Coram gave up his business in Massachusetts. Returning to London he was appalled to encounter babies regularly abandoned in the streets. He began to lobby for the provision of a hospital for 'foundlings' and for babies at risk of infanticide. The great and the good weren't interested. Coram persisted. After more than 17 years he finally achieved his aim. How did he do it? Why did England lag so far behind continental Europe? What part did Hogarth and Handel play at the Foundling? With places limited, on what basis were babies selected or rejected? Why were they given new names? And what of the Tokens - the trinkets and over 5,000 pieces of fabric left by mothers hoping to return and reclaim a child in better times? A gripping story with huge resonance for our own times.



Lars Tharp

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2020/21

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Provenance matters. The mass faking of the Russian avant garde on the world art market 2000-2018**

With the opening of Russia post-glasnost came a huge surge of interest in the Russian Avant Garde. Previously-unknown artists became famous and much sought-after by the new Russian-buying public. With their reappearance, however, came an industrial-scale level of faking of their pictures often with the connivance, unwitting or otherwise, of Western and Russian experts.

Reputed specialists have estimated that as many as 95% of pictures on the market are unacceptable to any leading auction house, museum or dealer. This lecture will examine the evidence for and against such paintings.

The various attempts by specialists untainted by scandal to cleanse the market will also be examined with special attention paid to the 2017 exhibition of Russian Avant Garde at the Ghent Museum of Fine Arts, closed by Belgian Police in April.

**James Butterwick**

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**The Genius of Beethoven**

Famously, every morning of his adult life, Beethoven measured out exactly 60 coffee beans for his breakfast. A man who is capable of such discipline over a cup of coffee can surely apply

that exactness elsewhere in his life and in Beethoven's case, it was applied to his compositions. In fact, the detail found in his music is often so subtle that most people don't even know it's there. The lecture explores Beethoven's genius as a writer of music, at the same time setting his extraordinary story against the backdrop of 19th century warfare, revolution and dramatic social changes. Beethoven would have been 250 years old on 17 December 2020.



**Peter Medhurst**

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Dickens, Lawrence and Zhivago: David Lean's Art of Cinema**



Cinematic images are modern art forms. In the 'golden age' of cinema – before the development of CGI technology – film-makers had to construct sets to represent landscapes, townscapes and interiors. Sometimes they used paintings and photographs, sometimes they built scale models, sometimes they constructed full-size replicas. In each case, they created an art installation they then captured in celluloid images.

Drawing on new insights from the archaeology of cinema, this lecture will use the films of renowned British director David Lean to explore the art of cinema. How do the 'artists' – in this case formed of large collaborative teams (directors, screenwriters, production designers, costume designers, camera crews, fixers, etc) – choose locations, construct sets, dress actors and, more generally, 'imagine'

the world they seek to represent? How much is authentic and how much preconception and prejudice? What are the influences on the way the cinema depicts the world?

**Neil Faulkner**

# STUDY DAY PROGRAMME

Regretfully we have decided to cancel the two study days that were planned to take place in October and November this year.

For Brian Healey's study day on **When Cotton Was King**, we have commissioned Brian to offer us on YouTube the three lectures that make up this study day. The first lecture will be available in November followed by the second and third lectures in December and January.

We are making these lectures available to all our members, at no additional cost, through an access code which will be sent to everyone by email. The lectures will remain accessible for a limited amount of time. While they are available you will be able to view them as often as you like.



In the case of Anthony Peers' study day on **Colonial Architecture in India** which we had planned to hold on 14 October, we are in discussion with Anthony and hope to arrive at a similar arrangement with him for an online study day this winter or early next spring. We will keep you informed of progress.

## VISITS

We cannot offer any visits at the moment due to Covid but as soon as we feel safe and government guidelines allow we hope to reinstate the Auckland visit and also the walking tour of Manchester to complement the Study Day .

## YOUNG ARTS



In the last newsletter I wrote about two schools that had visited both locally, to Yorkshire Sculpture Park, and a bit further afield, to Liverpool's Walker Gallery. So I thought that I would tell you about another of the school visits that Cavendish has so generously sponsored in the past few years. This time the school's Art Department was even more adventurous as they decided that their pupils would really benefit from a day visit to London.



*Yes this student really did carry his frame around London all day*

One of the inhibiting factors which prevent schools from arranging out of school visits is the ever rising cost of transport; another is being inclusive of all pupils. Most galleries etc have free entry to school pupils and often workshops are free or a minimal charge, so if the group can get there then the rest of the trip is possible. That's where our society's sponsorship comes in and we provide up to £500 which is mainly used to cover the transport costs.

This is the story of Chapel-en-Le-Frith school who took their GCSE photography group down to London for a very action packed day! For some of them it was the first visit to London and it was everyone's first time travelling on the Tube, so they were a bit daunted, learning how to navigate the system and social rules while travelling.

Their first stop of the day was in Shoreditch for a customised private 2-hour street art tour with a professional photographer and street art critic who

shared not only his passion for the genre but interesting anecdotes. The students were given photographic challenges about different ways of seeing and photographing the art, which they readily engaged with, and much enthusiastic discussion with the tour leader followed. As well as visiting a huge variety of street art by domestic and international artists, including the Banksy murals, the students also learnt a little about the local history, demographic influences and most importantly the difference between street art and graffiti! As the students had no idea what to expect, they were blown away by the quality of the artwork.



*Final "Frame" photograph*

The next stop was in the same area, a small urban art gallery, to see and to compare with art created by the same artists but moved into a gallery environment.

Then back onto the Tube to the City to apply some of the new skills learnt in the morning. The trip was peppered with national landmarks including the Bank of England, The Monument, St Paul's, The Globe, Westminster, Whitehall, Trafalgar, even the smallest Police Station! No one had been to any of the places visited before. Each student busy with taking photographs and completing research for their individual projects



*Students final artwork Inspired by the work of Mary Lum*

The last stop of the day was to Tate Modern to view the skyline, visit the Media Networks exhibition, and view the artwork of Picasso, Dali and Warhol.

And then home exhausted but enriched. The work produced, knowledge, skills and understanding acquired on the day had a huge impact on the students' progress

Thank you to Mrs Anderson, their wonderful teacher, for taking them on the trip, and a big thank you to you, the members of Cavendish, for continuing to support this worthwhile scheme. Hopefully in the next newsletter I can tell you about what is happening in the year 2021 with Young Arts

Jan Hardy