



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
CAVENDISH



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021



Newsletter No 104  
April 2021

# THE ARTS SOCIETY CAVENDISH

## Chairman's Notes

Dear members

Since our last newsletter the pandemic has continued to devastate communities around the world. We are so fortunate to live in a country with a thriving National Health Service that has supported us all so well during this incredibly difficult year. By now most of us will have been fully vaccinated, which gives us some confidence and security for our own well-being. The impact on the Arts Society Cavendish has been far less daunting than for some who have lost their lives, loved ones, jobs and businesses. We must all be thankful that the sacrifices we have made will contribute to the greater good.

Thanks to Zoom we have still been able to enjoy some wonderful lectures each month including the history of the canal system, Cecil Beaton and Francis Bacon, Captain Scott and the Coram Foundling Hospital. All very informative and entertaining. We have also had the presentation of two spectacular study days by Brain Healy and Anthony Peers, which provided visual feasts. I thank Clare Allerton and Michèle Bicket for arranging this full programme which continues until the end of May. On the next page we have a link to a questionnaire asking you to help us decide how to proceed with our lectures.

We have a full programme of lectures planned from September. We are hopeful that the Pavilion Arts Centre will re-open after the end of June. As yet, however, we still do not know what government guidelines will be in place for social distancing or what protocols the PAC will require, therefore we will continue our lectures online between September 2021 and January 2022.

The Buxton International Festival will be going ahead from 8-25 July. We will be sponsoring the presentation by Susan Owens of her book '**The Spirit of Place**'. Susan is from the High Peak and will be talking about modern landscape painting. The festival is being organised with Covid 19 precautions in mind, so it is likely that there will be fewer places available than we would normally expect. Booking for all events opens on 4 May – so book early to avoid disappointment. You might like to view the webinar BIF has presented on their website about how they intend to produce events this year. ([\*Opera & Covid-19 – navigating the pandemic and where next?\*](#))

We have continued to support Koestler Arts during lockdown. This has provided ongoing support to prisoners engaging in art projects and is a valuable contribution to rehabilitation. In addition, the Cavendish Award to students at Derby University Arts Department has enabled three emerging artists to continue their studies this year.

**This year's AGM will be held via Zoom on 25 May 2021** following the lecture, details on the next page. We hope that many of you will join us for this event. The viability of the society is dependent on an active membership and a well-functioning committee and without a full committee the society cannot continue. Due to the pandemic the present committee has some members who have continued beyond their normal tenure. They have all given sterling service and are well-appreciated by us all in providing a seamless programme.

I, therefore, ask for nominations for the following committee posts which remain, or will become, vacant:

Deputy Chair, Deputy Secretary, Visits Organiser

Please don't be shy! You will be welcomed into the team and will not be asked to undertake any tasks without the support of the whole committee. If anyone is unsure of what is required, please contact me and we can discuss the various roles. ([chair@artsocavendish.co.uk](mailto:chair@artsocavendish.co.uk)).

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Dr Keith Levick. Dr Levick was chair of the Arts Society Cavendish in about 2007. Mary Marsh remembers Dr Levick 'as being very reluctant to take on the responsibility as he was already 80+, but, of course, he made an excellent job of it. He was a very quiet and gentle man with impeccable manners and he made an excellent Chair and, I think in the end, he enjoyed the position. He definitely fulfilled all his duties in a very efficient manner.' Our sincere condolences to Mrs Levick and her family.

Best wishes for the coming months and the easing of lockdown.

**Sylvia McKenzie**

## Notice is hereby given of the 36th Annual General Meeting of Cavendish Arts Society.

The above meeting will take place on Tuesday 25 May at 12.15 pm via Zoom platform (agenda below).

Please can you confirm your intended attendance in advance as this will ensure that the required number of members is available in order to make the meeting viable. Alternatively can you forward your apologies if you cannot attend. You will receive a link to the meeting closer to the date.

Attendance or apologies should be sent to Kay Durrant, Secretary, via email on: [secretary@artsocavendish.co.uk](mailto:secretary@artsocavendish.co.uk)

Thank you

Kay.

### We need your help

We are planning a full programme of lectures and study days for the 21/22 season. Due to ongoing Covid-19 concerns, we are expecting the lectures from September-January to continue online. At this point in time we do not know if, or when, the Pavilion Arts Centre (PAC) will re-open. If it does open in the summer, it is likely that Covid-19 restrictions will be in place, which might limit the number of people able to attend. We would greatly appreciate your answering three quick questions about your thoughts on how we should proceed [by clicking this link](#).

Last year we reduced the membership fee to £30 to account for two cancelled lectures, before starting zoom lectures. In view of the possibility of limited numbers at the PAC, it is likely that the costs incurred would remain as before. We would still, therefore, wish to support the PAC and our lecturers financially. The committee members have racked their combined brains and used a great deal of their own time to consider the membership fees for the coming season. In continuing to offer our members good value in terms of lectures and study days, the proposed fee for 21/22 will be £38.

### AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising.
4. To receive and adopt the Chairman's report.
5. To receive and approve the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 and the Treasurer's Report.
6. To re-appoint Mr Peter Winter as Independent Examiner for the year ending 31 December 2021.
7. Re-election of members of the Committee all of whom are willing to stand again.

Chair	Mrs Sylvia McKenzie
Treasurer	Vacant
Exhibitions & Heritage	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Mr Charles Huff
Programme Secretary	Vacant
Secretary	Vacant
Membership Secretary	Mrs Joan Knox
Website/IT	Mr Charles Huff
Visits	Vacant
Young Arts	Mrs Jan Hardy
Study Day Secretary	Vacant

8. The following members are willing to stand for the posts listed:

Treasurer	Mr Charles Huff
Programme Secretary	Mrs Carol Huff
Study Day Secretary	Ms Kay Durrant
Visits Secretary	Mrs Ann George to shadow Mrs Ball
Secretary	Mrs Jenny Dunlop

9. AOB.

10. Date of next AGM: Tuesday 24th May 2022

## Koestler Arts and the Arts Society Cavendish Award for Ceramics 2020



In the September 2019 Newsletter, we introduced members to our involvement with Koestler Arts, an organisation that sponsors creative work in secure units across the country, with our focus at the Arts Society Cavendish being on establishments in the Derbyshire area.

The theme for the 2020 exhibition at London's Southbank Centre, held online and outdoors, was **No Lockdown in the Imagination**. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the exhibition showcased a wide selection of work including painting, ceramics, poetry and tapestry; a testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of all those working at Koestler Arts to encourage, mentor and support the young artists.

The winner of the Arts Society Cavendish Award for Ceramics was Brian, from HMP Dovegate, with his entry 'Garage Workshop Radio'. We are very pleased to congratulate Brian; his piece is vibrant and positive, underlining perhaps the importance to us all of communication and feeling in touch with the wider world in these challenging times. If you would like to see Brian's work and read more about the initiatives and involvement from Koestler Arts in Derbyshire please click on [this link](#).

The Koestler team has also put together a stunning short video which illustrates some of the amazing work produced by prisoners and detainees .....Koestler Arts Mentoring Scheme

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2U8JivDGE0>

Our sponsorship of £1,500 continues this year and is used practically to support Art Aid activity packs along with the very active mentoring scheme and on the Award programme which acknowledges and encourages the young artists in their work. We look forward to sharing the 2021 Koestler Arts Exhibition 'Together' later this year.

Our prolific local poet, Philip Holland, has offered several recent verses for us to share. The editor rather liked this one, no doubt we will distribute others in due time.

Sonnet to the Aardvark by F. Philip Holland  
Op.0317, 14L, 30.11.2015

Surely the oddest of African creatures,  
with strange, mixed-up and ill-fitting features.  
Shy and nocturnal, elusive and solitary,  
pig-snouted, ass-eared, and tail-like-a-wallaby.

Digging with claws, four-at-front, five-at-rear,  
while burrowing down deeply to disappear.  
With a long-licking tongue for dietary delight,  
completely oblivious to termites' keen bite.

These mammals reside on the grassy savannah  
in quadruple-A-starred a\*a\*rdva\*rkia\*n manner.  
The Dutch call them "Aardvark", meaning 'earth-pig',  
on account of them rootling the veldt as they dig.

So its name comes from Afrikaans linguistic data,  
Though I prefer: "Orycteropus afer tubulidentata."



©F. Philip Holland, Five-Bar-Gate Publishing 2021.

*Author's note: 'Orycteropus afer tubulidentata' is the Latin word for the species/genus/order of the aardvark:  
Species: O. Afer. Genus: Orycteropus Order: Tubulidentata  
It is the only living species of the order of Tubulidentata, though other prehistoric species and genera are known.*

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2021/22

**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**

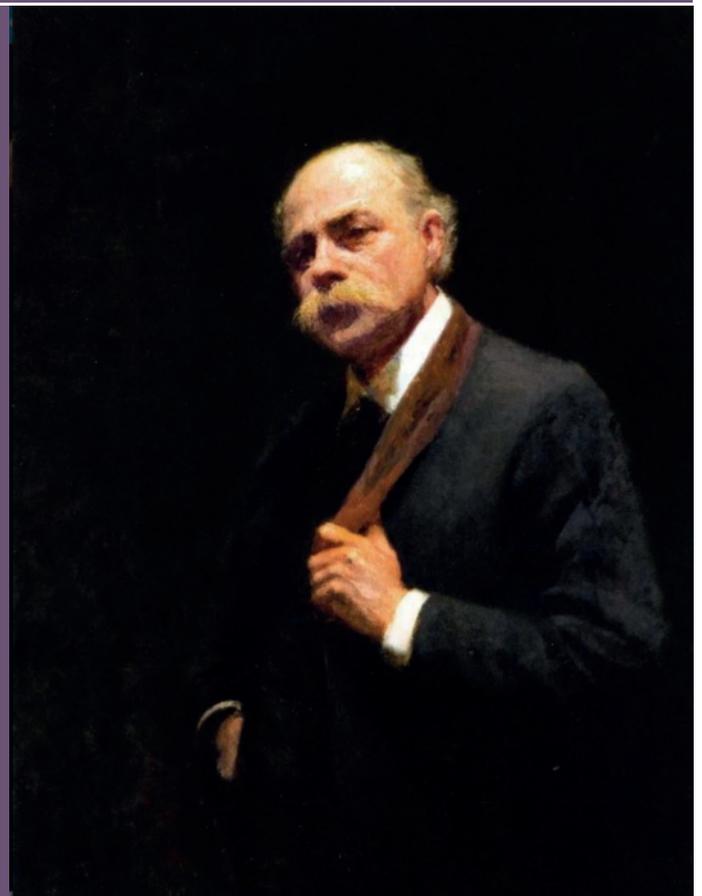


**28<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

## **Australia's Fontainebleau and the Heidelberg School**

The Heidelberg School shelters under its own unique umbrella taking their academic influences equally from the Royal Academy School in London and the French Impressionists. Key members were Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, Frederick McCubbin (self-portrait on left) and Charles Conder whose art evolved from the informal, evocative and naturalistic into a nationalistic expression. In 1901 McCubbin bought a cottage on Mount Macedon, its surroundings became the inspiration for some of his best known works, the family named the property Fontainebleau. Its guest list ranged from Ellen Terry and Dame Nellie Melba to his myriad students who camped in the gardens.

**Caroline Holmes**



# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2021/22

19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Ups and Downs of the Lives of the Impressionists along the Seine which has been termed: 'The Cradle of Impressionism'.**

A tiny section of the Seine to the West of Paris which would have represented the perfect antidote to the claustrophobia of mid 19th Paris has been termed the Cradle of Impressionism. It was here to five neighbouring riverside villages that the artists who would later become known as the Impressionists, became frequent visitors. In some cases they even set up home for a while. The lives and early works of Monet, Renoir, Pissarro, Sisley and Morisot will be explored in this lively and entertaining lecture. Their desperation to gain recognition and make their mark is apparent and both the painting styles adopted, and subject matter depicted were to cause a revolution in the Art World.

**Carole Petipher**



16<sup>th</sup> November 2021



**Art Behind Bars: Role of the Arts in the Cycle of Crime, Prison and Re-offending**

Years of working as an artist within the Criminal Justice System in England and Germany have given Angela unique insights into the destructive and costly cycle of crime, prisons and re-offending. In this thought-provoking talk she offers a deeper understanding of the minds, lives and challenges of offenders. With extraordinary slides of art projects and prisoners' art she demonstrates how, within the process of creating art of any discipline, there are vital opportunities for offenders to confront their crimes and develop the key life skills so essential in leading a positive and productive life. A frequent response to this talk has been "I had no idea!" and indeed it casts light onto areas of our society where the Arts not only are visual, decorative or commercial but absolutely vital, hugely relevant and potentially life-changing.

This talk is moving, informative and original. Interspersed with personal accounts of humorous or slightly horrifying situations, these talks have kept audiences across the country engrossed.

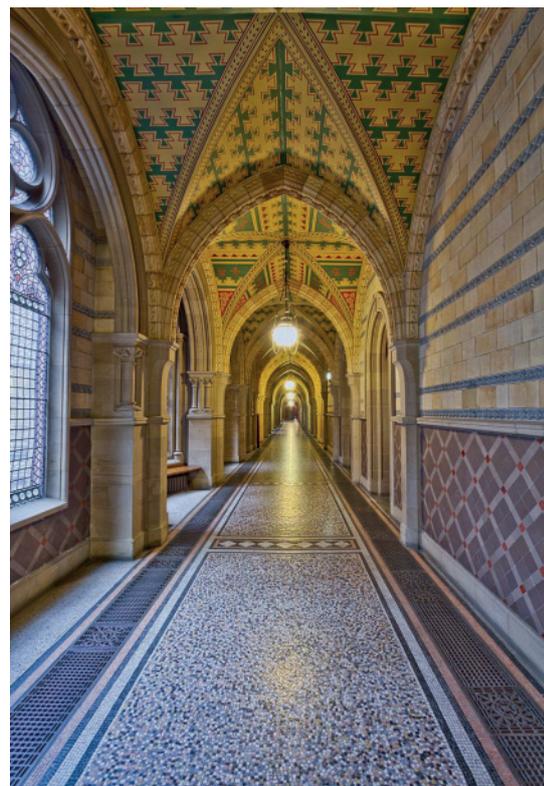
**Angela Findlay**

# STUDY DAYS IN A PANDEMIC

By March last year it was becoming increasingly clear that we would not be able to hold a live study day the following month. Brian Healey was due to lecture on **'When Cotton Was King: The Architectural Legacy of 19th Century Manchester City Centre'**. Our venue optimistically suggested a postponement to May or June but we were a bit sceptical and pushed back until 18 November. Surely everything would be back to normal by then? Sadly it was not to be and we had to cancel again. When speaking to Brian, he suggested offering the Study Day in three parts on YouTube and over three winter months he treated us to a wonderfully stimulating programme. His relaxed delivery in such challenging circumstances was much appreciated. A favourite was Brian's second lecture on Manchester's Town Hall due to be reopened in May 2024. Fingers crossed we will be able to visit it then.

Our second study day on **Colonial Architecture in India** was due to be held on 14 October and as the date approached it became clear this would have to be cancelled as well.

When we asked Anthony Peers if he would be prepared to offer the study day on Zoom, he was a little reluctant at first not having used this platform before. However, with Charles Huff's invaluable help (we could not have done it without him) he rose to the challenge wonderfully and delivered three exceptionally interesting talks on 8 and 9 December. We were introduced to a fascinating history of how key ports developed on the East (Madras and Calcutta) and the West (Bombay) coasts of India. There was also a detailed examination of the different architectural styles culminating in New Delhi where Edwin Landseer Lutyens combined architectural ideas from Britain with Moghul tradition creating a striking east and west fusion.



*Corridor within the Town Hall.  
Photograph c/o Michael D Beckwith.*



*Elephant statues on the outer wall  
of the Viceroy's House in New Delhi.  
Photograph courtesy of David Castor.*

We ended our 20/21 season with a wonderful, shortened study day given to us by Dr Jonathan Foyle. He treated us to his first lecture on **A Paradise Garden: The Art of Medieval Natural Symbols** followed by his second on **Lichfield: Revealing England's Forgotten Cathedral**. In A Paradise Garden Jonathan introduced us to a new way of looking at the imagery in medieval paintings and in the masonry work in Lichfield Cathedral. We looked at Paradise Garden in the Städel Museum in Frankfurt by the Upper Rhine Master and learnt the symbolism of the goldfinch, the flowers and insects depicted in the painting. Jonathan recommended two books that we should read if we wanted to learn more. These were John Williamson's *The Oak King, the Holly King, and the Unicorn: The Myths and Symbolism of the Unicorn Tapestries* and Celia Fisher's *Flowers of the Renaissance*.

In Jonathan's lecture on Lichfield, he explained how an Anglo-Saxon carved limestone panel known as the Lichfield Angel was discovered face downwards when part of the nave was taken up in 2003. It had probably been placed there around 800 to protect it from

Viking raids. We learnt of the role Lichfield played because of its strategic position in Mercia's struggles with the Welsh. Jonathan also described how the cathedral was influenced over the years by the architectural styles from Wells, Westminster Abbey, Lincoln, and Sainte-Chapelle in Paris. We were shown the plants and animals carved into the capitals in the Chapter House drawing on plant forms and small animals, taking us back to the theme introduced in the first lecture.

The three study days were available to all our members. We are particularly grateful to our lecturers for their willingness to try new ways of presenting them.

**Michèle Bicket**

#### **A date for your diaries....**

Richard Burnip will be hosting a half study day for the society via Zoom on 2 November 2021 10:30 am – 1:00 pm. He will be talking about a range of authors including Agatha Christie, Dorothy L Sayers and Arthur Conan Doyle and how their work influenced stage and screen and London society as a whole.

More information to come soon.

**Kay**, Study Day Organiser.



*The Lichfield Angel.  
Photograph private collection.*

## **VISITS**

### **TOURS FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR.**

Whilst we have been in Lockdown I expect many of you have been on line and sampled both free and paid virtual tours not only in the UK but all over the world.

The best ones I have dipped in to are [MIRTHY.CO.UK](http://MIRTHY.CO.UK) here you can have a free 45-minute talk once a week but can also pay from only £2.99 to choose many tours, mainly in this country. If watching with a friend that is very good value. The speakers are on the whole excellent.

I have done Roman London and Art Deco London theatres, both highly recommended.

Another good site is Virtual Trips which mainly do interesting visits to cities all over the world. A marvellous site to visit if you are planning a trip eventually. They have the UK, a lot of Europe and all over the world. I have done Paris Montmartre and Cartagena in Columbia. They do them every day on line and they last around 45 minutes. Many are free Highly recommend. Great to fill in some time if you are thinking of what next to do.

There are many sites which you can access through Google Arts and Culture especially visiting all the major museums of the World. Do use this site to explore.

Globo Treks 45 is another worthwhile site.

If you have found any which you think may be useful to our members please let us know and we will put them in our newsletter.

Also I hope you all read the Arts Society Newsletter which comes from head office with some lovely tips and links.

Meanwhile I hope it won't be too long before we can go out on some proper visits and all meet up again face-to-face. We will let you know when we think it's safe to resume our visits.

Best wishes to all.

**Jennie Ball.**