



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
CAVENDISH



NEWSLETTER September 2021



Newsletter No 105
September 2021

THE ARTS SOCIETY CAVENDISH

Chairman's Notes

Dear members

I hope you are all keeping well and beginning to venture out now that Covid restrictions have been eased.

Thanks to all of you who attended the AGM in May. We now have a new/revitalised committee with new organisers for the Lecture Programme, Study Days and Visits. We are always eager to welcome new members to the committee on an ad hoc basis, to help with various activities. Please do get in touch with me if you would like to help make plans for your society.

The following committee positions are still vacant:

- Deputy Chair
- Deputy Secretary

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)

As you know since our last newsletter, we have been able to continue with the lecture programme and study days via Zoom. I am pleased to say that these have been well attended and I have received some very complimentary emails reflecting the benefits to members of engaging and keeping in touch this way. I thank the retiring organisers, Clare Allerton and Michele Bicket, for arranging the full programme and I am delighted to welcome Carol Huff and Kay Durrant as the new organisers.

Carol has a full programme of lectures planned from September, which can be seen below and on the website. We plan to hold these lectures, LIVE, in the Pavilion Arts Centre, with an optional Zoom link for those members who still prefer not to attend in person. These 'hybrid' lectures are experimental to assess how successful they will work from the Pavilion Arts Centre.

The position at the Whitworth Centre is still unclear, so Kay has arranged at least one more study day on Zoom. The first is on 2 November 2021. It is entitled 'Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, Lord Peter Wimsey: their origins in classical literature'. This will be open to all members free of charge.

Ann George has taken over the role of visits organiser and she has some exciting plans for this autumn and the coming spring. Watch out for emails and information on the website. (artsocavendish.co.uk).

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. The award ceremonies for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 are planned to take place in November 2021. The degree show, a mix of physical and digital content, will be at around the same time as the presentation of the Arts Society Cavendish Award.

We have also revised our constitution to reflect various changes and the new version can be seen [on our website](#).

Best wishes for the coming months and the return to more normal social events.

Sylvia McKenzie
Chair



Members of the Arts Societies of Cavendish, Sheffield, Hallamshire and Dove Valley

are cordially invited to

THE 7th FOUR SOCIETIES LUNCHEON

At **Thornbridge Hall, Ashford-in-the-Water, Derbyshire, DE45 1NZ**

on Thursday 4th November 2021 at 12 noon for 12.30pm

Tickets £50 each

[Please click here for the application form.](#)

We will hold cheques to be returned to Members if numbers are minimal and cancellation or postponement is necessary. Despite this we hope that this event will be as popular as the earlier lunches and will give us all an opportunity to meet which has been denied to us for so long.

MENU

Aperitif or fruit juice and canapés on arrival

Slow Braised Derbyshire Lamb Shoulder with thyme and rosemary glaze and vegetables

Vegetarian option available

Glazed Lemon Tart served with raspberries and clotted cream

Tea and Coffee

A glass of wine is included with the meal and there is a pay bar

After lunch Marie White from the Textiles Team at Chatsworth will give an illustrated talk,

‘The Fabric of Chatsworth’.

Tickets are limited to 120 persons overall and are for the relevant **Arts Society Members only**. These tickets will be allocated on a strictly “first come, first served” basis.

Applications must be received no later than Monday 4th October 2021

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2021/22

Hello from Carol: I am the new Programme Organiser for our society and looking forward to providing you with some very interesting lectures over the next year.

As you may remember, we had to postpone 3 of our planned lectures in Spring 2020 (for all the usual reasons!) and so we begin our 2021/2022 programme with those 3 reinstated.

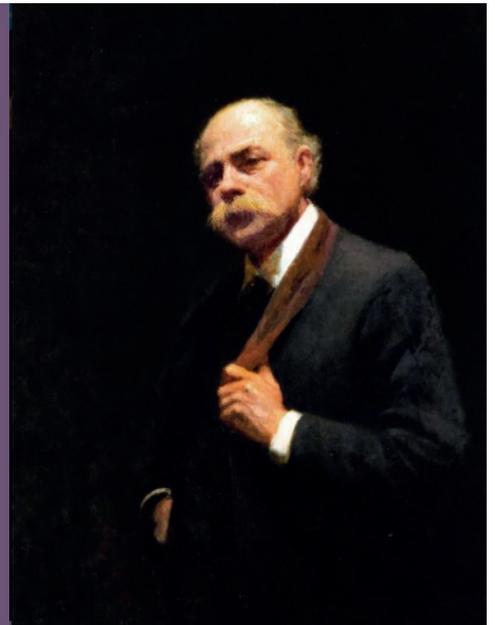
Please bear with us while we try our technical best to experiment with 2 hybrid lectures which will be live for those wishing to join us at Pavilion Art Centre and Zoomed simultaneously for those unable to be present. It's a voyage of discovery and we may encounter some rocky moments ... just saying. Please note that the October and November lecture dates are somewhat earlier in the month than usual. Also, the November lecture will be solely on Zoom. This will allow your committee to evaluate the success (or otherwise) of the previous 2 live sessions. We continue on Zoom in January which will avoid uncertainties, not least the unpredictable Buxton weather.

28th 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 right) 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



19th 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



LECTURE PROGRAMME 2021/22

16th 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

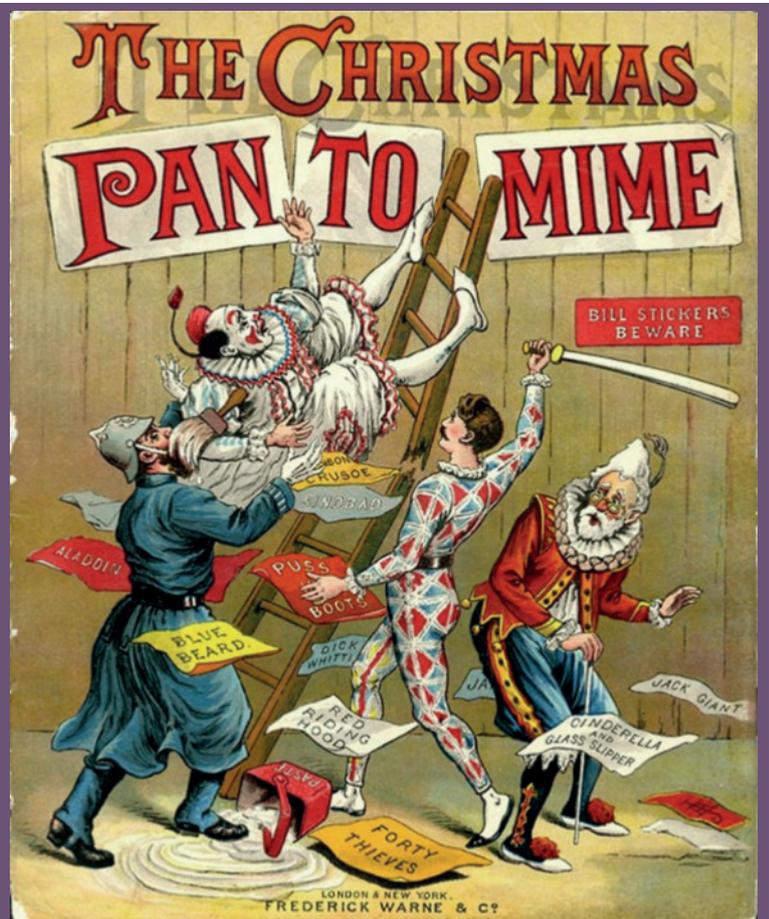
25th January 2022

Pantomime: A Very British Feast

Over 2,500 years in the making the great British pantomime is a very potent brew indeed. Mix the earliest Greek and Roman drama with commedia dell'arte and medieval morality plays, then stir in a sprig of C17th masque, a dash of C18th harlequinade and a hefty shot of Victorian music hall and, hey presto, you have the modern Christmas pantomime. (Oh no you don't!).

Our lecturer is an independent theatre director and producer who specialises in creating new work with artists in developing countries. He is the Founding Director of the charity Developing Artists (www.developingartists.org), a Fellow of St. Chad's College, Durham University and Course Leader in Theatre at The Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Giles Ramsay



LECTURE PROGRAMME 2021/22

22nd February 2022

Indians, Buffalo and Storms: The American West in 19th Century Art

Artists were never far behind the explorers who opened up the west of America in the 19th Century. Sometimes they painted what they saw. Sometimes they painted what they wished they saw. Either way, painters like Alfred Miller, Frederic Church and Albert Bierstadt have left us a powerful, if romanticised, record of the country and people that the settlers found. Now we can use their pictures to chart the history of the opening of America's west – the arrival of the railroad, the confinement of native Americans into reservations, and the extermination of the buffalo.

This is a story on a big scale and it seems appropriate that among the pictures illustrating the lecture are some of the largest and most grandiloquent paintings of the era. After a period of deep neglect, they are now very much back in vogue, but whatever one thinks of their artistic merits, I hope audiences will agree with me that they are, above all, great fun.

Toby Faber

29th March 2022

The Scoliotic Knight: Reconstructing The Real Richard III

The discovery of the grave of King Richard III in Leicester raised an army of new and fascinating questions. The severe scoliosis exhibited by the skeleton revealed that the twisted physique of Shakespeare's 'Black Legend' was based in fact. But how could a diminutive person, suffering from a significant spinal condition, have become a skilled practitioner of the knightly fighting arts? How could he have worn armour and fought in three major battles? What would his armour have looked like? How might it have disguised the King's condition, presenting him as a powerful warrior? In the case of a king whose royal legitimacy was questioned by many people, how were the visual trappings of knightly kingship used to solidify his claim? Here we encounter armour as an expressive art-form, designed to radiate messages, justifications, proof of the wearer's right to rule as a king- a wielder of divine power on Earth.

Tobias Capwell

26th April 2022

20th Century Women Gardeners

Who were the women gardeners of the twentieth century? From the pioneering women such as Gertrude Jekyll and Ellen Willmott, who first established the place of women among the horticultural elite, by way of midcentury plantswomen like Vita Sackville-West and Marjorie Fish, ultimately in the latter decades of the century to the great professional women, such as Arabella Lennox-Boyd and Penelope Hobhouse, who now dominate English gardening, this lecture looks at the gardeners and their gardens and points up how dramatically the rôle and influence of women has changed for good in the horticultural world.

James Bolton

24th May 2022

Discovering Macdonald Gill: Architect, Artist And Mapmaker

Our lecturer says that she has always been aware of her close family ties to the sculptor and typographer Eric Gill, a fascinating but controversial character. In 2006, however, a family history project drew her into an exploration of the life and work of his younger brother. MACDONALD 'Max' Gill was an architect, mural painter and graphic artist, best known for his pictorial maps, especially those for the London Underground. He also created painted maps for Arts & Crafts houses including Lindisfarne Castle, magnificent murals for Cunard liners, and eye-catching publicity posters for organisations such as the Empire Marketing Board. An enduring legacy is his alphabet for the Imperial War Graves Commission used on all British military headstones since the First World War. This illustrated talk by Max Gill's great-niece presents a colourful overview of this versatile artist's personal life and artistic achievements.

Caroline Walker

STUDY DAYS IN A PANDEMIC

Study Day 2nd November 10.30 am – 1.00 pm

We are pleased to announce that Richard Burnip will be presenting a half study day for our members entitled:

From Sherlock Holmes to Hercule Poirot and Lord Peter Wimsey: origins and evolutions in classic detective fiction.

This study day will examine two different generations of detective fiction, from the early successes of Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes at the end of the nineteenth century to the celebrated creations of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L Sayers from the 1920s onwards. The first lecture will look at how the image of Sherlock Holmes was developed and altered in that character's early years, and in particular how it was formed by several other people besides Arthur Conan Doyle. The second lecture looks at the two great Queens of Crime, Agatha Christie and Dorothy L Sayers, in particular examining how they chronicled the rapidly changing London of the 1920s and '30s.

There will be a coffee break between the two lectures and time for questions at the end.

Richard is an actor, writer and historian whose work includes theatre, documentaries, audio books and lectures. Richard trained at the Birmingham School of Speech and Drama and his theatre ranges through tours, open air and site specific productions. His television repertoire includes Royal Deaths and Diseases (Channel 4) and Inventions that Changed the World (BBC) to name but a few. For documentaries he has voiced characters as diverse as Gustav Mahler and Napoleon Bonaparte.

Please note this half study day will be via a zoom platform. It is free to all members and there is no need to book a place.

Kay Study Day Co-ordinator.



VISIT TO LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

On 14th October 2021

The Society recently sent out an invitation to join this visit, the first since lockdown and we have already had a good response. For anyone still considering it here is a brief reminder of how it will be organised.

We will travel by coach from Baslow and Buxton.

In order for us all to feel safe we expect that anyone wishing to go will be doubly vaccinated (unless exempt for medical reasons), and we will expect everyone to wear face masks on the coach.

Proposed Itinerary:

9.30 am Slacks Coach from Baslow Car park

10.00 am Coach from Buxton Market Place.

11.45 - 12. Noon arrive Lichfield Cathedral

12.15 Buffet lunch with tea or coffee at No 19 Bistro.

1.30 pm meet at entrance to Lichfield Cathedral for guided tour.

3.30pm return coach

The cost of this visit will be £30 per person to include Coach, Lunch and tour of the Cathedral.

If time allows there could be an optional self guided visit to Erasmus House. The cost for this would be £4.00 payable at the door.

The maximum number we could take would be 30 places will be allocated on first come first served.

If you would like to join us please contact our Visit's Organiser, Ann George, on visits@artsocavendish.co.uk.

