



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
CAVENDISH



NEWSLETTER February 2022



Newsletter No 106  
February 2022

# THE ARTS SOCIETY CAVENDISH

## Chairman's Notes

Dear Members.

Welcome back to the Arts Society Cavendish in 2022. As you know, we are now officially back to Plan A, which means there are no restrictions on attending our monthly lectures. Whilst Zoom has been a lifeline during the Pandemic, we are delighted to announce that from 22nd February 2022 lectures will be 'LIVE' in the Pavilion Arts Centre. We do appreciate that some of you may still prefer the Zoom presentation and to that end we will continue with the Hybrid format for the foreseeable future.

The next lecture on 22nd February will be: **INDIANS, BUFFALO AND STORMS: THE AMERICAN WEST IN 19TH CENTURY ART** presented by Tony Faber. 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. Toby Faber is an author and publisher, who has written books on the mysteries of Fabergé eggs, the artistry of Stradivari and the history of [Faber & Faber](#), the influential publishing house founded by his grandfather. We do hope you will enjoy it.

In addition to the lectures committee members are still arranging study days and visits to places of interest. Keep an eye on the website and your emails for information about forthcoming events.

We will continue to support students at Derby University School of Art and the Koestler Arts, as well as sponsorship of a talk at the Buxton International Festival in July.

As the Pandemic recedes, we are keen to restore our membership. One way of encouraging people to join is for you to bring a guest to the lectures. If you would like to do so, or if you have an acquaintance who would be interested in joining, please do let me or the membership secretary know.

[chair@artsocavendish.co.uk](mailto:chair@artsocavendish.co.uk)    [membership@artsocavendish.co.uk](mailto:membership@artsocavendish.co.uk)

Meanwhile, all best wishes and see you soon.

**Sylvia McKenzie**  
Chair

### **Buxton Community College 6th Form**

Our 6th form student visitors from the college art department have continued to attend our lectures this year, both live and on zoom, although as they are school students sometimes lessons and exams do get priority.

It is such a pleasure to be able to offer these students a chance to hear world class lectures on a range of subjects, and the students themselves have regularly expressed their enjoyment after the lecture. Even our lecturers have said how surprising and wonderfully encouraging it is to see a row of younger faces in the gallery!

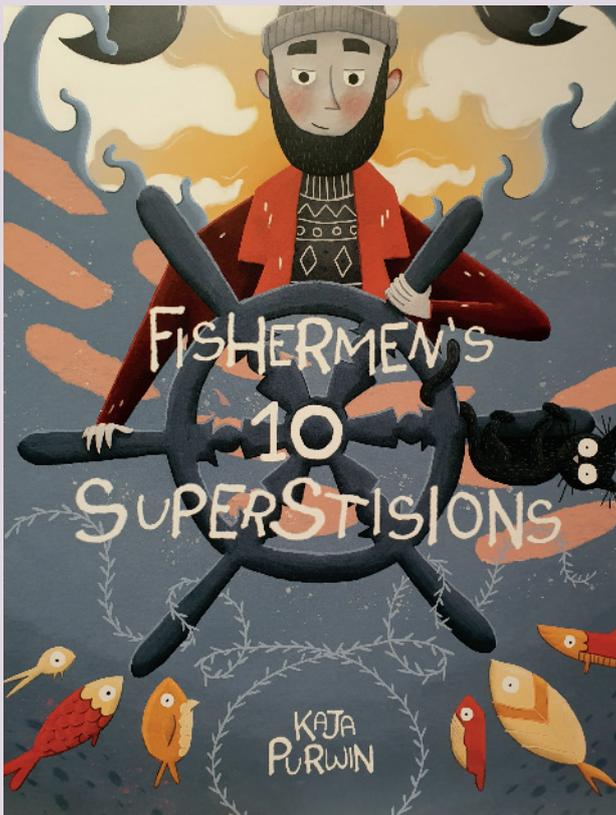
**Jan Hardy**  
Young Arts

## Derby University Arts



The Arts Society Cavendish is supporting three students per annum, over three years to enable them to pursue undergraduate or graduate studies. Last year, due to the Pandemic, the awards were delayed. In November 2021, Ann George and I had the privilege of attending the Awards ceremony for the graduates of 2020. They were Rebecca Cuff and Kaja Purwin. We were able to speak with the students and see some of their work. Since then, Rebecca and Kaja have written to me with their thanks.

Rebecca Cuff said: *The award has helped me to achieve my vision for my Degree show. The money made it possible for me to pay for a lightbox to be made for my installation. I ended up getting a first in my BA which I partly attribute to the bursary. I am still using the lightbox and have recently showed my work at Derby Cathedral. I plan on using it for future projects.*



Kaja Purwin said: *I wasn't expecting to win the Arts Society Cavendish Award, but it made me think that maybe my project wasn't so trivial after all. Since I was creating the picture book during the pandemic time, when we were learning from home and had limited access to the university's facilities, the prize money was a huge help towards my project. My project involved creating the illustrations using traditional and digital methods, so I largely relied on scanners which I couldn't access during lockdown. The prize money allowed me to invest in a scanner and other materials, such as pencils, paints and software, which I'm so grateful for. The prize money was also used for printing of the books, which I gifted to Sylvia and Anne as a form of gratitude. Thank you so much!*

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2022

22<sup>nd</sup> 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

29<sup>th</sup> 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.

Our lecturer is Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection in London and an internationally-acknowledged authority on Medieval and Renaissance weapons. He is the author of numerous books on the subject of arms and armour.

Toby had the unusual honour of serving as one of the two fully armoured

horsemen escorting the remains of King Richard III, from the battlefield at Bosworth to their final resting place in Leicester Cathedral.

Tobias Capwell

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2022

26<sup>th</sup> 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**

24<sup>th</sup> 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 DAY

15th March 2022 - 10.00 am for Coffee and Registration - 3.30 pm At The Whitworth Centre

## BACKSTAGE AT THE OPERA WITH SIMON REES



Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes when you attend an opera? Simon Rees opens up the rarely seen world of what happens behind the curtains.

Simon started his career at Kyoto University lecturing in music and theatre and for 23 years gave pre-performance talks for the Welsh National Opera at The New Theatre Cardiff and the Wales Millennium Centre. He lectures on opera, song, orchestral and chamber music, fiction, poetry and art.

The study day opens with the idea and conception of the opera from libretto to musical score and the work of the director and the designers to realise this on stage.

The second session looks at costume design and how costumes are made up from a notepad idea to a mannequin, how they are fitted to individual performers and the use of props and the building of the sets and scenery.

The final session focus upon the piano-vocal rehearsal, the setting up of the stage, how scene changes are made and the backstage environment of the dressing rooms.

The production is unveiled, the audience and the critics arrive. The lights go up!

Price for study day: £40.00 to include a light lunch.

If you are interested in attending please [click here](#) to complete the application form and send it with payment to our treasurer as detailed on the form. Final numbers will be confirmed by no later than early February.

**Kay Durrant**  
**Study Day Organiser.**

# VISIT

## Lincoln and Burghley House

6th - 7th of April 2022



Day 1 - Coach to Lincoln with lunch on arrival. Followed by escorted tour of the Cathedral. (Anyone wishing to take tour of roof, or the tower should make own arrangements. Tel 01522 561600).

We will then travel to Stamford for an overnight stay at the William Cecil Hotel on a bed and breakfast basis. A private meal for the party has been arranged at a cost of £36 pp for a three-course meal. (Menu to be provided)



Day 2 - Breakfast 8-9:30am. We will then leave on the coach at 9:45am to travel to Burghley House for an escorted tour at 10 am. Following the house tour, you will have free time in which you will be able to purchase lunch at either the house Restaurant or in The Garden Cafe. You will then have adequate time to look around the beautiful garden and grounds.

The coach will leave at 4pm to return us home.

If you are interested there will be 20-25 places on a first come first served basis. Please [click here](#) for the booking form, I hope this trip is something you may enjoy.

**Ann George**  
**Trip organiser**

# YOUNG ARTS

## Secondary Schools Grant for School Visits.

When I was asked by our newsletter editor Charles to write about Young Arts activities in schools last year I thought, nothing happened of course! Everyone understands that schoolteachers have had a desperately difficult two years just giving their pupils the basic education in their subject, without adding any extra-curricula activities, however they are funded! Even when schools and some venues were reopened the pupils were not allowed out-of-school visits.

However, I was very pleased when our committee agreed to run the Young Arts Grant Scheme again this year. A school visit can provide a cultural opportunity outside of the classroom; it can extend the boundaries of learning and provide an opportunity for a school to enrich its provision. Our grant scheme, financed through the gift-aid gained from your subscriptions, is aimed at supporting the Arts Departments in our local secondary schools to take their GCSE pupils on a school visit to art-based destination.

Entry to most galleries etc are free for school parties, and the cost of workshops are minimal, but transport costs are very expensive, and this can often prevent visits from happening.

In the five local schools we support there are many pupils from less affluent backgrounds, however, our grant of £500 will normally cover all the travelling costs, and in this way we can help schools make the trip assessable to all the pupils regardless of their personal circumstances.

The school trip may well be the first time students have been inside an art gallery or see an outdoor sculpture park. It will give them the opportunity to see first-hand what a traditional oil painting, a contemporary mixed media or sculpture actually looks like. The gallery space creates its own special atmosphere, which cannot be replicated in a book or on a screen.

The trip itself can also act as a great bonding experience which will help create a cohesive working group back in the classroom. Who doesn't remember their school trips! The work undertaken during the day is usually tailored to the exam portfolios of the pupils, and this can really enhance their chances of a good result.

Hopefully, this year we will once again be able to support all those young people studying the arts in our local school by helping to make their precious 'day out' happen!

**Jan hardy**  
**Young Arts**

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## *Shining Wonders from the Museum*

How would you like a quiet time in a museum, rummaging through glittering minerals, shining stones, bones, brooches and badges, belt buckles and cloak clasps, and then a chance to draw, make models or just spend time looking and remember the horde.

This is what happening for some lucky children in early spring at the series of quiet events aimed at families with autistic or specific needs, jointly sponsored by Cavendish Arts Society, and held at Buxton Museum.

These creative adventures into the world of shining wonders are being led by Gordon from Creeping Toad, and will allow families to book an exclusive 45 minute slot with which to explore and work with Gordon in the museum space. This is an experience that would not normally be available to them.

We are delighted to be able to work with Buxton museum and for these workshops we were pleased to be able to use the £250 Community Grant from the Arts Society head office in London. This grant was offered to us by our head office as a way of helping societies connect with their local arts organisations, regional museums and galleries, as they open up after the long lock-down.

The first workshop was on Saturday 5th February and the second will be held on Sat 12th March 2022. For further information please contact Buxton Museum on 01629 533540.

**Jan Hardy**  
**Young Arts**