



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
CAVENDISH

NEWSLETTER March 2023



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Newsletter No 108  
March 2023

## Chairman's Notes

Dear Members

We were saddened to hear of the death of Keith Horncastle, who had been an active member of our society for some years. Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

Since returning to the Pavilion Arts Centre (PAC) in September 2022 we have continued to offer a hybrid mixture of LIVE lectures for those able to attend in person, and Zoom presentations for those unable to come to the PAC. This has been successful, in that many people have returned to the social events and around 70 have linked in on Zoom. We will continue to offer the hybrid experience for the rest of this year's programme.

Following a very helpful discussion with several members (a resume of the discussions is shown on the next page) who were unhappy about our continuing zoom presentation, I want to assure you all that it is certainly our intention to review our zoom licence and probably return to LIVE only lectures in the forthcoming season (September 2023).

Sadly, the lecture in November was impacted by a cancellation of our booking by the PAC. This resulted in another zoom-only event, about which we were unhappy. The PAC offered us all complimentary tea and coffee at our next LIVE lecture on 28 February. We were delighted that over 100 members attended and it proved an excellent opportunity to renew old acquaintances.

[If you look at the website](#) (or your programme card) you will see that we still have some exciting lectures to look forward to, and we do hope you will come and enjoy these lectures at the PAC:

- Imperial Easter Eggs of Carl Faberge – 28 March
- The Luttrell Psalter – 25 April
- Inn Signia – Art of Pub Signs – 23 May. The lecture will be followed with our AGM.

Our Visits organiser is planning a 3-day trip to the Burrell Collection and Hill House in Glasgow. Originally this was planned for May 2023, but due to the Coronation it will be postponed. Details of this will be posted soon and expressions of interest are welcome.

As I have previously said, there have been a lot of changes, both to the national Arts Society and to Arts Society Cavendish. We have to thank the Arts Society for their strict accreditation process which ensures that the quality of lecturers remains high. Lecturers' expenses have gone up, our affiliation fee to the Arts Society has increased, as has hiring the Pavilion Arts Centre for our lectures. We also pay an affiliation fee to the Northeast Area. The national affiliation fee has increased to £15.94 per member which impacts on our financial situation. Your committee has decided there is no option but to increase the renewal fee in July 2023 to £45. However, the good news is that there will be an Early Bird discount to £40 if you pay by 1 August 2023. You can now pay by Direct Debit.

We do hope you will continue to enjoy your membership of the Arts Society Cavendish and look forward to seeing you all again soon. One way of encouraging your friends to join is to bring them to a lecture as your guest. Please let the membership secretary know in advance if you are bringing a guest to a lecture, as we need to know how many people are attending for safety reasons. [members@artsocavendish.co.uk](mailto:members@artsocavendish.co.uk)

If anyone has anything they would like to discuss with me, please contact me on: [chair@artsocavendish.co.uk](mailto:chair@artsocavendish.co.uk)

Meanwhile, all best wishes **Sylvia McKenzie**

# To Zoom or not to Zoom?

As mentioned in Sylvia's notes some members have recently told us that they were concerned about Zoom-only lectures. We held a meeting with some of them to reassure them that we do not like Zoom-only lectures any more than they do and hope all our future lectures will be live. For the time being we will continue with hybrids for members who either cannot or prefer not to come to the PAC. Below is how two of the members we spoke to responded.

Margaret Cooke said:

Thank you for making us all so welcome.

I think we had a very constructive discussion.

Mary and I were aware that some of our friends were unhappy about Zoom meetings and were even considering not renewing their membership of The Arts Society.

We both contacted you to voice our concern and you agreed to meet us to discuss the best way forward.

A few of us met with Charles, Carol and yourself today and you reassured us that there will be no more Zoom meetings after January unless there are exceptional circumstances. It will continue to be possible to join future meetings via a Zoom link for those unable to attend but this will be reviewed later.

It was very good for me to meet a few of the committee socially as there is not much opportunity to do this when attending lectures. I think it would be beneficial for the society to hold maybe a couple of social events each year. I have friends who are members of Ribble Valley Arts Society and I have been to their summer gatherings on more than one occasion.

I would be happy to help the committee from time to time so please let me know if there is a need.

Thank you for your generous hospitality.

Best Wishes,

Margaret

And Mary Campbell said:

Thank you so much to you, Carol and Charles for giving us all the benefit of your time and hospitality in order to discuss concerns regarding zoom meetings.

We all felt that we are now able to understand more clearly how the forthcoming live lectures will, in future, be the main aim with zoom being more an alternative rather than the norm.

Obviously when attending the PAC, it is clear that there is a decline in numbers and we look forward to that improving throughout the year and we will do everything we can to encourage more people to join.

There are two ladies who were not well yesterday and unable to attend our discussion and, therefore, they will also be given information from our meeting.

The contribution that you and the Committee make is enormous and we are most grateful to the dedication and hard work that goes into the smooth running of our local group on behalf of all the Members.

Please do call on us if we can assist with the preparation of paperwork or other tasks which are required from time to time.

Best Wishes

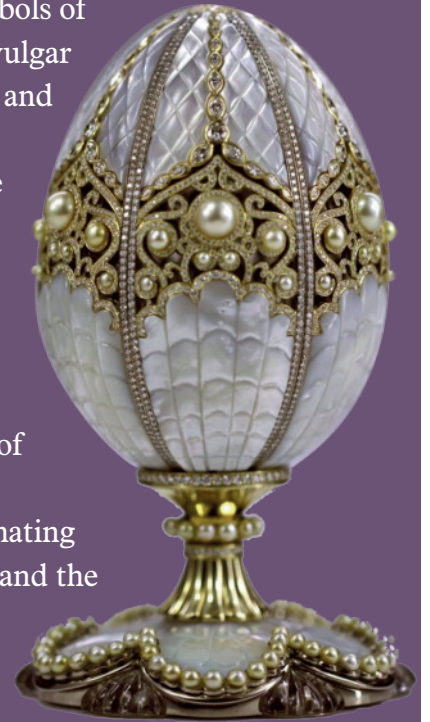
Mary

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2023

28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Toby Faber: The Imperial Easter Eggs of Carl Fabergé (before the revolution)**

Between 1885 and 1916, Carl Fabergé made fifty jewelled eggs – Easter presents from Russia's last two emperors to their wives. They have become the most famous surviving symbols of the Romanov Empire: both supreme examples of the jeweller's art and the vulgar playthings of a decadent court. Given almost total artistic freedom, Fabergé and his designers had to conform to only three rules: that each year's Easter present should be egg-shaped, that it should contain some surprise to amuse or delight its recipient, and that it should be different from any predecessor. The result was a series of creations demonstrating ingenuity and creativity for which there are few parallels in any other field. Their styles range from traditional Russian to Art Nouveau, and their materials from carved hardstone to exquisite enamelled gold. Their maker's relentless search for novelty also means that they provide a fabulously quirky illustrated history of the decline of the Romanovs. Toby Faber wrote *Fabergé's Eggs: One Man's Masterpieces and the End of an Empire*, described by P.D. James as a 'fascinating story which combines unique decorative art, contemporary culture, history and the murder of the Romanovs with the excitement of a crime novel'. The lecture is illustrated with pictures of the Romanovs and their palaces, and, of course, with photographs of the eggs themselves.



25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Michelle Brown: The Luttrell Psalter - England on the Verge of the Black Death**

This is one of the most unusual and insightful of English medieval artworks. Made for Sir Geoffrey Luttrell of the manor of Irnham (Lincs.) in the 1330s, on the eve of the Black Death, its pages are inhabited by a menagerie of outrageous grotesques and by images that give us a valuable and unparalleled glimpse into life in manorial England and into the mind of a leading baronial patron and the artists and confessors who served him and who tried to steer his soul towards eternity. Meet the Luttrells and their world by exploring their great artistic epitaph.





# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2023

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

John Ericson: Inn Signia - Pub Signs, the art work and the stories behind their names

Pubs and their signs are a fundamental part of our history and cultural heritage. In this colourful and entertaining lecture John shows some of the most interesting and distinctive signs before exploring the fascinating stories behind the origin of some of their peculiar names. Who could fail to be intrigued by 'The Bucket of Blood', the 'Cow and Snuffers' or even the 'Eager Poet' - and who on earth was 'Blind Jack'?



**BIF**

**Buxton  
International  
Festival**

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Jul 2023 at 12.30pm - 1.30pm**

Also do not forget we are sponsoring **Turner Prize winning artist Jeremy Deller's** attempt to connect the key works of his career with the art, pop music, film, politics and history that have inspired them

entitled **Art Is Magic**. It is part of this year's Buxton International Festival. His works include his inflatable Stonehenge, his miners' strike film *The Battle of Orgreave* and bats, and his mural against grouse shooting created for the Venice Biennale.

His projects, such as *We're Here Because We're Here* (2016) and the documentary *Everybody in the Place: An Incomplete History of Britain 1984–1992* (2019), have influenced the conventional map of contemporary art.



# VISIT

## Richard III



Ann George arranged for the Arts Society Cavendish to experience the Richard III battlefield and in Bosworth and exhibition centre in Leicester. This was a follow-up to our lecture by Toby Capwell on “The Scoliotic Knight: Reconstructing the Real Richard III”.

We had an early start and a fun-packed day, collecting 27 members in all from three different locations. Our excellent, and very patient, coach driver, Craig, transported us safely to the exhibition centre in Leicester where we were greeted and given much needed refreshment in the Kings Suite, before embarking on a guided tour of the exhibition.



Our guide, Matthew, treated us to a detailed history of the Wars of the Roses and how Richard became King, followed by an account of the Battle of Bosworth in which he was killed.

The exhibition was a full description of how Philippa Langley persuaded Leicester University to undertake the Dig which led to the discovery of Richard III body, which can be seen in holographic display in the site of the tomb.

The coincidences that led to the final discovery indicate the importance of synchronicity in our modern world (how subjective experience and coincidence may be casually unrelated yet have some unknown connection).

The exhumation and interment of the body in Leicester Cathedral was illustrated with a talk from one of the Cathedral guides (as the Cathedral is closed for renovation).

This was held over a good lunch in the Kings Suite, followed by free time to wander around the exhibition and view the actual grave site as well as the famous car park.

We then travelled on to Bosworth Field, where we were able to immerse ourselves in the battle that led to the end of the Plantagenet dynasty. The exhibits on view were all interactive and we were able to handle (replica) weaponry and armour that would have been used by the various participants.



Some of our members availed themselves of experiencing the weight and feel of this equipment! After tea, we were treated to a walk in the autumn sunshine up to the Sundial which indicates the various army positions.

Then our battlefield guide Liz took us to the viewing point where she gave us a blow-by-blow account of the progress of the battle. This informed us of the different strengths of the two main armies (Richard III and Henry Tudor) and how the outcome turned on the perfidy of Thomas Stanley, who had promised himself to Richard but turned and supported Henry at the end of the battle. The outcome is well known, and this led to Richard's body being ignominiously carried, naked, through the streets of Leicester before being buried in an unmarked grave in the Greyfriars monastery.

The journey home was smooth as the sun set over the Leicestershire countryside. A tired, but happy crowd returned to Derbyshire with stories to tell. An excellent day.

Thank you, Ann!



# YOUNG ARTS

## Hope Valley College Weekend residential trip Conway Centre, Anglesey 27-29th January 2023

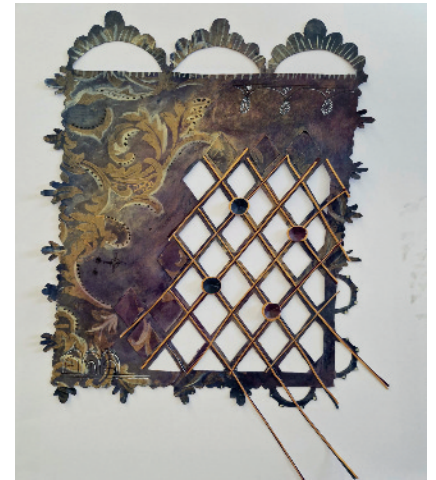
There are many reasons, both academic and social, why a school trip away from home is so beneficial to a young person, and in late January, with support from our Art Visit Grant, Hope Valley College decided to take their GCSE art groups on a weekend residential Art trip to the Conway Centre in Anglesey.

On the Friday lunchtime a group of 29 Hope Valley College students joined forces with 40 students from Siverdale School in Sheffield and took a coach over to Wales, across the Menai Straits and into Anglesey, where the Conway centre sits in the centre of 169 acres of National Trust parkland. Awaiting them at the centre was a team of practising artists, workshop leaders and a catering team ready to guide the students through an intensive weekend package of art workshops.

One of the aims of the centre is 'to develop creative problem-solving skills through presenting difficult concepts visually, making them easier to understand.'

With the theme of the weekend being 'royalty' the students could pick one of seven workshops to join, which included such intriguing titles as Wire Cages- entrapment, Afternoon tea wire work,

Cultural Portraiture using acrylic and mixed media, Fine paper cutting inspired by architecture, Regal pencil work portraiture, Porcelain sculptures and Architecture.



This was the first time since before the first Covid lockdown that the students had been away on a residential, so the trip meant a lot to them and the school. Not only did the weekend give pupils the opportunity to work alongside subject specialists and practising artists, but it was also a great way for them to add a significant body of work to their coursework portfolios.

By the end of the weekend both tired students and staff agreed that they had had an amazing time and the students had learnt many new skills. We can see from the photos of their finished pieces how hard they had worked.

In the student's own words. "although gruelling days, we were very proud of our pieces and there were a lot of 'wows' on the weekend, not just meeting the artists, but also seeing what each other had produced in that time"

The staff at the school have said how very much they appreciated our financial support with this visit, which allowed the trip to be inclusive for all its students.

**Jan Hardy, Young Arts**

## RBA STAR AWARDS 2023

### THE ARTS SOCIETY ANNUAL COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS



*Abel - Where is Home? - by Nell Darley*

graphic design, as well as sculpture, textiles and ceramics, but the work must be of the highest calibre. Any representational subject may be chosen, but the work can be no bigger than 1 metre square, and light enough to be transported to London!

After a lot of consideration Cavendish Art Society sent six entries into the competition, and we were all so delighted when we heard that artwork from two of our students, Nell and Milly, had been chosen to be included in the exhibition!

Nell and Milly are both from Buxton Community School and both had submitted a fabulous portrait painting. However, they were both amazed that they had each been chosen as one of the 20 students to be offered a space at the prestigious exhibition (although we think their work is outstanding and thoroughly deserved the placing!). Well done Milly and Nell, and well done Buxton Community School's Art Department which is clearly providing a very high standard of tuition. Incidentally both had attended some of our lectures with our 6th form scheme.

With support from our society both pieces of work have been transported to the Mall Galleries, where the Exhibition has a private viewing on March 1st when the winners of the Arts Society Prize and the Presidents prize will be announced.

The RBA 200th Anniversary Exhibition is open to public viewing between 2nd March and 11th March 2023 at the Mall Galleries, The Mall, SW1.

Every year, the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA) invites painters, sculptors, printmakers and its own member artists, to submit work for consideration for their annual exhibition held at the Mall Galleries. The RBA are one of the world's premier art societies and has attracted world-renown artists as its members for the last 200 years. This year will be the RBA Bicentennial Anniversary Exhibition.

For the last few years RBA have been working with The Arts Society on an annual competition for A Level art students to provide an opportunity for 20 students, selected from all around the country, to display their work at the prestigious RBA annual exhibition.

There are also two prizes to be won, The RBA Presidents prize and The Arts Society Prize.

The competition is open to artwork in any medium including paint, photography, printmaking and



*The Heroes Amongst Us - by Milly Critchlow*