



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
CAVENDISH

Newsletter No 111
September 2024

Chairman's Notes

Dear Members

Well, another season has passed and the autumn is upon us once more. Time to reflect on the last year and the events that we have enjoyed through the Arts Society Cavendish.

Thank you all for your support over the last year. Our Appeal for new committee members has resulted in four new members for the team: Philip Holland, Jill Martin, Louise Potter and Jean Dugmore. The rest of the team has welcomed them with open arms. My thanks to them for their response and for the interest they have shown in planning the season September 25 to May 26.

The spring lectures included the Art of Rene Gruau; She Loves You – the music of the 60s; The Story of the Nude and the season ended with The Explosive World of Cornelia Parker. WowWee! what a tremendous selection. Thanks to Carol Huff for organising these.

We have lots to look forward to in 24/25 starting with The World's Greatest Paintings:

200 Years of The National Gallery' on 24 September 2024. I do hope you will all be able to join us at the Pavilion Arts Centre in Buxton. Once again, we have Carol to thank for making some brilliant selections. Charles Huff, our techy expert, will be presenting the lectures on Zoom for the benefit of members unable to attend on the day. (Unfortunately, for copyright reasons, some lectures will only be live in the PAC. Please see your programme card for details). Remember to bring your guests to our lectures. Word of Mouth is the surest way to attract new members and guests are encouraged to join the society. The guest fee this season is £10. Lindsay Crowe is the person to contact if you wish to bring a guest or potential new member.

Thanks to Charles Huff for keeping our accounts in check, the finances of AS Cavendish are reasonably healthy. Charles is keen to get us all renewing our membership by a Direct Debit which means none of us has to worry about whether, or when, we renew each year. If you would like to take advantage of this, please contact either Charles or Lindsay Crowe (membership secretary) for details or, better still, look at our website at [Membership renewal – Arts Society Cavendish \(artsocavendish.co.uk\)](https://artsocavendish.co.uk).

Visits

The trip to Glasgow in May was a triumph. See details later in this newsletter. We still require a volunteer to help plan future visits. These can be day visits to places of interest nearer home or trips arranged by Tailored Travel. If anyone is interested in supporting visits, please do get in touch with me.

chair@artsocavendish.co.uk

With thanks to all the team and you, our members, for everything that makes the Arts Society Cavendish what it is.

If anyone has anything they would like to discuss with me, please contact me on:

chair@artsocavendish.co.uk

Meanwhile, all best wishes

Sylvia McKenzie

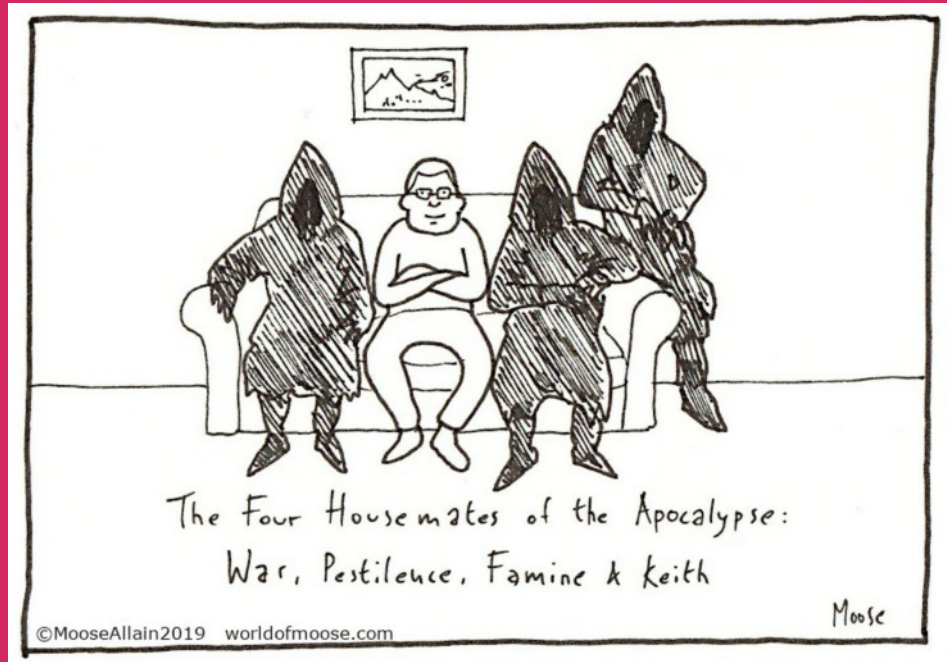
LECTURE PROGRAMME 2024

Our programme starts in September but this newsletter is too late to show the first one.

29th October 2024

History Of Cartoons: from William Hogarth to Private Eye

The first time the word Cartoon was used in the sense that we know it today was in 1843 in Punch magazine. But the employment of satire, caricature, speech bubbles and the writing of captions had been around long before then. In this talk Ian tracks the early stages of cartoons and how, through the works of William Hogarth and James Gillray, they gradually evolved. Copious illustrations abound from the masters of their craft such as John Tenniel, John Leech, David Low, Vicky, Ronald Searle, Heath Robinson and Giles; and, bringing it right up to date, with Gerald Scarfe, Steven Bell and Peter Brookes.



Ian Keable

19th November 2024

Palmyra: Bride of the Desert

In this talk we look at one of the most beautiful cities of the ancient world, the fabled city of Palmyra, in the Syrian desert. Palmyra arose on a trade route that brought silk, spices and other luxuries across the desert from the east. Her wealth and power are displayed in gorgeous monuments, while her people, wealthy, sophisticated and cosmopolitan, are preserved in their hauntingly beautiful funeral portraits. Palmyra became so powerful during the Roman empire that its warrior queen Zenobia challenged Rome itself. We will see Palmyra's meteoric rise and its dramatic fall, its rediscovery by English lords, its influence on art and architecture, and then its desecration by Isis. But we finish with the hope that beautiful Palmyra will rise again...



Dr Paul Roberts

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2025

28th January 2025

Like A Rolling Stone (The Music of The Sixties 1965-69)



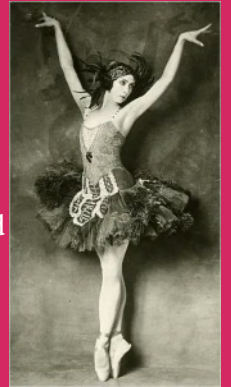
A return visit from Steve King to complete his lecture on the 60s. In 1965 British music dominated the charts on both sides of the Atlantic and the Beatles were blazing a trail across the world. However, in America, the civil rights and anti-war movements were gaining momentum influencing a new breed of writers and musicians; electric folk was born, and album sales started to increase exponentially. This is the story of the second half of the sixties featuring the music of the Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan.

Steve King

25th February 2025

Shaken by an Earthquake – Igor Stravinsky, the Ballets Russes, and the astonishing 1913 premiere of The Rite of Spring

The story of one of the greatest creative collaborations of all: Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, whose team of dancers, choreographers, and costume and set designers transformed expectations of what a night in the theatre could be, and the circumstances behind its most notorious stage work of all. Sandy examines the build-up to the Rite of Spring's premiere in Paris, takes a look at the original costumes, plays excerpts from this fascinatingly inventive score, and explores what divided opinions of that first-night audience quite so dramatically. No, nothing could top the riot at the Rite in 1913...

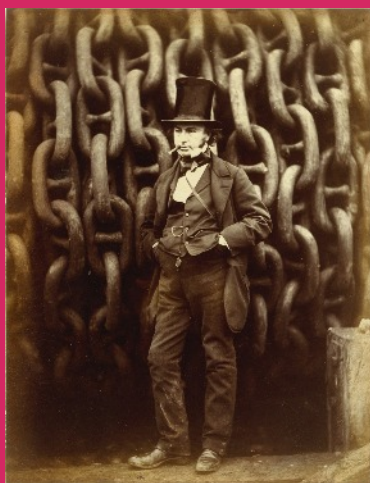


Sandy Burnett

25th March 2025

The Brilliance of Brunel – The Man Who Built The Modern World

We are still living amongst the infrastructure created by Isambard Kingdom Brunel in the 19th century. He changed the face of the English landscape with his ground-breaking projects including railways, bridges, tunnels, ships, and grand buildings such as the magnificent Paddington Station. He merged art with engineering and science and was a pioneer and a revolutionary. And he was brilliant. We will look at the man, his background, his work and his legacy.



Ian Swankie

29th April 2025

Legend and Lustre: Jim Thompson and Thai Silk



Jim Thompson arrived in Bangkok as a US army officer in 1945, fell in love with it and stayed. Captivated by the beauty of Thai silk, an ancient craft in decline, he resuscitated

it and made it famous, creating costumes for films and embellishing his house, which today is a museum. An aesthete and art collector, he created an exquisite home from six hand carved teakwood houses brought from the countryside and filled it with Asian art. Here he became a legendary host. This lecture tells the story of his achievements, showing the intricate process of silk production and its illustrious heritage, including royal robes and temple murals. It touches on films featuring his silks, reveals his house and its art and reflects on a life that ended with his mysterious disappearance.

Denise Heywood

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2025

20th May 2025

Britain as Workshop of the World – The Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Establishment of the Victoria & Albert Museum



This lecture focuses on the design impact of the Great Exhibition and the need for a ‘legacy institution’ in the form of the South Kensington Museum. We look at the building as a work of art and explore the work of William Morris, Frederick Lord Leighton and other influential designers of the Victorian Age.

Anna Warrillow

This lecture will be followed by our AGM.

BIF
Buxton
International
Festival

Buxton International Festival 2024 Sponsored event by Arts Society Cavendish

As has become our custom, we sponsored a book talk during the BIF book festival. This year it was Florian Gadsby and his new book [By My Hands: A Potter's Apprenticeship](#). We were able to meet Florian and discuss his work after the event.



Florian is a potter working in his studio in North London. He writes a regular blog, which includes an ever-changing gallery of his work. He specialises in art pottery, crucibles and pots and had a varied and interesting story to tell. The Arts Society Cavendish was pleased to support both Florian and Buxton International Festival by this sponsorship.

Sylvia McKenzie

VISIT

Arts Society trip to Glasgow, May 2024 – Ursula Birkett



32 members went on a four-day trip to Glasgow, organised by Tailored Travel to our own requirements. We had a brilliant driver (Danny) who looked after us from start to finish. Travelling via Dumfries House to Glasgow, we stayed in a very good hotel in Cumbernauld and had a wonderful guide (Mike) for all the places of interest in and around Glasgow. We arrived at our hotel in late afternoon sunshine and relaxed gratefully. Those of us who had read and absorbed the instructions and information had brought swimming costumes and were abler to make the most of the facilities. Travelling home via Carlisle and the cathedral and castle. The grand purpose of the trip was to see the works of Charles Rennie Mackintosh in the city they were designed for. We were fortunate to visit some of the most iconic places in the arts calendar, including the Cathedral, and our members have given the following reviews.

Dumfries House – Louise Potter

After a very pleasant journey we arrived at Dumfries House to be welcomed by King Charles in The Library (By Video)!! I first visited in 2007 just before King Charles saved this wonderful House and I could see how much the house and garden had benefited from his input. Admitting it was an ‘appalling risk’, King Charles explained that the restoration project was as much about bringing life to the people and local community as it was about reinvigorating the estate itself. He said: ‘The Physical renewal helps the spiritual and psychological.’

It is a beautiful stately home with an outstanding collection of Thomas Chippendale Furniture and a fine example of Adam Design.



VISIT (CONTINUED)

Kelvingrove Museum – Joan Knox

With 22 galleries and over 8000 objects there is a lot to see and wonder at in the handsome building that is the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Our knowledgeable guide gave us a lightning tour of some highlights and then left us to explore. Of course, we had to spend time looking at and appreciating the works of the Glasgow Boys, in fact some of us spent most of our short visit in that and the French galleries.

As you would expect, there is a collection of Mackintosh furniture, but would you have expected a Spitfire? I didn't. Our visit coincided with the lunch time recital which is given by visiting organists on the magnificent organ. When the recital ended it was time to go. Most of us felt we would like to be back and explore further. A wonderful collection in a very fine building.

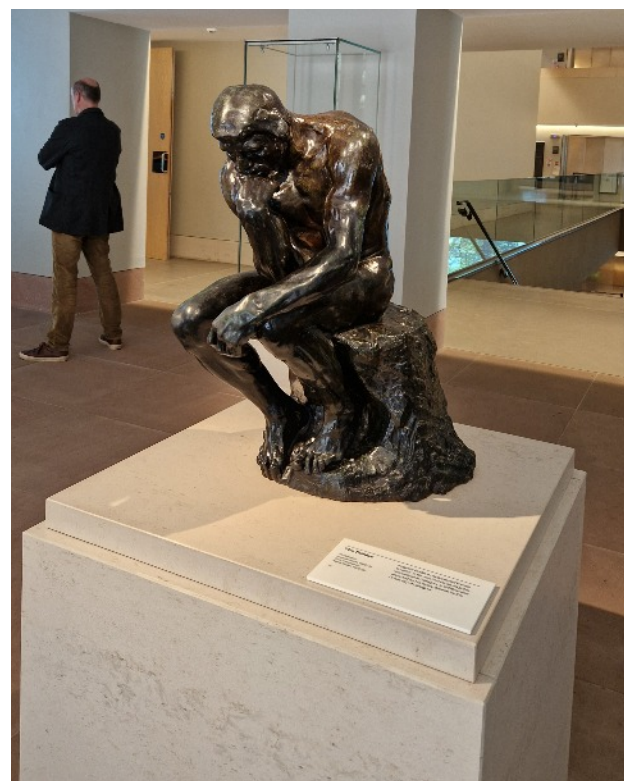
Burrell Collection – Ursula Birkett



Next stop, the Burrell Collection, a rewarding test of stamina! The collection was created by William Burrell, who lived a long and productive life, very successful financially and devoted those financial resources to acquiring works of art and interest, which he eventually gifted to the people of the City of Glasgow. The scope of the collection is truly astonishing, almost any enthusiasm will find

an echo here. A collection that 'also' includes a Rembrandt self-portrait is definitely worth a visit and study.

Unfortunately, we had only time for a superficial skid round the edges, but time enough for astonishment and pleasure. Interestingly, our large group was split into two smaller ones for a basic initial guided whizz around – and we might have been in two different museums as our guides brought us to their own enthusiasms.



VISIT (CONTINUED)

Hill House – Sylvia McKenzie



The Hill House in Helensburgh was created by architects and designers Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Margaret Macdonald. It was designed and built for the publisher Walter Blackie between 1902–1904 to provide a modern family home for his wife and four children. The house is a wonderful example of the Modern Art Nouveau style which Mackintosh captured to marvellous effect. Mackintosh also designed the house interior, including furniture and fittings. Many of Margaret Macdonald's fine artwork is also on display. In 1982, the house was donated to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), which maintains and opens the house to visitors. Containing all of Rennie Mackintosh's ideas for the perfect home environment, the house still feels as though it could be enjoyed as a family home today. However, the years have not been kind to Hill House and the interiors appeared sadly dark and worn. Over the last few years, the house has suffered badly from water damage, caused by the deterioration of the innovative

concrete exterior. To prevent further damage and allow the house to 'dry out' the NTS had erected a large 'cage' around the property with a roof overhead. This is accessible to visitors and allowed our more adventurous members to explore the upper reaches and observe the whole house in a way that could never have been viewed before (except by birds) – from above the roof.

The gardens are still beautifully kept and overall, the visit gave us the opportunity to imagine the house in its glory days.

Hunterian – Lindsay Crowe

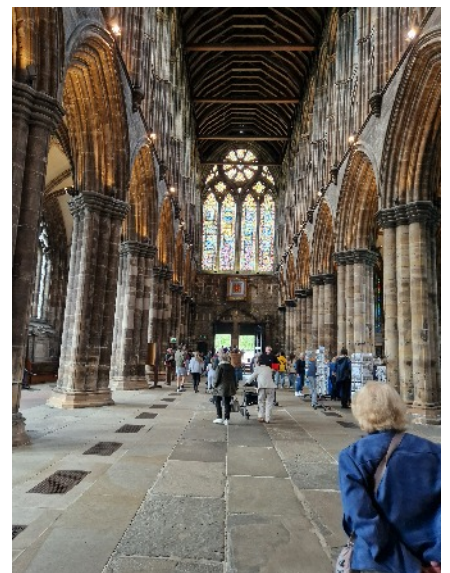
The cultural delights of the city continued on the Thursday afternoon with a visit to the Hunterian Art Gallery. The Hunterian art collection includes work by James McNeill Whistler; some fine works by the "Glasgow Boys" and the Scottish Colourists as well as European masters including Chardin, Kokoschka, and Rubens. There is a varied collection of portraits on display, depicting subjects from all walks of life, including several household servants by Chardin, which gave both the scullery maid and the cellar boy a quiet dignity. One of the highlights was a 1794 portrait of John Scott of Gala as a young boy by Sir Henry Raeburn. There was also a Stubbs painting of an antelope, again thought provoking.

The first part of the collection is intended to challenge how we view art, as there was no labelling immediately beside the paintings, and no explanation or context is given for the works. There are also several empty frames, perhaps intended to make us think about how art is presented in galleries.

The Macintosh House – Lindsay Crowe

Some of our members also visited the Mackintosh House, which contains the assembled interiors of the mid-19th century house occupied by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his artist wife, Margaret Macdonald. The rooms faithfully reflect the original interiors and are furnished with the Mackintoshes' own furniture, all to Mackintosh's original design. There are also some lovely botanical watercolours by Macintosh on display. The whole effect is stunning, and the Mackintosh House and the Hunterian Gallery were among the many highlights of our visit to Glasgow.

Our final stop en route for home, was **Carlisle**, still in sunshine and warmth, where the **Cathedral and Castle** were to hand and a second-hand bookshop and Marks and Spencer to distract us a little more on our way to home and reunion with abandoned other halves (and pets) after a most fulfilling holiday trip. Well done the Arts Society Cavendish, again.



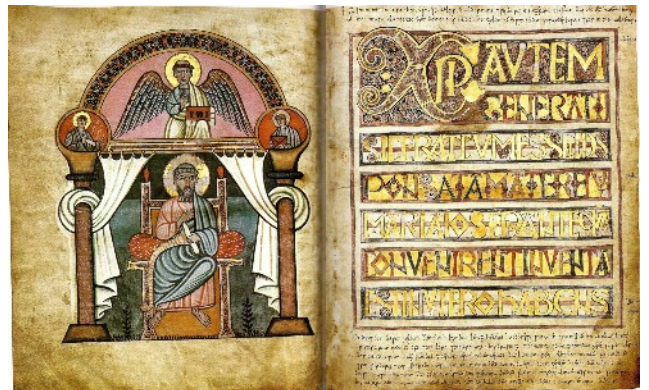
NATIONAL ARTS SOCIETY

As you will remember from my previous communications, the National Arts Society has been undergoing some changes. At the EGM in June, the AS Cavendish committee voted against the amended articles of governance. The final vote was 206 societies against the changes versus 86 for, with 5 abstentions, and the status quo was therefore to maintain the current articles. The Trustees were not happy with this outcome and all but one of the current Trustees resigned (four Trustees and one co-opted Trustee were due to retire anyway). Subsequently, the Chief Executive Officer Florian Schweizer, and the Chief Operating Officer Tim Nicholls, have also resigned.

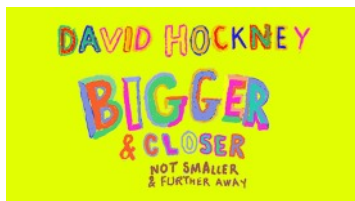
The new Board of Trustees, elected at the AGM on 23 August 2024, decided to increase the number of member Trustees to be elected to 5 (from the suggested 4). With the single Trustee who did not resign, there would be the minimum number of 6 Trustees on the Board. In the subsequent election for these Trustees, 9 members from local societies put their names forward for election and 5 were duly elected in an on-line election. They took up their appointments at the Annual General Meeting on 23 August and have since co-opted 3 further member Trustees to bring additional skills to the Board. This has been a fairly rapidly changing situation, and it is now up to the new Board of Trustees to develop a strategy to take The Arts Society on the next stage of its journey. Fortunately, we can remain reasonably independent, but we still welcome any support offered by Head Office.

STUDY DAY

Our Study Day on Tuesday 8 October has proved to be very popular and is now almost fully booked. It is entitled **“Art of the Islands: Celtic, Pictish, Anglo-Saxon and Viking Visual Culture, c.550-900”**. It will be presented by **Michelle Brown** who gave us a brilliant lecture last year. The Study Day will be held at the Buxton Lee Wood Hotel between 09:30 hrs to 15:30 hrs. If you have not booked so far by all means go to our website (<https://artsocavendish.co.uk/study-days/>) and apply but, be warned, your application may be turned down.



David Hockney: Bigger & Closer (not smaller & further away)



This is definitely an exhibition not to be missed. After opening at the Lightroom in London to rave reviews, this is the first time the show has travelled outside of the capital. You can get an insight into the Hockney's process as you journey through six different chapters of his work, seeing the room around you light up and change.

The show is an incredible opportunity to get to know one of the great popular geniuses of the art world still experimenting with new technology to create beauty and wonder.

Hear from Hockney as you watch how he experiments with perspective, uses photography as a way of 'drawing with a camera', captures the passing of time in his Polaroid collages and the joy of spring on his iPad – and shows us why only paint can properly convey the hugeness of the Grand Canyon.



The exhibition will be at The North Warehouse, Aviva Studios, Water Street, Manchester, M3 4JQ from 10 December to 25 January 2025. For details and ticket booking go to <https://factoryinternational.org/whats-on/david-hockney-bigger-and-closer/>