



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
CAVENDISH

Newsletter No 112
March 2025

Chairman's Notes

Dear Members

As you know we now have a few new members on the committee. The committee now comprises:

Sylvia McKenzie	Chair
Philip Holland	Deputy Chair
Jill Martin	Secretary
Lindsay Crowe	Membership Secretary
Ursula Birkett	Minutes Secretary
Carol Huff	Programme Secretary
Louise Potter	Deputy Programme Secretary
Charles Huff	Treasurer, Webmaster, Zoom master and Newsletter
Jan Hardy	Young Arts Officer
Jean Dugmore	Study Day Organiser
Vacant	Visits Secretary
Joan Matthews	Without portfolio (but helping with lots of things)



My thanks to them for their response and for the interest they have shown in planning your new programme. This will be available on the website soon. Meanwhile, we still have lots to look forward to before the summer break. The next four lectures are listed on the website: artsocavendish.co.uk.

On 25 March we look forward to 'The Brilliance of Brunel: The Man Who Built the Modern World', presented by Ian Swankie. I do hope you will all be able to join us again 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 again be presenting the lectures on Zoom for the benefit of members unable to attend on the day. We always welcome guests at our lectures, and this is the best way of attracting new members. The **guest fee this season is £10**. Members of other Arts societies are welcomed free of charge. Lindsay Crowe is the person to contact if you wish to bring a guest, or to join the society.

Our treasurer, 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 renewed each year. If you would like to take advantage of this, please contact either Charles or Lindsay Crowe (membership secretary) for details. Thanks to Charles keeping our accounts in check, the finances of AS Cavendish are reasonably healthy.
treasurer@artsocavendish.co.uk and membership@artsocavendish.co.uk.

Visits

At the beginning of Lockdown, we were prevented from going on the planned visit to the Aukland Project in Northumberland. As a tribute to all the work Jennie Ball put into planning that visit, we have resurrected it and now have a full complement of 31 members going on the trip in May.

If anyone has an idea for another trip next year, or better still, would like to join the team in helping to arrange visits, please do contact me to discuss how you might help. chair@artsocavendish.co.uk

Following on from the National Arts society EGM last June, we now have a new Board of Trustees who are busy revitalising the Arts Society. The newly appointed President is Hilary Kay whom many of you will recognise from the Antiques Roadshow. Hilary is a well-respected expert, and I am sure, will bring a breath of fresh air to the Arts Society.

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.

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2025

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...

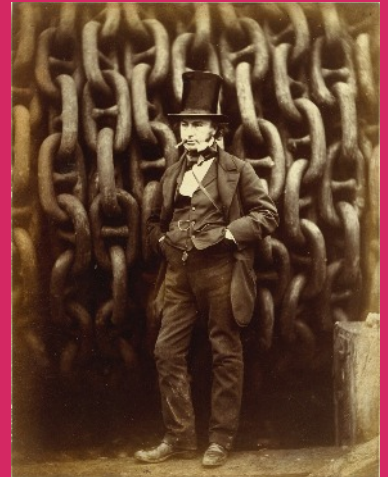


Sandy Burnett

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

For copyright reasons we cannot Zoom this lecture.

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.

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2025/6

30th September 2025

Jewellery and the Jazz Age



How did jewellery respond to the fashions and colours of the 1920s and 30s? The years between the wars saw an explosion of creativity and innovation.

This talk looks at the glamour, invention and style of the Art Deco period through the creations of the great jewellery houses of Cartier, Lacloche, Chaumet and the modernist jewellers like Marchak or Raymond

Templier. We will also look at some of the fabulous jewellery made for society heiresses like Daisy Fellowes.

Rachel Church

28th October 2025

The GPO Film Unit and The Avant - Garde 'This is the night mail crossing the Border, bringing the cheque and the postal order...' 'Nightmail' (1936)

Words by WH Auden and music by Benjamin Britten loudly announced the beginning of 'poetic realism' and the Documentary film movement. The General Post Office Film Unit (1933) established an exciting collaboration of artists, photographers, composers, anthropologists, poets and animators. Together we will explore Nightmail (1936) and Len Lye's hugely inventive camera lens, A Colour Box (1935). The social realism advocacy of Director John Grierson's has left a powerful legacy which can be easily identified in the recent films of Ken Loach and Danny Boyle.



John Francis

18th November 2025

Fashionable Folds: The Fan as the Ultimate Fashion Accessory

Fans have been used for millennia, principally for cooling but also for religious and ceremonial purposes. In Europe, they later developed into a ubiquitous accessory for the fashionable elite. Fans were produced to commemorate births, marriages and deaths, were decorated with scenes of love and pastoral scenes of idyllic aristocratic life. They were also used as a conduit for communication through their handling and the subject matter painted upon their storied folds. But most of all, fans were a tangible marker of taste, status and wealth, and, when worn alongside gowns, jewels and tiaras, were akin to a sceptre with all its majestic connotations. This lecture explores not only the rise of the folding fan in Europe as fashion's most statement-worthy accessory but also the artistry and craftsmanship of fan making in relation to the changing fashionable trends in dress throughout Europe from the 16th to the 20th century.



Scott Schiavone

27th January 2026

Joseph Wright of Derby and the Men and Art of the Lunar Society

In an age of discovery where science and industry went hand-in-hand, 18th century England saw not only the flowering of the Industrial Revolution, but also that of the self-made man; who came not from money but from industry. It was a time of gentlemen's clubs, in their true original meaning rather than the corruption of this term we unfortunately experience today, and one of these clubs would become synonymous with investigation and discovery characterised by the individuals that were associated with it. The industrialists amongst these men would be, in their time, referred to as philosophers practising what we would now call joined-up thinking, eventually we would invent a new name for them - scientists however, they would call themselves the Lunar Society.

Leslie Primo

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2026

24th February 2026

The Brilliance of Bernini's Sculpture



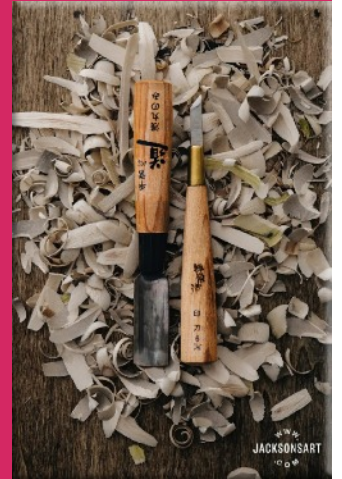
Dramatic struggles, speaking portraits, ecstatic nuns and dynamic fountains are among the works discussed in this lecture. We will survey Bernini's career as a sculptor from his beginnings as a child prodigy to his final years managing a prolific workshop. We look at the important role played by his patrons and champions, his techniques and his subject matter.

Antonia Gatward Cevizli

24th March 2026

The influence of Japanese Woodcut on Western Art

When Japan's borders were opened to the West in 1868 there was a huge surge of interest in all things Japanese in the West, particularly in Paris. Ukiyo-e prints were collected avidly by the leading Impressionist painters of the day who 'borrowed' wholesale from their asymmetric compositions, flowing lines, bright colours and subject matter. In this lecture I explore how the Japanese aesthetic revolutionised western art in the late 19th century, and how a new wave of artists today have brought a deeper understanding of the mokuhanga technique into Contemporary Art.



Carol Wilhide Justin

28th April 2026

Impressions of Gardens: Gardens of the Impressionists



Planting and painting, cultivating and creating: inspired and influenced by their dedication to painting 'en plein air' artists of the Impressionist movement had an especial relationship with gardens and landscape, most famously expressed by Claude Monet (1840-1926) at Giverny. This talk explores that relationship drawing on the wide range of gardens created and depicted by artists including Gustav Caillebotte, Camille Pissarro, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Frederick Carl Frieseke, and Pierre Bonnard, placing Giverny and Monet in a wider perspective.

NOTE: 2026 is the centenary of the death of Claude Monet

Twigs Way

19th May 2026

"Imagine If You Will...": creativity and originality in the age of Artificial Intelligence

Synthesising recent research into the nature of human creativity and current concerns about the impact of machine learning on originality, this very topical

AI

lecture focuses on how original thought and innovation are affected by the growing application of Artificial Intelligence across all academic disciplines. Justin considers how AI offers great advantages as a tool in scientific and medical research, for social scientists, and also perhaps for many working in the humanities, with exciting applications in painting, sculpture, architecture, video gaming and film. It concludes with a consideration as to whether AI and machine learning are making humans redundant in the creative process.

Justin Reay

Two items of interest

Although not actually Arts Society events we thought you might be interested in a Buxton Film Club offering and a Buxton International Festival event which we are sponsoring.



The Impressionists are the most popular group in art history - millions flock every year to marvel at their masterpieces.

But, to begin with, they were scorned, penniless outsiders. 1874 was the year that changed everything; the first Impressionists, 'hungry for independence', broke the mould by holding their own exhibition outside official channels. Impressionism was born and the art world was changed forever.

What led to that first ground-breaking show 150 years ago? Who were the maverick personalities that wielded their brushes in such a radical and provocative way? The spectacular Musée d'Orsay exhibition brings fresh eyes to this extraordinary tale of passion and rebellion. The story is told not by historians and curators but in the words of those who witnessed the dawn of Impressionism: the artists, press and people of Paris, 1874.



Buxton International Festival 2025
Sponsored event by Arts Society Cavendish



This year we will be sponsoring Bendor Grosvenor with his book *The Invention of British Art*. Bendor is an art historian specialising in old masters and British art and is best known from the BBC series *Lost Masterpieces* and *Fake or Fortune?* He's worked in the London art trade and his special talent is that he has discovered a number of important paintings by the likes of Van Dyke, Rubens, Titian, Gainsborough etc. He is a well-known face on art television.

Visit

Day visit to Southwell Minster and Archbishop's Palace Monday 23rd June 2025



Known as the 'Hidden Gem of English Cathedrals' the Minster's ancient stones are soaked with centuries of history, from its origins as a Roman villa, a Saxon church, a private church for the Archbishop of York, a parish church and finally a bishopric with the Minster as its cathedral.

Next door to the Minster is the part-ruined former Palace of the Archbishop of York, whose most famous occupant is Cardinal Wolsey and dates from the 14th century.

We invite you to join us for a day at Southwell, with a guided tour of the Minster in the morning, and, following lunch in the refectory, a guided tour of the Archbishops Palace, with time to wander through the Palace Gardens, take tea, or return to admire the Minster before returning to Buxton.

We shall leave Buxton marketplace at 8am and pick up at Baslow at about 8:20. We will arrive in time for our tour of the Minster which is booked for 10:30 to fit in with the daily lunchtime service. (We suggest you bring a drink with you should you need one before lunchtime.)

We have reserved 30 places in the refectory for lunch, and we will be able to pre book our meals allowing us to be ready for our afternoon tour of the Archbishops Palace at 1:30. This will last for about 1 hour giving plenty of time to wander through the beautiful Palace Gardens before joining the coach at 3:30, returning to Buxton about 5:30/6:00.

The cost of the day will be £42.50 which includes the coach and the cost of both morning and afternoon tours. The maximum number we can take on this trip is 30, so please go to the form on our website (<https://artsocavendish.co.uk/visits/>) to apply early so not to be disappointed. If you cannot apply that way please contact visits@artsocavendish.co.uk.

Our hybrid Zooms

As many of you know we started Zooming our talks during lockdown so managed to keep going throughout a time when many Arts Societies had problems. We have continued as we still often have about 20 connections (many of them pairs) and usually the system has been a great success. For February's lecture, however, something went horribly wrong and I am still not sure why. We do of course always turn up early to do a full check and all appeared to be fine then, at the start of the actual lecture, the sound failed so apologies to those who missed out.

I think it is worth pointing out that we run these hybrids as a bonus with absolutely no guarantee that they will work or even that we will continue doing them. We would far prefer you to come in person if you can. In the mean time I will do my best to get things working again for our March lecture. Fingers crossed.

Charles

YOUNG ARTS

Young Arts - Buxton Community School Trip to Liverpool



The Arts Society Cavendish, via its Young Arts Coordinator, continues to support the young art students in our local secondary schools. We recently sponsored Buxton Community School for a trip to Liverpool. Here is a report from the school.

“With the very generous help of the Arts Society Cavendish, on the 18th September, the Art department took our Year 11 (GCSE) students on a trip to Liverpool.



“We started with a visit to the fabulous Walker Art Gallery and then spent the afternoon recording the sights of the city to support their artwork back at school. We started our walking tour in the city centre and the Baltic Triangle and finishing in the Docklands, where we stopped for essential ice cream.

“We were very lucky with the weather and the students had a brilliant time as evident in the photos, engaging with the artwork on display at the gallery, and really enjoying the opportunity to walk around the city looking at the street art and fabulous Liverpool architecture.

“Thanks to all of those who helped to make it possible, the support staff for keeping us all going, and The Arts Society for helping to make it all financially viable for our students, without you, the trip wouldn't be doable, so thank you.”

M Moore, Head of Art Department

Young Arts. - Hope Valley College residential trip



The society also very recently gave a schools grant to Hope Valley College to support an inclusive residential trip for their GCSE art students. Below is a letter outlining their experience received from Annette Nicklin head of Art Department.

‘I just wanted to tell you about our Art trip to Conway in Wales from Friday 7th to 9th of Feb. We took 33 Y10 and 11 GCSE Art and Textiles students to the art residential, where they got the opportunity to mix with a wide range of other schools, immerse themselves in nature and get creative with 8 different artists.

The theme for this year's artwork was ‘Landscape and mapping’. Students undertook a wide range of different techniques such as; appliqué, weaving, macrame, Geli printing, textural art, glazing, collage, modelling and stitching.

Every student made a research board or book, as well as a final piece to support their art work in school.

The funding you provided enabled us to take two disadvantaged students who would not have been able to attend without your help. These students had never been on any trip, let alone a residential, so it had a massive impact on their educational experience.

Thank you.’