

NADFAS
Cavendish Section

Newsletter No 65

JANUARY 2008

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

We are now established in our new venue at Cliff College, various arrangements have been tried out, in particular the position of the platform and screen and the Committee would welcome comments from members about their preferences.

The Study Day on Norman Churches in Derbyshire, arranged by Mark Hargreaves, was well attended and the visit to Melbourne an excellent follow-up to the talk by Professor John Tarn in the morning. As I write this we can look forward to visiting Salford Quays, arranged by Jean Monks for December 6th, as a sequel to the November lecture on Lowry.

It is now time to arrange the list of speakers for 2008/09, please let Vivienne Milburn know of any outstanding speakers you have encountered or of any topics you would like to see on the programme.

Many of us will encounter our national organisation NADFAS through the excellent Journal and the Committee find the Directory of Speakers most helpful in choosing our lecturers. I have recently attended a meeting for new chairmen, nearly all ladies, in NADFAS House and found that the support available for all our activities is impressive. I did make the point that requests for information about our DFAS are numerous and sometimes duplicated by Area, however, better information sharing is promised!

The Cavendish website has been updated recently by Angus Stokes, please visit www.cavendishdfas.org.uk and let us have any suggestions for items to be included.

The Travel Grant to the Arts and Photographic Department at Derby University will continue in this season. The 'Art in the Schools' project is progressing and updates on these are included in this newsletter.

My best wishes for 2008.

KEITH LEVICK

NOTES FOR ALL MEMBERS

**EXTRA LECTURE AT THE END OF THIS SEASON -
TUESDAY 24TH JUNE!!!**

'HISTORY OF 20TH CENTURY DESIGN' – ANTHONY RAYWORTH

This was to be the final lecture for the 2006/2007 season but unfortunately, due to a projector breakdown, with no replacement available, we were unable to complete the season in the Paxton Suite.

Anthony Rayworth kindly agreed to return to give his lecture and the above date has been selected. Please give this your support.

FORTHCOMING VACANCY ON THE COMMITTEE

Vivienne Milburn has advised that she will be giving up the post of Programme Secretary at the end of this season and we wish to offer this to any member of Cavendish DFAS who would be willing to come forward. Please give this your careful consideration.

HOSTING OF LECTURERS

We like to offer lecturers overnight accommodation the evening before lectures and to date, members, and former members of the Committee have provided this service. However we feel that other members of the Society may wish to do this and we would be grateful for a list of volunteers willing to provide overnight accommodation. A contribution of £30 can be paid to cover expenses.

If any members are willing to undertake the above, please contact Programme Secretary Vivienne Milburn, tel: 01629 640210

Parking at Cliff College – There is a limited area of hard-standing and we would be grateful if members will fill up the back row before parking at the front of this area. We would also remind you that there are a few disabled parking spaces at the top of the main drive.

Apologies and Guests – As the capacity at Cliff College is smaller than the Paxton Suite we would ask you to telephone Sue Park to check whether you can bring a guest, and if possible, let her have your apology if you cannot attend.

John Law Fund – We would advise that a further £225 has been spent on photographic lighting. The amount remaining is £324.52.

VISITS

MOORISH SPAIN – SEPTEMBER 2008 – UPDATE

The brochures supporting this visit will be available by the end of January 2008. The tour will include **Granada** to see the highpoint of Moorish culture, the **Alhambra** Palace, one of the world's greatest buildings. We will visit **Cordoba**, once capital of Moorish Spain and famous for the **Mesquite**, possibly the most magnificent mosque ever constructed. In **Seville** we will see the largest gothic cathedral on earth and the **Alcazar**, a fantastic Moorish palace.

LINCOLN – JUNE 2008

In June there will be a visit to Lincoln Cathedral, Stowe Minster (a Saxon/Norman church), and Doddington Hall (an Elizabethan Hall which has never been sold since it was built), with the day being led by a favourite lecturer, **David Bostwick**.

STUDY DAYS

THE MOORS IN SPAIN WITH SARAH SEARIGHT – AT THE ASHFORD INSTITUTE – FRIDAY 9TH MAY 2008

This day will begin with an introduction to Islam, a topic so much in the news now. Sarah Searight will deal with the appropriate history, development, traditions and variations.

Following coffee, we will hear a lecture on the arts and architecture of the medieval Islamic world (with a glimpse of the Alhambra to prepare us for the afternoon).

After lunch, Sarah Searight will focus on the development and glories of Moorish art and architecture in Andalucia. She will include an overview of ceramics, ivories, metalwork and textiles, all influential in medieval decorative arts.

The overall cost of £33 for this day will include morning coffee, and lunch (again with coffee) at the Ashford Arms Hotel.

A separate application form is enclosed.

CHURCH RECORDING

After a busy summer at Chelmorton, the actual recording of this small church is to all intents and purposes complete, and I will be spending the winter months checking and compiling the record. Thank you to everyone who has given so much time to producing the record – not just the words, but the drawings and photographs which will make the finished book so visually exciting.

I am now standing down as leader of the Group and Anne and Brian Harris are taking over. I have much enjoyed the time that I have been 'in charge' and it has been good to see the group increase in size over the past five years. I think there were fewer than ten of us when I joined, and Mary Bartlett was leading us all through Castleton and Tideswell churches, and now we number twenty. So best wishes to Anne and Brian, and watch this space to find out what and where we will be recording next spring.

JENNIFER COFFEY

A Church Recorders' Study Day on Lettering with Anne Haward will be held at the Friends' Meeting House, Euston Road, London on Thursday 6th March 2008 from 10.30am to 3.15pm. The cost of £24 includes coffee, lunch and handouts.

A Church Recorders' Study Day on Clocks and Organs in East Anglia (Diss and Framlingham) will be held on Thursday 24th April 2008 from 10.30am to 4pm. The cost of £12 includes coffee and tea.

Anyone wishing to attend either of these Study Days should contact Anne or Brian Harris (01663 746321), or e-mail bharris@fish.co.uk as soon as possible.

YOUNG ARTS

Cavendish Young Arts & Creative Learning Project – This project is now taking shape and artist Sarah Brindley was appointed to undertake the commission, working with Key Stage 3 students at Buxton Community School to develop a three-dimensional work demonstrating scientific principles. She is working three sessions a week at the school and is offering a wide range of techniques and creative work to a group of 15. Sarah is a sculptor with a science degree and has recently had a piece of her work installed in the Pavilion Gardens.

Derby University Fine Art Faculty – There are two Fine Art based programmes – 1) BA(Hons)Fine Art Studio Practice 2) BA(Hons)Photography. It is proposed that the Cavendish

Grant (£1,500) be divided between the two programmes and that the winners should be chosen from two short lists of 3 students in the third stage of their programmes, from their degree shows in June 2008, where Cavendish representatives would be invited to choose the winners.

Summer Project – funded by the Cavendish Grant – July to October 2008 - Brief for this is to be drawn up by the Fine Art Faculty and Cavendish, with a Derbyshire focus, for the winners to produce work to be exhibited in September/October in Derby and November/December in The Dome at Buxton. It is proposed that Cavendish should receive a piece of work from each winner to begin a collection or use in some other way.

ANGELA KELLIE & DAWN KENT

REPORTS – The reports below have, unfortunately, had to be edited, due to lack of space. However, the full text will be available at the Cavendish website – www.cavendishnadsfas.org.uk

VISIT TO CALKE ABBEY – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Calke Abbey can be something of a surprise for the first-time visitor, being maintained by the National Trust in a state of benign neglect. The house was built on the site of an Augustinian 12thC priory and acquired in 1622 by the Harpur-Crewes, who remained there until the 1980's when the house was offered to the Trust to offset death duties and debt.

The building has a mixture of architectural styles. None of the 12thC building has survived, the earliest masonry belongs to the Elizabethan courtyard house which replaced the original priory. In the early 17thC that house was transformed by Sir John Harpur, 4th Baronet, into a grand baroque mansion. Almost 100 years later it was re-arranged by Sir Henry, 7th Baronet producing the neo-classical look which can be seen today.

The Trust has maintained the house in an almost 'as found' condition to illustrate a country house in decline. The Inner Hall contains a dozen or so animal heads, in various stages of repair and huge numbers of cases of stuffed birds – but representing only half of the original collection of birds, the rest having been sold. Up the Principal Stairs are the Dining and Breakfast rooms, which have painted walls, faux-marble neo-classical columns, and a number of fine pictures, including four Neapolitan views by Ricciardelli. The Saloon is a grand two-storey room, originally designed as the Entrance Hall during the house's baroque period. It contains some attractive wooden cabinets and tables, largely obscured by boxes and trays of collected items – fossils, minerals, shells etc, and still more birds. Off the Saloon is a smaller room, crammed with fine chairs and other furniture, some upholstered in gold leaf fabric.

The servants' staircase leading to the second floor has walls painted yellow with a urine-based wash. The rooms here which would have delighted Mervyn Peake once provided living and sleeping accommodation, but now serve as storage for boxes, chairs, tables, cabinets, a 'fully working' earth closet, and everywhere, stuffed birds, the product of generations of energetic collection.

Back downstairs to perhaps the most spectacular and pristine object at Calke, the 18thC State Bed – a wedding gift from the royal family in 1734, but left packed in its boxes until 1984. The silk hangings are exquisite, still full of their original strong colours, and embroidered with oriental figures, birds and flowers. Downstairs again and through the long tunnel to the huge kitchen and the Brewery – both housed some distance away from the main building, in order to minimise smells.

Outside, normality returns, the park and garden are in perfect order. The landscape is complemented by a grotto, ice house and the family church of St Giles, Gothic in style, small and neat.

Calke abbey is an intriguing mix of contradictions, but provides a marvellous insight into the development of house styles and into the collecting habits of the Harpur-Crewes, a family with more than its fair share of compulsive obsessives.

Many thanks to Jean Monks for identifying and organising such a fascinating day out.

DEREK LEE

VISIT TO SOUTHWELL MINSTER, WINKBURN HALL AND THORESBY PARK – 2ND OCTOBER 2007

It was a glorious autumn day and we made good time to Southwell, where we met our favourite guide and raconteur David Bostwick, whose knowledge of wood and plasterwork and carving through the middle ages up to the 18thC is amazing. Southwell Minster is one of those gems on our doorstep that we don't visit often enough. The history goes back to AD43 and the Romans, however Paulinus – missionary archbishop of York founded the first church in 627. The present cathedral was started by the Normans in 1108. The Quire is 11thC and the Chapter House is 1286. The Minster suffered less than others in the Reformation but during the Civil war the Archbishop's Palace was destroyed by Cromwell's troops and other damage was caused when their horses were stabled in the Minster itself. Further damage by lightening in 1711 destroyed the roof, bells, organ and clock tower. Between 1850 and 1888 the Minster was refurbished and restored by Edwin Christian, a great architect. It was then made the Cathedral of the newly formed Southwell Diocese and moved from the Archbishopric of York. The first Bishop of Southwell Dr George Ridding gave the coat of arms now known as the Diocesan coat of arms and then the diocese was divided in 1927 when the diocese of Derby was formed.

The building is stunning and one could spend two days there studying its wood carving, stone work and treasures. Members from Hope Valley were delighted that their ex vicar of Hope, Garth Turner, and his wife Marguerite joined them for coffee.

The group had great fun with David's interpretation of all the leaves, faces and symbols both externally and internally. He is a mine of amusing information and we all learned something new.

On arrival at the next stop – Winkburn Hall, 8 miles west of Newark, the owner Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes DL and his wife Jane provided a home-prepared sandwich lunch in their large kitchen surrounded by aged Labradors. This is the quintessential English Country house dating back to the 12thC but the present house, is 1695 by William Smith of Warwick and had pleasure gardens by Nesfield. The present owner's father (a descendant of the Pegge Burnell family, original owners) sold the house and most of its contents in 1934 because of crippling death duties, and headed for Australia but the present owner and his Australian wife bought back the house in 1980 in a derelict condition and started to try and renovate it. Mrs Smith Milnes, with no previous experience, decided to renovate all the striking plaster ceilings, cornices and friezes in the house. She made her own moulds and using scaffolding has painstakingly restored nearly every major room in the house and then painted and gilded the new plaster work just as it was in the 18thC. There are various web sites relating to Winkburn, which has a fascinating history, and it should also be noted that the present owner started the 'Country Victualler' a superb farm shop curing and selling the amazing Alderton Hams which Rick Stein raved about in 2005.

Thoresby Park (not to be confused with Thoresby Hall, which is now a hotel) is a newly built Palladian Villa in the grounds of the estate, built by Hugh Matheson, direct descendent of the Pierreponts of Thoresby and Chairman of the East Midlands branch of the National Trust and now on the NT Executive. Hugh and his Indian wife Ranji started building Thoresby Park in 2000 after visiting Italy and falling in love with Palladian villas and knowing this would be the architectural space to display the Pierrepont valuables which are in store in Spencer House, London. Hugh is a farmer, businessman, runs an estate management company and a boat race sports rights company, and does a lot of rowing commentary on Eurosport. He became a builder, and is now working hands on at Thoresby with his Polish carpenter. Sadly, in designing his new Palladian villa Hugh forgot about the correct way to put in a staircase. 'Upstairs' in Palladian Villas was where the grain was stored and staircases were of no importance, the result being that they have a too small space for the staircase and it looks rather strange amidst the grand openness of the rest of the house. Hugh is not sure how long it will take to finish the other grand reception rooms – his vast library collection is still housed in Spencer House.

On leaving, we reflected that the bottom line for both of these houses was MONEY and how to get it in this country of ours that does not value its heritage enough. Hats off to these dedicated owners prepared to use their life savings and time to preserve their heritage for future generations, all without government grant or aid.

We all had a great day and thank Jean Monks for organising this, and of course David Bostwick for his insight at all levels.

We can't wait for the next outing and the next surprises so near home that he will introduce us to.

JENNIE BALL

STUDY DAY ON NORMAN CHURCHES IN DERBYSHIRE WITH PROFESSOR JOHN TARN – 2ND NOVEMBER 2007

Beware of assuming that you 'know' a subject, in this case Norman Churches in Derbyshire, Professor John Tarn's theme for a study day which was full of surprises and insights. The first session looked at Derbyshire churches from the simplest, with their solidity and crude carving, to Steetley, small and virtually unaltered, a gem, and the most splendid, Melbourne, with its combination of architectural mass and delicately carved detail. The second session was a foray to the continent, with the contrast between English mass and French verticality, and a discussion of Germanic influence on English churches which was unfamiliar to me.

Then a substantial lunch and post-prandial drive to Melbourne, which revived us. Those who had not seen Melbourne before were amazed, those who had were delighted to see it again, surely the finest church in Derbyshire, with the combination of massive structure and exquisite detail. The solitary wall painting was a reminder of how much more colourful it must once have been. Having given so much detailed information in the morning, Professor Tarn allowed us to explore by ourselves, while being always available to answer questions, an ideal arrangement. Steetley, the other splendid Norman church in our area, was discussed, but could not be visited, leaving a treat in store. Interesting problems were raised, such as why so many French churches have apsidal ends, while most English churches do not. Ideas were put forward but mercifully there is scope for discussion.

A visually delightful and intellectually stimulating day for which many thanks go to Professor Tarn and to Mark Hargreaves who got us round the course without any obvious problems.

MARY MARSH

VISIT TO THE LOWRY/IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH ON THURSDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2007

The welcoming coffee and pastries were much appreciated on our arrival at The Lowry before we set off on our tour – and what a very different and unusual building The Lowry turned out to be. The orange carpets, yellow and purple walls, the vivid green staircase all sound pretty dreadful but here all the different colours put together seemed to work and were one of the many surprising features of the place. Our enthusiastic young guide related the history of Salford docks and how The Lowry was commissioned and built on the site. We were shown a scale model of the building and told that it was designed to resemble a ship (I think a good imagination is needed here!)

Before seeing a 20-minute film on the very complex life of L.S. Lowry we visited a photographic exhibition entitled 'A Photographic Retrospective 1943-2007' showing the work of Salford-born Harold Riley, a great friend of Lowry who shared his passion for capturing the street scenes of his home town.

The works of Lowry on display were superb and ranged from black and white sketches made at Art School, to industrial scenes of the 1930's to the 1950's, to landscapes and seascapes to self portraits. It was good to see the originals of some of the paintings we had been shown on slides at Michael Howard's excellent lecture a couple of weeks earlier.

After lunch in The Lowry Café we crossed the canal to The Imperial War Museum North. Whilst walking towards the Museum, the harsh bleak appearance of the building gave us a sense of the realities of war before we even went inside. A guide gave us an interesting talk and then left us to wander round the museum at leisure. We watched the Big Picture Show – 360 degree show, saw 'The Animals at War Exhibition' in the Special Exhibitions Gallery, which was so interesting and moving.

So, a rainy, dark, miserable day in December was made very enjoyable by the outing to The Lowry. Very many thanks to Jean Monks for organising the day. All the hard work and effort which must have gone into organising this trip were very worthwhile.

BARBARA HUDSON

COPY FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be sent out in April 2008. If you would like to contribute please forward items for inclusion to **GLORIA OXLEY** by the middle of March.

ADDENDUM

NADFAS MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Your 2008 NADFAS membership cards are enclosed. Please complete these by adding the Society name (Cavendish DFAS), your full name, and signature. The National Membership card allows you to claim concessions at a number of venues which are published in each edition of NADFAS News.