



**CAVENDISH DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER 70
SEPTEMBER 2009**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING – MAY 2009**

We have come to the end of our second season meeting at Cliffe College. Initial problems with light exclusion and the hearing loop system have been largely overcome but comments from members on these or other matters are always welcome. Work on the Paxton Suite in Buxton is scheduled to be completed by August 2010. The Committee will view the completed theatre and consider the new layout and charges for its use before deciding where to meet from 2011 onwards. Members views will be sought at that time.

Our finances remain in good order thanks to Peter Coffey. The purchase of a digital projector is anticipated in the next two to three years and has been allowed for. The accounts were circulated in the April Newsletter, and show that there is no need to increase subscriptions for the next year.

Our membership is held at 300 with a waiting list of about 40. Application forms are available on our website - www.cavendishdfas.or.uk. Sue Park will advise members on the current rules for the admission of guests.

The lecture programme has been varied and incorporated subjects requested by members. Barbara Hudson has completed the speakers list for the next season. This was published in the April Newsletter. Some bookings for 2010/11 are now underway.

Visits included an excellent Nile Cruise including tours to Aswan, Abu Simbel and Luxor. A further river journey was undertaken via the Anderton Boat Lift on the River Weaver, the Salt Museum in Northwich followed. In September there is a visit to Little Morton Hall and Biddulph Grange Gardens. Next year Jean Monks is planning a visit to Accrington to see the Tiffany glass collection after Diana Lloyd has spoken to us about Tiffany glass in March 2010.

There have been two excellent study days on Silver and Georgian Glass, the latter deserved a larger audience. Mark Hargreaves is working on projects for the next season.

The Church Recorders have concluded their work at Edensor and have moved on to Hartington. More volunteers would be welcome. Please contact Ven. Brian Harris on 01663 736321.

The Young Art project in Buxton has ended with work exhibited in the Museum and Art Gallery. Dawn Kent and Angela Kellie are considering a follow-up to this work. The sponsorship of two students at Derby University has resulted in paintings and photographs being exhibited in Buxton and Derby, a further project to celebrate Joseph Wright of Derby is to be submitted. The Committee would like to hear of any other suitable requests for sponsorship by Cavendish DFAS.

In general Cavendish DFAS continues to thrive due to the efforts of the Committee and the support of members. In addition to those mentioned above I would like to thank the Secretary Mary Marsh, Exhibitions Organiser Pat Paulett, Newsletter Editor Gloria Oxley, Projectionist James Kellie and Webmaster Angus Stokes for all their work, such that the Chairman can sleep soundly – except in our meetings!

KEITH LEVICK

NOTES FOR ALL MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP CARDS FOR THE 2009/2010 season were enclosed in the mailed newsletter. As usual you are asked to complete and hand in the appropriate attendance slip for each lecture you attend. Attendance slips are required because NADFAS insurers will only pay claims relating to a member who is registered as attending a meeting. The system works well and we thank you for your co-operation.

NEW MEMBERS

Are invited to have coffee with the Committee at 10.30am, before the first lecture in September.

CAVENDISH WEBSITE

Members are reminded that the Society has its own website, administered by Angus Stokes, and the Newsletter and up to date information can be accessed at www.cavendishnadfasc.org.

VISITS

LITTLE MORETON HALL & BIDDULPH GRANGE GARDENS - 16TH SEPTEMBER 2009

This visit is fully subscribed.

VICTORIA BATHS & THE MONASTERY, MANCHESTER – WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2009

The **Victoria Baths** were designed as a prestigious baths complex by Manchester's first City Architect, Henry Price, and opened by Manchester Corporation in 1906. In their design and construction no expense was spared. The façade has multi-coloured brickwork and terracotta decoration, the main interior public spaces are clad in glazed tiles from floor to ceiling and most of the many windows have decorative stained glass. For 86 years the Victoria Baths provided both essential and leisure facilities. Private baths and a laundry were housed there along with three swimming pools and the Turkish baths. The main swimming pool was floored over in the winter months to hold dances. In 1952 the Victoria Baths installed the first public aerotone (jacuzzi) in the country. The Victoria Baths was closed in 1993. The building is grade II* on the List of Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest. Thanks to its success on BBC's Restoration series, Restoration Phase I is now complete and can be visited.

The Monastery is Pugin's architectural masterpiece. In 1997 it was put on the World Monuments Fund Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites in the World, with a rich heritage that should never

be lost. It sits alongside Pompeii, Macchu Picchu, The Valley of the Kings and the Taj Mahal. The Monastery GradeII* is listed and is in the top 8% of buildings in England. It was built between 1863 and 1872 by Franciscan monks who had come to Manchester in 1861 to serve the local Catholic community. Designed by Edward Pugin, whose father helped design the houses of Parliament, Gorton Monastery is considered one of his finest masterpieces. The Monastery was for some 120 years the hub of religious, social and cultural activity – the Franciscans ran 3 schools, a theatre group, brass band, choir, youth club, successful football teams and numerous other activities for the community – it was vacated by the Franciscans in 1989 and, after a false start for a new use, was left prey to significant vandalism and theft. Following a 12 year fundraising campaign, £6.5m was raised. This has saved the building from ruin and restored the site. Get a unique and fascinating insight into the life and works of those extraordinary Friars who created a masterpiece of worldwide architectural and religious significance.

COME AND JOIN US – SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION FORM

STUDY DAYS

No arrangements have yet been made, but Mark Hargreaves will make an announcement at the September meeting.

YOUNG ARTS PROJECTS - Creative Project in Derbyshire for two Final Year Students in Fine Art at Derby University

This year's Project is celebrating the life of the 18th C artist Joseph Wright of Derby: which ties in nicely with an Enlightenment programme Buxton Museum is leading with Derby Museum and Art Gallery and Belper North Mill, and Wright pictures are at the centre of this.

Laura Ruutel-Ball will photograph pictures and artefacts from Wright's life and Karel Thompson will develop three stages of Wright's life in portraiture.

Mary Marsh and I have met Karel and we were pleased with his preparatory work so far. We have yet to meet Laura but hope to meet up in September, when we shall be able to give them part of their grant, when the Committee will have decided the amount awarded. **ANGELA KELLIE**

THREE SOCIETIES LUNCH – THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2009

The 19th Joint Luncheon, hosted by Cavendish will take place on Thursday 5th November 2009 at 12.00 for 12.30pm at Hassop Hall Hotel. The after lunch talk, given by our Chairman Keith Levick is entitled 'Remember Remember'. Application forms are enclosed. You are reminded that each Society is limited to only 40 tickets, so do get your application in early.

REPORTS

THE ANDERTON BOAT LIFT AND NANTWICH SALT MUSEUM – 19TH MAY 2009

Having organised a successful Nile cruise, Jean Monks felt that Cavendish should be afloat again. We left Baslow at 9am and travelled to Anderton via Macclesfield and Northwich. There was time for coffee and a visit to the museum before boarding the British Waterways barge. We discovered that the boat lift was built to link the Trent and Mersey canal with the navigable river Weaver, the difference in levels being 50ft 4inches. In 1875, Edwin Clarke, the Weaver Navigation Company's engineer, designed a frame containing two caissons or troughs which could move up or down in a vertical place whilst remaining water-filled and containing two or more long boats. The troughs were raised or lowered by hydraulic power aided by a steam engine. However due mainly to corrosion the system was unreliable, steam was replaced by electric power in 1903 and in 1908 counterweights replaced the hydraulic system. Initially the main cargo was salt but a growing amount of cargo from the potteries made the enterprise profitable. By 1983 corrosion had made the frame unsafe but after much lobbying and fund raising a large grant made reconstruction possible and the original caissons are now once again raised and lowered by hydraulic power using oil not water, the lift being reopened in 2002.

We boarded the barge, entered a caisson and were lowered to river level; the descent juddered to start with then became smoother. We then went down the river to the first Northwich bridge and back to Anderton – a pleasant cruise on a sunny day.

A short journey took us back to Northwich and the Salt Museum housed in the old Workhouse. The origin of the salt beds, brine processing and, later, salt mining were explained with the aid of a short film. There were exhibits to show conditions in the old salt mines and workings, the effects of subsidence when mines filled with water and collapsed, and many uses of salt such as salt glaze pottery. There was also an exhibition of life in the 1940-45 era.

With thanks to Jean Monks and our driver, we returned to Derbyshire. **KEITH LEVICK**

COPY FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be sent out in January 2010. If you would like to contribute please forward items for inclusion to **GLORIA OXLEY before the end of December.**