



THE USHER GALLERY DEVELOPMENT

The Curtois Wing has now been demolished, and the new entrance is nearing completion. The building has been given a facelift, and there will be important loans from the Tate Gallery and the Arts Council Collection to complement the Gallery's own collections

All the Friends are invited to celebrate the opening on Friday 1st October.

BURIED TREASURE

Many of us attended Adam Daubney's talk in May, and enjoyed his infectious enthusiasm; here is his own account of his role in unearthing our history.

Every year thousands of archaeological finds are discovered by the public. Every find, regardless of how 'nice' it looks has the potential to tell us about the past, and it is my job to record this information. I am the 'Lincolnshire Finds Liaison Officer' for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), based in the Historic Environment Record at Lincolnshire County Council. The PAS is funded largely by Central Government, with support from Local Government Authorities. Though I am not based in a museum, I am often found working across the county holding 'Finds Days' and meeting with finders.

I have been in post for seven years now, in which time I have recorded over 11,000 finds from Lincolnshire and handled some truly remarkable pieces of treasure discovered in our county's soil. For those of you who have been to my talks you'll know the types of finds I am talking about; Roman bronze figurines, Anglo-Saxon gold sword hilts, medieval silver coin hoards and Tudor jewellery to name but a few. These finds enhance not only our understanding of the past, but also our enjoyment and appreciation for all things Lincolnshire.

Most of the finds I record are what we call 'non-treasure' finds. These are small finds that do not meet the stipulations of the Treasure Act (1996) and as such finders are under no obligation to report them. This is where the 'liaison' part of the job title comes in to play, for much of my time is spent getting to know finders, mainly metal-detectorists, recording their collections and where objects were found. Every find that is recorded is uploaded onto our online database www.finds.org.uk. Here you can search over 500,000 archaeological finds dating from the dawn of humanity to around AD 1700.

As I indicated earlier, not all finds have the 'wow-factor'. In fact, very few do, however all finds are of course important. The Portable Antiquities Scheme has featured heavily in the national news in recent months thanks to the discovery of the nations' largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold from Staffordshire. It is exciting to think what finds lie just beneath the surface, awaiting discovery. There is of course some monotony to recording finds; post-medieval buckles and buttons are frequent finds, but every so often I receive that certain phone call most people only ever dream of making... "I've found a hoard...I've found a hoard!"

One such phone call came only a few months ago when two metal detectorists searching a field near Lincoln discovered six solid gold Spanish-American doubloons dating between 1790 and 1800. As far as I can tell these coins represent the only example of a hoard of Spanish-American doubloons from Britain. The finds are being processed under the Treasure Act and will be offered to The Collection for acquisition in due course.

As I said earlier, such finds enrich our sense of place, our understanding and enjoyment of the past, and celebrate the diverse people and cultures that lived, traded, and buried hoards in this patch of land we have come to know as Lincolnshire.

Adam Daubney FSA

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is a matter of great concern that the County Council is considering withdrawing support from 3 Museums in the County. Whilst we understand the need to restructure and retrench in the present climate, the destruction of Museums and galleries must be resisted; their loss would be irreparable. Museums and Galleries attract visitors to the County and can also provide a focus of interest for volunteers to contribute to their communities. With the coming generation exposed to so much of the trivial or the virtual, it is essential that they are made aware of the industry and inventiveness of their forebears. Museums and Galleries can make our heritage real and relevant to them.

Please write to your MP and local Councillors to resist the proposed closure of Museums in Lincolnshire.

The Friends will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2011, and so we are particularly pleased that we will be funding the publicity leaflet for the newly refurbished Usher Gallery. The leaflet will be combined with our Programme for next year, which we hope to be sending out in early December.

The Museum of Lincolnshire Life is enjoying a hugely increased attendance, and we are funding a new History Panel which will explain the history of "the old Barracks".

Our Anniversary Year will be a great opportunity to attract new members of the Friends to support Lincoln's Museums and Gallery.

Spread the Word!

In May a group of Friends spent 6 days exploring this City of Culture. We went to the Cathedral, and the city; and we also visited the Kelvingrove and Hunterian museums, and Mackintosh ikons such as Hill House, the Glasgow School of Art and the Willow Tearoom. We had a day out at Dumfries House and Culzean Castle. Instead of burdening one person with the task of writing an account, we asked all the participants to write a few lines, so we offer you our...

POSTCARDS FROM GLASGOW



Glasgow is a city of impressive red sandstone buildings. The patron saint is St Mungo, to whom the Cathedral is dedicated, and whose emblems appear on the City arms:

The tree that never grew
The bird that never flew
The fish that never swam
The bell that never rang.
There were a great variety of places meticulously arranged by Hugh to suit all interests. We were transported in comfort and always on time.

Group lunches were an addition to our holiday programme this year. We enjoyed varied menus at each of our daily visits, which also proved to be a time saving exercise. The lunch at the Burrell Collection was warm chicken on an interesting salad base. The fashionable pudding was the attractively presented three mini desserts, in this case ice cream on a biscuit base; glazed meringue fingers and a strawberry cranach.

POSTCARD

The Bowes Museum: My favourite painting in the gallery was the exquisite little painting by Sisley of the snow scene on the banks of the Seine - a view, apparently, from the Chateau owned by Josephine and her husband. It was simple and understated and quite perfect.

The Burrell tapestries: the rabbit hunt was my favourite - the colours were vibrant and the composition was perfect as the eye followed the movement of the subjects' indications and body language to create a feeling of movement and animation, culminating in the humour of the rabbit's posterior as it disappeared down the hole! The joke was then compounded by the mirror-image produced by a view of a male's slightly bared posterior (builders bum-wise) of which he himself was blissfully unaware! Carol Butterfield.

First full day was a great welcome to Glasgow. Both the guides were very interesting - and very clear - and the whole visit to the Burrell was a delight. P.A.D.

The Burrell Collection: I much enjoyed the trip and in particular the contrasts between (1) the collections at the Bowes and at the Burrell; and (2) the architects / designers the Adams brothers and Charles Rennie Mackintosh; and (3) the pre-1945 architecture of Glasgow with modern buildings.

We liked best - Hill House, The light, The site, The room, The view, A visit special in itself. John and Eileen.

We met the most perfect religious painting of the century - an image by Dali that speaks to all, even to those who have no religious belief. David.

Fiendish filigree figures wielding vicious weapons of another age...now safe in a glass cage in the Kelvingrove Museum. Inge

Two highlights for me were the tapestry at the Burrell depicting the preparation for the rabbit hunt, and at Colzean Castle Lady Evelyn's Dressing Set - both beautiful and unforgettable. Barbara.
The highlights of a full and comprehensive tour were at the Burrell, guided by the vivacious, entertaining and knowledgeable Morna and the superb Glasgow Boys Exhibition at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery

After listening and looking all morning the pre-arranged lunches were gratefully received and provided a relaxing interlude. J Beer.

We were bowled over by Burrell and keen on Colzean. While Kelvingrove grew on us Mackintosh didn't. Tony and Edith.

It was a challenge to me to see the lovely Adam bridge that has caused us to have such a great adventure getting into Dumfries House - coaches were far too heavy to be allowed to use that approach! There was a painting of the bridge in one of the rooms and I was determined to see the bridge itself; but by the time we had been to the gift shop there was so little time left - so I ran in what I hoped was the right direction, found the old coach house and the sequoia avenue that leads to the bridge. Another sprint and I was there! A beautiful bridge, very narrow and certainly not suitable for our coach! A quick photo and a run back to join the rest of the group just in time for our departure! Marian W



POSTCARD

Sometimes it's the less well publicised things that catch the eye - we saw a wonderful collection of Chippendale at Dumfries house; but a small table with an inlaid top at Culzean was my favourite piece of furniture.

The Glasgow Boys exhibition opened our eyes to painters we had not seen before and may not again but my attention was caught by three French paintings in the Kelvingrove collection which transported me to the countryside and the Seine.

Lines: Mackintosh made his into squares within squares; Robert Adam curls his round on the amazing ceiling in the Dining Room of Culzean Castle.

Who would have thought you could come to Glasgow and enjoy sunshine for 7 days? Who would have thought you could spend 7 sunny days in and around Glasgow and on each day see a range of exciting examples of art, architecture and history, with good food thrown in?

POSTCARD

My final Mackintosh encounter was in The Lighthouse, originally a water tower. The Glasgow Herald owners stipulated the tower be incorporated into Mackintosh's design of their building, so the water could be used in the printing process, and in the event of fire.

Today the tower is surrounded by plate glass housing the Scottish centre for Architecture and Design. Multimedia exhibitions set Mackintosh in his artistic, architectural, historical social and European setting. Another display of architectural designs, plans and photos of 20 new buildings in Scotland illustrate how new Scottish heritage is being developed. The highlight of the visit was the climb of over 100 steps up the modern staircase from the 3rd floor to the platform giving magnificent views over the rooftops of Glasgow. The details of the stonework on the tour could be examined while climbing and the rooftops of other Glasgow architectural features previously visited viewed from the top - a fitting end to a magnificent few Glasgow days. Jean M

All the 'Friends' who set off in lovely weather to visit Northampton and 'Number 78 Derngate' would agree that Charles Rennie Mackintosh was extremely fortunate that it was Mr and Mrs Wenman Joseph Bassett-Lowke who commissioned him to fulfil his only domestic design in England. Influenced by their European travels and interest in the 'Secession' movement, they were open to Mackintosh's innovative ideas and could afford him. The feeling was of an harmonious working relationship as, having lived in the house since their marriage, the couple envisaged particular structural changes, which Mackintosh was willing to incorporate into his plans. He thus transformed the exterior and interior of a flat, plain 1815 Georgian terraced house into an exciting, beautiful 'Modernist' residence.

The enthusiasm of the 78 Derngate Northampton Trust's Founders, the Curator and the expertise of the work force, aided by family photographs, has resulted in a superb replication of the early twentieth century design. Following the departure of the Bassett-Lowkes to another innovative home, influenced by the Bauhaus movement, various tenants have enjoyed '78', including the school at which I taught in the late 1950s, when it was a staff residence and tutorial base. Happily, during those years virtually no damage was done. It was fascinating to watch the video and appreciate the radical work, which had first to be undertaken to ensure that this treasure is housed in a waterproof and electrically sound shell. Dedicated research on fabrics, wallpapers and paints has been rewarded by accurate, detailed and exquisite craftsmanship to recreate for us, today, the extraordinary interior of 1917. Serendipitous events have sometimes led to original artefacts being found and returned.

The Trust was able to purchase and completely gut 80 Derngate, in order to create an attractive annexe. This now presents a light, safe exit from the top floor with display cabinets on each landing exhibiting house artefacts and a fine collection of the model ships and trains the Bassett-Lowke factory produced. It also enabled an enticing shop to be added, and 'The Dining Room', a small restaurant, which serves delicious hot and cold meals. It really is no surprise that 'The Charles Rennie Mackintosh House and Galleries' have been garlanded with awards and were the Gold Winner in the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence, Best Small Visitor Attraction of the Year 2009.

Some of us discovered another gem in Northampton. The apparently small town museum has an amazingly long winding trail of the town's history, a small art gallery and shoes - of elephants, ballerinas and queens! Northampton's fame as the shoe-manufacturing centre of the country is gloriously displayed. There are shoes of all shapes, sizes, styles, ages and some found behind walls and chimneys to ward off evil spirits!

Altogether it was a most interesting and thoroughly enjoyable day. We all thanked Mary Gibson for her organisation and for shepherding us so gently. Our message is ... if you are ever offered to chance to visit '78 Derngate' accept it and have a wonderful day, as we all did!

Barbara Feast

A WALK AROUND VICTORIAN CEMETERIES



Derek Broughton, dressed as a Victorian undertaker, guided us around the last resting places of people from Lincoln.

Death - the great leveller - did not furnish equality in the edifices that have been left by our predecessors. Near the site of the old workhouse in Union Street there is nothing to mark the graves of the poor who were buried there, whereas the fabulous mausoleum for the Monson family at South Carlton provides a resting place of great style for the members of that family.

In between, the graveyards for St Nicholas' church, St Peter's church and the now closed Victorian cemetery near the water tower were found to be places of quiet and reflection.

On a hot summer's afternoon we discovered that cemeteries are of significant historical and architectural interest and provide green and pleasant plots at the heart of Lincoln.

Many thanks to Linda Benson for organising such an interesting event and to Derek whose atmospheric dress and quotations brought the afternoon 'alive'.

CM

CHURCH FARM MUSEUM, SKEGNESS



We arrived at the museum, on a day of warm July sunshine. In the absence of the senior staff member, Catherine Wilson was able to tell us the interesting background to this fascinating place. The land was given by the Earl of Scarborough, together with some of the buildings on site, and it was used to house the already – existing collection of farm implements etc at the MLL. One of the fascinating buildings there is an original mud-and –stud cottage, which was carefully moved and reconstructed on the site.

In many ways it was like a visit to Lark Rise - the old cottage is just like the ones we saw on TV – and while it is very picturesque from the outside, I doubt many of us would care to live in it! In contrast, the farmhouse has much of the Victorian charm that there was in Candleford, and it was a great deal more comfortable!

The atmosphere was calm and peaceful, and it was a delightfully nostalgic day out in the country- in many ways reminiscent of a childhood experience.

It is a shame that the County Council are reluctant to continue to support this important piece of heritage in our largely rural county, and many of us were happy to add our names to the petition which requests that it be kept open.

In addition to the petition at Church Farm, Hugh Cooke, our Chairman, wrote to Councillor Bedford, Chairman of the County Council, to express our concern and to put our case for the benefits that Museums bring to the County

THE FRIENDS GARDEN PARTY, 7TH AUGUST



Anyone for croquet, badminton, quoits, chess or a flutter on the raffle? All these were on offer at the Garden party at Lindum House; guests could also enjoy an excellent cream tea, and indulge themselves even further by buying from the generously stocked produce stall. For most of the afternoon the weather stayed fine, but eventually the rain came and

so the raffle was drawn in the comfort of one of the conference rooms. It was a great success – thanks to the willing volunteers and to all who came and had fun and bought and bought with such generosity.

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 7th October
at The Collection at 1.30pm
(please note the change of time)

A talk by Jonathan Brown on Lincolnshire's Agricultural and Industrial Revolution.

Followed at 3pm (new time) by Dr Ian Waites on the Agricultural Revolution in English Landscape Painting. Great value – two for the price of one!

£6 for Friends; £8 for Guests.

York Coach Trip
Tuesday 19th October 2010.

The Friends are taking a coach to York, costing **£18** for the transport, we leave the Lincoln Hotel, Eastgate at 8.30am, returning from York at 5.0pm. We will be dropped off near to York Art Gallery which most people will wish to visit. The day will be yours to visit other museums/ places of interest. There is plenty to see in York e.g. National Railway Museum (free), York Minster, Shambles and a walk around the medieval walls, Treasurer's House (National Trust), Jorvik Viking Centre and the Castle Museum So, you can choose how you wish to spend the day.

Further details from Christine Metcalf
01522 795005

Wednesday 17th November
at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life at 7pm

The Plough, the Ploughman and the Ploughman's Supper

These sociable evenings have become a very popular part of our programme, and this one is likely to be over-subscribed. So make sure you don't miss out.

Free parking!!

January 2011 (date and time to be announced) a visit to Lincoln Archives

This is a great opportunity to see the Mantua - the unique 200-year-old silk gown of national importance which has been beautifully conserved and restored, (featured in a previous newsletter) - and other interesting objects currently housed there.

Saturday 19th February at the Collection 7pm - Jazz Evening

Bigger and better than ever, with an additional member of the band, in celebration of our 40th Anniversary.