



CHAIRMAN ATTENDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In October Hugh and Janet Cooke attended the AGM of our national association, BAFM. BAFM has 500 members, groups of friends of museums and galleries all over the country, although only 100 were present on this occasion.

Matters of mutual interest were discussed, including how to encourage more people to visit and support our museums and galleries, and relationships with local councils in times of financial stringency.

Hugh met representatives from Bristol, Devon and Cornwall and York, and renewed acquaintance with those from Norwich, Hull and Beverley. The fruit of some of this may well be experienced later this year when the Friends visit Bristol and York.

INSPIRING YOUNG ARTISTS



Last year, the Friends agreed to a request from Andrea Martin to contribute £500 per year for three consecutive years towards the Summer Drawing School arranged jointly by The Collection and Bishop Grosseteste University College, together with other local bodies, including the Usher Trust. Children were selected for this Summer School by submitting drawings for a competition. Thirty seven talented students were selected, aged 14 –17, from schools in various parts of the County, as well as the City. The theme coincided with the Tennyson bi-centenary and was titled "Poetry and Portraiture", and the students spent the week immersed in drawing, working with a gifted professional artist and teacher, and had the opportunity to visit the National Gallery in London.

The course was a great success, and culminated with an exhibition at The Usher Gallery of the work produced, and awards given by the Lincolnshire Society of Artists. The young people all found the course inspiring and enjoyable, their teachers commented on their new maturity and the new focus given to their work; and it was felt that they left with a tremendous sense of the possibilities of being a Young Artist.

The Committee would like The Friends to share the pleasure of knowing how we have helped to inspire young artists of the future, and also to widen the horizons of those who may not become artists but will have an increased understanding and appreciation of art throughout their lives.

ALFRED LORD TENNYSON, OUR LINCOLNSHIRE POET



Nick Lance, helped by local dialect speaker Loretta Rivetts, brought the poetry and childhood experiences of Tennyson into sharp focus with their presentation to the friends in October 2009 at the Usher Gallery entitled "The Young Tennyson". The event was very well attended.

To celebrate the birth of Tennyson two hundred years ago in August 1809 at Somersby an exhibition of some personal items from the Tennyson archive had been put on show at the Collection in Lincoln. To complement this Nick Lance gave a review of Tennyson's life and work; with Nick's long beard and Victorian gait he gave an excellent impersonation of the bard. It was a delight to hear the poems spoken with a Lincolnshire dialect by Loretta Rivetts who was brought up not far from Tennyson's school in Louth.

Tennyson may have gone to Trinity College, Cambridge. Epping and the Isle of Wight but he never lost his love and memories of Lincolnshire. Much of his work was coloured by his early experiences to name just two – the roses at Harrington Hall where he invited 'Maud to come into the garden' and the babbling brooks of the Wolds "I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance, among the skimming swallows. I make the netted sunbeam dance, against my sandy shadow."

As poet Laureate Tennyson used the modern media and we can still hear his voice in a very early recording of his reading the Charge of the Light Brigade. He wrote hundreds of poems and plays. Titles such as The Lady of Shallot. Ulysses, St Agnes Eve and In Memoriam still ring in our ears. It was most stimulating to have Tennyson's legacy of words brought to life again for us by Nick and Loretta, particularly with the emphasis on how Lincolnshire had moulded him. **CM**

CINEMA @ THE COLLECTION

If you enjoyed A Night at the Flicks last November, (or even if you missed that,) you may like to consider coming to some of these. The season begins on Monday March 8 at 1pm. This year's films are:

MARCH 8: THE READER

Post WW1 Germany: nearly a decade after his affair with an older woman came to a mysterious end, law student Michael Berg re-encounters his former lover as she defends herself in a war-crime trial.

MARCH 22: GRAN TORINO

Clint Eastwood returns to the big screen as Walt Kowalski, a cantankerous veteran of the Korean war, who catches his young Hmong neighbour attempting to steal his cherished 1972 Gran Torino, urging him to try to reform the boy of his burgeoning criminal ways.

APRIL 5: THE BOAT THAT ROCKED

This is the story of a band of rogue DJs who defied the Government and captivated British radio listeners by playing music that defined a generation.

APRIL 19: REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

A young couple living in a Connecticut suburb during the 1950s struggle to come to terms with their personal problems while trying to raise their two children. Based on a novel by Richard Yates.

MAY 3: COCO BEFORE CHANEL

The story of Gabriella (Coco) Chanel who began her life as a headstrong orphan and, through an extraordinary journey, went on to become a legendary couturier and a symbol for modern womanhood.

NB The timing of these films makes it very easy to have a snack lunch before or a cup of tea after at The Collection; and parking at the little car park above the museum is now for 3 hours.

A WARM WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

Mr K Brown

Mr K Walker

Mr D H Simmons

Mrs F J Matson

Mrs K Lamb

Mr & Mrs R Astley

Mrs C M Butterfield

Mr K Redmore

Mr & Mrs Folland

Mr & Mrs Taggart

Mrs Isabella Tait

NEWS OF THE USHER GALLERY

Jeremy Webster writes: "As you know, the Usher Gallery is closed at present, but the electricians are hard at work, installing the new exhibition lighting. This will make a huge difference to the Gallery, and now we have confirmation from the Tate Gallery that they will be happy to lend us a dozen works when we re-open. So there is plenty to look forward to.

We asked Dawn Heywood, Collections Officer at The Collection if she had an object that she was especially fond of, and this is her response.



I've always been attracted to hanging bowls. I was struck by the design of the escutcheons and the general shape of the bowls. The mystery surrounding their original purpose has always intrigued me. Several have been found in Lincolnshire but I particularly like this one because of its decoration. There are records of another Lincolnshire bowl discovered in the 19th Century in the River Witham, but now lost. This would have been fascinating to see, as it contained an upright animal figure within its centre and was elaborately decorated both inside and outside.

This bowl dates from the 7th Century and one of the intriguing things about it is probably of Celtic manufacture although it was found within an Anglo-Saxon context. The vast majority of hanging bowls have been found in Anglo-Saxon or Viking Graves, quite often with other grave goods. They must therefore have been highly valued. This bowl was found at Loveden Hill, South Lincolnshire, in the 1950s during major excavation at the site of an Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery. In the Anglo-Saxon period, people were usually cremated and their remains buried in ceramic urns, so finding a cremation inside a hanging bowl is quite unusual. It was presented to the museum along with the other finds from Loveden Hill, by the landowner, Lord Brownlow. The Bowl's original use is unknown, but the decoration suggests it was meant to be seen at eye level, and it perhaps had a liturgical use.

ANNUAL JAZZ NIGHT, FEBRUARY 20TH



Because the Usher Gallery is currently being re-furnished, The Collection was this year's venue for the jazz evening. New Orleans gave an exciting, vibrant rendition of jazz music which was much enjoyed. During the interval we were entertained by the Ladies in Black tap dancers. The eighty people who came had an excellent evening with good food, wine and entertainment. Did it work at The Collection? Yes, I think it did. Our thanks go to Inge Freeman, who has

organised this evening for many years, and to the people who helped her. HH

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM OF LINCS LIFE

In October we were once again delighted by our trip behind the scenes to see the wonderful storage facilities. Large steam engines were being lovingly restored and cleaned by volunteers, there were the Butlin's holiday and Curtis' delivery bikes, the knife grinding cart with its treadles (a frightening childhood memory for me – noise, sparks, glistening blades) and the beautifully made wedding smock. And what about Thomas Ogden's recordings of the notorious and disorderly residents of Ruskington 1826-78 (copies available on E-bay £8.95 +£1.25 Postage), so much to see. Thank you Sara, Derek and Horace for showing us a wonderful variety of artefacts in store. If there is something in particular you would like to see, please make an appointment through the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. LB

TRIP TO LIVERPOOL, SEPTEMBER 2009



The Liver Building



The Bluecoat Building

Thirty-two of us made an early start on the Friday morning, setting off from the Lincoln Hotel at 7.30am. Our first visit was to the Haworth Gallery, Accrington, arriving in time for coffee and a welcome from Jennifer Rennie, the curator of the Tiffany glass exhibition, the largest collection of its kind in the country. We were guided round the four exhibition rooms, and then had some free time to examine and appreciate more closely the graceful Art Nouveau shapes, and the beautiful iridescent colours. After a buffet lunch, and some time to explore the house and grounds a little longer, we resumed our journey and arrived in Liverpool in the late afternoon sunshine. The Thistle Hotel was well situated, close to the Pier Head and the city; several rooms looked out over the Mersey, to the delight of the occupants.

Our first visit on Saturday morning was to Liverpool's splendid Georgian Town hall, one of the oldest and finest buildings in the city. Robert Franks, the Lord Mayor's Officer guided us on our tour, and related its chequered history (links to the slave trade, sailors' strikes, a disastrous fire), as he led us up the imposing staircase, through magnificent reception rooms, ballrooms with sparkling chandeliers and mirrors, the magnificent council chamber and finally the hall of Remembrance.

We were then free to explore this vibrant and friendly city in our own time. Some used the sightseeing bus, and some were more energetic, but we all found plenty to do. In 2008, the city was awarded World Heritage status and European City of Culture designation, and many of the buildings have been restored to their original splendour. A route recommended in the guide book steers visitors through the famous Cavern Quarter indelibly associated with The Beatles, and then on and up to the Cultural Quarter dominated by the Walker Art Gallery and the magnificent St Georges hall – where we were deafened, not by the superb Willis organ, but by the P.A. system of a Wedding Fayre!. Next on

A SLICE OF LIFE, MLL, 19 JANUARY 2010

Margaret Adams comes from a family of hoarders. Starting with her early finds of bread plates at market stalls and jumble sales, Margaret took us on the journey which she started as a compulsive collector, progressed through exploration of their history and manufacture to become an authority on bread plates with a collection of over 400 pieces at her home in Lincoln. We were swept up by Margaret's enthusiasm and were delighted with the variety of bread plates which she showed us. Where could be more appropriate to show these delightful, "everyday" objects than at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life? We applaud Margaret's remarkable achievement!

the route is the strikingly modern R.C. Metropolitan Cathedral, followed by a walk through the Georgian Quarter to the Anglican Cathedral designed by Sir Giles Scott, and finally past the ornate archway entrance to Chinatown and the new Liverpool One shopping centre to the Albert Dock area, with its once-thriving port activities (transferred to the container port down river) now transformed into first – rate visitor attractions, including the International Slavery Exhibition and the Tate Liverpool gallery. So much to see.....

On Sunday morning we took the ferry across the Mersey, and on to the Lady Lever Art Gallery in the Garden Village of Port Sunlight, purpose-built by William Lever, first Viscount Leverhulme, who wanted to share his love of art with his workers and the nation. Now a world-class collection, it was started in a small way with Sunlight Soap paintings (including "Bubbles" by Millais) bought to advertise Lever Brothers' products and turned into a life-long passion.

We then continued through the Mersey Tunnel to Speke Hall, one of Britain's most famous Tudor manor Houses. Externally it is a black-and-white timbered building, with Jacobean plasterwork and embellishments, standing in extensive parkland with beautiful landscaped gardens and woodland walks. The interiors are furnished in rich Victorian style, with arts and crafts influences, and the costumed guides pointed out interesting features such as the priests hole, and intriguing gadgets in the nineteenth century kitchen.

On Monday morning we went to Quarry Bank Mill and the Styal Estate. Here we spent the morning on an absorbing self-guided tour of the Georgian Mill, learning about the Gregg family who had founded it, and about how cotton was processed into cloth. There were ladies in period costume who demonstrated spinning and weaving and showed how the industry gradually became mechanised through the ingenuity of early textile engineers and the acquisition of steam engines, still working, powered by the huge waterwheel – the most powerful one in Europe- which is still working. In the afternoon at the Apprentice House our guide described the "home life" of the pauper children working at the mill. (The sick room and the jar of leeches excited particular interest!) The past really came to life here, and all too soon it was time to set off home.

Thanks to Janet and Hugh Cooke for their excellent organisation in arranging such a varied and stimulating weekend – and fine weather. We all enjoyed it hugely.



DELIGHTS IN PROSPECT Here is a brief look ahead at some of the events planned for later this year.

WEDNESDAY 14TH APRIL TRIP TO NORTHAMPTON

to the house at 78 Dergate, dramatically remodelled 1916-17 by C R Mackintosh which has proved very popular, and there is now a waiting list.

WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL OUR AGM

followed by a talk by Jeremy Webster about his new role, and future plans for the Collection and the Usher gallery.

WEDNESDAY 12TH MAY TREASURE TROVE

1.45 pm. Please note the change of subject for this talk. Antony Lee is unable to talk to us, but instead ADAM DAUBNEY, Finds Liaison Officer, will tell us about and show pictures of some of the most exciting objects recorded recently.

TUESDAY 15TH JUNE LOCAL CEMETERIES

Starting at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, there is a fascinating walk through several local cemeteries with Derek Broughton – booking essential.

WEDNESDAY 7TH JULY CHURCH FARM MUSEUM- SKEGNESS

We have an outing to another Lincolnshire Museum – Church Farm Museum at Skegness. The cost of a coach for this outing was prohibitive, so we will go in our own cars, and will do our best to arrange lifts for those who require them. You could bring a picnic lunch, or try one of many local eateries – no shortage in Skegness!

SATURDAY 7TH AUGUST GARDEN PARTY

– a repeat of last year’s very successful fun-and-cream-tea-filled afternoon.

1 7TH-20TH SEPTEMBER BRISTOL

Brings our long weekend away - this year to Bristol

THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2PM LINCOLNSHIRE'S AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

(Venue to be arranged) brings a very unusual afternoon event. There will be a talk by Jonathan Brown on Lincolnshire’s Agricultural and Industrial Revolution followed at 3.30pm by Dr Ian Waites who will talk on The Agricultural Revolution in English Landscape Painting. This is an opportunity to hear 2 experts in their field on a subject that is especially dear to us – how this rural county led the country in developing technology and how this change was depicted in art. Don’t miss it.

WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER THE PLOUGH, THE PLOUGHMAN, AND THE PLOUGHMAN’S SUPPER

Continuing the rural feel the MLL will round off the year with a social evening. Those who came to previous evenings will not need to be reminded how enjoyable they are. See you there!

A NIGHT AT THE FLICKS

Dick Bolton’s Cinema of Yesteryear entertained a sell-out audience at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life in November. Mantovani played as the lights dimmed, the curtains drew back and we were transported to the 1940s with the Glenn Miller Band, Laurel and Hardy (During which a member of the audience laughed so much we thought medical attention might be necessary!), Tweetie Pie and Sylvester and an excerpt from The Lady and the Tramp.

The evening had two intervals - one for sandwiches and cakes and one for choc-ices from the usherettes. Between the intervals we had Pathé News and Pearl & Dean adverts.

After the intervals we had excerpts from Calamity Jane and The Fast Lady. Finally - without the usual scramble for the exit to catch the last bus home - we had the National Anthem.

Thank you Dick for a very entertaining and successful evening. At his request Dick’s fee was donated to Lincolnshire Air Ambulance. LB

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