

Annual Review – 2016

This year's Cheese and Wine Evening and AGM was held in November 2015 at the home of Peter & Gillian Lee. It was attended by 34 members and their guests, a good turn out. During the evening the Society held its AGM, and elected a new committee: Michael Waters (Chairman), Peter Veal (Secretary & Treasurer), and further members Andrew Coomer, Jeremy Kenyon, Carol Rowe, Kevan Scholes, Norman West and Geoff Wilkinson. Sir Hugh Sykes had agreed to continue as President.

In January, 32 members and their guests went to see 'Show Boat' at the Crucible Theatre. Set against the backdrop of America's Deep South at the turn of the 20th Century, 'Show Boat' is a powerful story of love, loyalty and freedom. This was a new production, directed by Daniel Evans, and featured many famous melodies of the music by Jerome Kern, and the lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. As usual, there was an excellent private reception beforehand in the Adelphi Room, for drinks and nibbles.

Towards the end of February, the Annual Dinner of the Cambridge Society Sheffield was held at Whirlowbrook Hall, as last year. The guest speaker was Dr Tony Raven, a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and a Member of the Institute of Directors. Dr Raven joined Cambridge Enterprise as Chief Executive in December 2011. Dr Raven talked about Commercialisation at Cambridge and the work of Cambridge Enterprise. 34 members and their guest sat down to eat.

In April, Michael Binyon - one of Britain's best respected foreign correspondents who has served as Moscow correspondent for The Times, and has also reported from across the Middle East – entitled "Meltdown in the Middle East What happens now?". Following a buffet meal, Michael spoke to a packed audience of 49 members and their guests. His long experience in reporting the area - which includes reporting from war zones and interviewing key people of the region and the West - enabled him to give a fluent and personal account of the situation, and of the motivation and positions taken by the many players, both of the region and those seeking to influence it. He delivered his talk without notes, without visuals, and with great clarity and wit. There were many questions, further developing the various issues.

The Summer Walk was held in June. After a misty start 20 members and guests enjoyed the longer walk of 5.5 miles, through the beautiful grounds of the Chatsworth Estate - with atmospheric views of the house. From Baslow the route followed tracks to Edensor, a stiff climb and gentle descent to Calton Lees, and finally a stroll back above the river. The shorter walk of 2.5 miles was a real family affair with 15 members and guests including 7 children. The walk followed flat paths by the River Derwent from Calver. The walks were followed by lunch at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Baslow.

In July, 22 members and their guests visited the Health and Safety Laboratory. It is one of the premier science laboratories in the world dealing with the risks of accidents and ill-

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health in the workplace. With a multi-disciplinary staff of around 400 its purpose is to provide the Health & Safety Executive and other organisations with expertise in accident investigation, scientific research and training. There was a fascinating tour of the extensive labs and facilities, with excellent presentations from the staff. The breadth of the work the HSL do is impressive, covering everything from major accident investigation to noise pollution and vibration damage to nuclear protection suits.

The Autumn Walk was held in September. On an excellent day for walking, about 30 members came for two morning walks around Wortley - an easy one and one slightly longer. After the walks the non-walkers joined the group for lunch at the Wortley Arms.

Also in September, the Society ran its first "Welcome to Cambridge" event, combined with a "Young Alumni get-together", so the younger members could meet, and the new students find out a bit more about life at Cambridge. On a hot late summer evening 14 new students from the Sheffield region met at Sheffield Business School with a small number of our younger alumni and three committee members and Cambridge Schools Liaison Officer Emma Smith. The aim was to enable them to meet each other and swap stories and tips. Some parents also attended. After brief introductory comments from Kevan Scholes and Jeremy Kenyon the mingling began! There was a lot of conversation about Cambridge and hopefully the start of new friendships, which was the purpose of the event. It is planned to keep in contact with the students through their first year at Cambridge.

Peter Veal, Secretary