

Annual Review – 2015

The Annual Cheese & Wine Party was held November 2014: Peter and Caroline Veal hosted the event, which was attended by 37 Cambridge Society 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, Carol Rowe (the first woman on the committee), Kevan Scholes, Norman West and Geoff Wilkinson. Sir Hugh Sykes agreed to continue as President.

In January, Norman West organised a trip to see “Anything Goes” – a light hearted musical comedy by Cole Porter - at the Crucible. This was attended by 31 and was very successful. The production was excellent as we have come to expect of these occasions. As last year, the Adelphi Room had been reserved, and this made for a very sociable occasion with the guests mixing privately prior to the performance and during the interval.

The Annual Dinner took place at Whirlowbrook Hall, a new venue for the occasion, and 50 sat down to dinner. The Guest Speaker was Duncan Robinson of former Master of Magdalene College, and a former director of the Fitzwilliam Museum. Duncan gave an interesting talk about art and society, with many excellent visuals of the paintings.

In late March, A group of 35 members met at Tapton Hall to hear a fascinating talk about Colin McCulloch's involvement as a foreign faculty member at Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST) in 'North Korea', where he has worked since its foundation in 2010. Beforehand there were drinks and a substantial buffet prepared by Tapton Hall. Colin then gave a presentation for about 40 minutes. The level of interest provoked may be judged by the lively 50 minutes of discussion that followed. It was pleasing to see a good number of members attending their first event with The Society.

In May, Carol Rowe organised a tour of Thornbridge Brewery for 17 members. The visit was very informative - starting with a free beer before a tour of the brewery. The heady smell of hops, mixed with hi-tech control systems and a science lab for testing the beer made for an excellent tour. We ended up in the barrel room where Thornbridge are developing some new beers that are casked for up to 18 months. Beforehand we met at Lathkil Hotel in Over Haddon for lunch, where several new members joined us.

The Summer Walk was held In June, and on a bright summer day 19 members and guests joined the longer (6 miles) walk led by Cathy McNee (the daughter of Kevan Scholes). Starting at Hassop Station Cafe on the Monsal Trail the walk passed through Little Longstone, over Monsal Head and down through Ashford, and then back via Churchdale Hall and the Monsal Trail. We were fortunate to see three Well Dressings. Geoff Wilkinson led 12 members and guests on the 3 mile shorter walk along the Monsal Trail. After the walk Hassop Station Cafe served a splendid lunch for us in their function room.

CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY SHEFFIELD

Some 32 members had the pleasure of visiting Brookfield Manor in Hathersage, at the kind invitation of our president Hugh Sykes and his wife Lady Ruby. A reception was held in the manor house followed by an excellent lunch in the beautiful pavilion. Afterwards members were able to stroll around the gardens in what must be one of the finest settings in Derbyshire. It was particularly pleasing to see a number of new members attending, including some recent graduates. The event raised funds for St Luke's Hospice, Sheffield and the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology UK Scholarship Fund which supports North Korean students studying in the UK. Our special thanks go to Hugh and Ruby for arranging such an interesting and enjoyable event for members.

Our Autumn Walk took place in October, attended by relatively few: under a dozen. As usual there were two walks, a longer one of about 5 miles led by Andrew Coomer, and a shorter one of about 3 miles, led by Geoff Wilkinson. We were blessed with fine weather for the walks. The lunch at The Old Horns Inn was almost overwhelming due to the size of the portions of excellent food.

Peter Veal, Secretary