



Friends' summer outing to Liverpool

We arrived on a sunny day in Liverpool to visit the Terracotta Army exhibition which was beautifully presented with plenty of information about the exhibits. Everyone was impressed by the skill of the Chinese, even though we were only seeing a part of the total collection, it covered so much of the country's history.

Our next visit was to the Anglican Cathedral which is the third tallest building in Liverpool, built in 1904. We were welcomed by guides in burgundy robes and shown around the magnificent building in groups. It is a lofty vast and spacious building with wonderful stained glass and carvings.

After a tasty buffet lunch in the chapter house we had time for another quick look around before we boarded the coach for a visit to the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral. This was a complete contrast to the Anglican Cathedral having a circular construction adorned with beautiful blue glass windows. There were a series of small chapels around the edge containing sculptures and paintings. On our way home we enjoyed a welcome glass of wine and nibbles. **Ann Joslin**

And finally because of work commitments this newsletter will be the last one I will be producing. I would like to say how much I have enjoyed compiling the newsletter with the help of the committee and members who have provided interesting articles and photographs. A very special thank you to Judith Thomas for her invaluable support. Future issues will be in the capable hands of Catherine Wright and Emily Ogden and I wish them well in this new post. Once again thank you all. **Bobby Jefferson**

A date for your diary

Wednesday 5th December: The Friends of the Mercer Art Gallery Christmas Party

The Friends of the Mercer Art Gallery

Autumn Newsletter 2018



The Friends say 'good bye' to Jane Sellars

Jane Sellars gave up her job as Head of Cultural Services for the Harrogate District in July in order to pursue other interests but we do not lose her completely as she has returned as a Consultant for the next year to oversee forthcoming exhibitions and in particular the next William Powell Frith Exhibition.

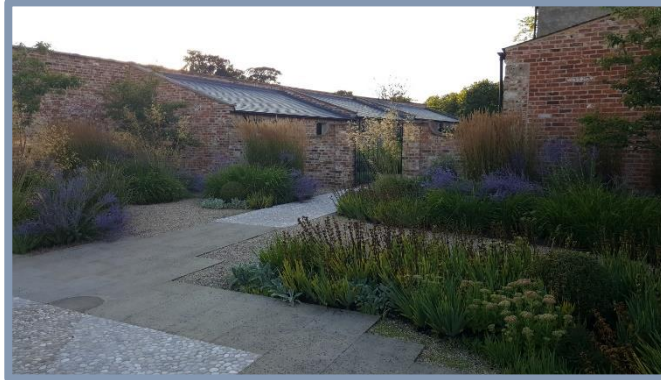
Jane originally came to the Mercer Art Gallery in order to cover for Karen Southworth's maternity leave but Jane effortlessly fitted into the role of Curator when Karen decided not to return. That was over 14 years ago and Jane has made her mark by bringing an exciting and challenging period to the Mercer Art Gallery with an eclectic programme which has very much borne her own hall mark, in particular leading the way in exhibiting interesting and often under represented women artists. Her energy and scholarship have kept the Mercer Gallery at the forefront of the smaller galleries in the North East and this was acknowledged by her being honoured with an MBE this summer. The Friends have greatly enjoyed working with Jane. I sensed when she first arrived that she was cautious that 'The Friends' were going to be a group of interfering busy-bodies. I hope we soon proved her worries were invalid and that our working together over all these years has provided a fruitful and happy relationship, providing funding towards acquisitions, exhibitions, improvement projects and furniture for the gallery. The Friends presented her with an Acer tree for her garden. **Judith Thomas**

Summer Party at Copt Hewick Hall

This year the Friends were delighted to be invited to Copt Hewick Hall, Near Ripon by Valeria Sykes.

The grade two listed building has a varied art collection, including works by Valeria and the surrounding gardens and buildings have been superbly restored.

The evening was very well attended with plenty of opportunity to chat and relax in such an elegant and peaceful ambience.



Spring visit to Mount Grace Priory, Shandy Hall and Coxwold Church

In May the Friends had a super trip to Mount Grace Priory which is a 14th century Carthusian Priory. It was a cool sunny day and we enjoyed an informative talk by the resident gardeners on the restoration and maintenance of the grounds.

Although the Priory is substantially ruined the original layout is still very evident and it paints a picture of how the monks must have lived. The monks lived in individual 'cells' which although very primitive and basic were very advanced for the time they were built having running water and flushing toilets.

During the visit we had the opportunity to look round the Arts and Crafts house which was furnished as it would have been when owned by Sir Lowthian Bell. Whilst there we watched a very interesting old black and white film of a Pageant held there in the early 1900's. On leaving Mount Grace Priory we stopped at the Fauconberg Arms for lunch, after which a short walk took us to Shandy Hall, home of the famous Priest and author Lawrence Sterne. We looked around the ground floor rooms of the building with its original furnishings and paintings, above the stables is a further gallery. A talk was given on the life of Lawrence Sterne and how he dedicated his time to raising money to build the nearby church in Coxwold village. Our final visit of the day was waiting for us just down the road to Coxwold Church where we received a talk on the history of the church which revealed a more in depth picture about the life and work of Lawrence Sterne's time there. In all everybody agreed we had a very varied and interesting day. **Ann Joslin**

