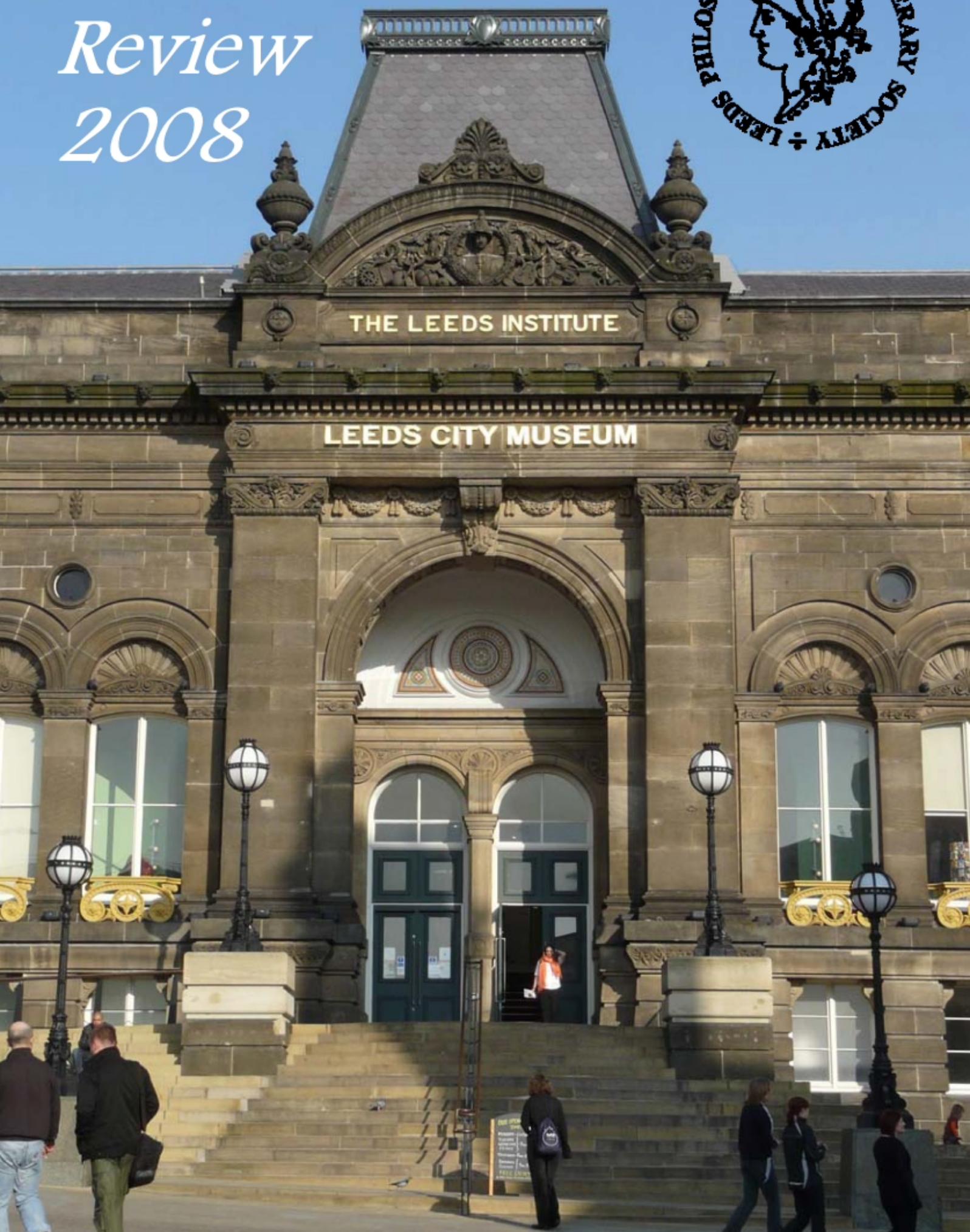
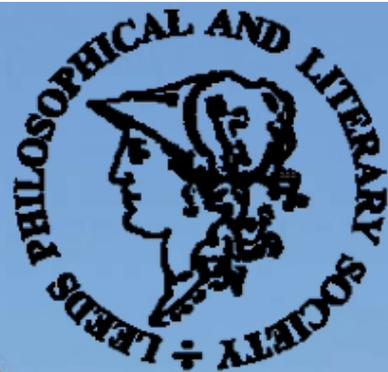


Annual Review 2008



Front Cover:

The new Leeds City Museum, which now houses the office of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society.



**Leeds Philosophical
and Literary Society**

Annual Report and Review

2008

The 188th Annual Report of the Council
at the close of the session 2007-8

Presented to the Annual Meeting held on

3rd December 2008

and review of events and grants awarded

THE LEEDS PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY, founded in 1819, has played an important part in the cultural life of Leeds and the region. In the nineteenth century it was in the forefront of the intellectual life of the city, and established an important museum in its own premises in Park Row. The museum collection became the foundation of today's City Museum when in 1921 the Society transferred the building and its contents to the Corporation of Leeds, at the same time reconstituting itself as a charitable limited company, a status it still enjoys today.

Following bomb damage to the Park Row building in the Second World War, both Museum and Society moved to the City Museum building on The Headrow, where the Society continued to have its offices until the museum closed in 1998. The new Leeds City Museum, which opened in 2008, is now once again the home of the Society's office. In 1936 the Society donated its library to the Brotherton Library of the University of Leeds, where it is available for consultation. Its archives are also housed there.

The official charitable purpose of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society is (as newly defined in 1997) "To promote the advancement of science, literature and the arts in the City of Leeds and elsewhere, and to hold, give or provide for meetings, lectures, classes, and entertainments of a scientific, literary or artistic nature". The Society is keenly interested in cultural developments in Leeds and the region, and is constantly looking for new ways to further its aims.

Application forms may be obtained from the Hon Treasurer and are also to be found on the Society's website.

Website: www.leedsphilandlit.org.uk

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THE LEEDS PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY LIMITED

188TH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007-2008

The Council presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2008. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and with the requirements of the Society's memorandum and articles.

CONSTITUTION

The Society is a company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association. Membership is open to anyone on payment of an annual subscription of £18 which is due on 1 October each year. Only those members who have paid or have been elected to Honorary Membership are entitled to vote at the AGM.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The members of the Council are considered to be both directors for Companies Act purposes and trustees for Charities Act purposes. One third of the members of Council retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting (normally held in December), when appointments or reappointments are made. The Council has powers to co-opt to its membership. Membership of the Council takes into account the need to have members with expertise to cover the variety of activities of the Society.

All members of the Society are notified prior to the AGM of the names of the Council members who are due to retire and are invited to submit nominations. Of those members who retired at the AGM held on 4 December 2007, Dr M Dagg, Ms J N Douglas, P N Hirschmann, Professor M R D Seaward and Ms S P Wrathmell were reappointed and Professor B F Richardson was elected to the Council.

The Officers of the Society are elected by and from the members of Council at the first meeting of Council following the Annual General Meeting; at the Council meeting on 22 January 2008, Dr Hatton was elected as President, Dr Lydon as Secretary and Professor North as Treasurer; Professor Seaward was elected as Vice-President.

Council met on six occasions during 2007-2008. Parts of its business were delegated to the following committees: Grants, Events, and Publications, chaired by Dr Hatton, Dr Jakeways, and Mr Hirschmann respectively. These committees are required to act in accordance with the Society's Objects and Policies, and their recommendations are put to the Council for its approval.

Mr Norman Madill has continued as Assistant Secretary, managing the Society's links with its members, the sale of its publications, and other necessary administrative matters.

THE SOCIETY'S OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

General

The Society is an educational charity, whose principal objects are 'To promote the advancement of science, literature and the arts in the city of Leeds and elsewhere, and to hold, give or provide for meetings, lectures, classes, and entertainments of a scientific, literary, or artistic nature'. In furtherance of these objects the Council's policy has been to disburse its income as follows by:

- providing grants for purposes of research, publication, or artistic performance
- awarding prizes
- providing a programme of public lectures relevant to the Society's objectives
- supporting the work of the City of Leeds Museums & Galleries
- supporting other activities in Leeds of a scientific, literary or artistic nature.

Grant-making policy

In making grants to promote the advancement of the Society's objectives, the Council places particular emphasis on (but does not limit its grants to) support for citizens of Leeds engaged in academic and scholarly activities, especially those relating to Leeds and its immediate area. It does not normally give grants in general support of students on taught courses. The value of grants is normally in the range £100 to £2,000, although this limit may be exceeded in special circumstances. The Council is keen to support new endeavours by the award of 'pump-priming' grants.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During the 2007-2008 session, the Society continued its recent successes in fulfilling its aims as listed above, including a growing number of artistic and scientific events for members and non-members as detailed below. During the year the Society lost 12 members through resignation or death* and welcomed 21 new members, so that at the end of September 2008 the total number stood at 165.

Events

The regular monthly events continued to be well supported and were clearly welcomed by those attending. The following events took place:

- An Evening with John Roles, preceded by dinner
- *The Making of a Biography* (Lisa Chaney)
- Pre-Bonfire Night Spectacular (Mike Hoyland)
- AGM, Dinner and Speaker: (Professor Chris Taylor)
- *Elections on the Hoof* (Michael Meadowcroft)
- *Priests, Piles and Parasites* (Professor Michael Green)
- Science Fair in the Light
- *Science within Art: An Analysis Of Holbein's Masterpiece – The Ambassadors* (Dr David Knapp)
- *Bath Houses in Yorkshire* (Susan Kellerman)
- *Leeds and the beginnings of Molecular Biology: The Braggs and Astbury* (Professor Tony North)

* One of the deaths was of Mrs Jean Mortimer (a life member) and President 1993-95; she was unique in being the Society's only female president.

- *Is Home Birth a Realistic Option in the 21st century?* (Dr Wendy Savage)
- Visit to Sheffield with a Steel Theme
- An Evening with Chocolate (Dr Stevie McBurney)
- Visit to Scarborough Rotunda and Malton Museum

Prizes and Grants

During the year the following prizes and grants were awarded by the Society:

- Arthur Chadwick Prize (University of Leeds): Matthew McArdle
- Modern Language Prize (University of Leeds): Kerry Anne Moore
- Towards research costs associated with a publication about the life of Leeds-born author Eric Knight
- Support of the Celebrate Headingley Literature Festival
- Support for the Leeds Day Limmud
- Towards the costs of the design and printing of a leaflet describing the artwork in the new cancer centre at St James's Hospital
- Towards the costs of a Chamber Music Masterclass at Lotherton Hall
- Towards the costs of a publication on the History of Swarthmore
- Towards the costs of publishing *Mr Mercury: the Life of Edward Baines*
- Support of the international conference to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Leeds Town Hall, entitled *Music and the Idea of the North*
- Towards the costs of commissioning a choral work by Judith Bingham to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Leeds Festival Chorus
- Support of the Ilkley Literature Festival
- Support of the outreach programme of the Museum of the History of Science, Technology & Medicine, the University of Leeds
- Towards the costs of the outreach programme in Leeds associated with the Northern Ballet Theatre production, *A Tale of Two Cities*
- Towards the costs of a group from *Fused Ensemble* attending the 6th annual Aberdeen International Youth Festival
- Towards the costs of collections-based research on the Dodo specimens acquired by the former Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society's museum
- Towards the costs of printing an up-dated leaflet for the Rodley Nature Reserve
- Towards the production costs of book entitled *The Ronnie Duncan Collection* associated with an exhibition of the collection at the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, University of Leeds

Publications

The Society published an illustrated booklet *The Coffin of Nesyamun the "Leeds mummy"* by Belinda Wassell to mark the opening of the new Leeds City Museum in September (see below).

Following the success of the publication of the *The Monuments of the Parish Church of St Peter-at-Leeds* as a joint publication with The Thoresby Society and Maney Publishing, Council agreed that similar initiatives should be encouraged. The information on the Society's website has been amended to reflect the change in policy. The Society supported the publication of the Thoresby Society's Centenary volume under the terms of the joint memorandum of agreement.

Leeds Museums

After nearly a decade of planning, the new Leeds Museum opened in September with a week of ceremonies to which Society members were invited. The displays are modern, imaginative and effective. The vast majority of the material on display is that of the Society's collection which was bought by the city in 1921 including the tiger, the yak and the "Leeds mummy". Amongst the one or two newish items in the Natural History Gallery there are the parrots (impounded by the Customs) for which the Society gave a grant towards preserving and mounting a few years ago.

The Society was involved with two projects to mark the opening. The first of these was the publication of a 50 page booklet giving the first complete translation of the hieroglyphs on the coffin of Nesyamun, the "Leeds mummy". The translation was carried out by Dr Belinda Wassell (who has a PhD in Egyptology) and the illustrations are by Thomas Small (who works for the museum service in Edinburgh and has a higher degree in the presentation of museum material). The second project was the construction of a DNA model for the Natural History Gallery. This shows 1½ turns of the double helix structure. It was donated by the Faculty of Biological Sciences at Leeds University where it was built in the 1950s. After half a century the model required dismantling, cleaning, repairing and repainting, this expertly undertaken by Professor Tony North and Dr John Lydon.

With the opening of the Museum the Society now has a new office (shared with the Friends of the Leeds Museums) and its official address is that of the museum. The Society has been involved with the planning of the museum more or less from the beginning and several Council members of the Society have taken part in the deliberations over the last decade. It is appropriate, however, for the Society to record its sincere thanks to Dr John Lydon for the unstinting contributions he has made on behalf of the Society.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

As explained below, the Society's budget aims to fund its events, grants and publications from its income. Although expenditure has exceeded income this year, approximately £3,000 has been the exceptional expenditure incurred through the unique occasion of the opening of the new Museum; the provision of an office for the Society resulted in the Council agreeing to one-off expenditure on acquiring furniture for the office to include provision for the Society's publications and the Council agreed both to pay for a publication about the Leeds mummy and to contribute to a case for the DNA model. Otherwise, the financial outcome has been consistent with the aim to balance expenditure against investment income in the medium term.

The Society's financial position has been monitored regularly by the Council and in discussions with representatives of Rensburg Sheppards, our investment advisers. Income from investments has been maintained during the year, but it will not come as a surprise that the financial turmoil of the latter part of 2008 has seen a substantial fall in the value of the Society's investments. As yet, the extent to which this will affect our income over the next few years is uncertain.

Reserves policy

The Society's reserves comprise an unrestricted fund derived from past benefactions and its annual subscriptions, including the proceeds from the sale of the Philosophical Hall to Leeds City Council in 1921. The fund has increased in value over the years as income exceeded expenditure. Since the Society adopted its new constitution in 1997, Council's aim in the medium term has been to balance its expenditure and income without depleting the capital value of its investments. The Society's income and expenditure do, however, vary from year to year depending on a number of factors. The Council therefore considers it prudent to hold liquid reserves in the Charities Deposit Fund and current bank account. The amount held in liquid reserves is a minimum of £5,000 (roughly 25% of current average annual expenditure). This sum may be supplemented from time to time by provision for major expenditure to which the Council is committed in the coming year (if the anticipated income in that year will not be sufficient), or for major expenditure the possibility of which it foresees over the coming five-year period. The policy on reserves is reviewed annually by the Council as part of its annual budget review.

Investment policy

There are no restrictions in the Society's Memorandum and Articles on the Society's power to invest. The Council's investment objectives are to maintain a level of income sufficient to fund the Society's activities, while maintaining the capital value of its invested assets over the long term in line with inflation. To this end, it is the Society's normal practice to reinvest realised gains on its assets. The Council has delegated the management of its investments on a discretionary basis to Rensburg Sheppards.

Risk management

- 1) Income: The investment managers pursue an active investment policy on the Society's behalf. The arrangements are regularly reviewed by the Trustees.
- 2) Expenditure: Expenditure on *individual* Grants, Publications and Events represent a small part of total expenditure and risks are minimised by standard procedures for authorisation of all financial transactions. The potential risks at the Society's events are considered as part of the planning for them, and appropriate steps are taken, including the arrangement of Public Liability insurance as necessary.
- 3) The quality of the Society's Events and Publications and the outcome of Grants that have been awarded are reviewed by the Trustees at their regular meetings so as to ensure that all the Society's activities are of a high standard consonant with its Aims.

STATEMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the Council members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company at the year end and of the incoming resources and application of resources for the year. In preparing those financial statements, Council members are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue its activities.

Council members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Company at any time and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company, ensuring their proper application in accordance with charity law and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

*Approved by the members of the Council on 12 November 2008, and signed on their behalf by
C. J. Hatton (President) and J. E. Lydon (Secretary)*

THE LEEDS PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Constitution	Company limited by guarantee. Registered number 177204 Registered charity number 224084
Governing document	Memorandum and articles adopted 2 July 1997.
Members of Council (who are trustees for charity law and directors for company law)	
President	C J Hatton BSc, PhD, CPhys, FInstP
Vice-president	M R D Seaward MSc, PhD, DSc, FLS
Treasurer	A C T North BSc, PhD, CPhys, FInstP
Secretary	J E Lydon BSc, PhD
Editor	M Dagg BSc, PhD, CPhys, FInstP
Other Council members	J N Douglas BA, MA P J Evennett BSc, PhD, Hon FRMS P N Hirschmann MSc, FDS, FRCR, DDR R Jakeways BSc, PhD, CPhys E Reed MA, PhD B F Richardson MA, MPhil, FBA P Wainwright BSc S P Wrathmell BA, MA, MCLI, IHBC
Registered Office	c/o Leeds City Museum Cookridge Street Leeds LS2 8BH
Website	www.leedsphilandlit.org.uk
Bankers	Lloyds TSB 6/7 Park Row Leeds LS1 1NX
Investment advisors	Rensburg Sheppards 2 Gresham Street London EC2V 7QN
Accountant	Katharine Widdowson ACA 406 Otley Road, Leeds LS16 8AD

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 SEPTEMBER 2008**

	Note	2008		2007	
		£	£	£	£
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>					
<i>Voluntary income:</i>					
Subscriptions and donations			3,466		3,164
Grants received			3,500		-
<i>Activities for generating funds:</i>					
Investment income			18,201		18,030
Interest receivable			2,028		1,681
<i>Incoming resources from charitable activities</i>					
Sales of publications	2		360		1,224
Income from events			<u>5,906</u>		<u>3,214</u>
Total incoming resources			<u><u>33,461</u></u>		<u><u>27,313</u></u>
 <i>Resources Expended</i>					
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>					
Investment management fees			3,420		4,113
<i>Charitable expenditure</i>					
Costs of publications	2	3,261		581	
Grants payable	3	16,900		11,225	
Other charitable activities	4	1,798		1,110	
Cost of events		<u>6,488</u>		<u>3,515</u>	
			28,447		16,431
Governance costs	5		<u>5,720</u>		<u>3,803</u>
Total resources expended			<u><u>37,587</u></u>		<u><u>24,347</u></u>
 <i>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses</i>					
Other recognised gains and losses			(4,126)		2,966
<i>Gains/(losses) on investment assets:</i>					
Realised	6	20		3,583	
Unrealised	6	(82,016)	(81,996)	3,884	7,467
Net movement in funds			(86,122)		10,433
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Fund balance brought forward			<u>428,005</u>		<u>417,572</u>
Fund balance carried forward			<u><u>341,883</u></u>		<u><u>428,005</u></u>

The Society had no recognised gains or losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET as at 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

	Note	2008		2007	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	6		325,510		410,306
Current assets					
Debtors	7	1,696		1,762	
COIF Charities Deposit Account		22,060		20,863	
Bank current account		<u>4,969</u>		<u>1,247</u>	
		28,725		23,872	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(12,352)</u>		<u>(6,173)</u>	
Net current assets					
			16,373		17,699
			<u>341,883</u>		<u>428,005</u>
Funds					
General Fund - unrestricted			<u>341,883</u>		<u>428,005</u>

For the year ended 30 September 2008 the company was entitled to exemption under section 249A (2) of the Companies Act 1985.

Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 249B (2) of the Companies Act 1985.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221; and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Members of Council on 12 November 2008 and signed on their behalf by C J Hatton (President) and A C T North (Treasurer).

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

1 *Accounting policies*

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared using the historical cost convention except for the inclusion of investments at market value, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" revised in 2005 and the Companies Act 1985.

Company status

The Society is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

Investment income

Investment income is credited when due, together with any corresponding income tax recoverable.

Publication costs

All costs of academic publications are carried forward until publication and written off in that year. No value is assigned to any stocks the Society holds of earlier publications.

Grants payable

Grants payable are voluntary payments to individuals or organisations in furtherance of the Society's objectives. Grants are accounted for when they have been approved by the Council and the recipient has been told of that approval.

Fixed assets investments

Fixed assets investments are revalued at market value at the year end. All gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are reported on the Statement of Financial Activities.

	2008	2007
	£	£
2 <i>Publications</i>		
Income from Society's publication sales	<u>360</u>	<u>1,224</u>
<i>Costs of academic publications:</i>		
"Leeds Mummy"	566	-
Related costs:		
Storage, publicity and despatch costs	220	581
	<u>786</u>	<u>581</u>
<i>Grants for other organisations to publish</i>		
Thoresby Society	2,475	-
	<u>2,475</u>	<u>-</u>

	2008	2007
	£	£
3 Grants payable		
Projects or organisations (9 grants)	7,050	4,775
Individuals (2 grants)	1,750	800
Leeds City Council (4 grants)	4,900	1,250
University of Leeds (3 grants)	3,000	4,200
University of Leeds for prizes	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
	<u>16,900</u>	<u>11,225</u>

The grant recipients are listed in the Annual Report for the year.

4 Other charitable activities		
Public lectures	934	611
Science Fair	264	217
Perspex case for Leeds City Museum exhibit	600	-
Banners to advertise events	<u>-</u>	<u>282</u>
	<u>1,798</u>	<u>1,110</u>

5 Governance costs		
Annual Review 2007	438	621
Stationery	201	140
Telephone & postage	751	527
Insurance	327	190
Sundries	42	75
Accountancy	500	500
Assistant secretary's honorarium	1,750	1,750
Office furniture	<u>1,711</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5,720</u>	<u>3,803</u>

The costs for stationery, postage and the assistant secretary's honorarium include an element of support costs for grant making and publication sales. This is not material and cannot be easily identified.

No remuneration has been paid to any trustee in the year. No expenses (2007 - £nil) were reimbursed to trustees.

6 Fixed asset investments

	Listed Investments £	Cash for investment £	Total 2008 £
Market value at 1 October 2007	403,954	6,352	410,306
Disposals at opening market value	(58,113)	-	(58,113)
Cash reinvested	-	24,797	24,797
Investment management fees	-	(3,623)	(3,623)
Acquisitions at cost	34,159	-	34,159
Net losses on revaluation	(82,016)	-	(82,016)
Market value at 30 September 2008	<u>297,984</u>	<u>27,526</u>	<u>325,510</u>
Historical cost at 30 September 2008	<u>352,043</u>	<u>27,526</u>	<u>379,569</u>
Proceeds of disposal of investments			<u>58,133</u>
Realised gain			<u>20</u>

Analysis of investments

	Market value	
	2008	2007
	£	£
Equities listed in the UK	30,900	61,126
Unit trusts and investment trusts	129,205	201,446
Bonds and fixed interest stocks	137,879	141,382
Cash held by investment managers	<u>27,526</u>	<u>6,352</u>
	<u>325,510</u>	<u>410,306</u>

Material investments (over 5% by value of portfolio)

5% Treasury Stock 2018	20,848	20,010
Land Securities 5.292% Bonds 2015	18,666	19,316
Scottish Power 6.625% notes 2010	20,225	20,271
National Grid Electricity Trading 4.75% EMTN 2010	24,513	24,153

	2008 £	2007 £
7 Debtors		
Income tax recoverable	11	72
Investment income	1,547	1,537
Sundry debtors and prepayments	<u>138</u>	<u>153</u>
	<u><u>1,696</u></u>	<u><u>1,762</u></u>

	2008 £	2007 £
8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	1,911	-
Grants approved but not yet paid	7,500	4,125
Accrued expenses	<u>2,941</u>	<u>2,048</u>
	<u><u>12,352</u></u>	<u><u>6,173</u></u>

The Year's Finances at a Glance

The pie charts below attempt to give a simplified overall picture of our actual income and outgoings for the financial year 2007-8. The first chart represents our income for the year. The second shows the outgoings, divided into three main areas: money given in grants and for publications, net expenditure on the society's meetings and other events, and the administrative costs of running the Society.

We are required by law to set out our finances in the form given in the preceding pages. In the balance sheet we include under the heading of outgoings any commitments which have been agreed that year (notably the grants) even though they will not be paid until the next. These appear as 'Creditors' in the accounts.

The balance sheet includes as 'income from events' the payments made by members for meals for the 'evening with' meetings, the AGM dinner and the summer outings. Expenditure on such events is included in the 'cost of events' total in the 'expenditure' column. These occasions are expected to be more or less self financing as far as members are concerned, but the expenses include the costs of the Society's guests and some room charges. The interesting figure for members is the net cost of events (which is not explicitly stated in the formal accounts) and this is shown in the pie charts.

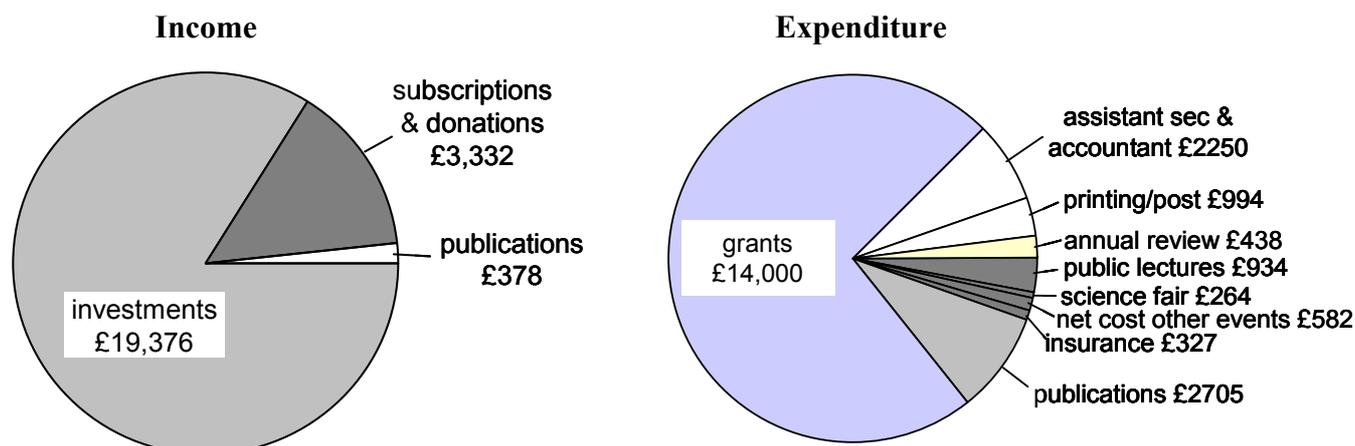
This year was unusual as, because our 'evening with' event in autumn 2008 took place in September, rather than October as in previous years, there were three dinners in our financial year – and we also had two outings.

As a result of funds provided to support two Thoresby Society publications, including *The Monuments of the Parish Church*, together with our own publication of the *Leeds Mummy* booklet, our payments for publications are quite high this year, while our receipts from *The Building Stone Heritage of Leeds* have fallen. On the other hand, there has been a compensating reduction in the total of grants awarded.

We were asked to handle a grant of £3,500 from another charity and pass it on to the intended recipients; in the simplified presentation on this page, this transaction has been omitted from both the income and expenditure totals. The final item that has been omitted is the cost of purchase of furniture for the Societies' office, as we regard this as a once-off occurrence, to be debited against our capital.

As stated in previous years, our expenditure is not constant from year to year – and depends for instance on the grant applications that we receive and approve. In accordance with our charitable status, our aim in general is to break even over the medium term, the consequence being that a slight surplus in one year may be balanced by a deficit in another.

Professor A C T North
Hon. Treasurer



Presidents

(since the foundation of the Society)

1820-26	JOHN MARSHALL
1826-28	REV. W. H. BATHURST, M.A.
1828-31	MICHAEL THOS. SADLER, M.P.
1831-33	WILLIAM HEY
1833-35	JAMES WILLIAMSON, M.D.
1835-37	REV. JOSEPH HOLMES, M.A.
1837-40	REV. RICHARD WINTER HAMILTON
1840-42	ADAM HUNTER, M.D.
1842-45	JOHN HOPE SHAW
1845-50	REV. WILLIAM SINCLAIR, M.A.
1850-51	WILLIAM WEST, F.R.S.
1851-54	REV. CHARLES WICKSTEED, B.D.
1854-57	JOHN HOPE SHAW
1857-58	JAMES GARTH MARSHALL, F.G.S.
1858-59	REV. W. F. HOOK, D.D.
1859-61	REV. ALFRED BARRY, M.A.
1861-63	THOS. PRIDGIN TEALE, F.R.S.
1863-66	REV. THOS. HINCKS, B.A.
1866-68	CHARLES CHADWICK, M.D.
1868-72	JOHN DEAKIN HEATON, M.D.
1872-74	REV. CANON WOODFORD, D.D.
1874-76	J. I. IKIN, F.R.C.S.
1876-78	REV. J. H. McCHEANE, M.A.
1878-81	T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, M.D., F.R.S.
1881-83	REV. JOHN GOTT, D.D.
1883-85	J. E. EDDISON, M.D.
1885-86	EDWARD ATKINSON, F.L.S.
1886-89	THOMAS MARSHALL, M.A.
1889-92	THOS. PRIDGIN TEALE, M.A., F.R.S.
1892-94	REV. J. H. D. MATTHEWS, M.A.
1894-96	REV. CHARLES HARGROVE, M.A.
1896-98	EDMUND WILSON, F.S.A.
1898-1900	NATHAN BODINGTON, M.A., Litt.D.
1900-02	J. H. WICKSTEED, President Inst.M.E.
1902-04	ARTHUR SMITHELLS, B.Sc., F.R.S.
1904-06	J. E. EDDISON, M.D.
1906-09	E. KITSON CLARK, M.A., F.S.A., M.Inst.C.E.
1909-11	REV. J. R. WYNNE-EDWARDS, M.A.
1911-12	C. T. WHITMELL, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.A.S.
1912-14	P. F. KENDALL, M.Sc., F.G.S.
1914-17	REV. W. H. DRAPER, M.A.
1917-19	JAMES E. BEDFORD, F.G.S.
1919-22	SYDNEY D. KITSON, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.
1922-24	ARTHUR J. GRANT, M.A.
1924-26	WALTER GARSTANG, M.A., D.Sc., F.Z.S.
1926-28	EDWIN HAWKESWORTH
1928-30	F. W. BRANSON, F.I.C.
1930-32	E. O. DODGSON

1932-34	A. GILLIGAN, D.Sc., F.G.S.
1934-36	R. WHIDDINGTON, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.
1936-39	HUGH R. LUPTON, M.C., M.A.
1939-46	W. M. EDWARDS, M.C., M.A.
1946-48	E. A. SPAUL, D.Sc., Ph.D.
1948-50	W. L. ANDREWS
1950-52	J. N. TETLEY, D.S.O., LL.D.
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1978-81	R. REED, M.Sc., Ph.D.
1981-83	LORD MARSHALL OF LEEDS, M.A., LL.B.
1983-85	B. R. HARTLEY, M.A., F.S.A.
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1995-97	A. C. CHADWICK, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc., C.Biol., F.I.Biol., F.R.G.S.
1997-99	O. S. PICKERING, B.A., B.Phil, Ph.D., Dip.Lib.
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2003-06	M. R. D. SEAWARD, M.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc., F.L.S.
2006-08	C. J. HATTON, B.Sc, Ph.D., C. Phys., F. Inst. P.

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Reports of Events

Elections on the Hoof - Michael Meadowcroft.

14th January 2008

Michael Meadowcroft is well known in Leeds as a politician, a former City Councillor and MP. Subsequently, he became a political consultant with the Electoral Reform Society and international agencies and has been engaged in election organising in emerging democracies in 35 countries in Eastern Europe and the Third World.

In his talk, he stressed that democracy was a tender plant, emerging from a field of despotism, tribal divisions, memories of wars, etc. It could not be taken casually anywhere – and elections were a result of democracy, not the cause. It had to become part of life, the way to get a change of policy.

Democracy had been quite rare, and many newly emerging countries have realised they need training in the democratic process – which was not easy. And sometimes Western powers have not liked the result it brought, and have not been exactly helpful.

Inevitably, irregularities have sprung up in new elections in many ways despite careful planning, but the conclusion has often still been valid: in Indonesia, even 400,000 irregularities did not affect the broad conclusion. He recounted many experiences from a wide range of countries that were learning fast and recognising the difficulties involved. And in question time, he pointed out the difficulties that there were both in postal votes and in boxes even in UK. Within UK, he would welcome a reduction in the voting age to 16 in the hope of more enthusiasm, and he deplored the low rates of turn-outs in both the USA and UK where voting is all too easy. It was an eternal quest to achieve democracy.

Matthew Dagg

Priests, Piles and Parasites - Prof Michael Green.

14th February 2008

More than 110 members and guests packed the Leeds Library, many undoubtedly attracted by the intriguing title: as the lecture room normally only seats up to 60, many had to stand at the back or in the gallery, and a few unfortunates even had to be “locked out” in order to comply with Health & Safety regulations. The audience was not disappointed. Michael Green, Emeritus Professor of Forensic Pathology at Sheffield University, regaled us in a lively but scholarly manner with his talk on “medical mysteries in the Old Testament”. His interpretations of medical references within biblical texts were based on his life-time experience, first-hand practical knowledge, and a familiarity with original texts, including those in Hebrew. The illustrated presentation covered a wide range of bodily afflictions, from nasty internal parasites to hideous external skin complaints. Early translators usually interpreted most of the latter as leprosy, but the speaker demonstrated that this diagnosis was extremely unlikely, there being no archaeological evidence of this from exhumations of Middle Eastern skeletons predating the early medieval period, at which time the disease was introduced into Europe, probably from the Far East. Although similar doubts were cast on other medical interpretations of plagues,

pestilences and other singular complaints encountered in the Bible, the translators of the King James Version were praised for their heroic attempts at accurately identifying many of the somewhat vague terms used in the original language, where in many instances only a single term existed for a wide spectrum of possible ills.

Mark Seaward

**Science Within Art: An Analysis of Holbein's Masterpiece – The Ambassadors - Dr David Knapp.
20th March 2008**

David Knapp is a Mathematician who has a special interest in art and particularly in the detailed content of paintings such as this Holbein work. He took us skilfully through details of the work and it was a really fascinating talk, much enjoyed by all present.

Our attention was drawn to the various scientific instruments displayed in the picture - terrestrial and celestial globes, a quadrant, a torquetum, and a polyhedral sundial. He also discussed the two figures whose identities were a mystery for many years. The figure on the left has been proposed to be Jean de Dinteville, Seigneur of Polisy (1504–1555), French ambassador to the court of Henry VIII for most of 1533. The man on the right is thought to be Georges de Selve (1508/09–1541), Bishop of Lavaur.

One of the most notable features in the painting is the skewed skull which is placed in the bottom centre of the composition. The skull, rendered in anamorphic perspective, an invention of the Early Renaissance, is meant to be a visual puzzle as the viewer must approach the painting nearly from the side to see the form morph into an accurate rendering of a human skull. Dr. Knapp recommended that we should all see the original painting that is in the National Gallery and experience its detail for ourselves.

Much can also be learnt from various offerings on the Web.

Robin Jakeways

**Bath Houses in Country House Gardens and Parks, c. 1680-1815, with special reference to sites in Yorkshire - Susan Kellerman.
17th April 2008**

Four years ago the Society awarded Susan Kellerman a grant to pursue further research into bath houses in Yorkshire, a topic that arose from her MA in Country House Studies at the University of Leeds. Her lecture was an opportunity for us to learn what she had discovered. Bath houses are the Cinderella of country house architecture and there are at least 50 in Yorkshire. They are to be found on private land and are generally for private use. They are ornamental and set in the designed landscape of a park or garden. At their most basic they consist of a tank or cistern with a consistent supply of water and a drawing room with a fireplace. The water was generally cold and they were intended not for cleanliness but health and in some cases, cures. They were mainly used by gentlemen but sometimes ladies. The architecture was often with a classical precedent, derived from the Grand Tour. The site was chosen for its water supply and therefore

often ancient: some were based at holy wells leading to allegations of popery. Many bath houses were more elaborate with additional facilities befitting polite and gentlemanly society, such as a library and study: others had a banqueting, tea or card room, a bowling green or facilities for boating or fishing. There are two small bath houses in Leeds, which are readily accessible and open for Heritage Open Days, Gipton Spa in Gledhow Valley and the Garden House in Wetherby. We await Susan Kellerman's gazetteer to Bath Houses in Yorkshire.

Peter Hirschmann

The Braggs and Astbury: Leeds and the Beginnings of Molecular Biology.

The 20th Century saw two periods when Leeds played an essential part in laying down the foundations of what became known as Molecular Biology.

In 1908, William Henry Bragg (WHB) was appointed to the Cavendish Chair of Physics in Leeds. Bragg, born in Wigton (now Cumbria), had graduated in Mathematics from Cambridge and, encouraged by J J Thomson, applied in 1885 for the post of Professor of Mathematics and Physics at the University of Adelaide. Knowing little physics, which he swatted up on the boat to Australia, he found himself with little assistance teaching the degree courses there. He apprenticed himself to a local workshop and made the laboratory apparatus for his classes. He married the daughter of Charles Todd (the South Australian Superintendent of Telegraphs) and had two sons (William Lawrence (WLB) and Robert, and a daughter). There was little opportunity for research for a number of years, but he became interested in the European developments in radioactivity and the discovery of X-rays and commenced his own experimental studies. He took an X-ray photograph of young William's injured elbow, and was one of those who thought that X-rays were probably streams of particles. His contributions to the scientific literature were well-regarded; he was elected to the Royal Society and he moved to Leeds to be nearer the European scene of scientific action. In Leeds he continued his studies on the properties of X-rays and radioactive particles, with well-designed apparatus.

Meanwhile, WLB graduated in physics from Cambridge. In 1912, von Laue, Friedrich and Knipping published photographs obtained by passing X-rays through a crystal. WLB thought that their pattern could be explained in terms of wave-like X-rays being 'reflected' by planes of atoms in the crystal. He tested out these ideas on his father's apparatus in Leeds and jointly they were able to demonstrate the correctness of his theory and to determine the 3-dimensional structures of common salt and other substances. They thus initiated the method of X-ray crystallography for determining the 3-d structures of materials, for which they were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1915.

After the 1914-18 war, the two men continued to develop the method; WHB was now in London (first at University College and then at the Royal Institution), WLB in Manchester and later Cambridge.

One of WHB's research assistants at the Royal Institution, William Astbury (a native of Stoke on Trent and a graduate in physics at Cambridge), had taken X-ray diagrams of wool and hair to illustrate WHB's lectures on "The Structures of Common Things" and, on WHB's recommendation, he was appointed Lecturer in Textile Physics in Leeds in 1928. There, he studied the whole available range of biological fibres, which were of course widely used as textile materials, and showed how their physical properties could be explained by their 3-d

molecular structures and by structural changes incurred by stretching and heating. The Leeds laboratories became internationally famous for this work in the 1930s and Astbury was elected to the Royal Society and appointed Professor of Biomolecular Structure. Astbury's ideas about the relationships between the chemical structure and physical shapes and properties of biological polymers, which extended to studies of globular proteins, carbohydrates and nucleic acids, underlay the subsequent developments of "Molecular Biology" (a term first used by Warren Weaver of the Rockefeller Foundation, which had supported Astbury's work financially) which has been arguably the most influential field of science since the 1950s.

Tony North

Home Birth – A Realistic Option in the 21st Century? - Dr Wendy Savage. 19th June 2008

A full lecture theatre in the University's Music Department was evidence of the interest generated by Dr Wendy Savage, who became a household name in the 1980s when she was suspended from her post as Senior Lecturer and Consultant Obstetrician at the London Hospital Medical College, a case that was closely followed by the press at the time. She was exonerated of all charges following an enquiry by Tower Hamlets Health Authority and reinstated.

Dr Savage had made herself unpopular with medical colleagues by suggesting that doctors' approach to childbirth had more to do with their own convenience than the mothers' wishes. She cited statistical evidence of a dramatic rise in the number of Caesarean section deliveries – more than twice the number necessary in her opinion - and regretted that women were usually denied the choice of giving birth at home, now considered "a luxury" by hospitals.

Dr Savage's replies to questions from healthcare professionals in the audience suggested that women's choices about childbirth have not significantly improved in the twenty years since her stand against accepted practices in the profession. She expressed the hope that women – grandmothers, mothers and midwives - could be mobilised to change the way that services are provided.

Penny Wainwright

Outing to the Cutler's Hall and Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, Sheffield. 17th July 2008

On Thursday 17th July 40 members of the Society and their friends set out to Sheffield by coach to visit the Cutler's Hall, the Millennium Museums and the Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet. The Society had as its guests, Peter Beeley and Christopher Hammond, two metallurgists very conversant with the metal trades of Sheffield.

We alighted in the centre of the city immediately outside the Cutler's Hall with its impressive Grecian façade. On entering the building, the 3rd Cutler's Hall to be built on the site (in 1832), we found ourselves in a large entrance hall with an imposing staircase leading up to the first floor rooms. We were greeted by our guide who gave us a brief history of The Cutler's Company

designed by Vivienne Westwood, was visited by several of the group as was the Craft and Design Gallery. Unfortunately, the Metalwork Gallery was closed for reorganisation and so the writer spent most of his time in The Ruskin Gallery with its collection of geological samples, drawings, paintings, prints, manuscripts and plaster casts. This exhibition was originally based in a cottage in the Sheffield suburb of Walkley and was assembled by John Ruskin with the hope of introducing natural beauty to working class people.

After visits to the city centre attractions of their choice the group returned to the coach for a short journey to the Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet. This site, with a history which goes back to the 13th century, was formerly the Abbeydale Works and was in operation until the 1930s. It is now a scheduled ancient monument and the works are Grade1 listed. For this visit there was no guide and so we explored the site with the aid of explanatory leaflets and additional information provided by Peter Beeley and Christopher Hammond. We were able to look back in time to the days when machinery, powered by water (in this case from the river Sheaf), drove tilt hammers, bellows, grinding stones etc. to create scythes and other tools sharpened to a fine cutting edge. These machines were housed in a series of buildings authentically preserved including the Tilt Forge, the Grinding Hull and, perhaps the most interesting of all, the Crucible Furnace, the only one of its kind to survive intact. One could only marvel at the strength required by the workers to lift the molten steel in the crucibles from the furnace and to be able to withstand the high temperatures in the vicinity of the furnace.

A welcome tearoom in the Hamlet allowed us to relax and compare observations of a most interesting day before returning to the coach for an uneventful journey home.

Chris Hatton

An evening with Chocolate - Stevie McBurney, at University House. 18th September 2008

The presentation by Stevie McBurney came after a delightful and innovative meal, with chocolate involved with each course. She had started as a biochemist to PhD level at York, then moved into chocolate at Nestles. She gave a very entertaining and thorough review of the development of the chocolate industry, beginning at the beginning in America with Aztec references to cocoa 3000 years ago, and cocoa revered by the Mayan community as “food of the Gods”. It was drunk there cold, dark and bitter, and regarded as an aphrodisiac.

Cocoa was brought to Europe and proved popular: it was therefore introduced into Africa, Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana. (Just as coffee was introduced into South America from Ethiopia.) But most of the processing after drying the beans was done in Europe where totally new stages were introduced with additions of sugar, butter, etc.; and finally the choc bar was developed in 1926. She reviewed the many steps involved in the factories. Many different formats of chocolate were produced, and the evening’s presentation was completed with the offer to the gathered company of three varieties of chocolate to taste and assess for cocoa strength, bitterness, acidity, astringency, fruitiness, and sweetness. The differences in varieties were very marked.

Matthew Dagg

Visit to the Rotunda Museum, Scarborough, and the Malton Museum. *24th September 2008*

The Society arranged a second summer outing to Scarborough and Malton. The Rotunda Museum in Scarborough is one of the oldest purpose built museums in Britain and had just been restored and refurbished. It was originally proposed and supported by the Scarborough Philosophical Society and designed by the famous William Smith, the “Father of British Geology” in 1828-29. It contains a wide collection of rocks and fossils illustrating the development of the layers of the Yorkshire coast, alongside specimens of current wildlife. We also had a brief account of William Smith’s eventful life, including the publication of the first geological map of England and Wales in 1815, remarkably similar to modern geological maps of England.



Rotunda Museum in Scarborough

After lunch, we moved on cheerfully to Malton and its Museum. This 16th Century building was formerly the Town Hall. It contains a well presented collection of Roman artefacts from the region, and a more recent display of finds from the deserted village of Wharram Percy. A good time was had by all.

Matthew Dagg

Bear Island: An Arctic Nature Preserve - Dag Haganaes-Kjell Dahl. **16th October 2008**

Bear Island is a small island between the northern tip of Norway and Spitzbergen. It is often shrouded in mist and therefore cannot be seen from passing ships so can be something of a mystery.

The Norwegians maintain a weather station on the island and the speaker described his two year sojourn there. It is a pretty inhospitable place, especially in the winter, and life is not easy for the temporary inhabitants or for the animals that live there. These include dogs, polar bears and, for a while, a horse that developed a taste for eating meat that it scrounged from the kitchen!

Coal mining was once carried out on the island, the remains (destroyed by the Royal Navy) of which are still visible today. In the second world war the Germans established a presence on the island and used it as a communications base.

Although the island is described as a nature preserve it was interesting to learn that the inhabitants of the weather station more or less lived off the land and killed their own meat. Life was not only boring but could be hazardous and the speaker related one particularly gory tale of one man who went out of the living hut for a walk and did not return when expected. A search party went out to look for him and found that a hungry polar bear had got there first! Another worker was photographing another polar bear and, having his eyes glued to the viewfinder on the camera, did not realise just how close he was to the bear. When he did see that he was in danger he shot it! It was encouraging to learn that the rules required the slaughter of both bears to be recorded officially!

One interesting item was description of the discovery of a grave of an unfortunate seafarer who had been shipwrecked on the island with his companions. He managed to struggle up a steep cliff but perished soon afterwards.

The speaker now runs a science centre in Whitby which, even though it is north of Leeds, must be considerably more comfortable than living on a cold foggy island north of the arctic circle!

Robin Jakeways

Gun cotton, flash-powder and the barking dog. Pre-bonfire Night Spectacular - Mike Hoyland, Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre.

Mike Hoyland's pre-bonfire night demonstration remains as popular as ever. The university's largest lecture theatre was again packed with appreciative fans. This event has become a regular feature of the social calendar and, just like the last night of the proms, no one ever wants anything to change. All the familiar demonstrations were there. We had plenty of bangs and flashes and there was always the exciting illusion of danger, especially for those near the front. A short tutorial about what the word "stoichiometric" means – was followed by a graphic illustration - involving exploding soap bubbles. There were tricks with liquid nitrogen and intriguing oscillating reactions, with solutions alternating in colour every few seconds. The snowstorm of phosphorus burning in ammonia was as beautiful as ever. A delighted audience was bombarded with two-litre plastic bottles filled with an exploding hydrogen/oxygen mixture

(in the correct stoichiometric ratio of course). There was gun cotton and flash powder and a demonstration of something explosive that that you can do with lots of indigestion tablets and 35mm film canisters. This has not been mentioned in the *Guardian*, but has featured on Polish National Television.

Earlier in the year when Mike was being interviewed, much to the delight of the public (and the producer apparently), he brought the programme to a spectacular and slightly premature end, by wrecking the studio lighting. As our finale, we were all momentarily deafened and blinded by the famous ‘barking dog’ experiment loved by early Victorian photographers (but nothing was broken). We didn’t stand up and sing *Land of Hope and Glory* at the end, but the mood was certainly there - perhaps we will do that next year.

John Lydon

Riding the Waves of Knowledge: From Schrödinger’s Cat to Quantum Computers - Professor Vlatko Vedral.
20th November 2008

Professor Vedral is Professor of Quantum Information in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the University of Leeds and addressed an audience in the Leeds Library upon the subject of the curious things that go on in the world of the quantum.

Having expected that the talk might only appeal to a minority of members it was gratifying, although slightly alarming, that we again managed to exceed the comfortable capacity of the New Room in the Library!

Professor Vedral is a well known speaker to the public and we were not disappointed by his presentation. He explained how, once we go into the world of the very small, things behave in quite a different fashion from what we expect as our normal experience. Those who know a little physics are familiar with the phenomenon of diffraction. If a beam of light is sent through a screen in which are cut two small closely spaced slits the light pattern on the other side is not two bars of light but a much more complicated pattern. This is because the light waves passing through the slits interfere with one another. If we do the same experiment with particles – electrons or neutrons for example, we see the same thing. Experimenters have also used quite large molecules and still get the same result. It can only be explained if the particles behave like waves so we have to imagine that each particle goes through both slits! This is, of course, impossible! But it happens!! In principle we could also use cats and the speaker showed a cartoon of a hopeful experimenter throwing cats at a pair of large slits!

Why cats? The cat mentioned in the title refers to another curious quantum feature. A cat is imagined to be in a box with a phial of poison gas that can be broken by some random event, say, the arrival of a particle from a radioactive decay. We do not know what is the state of the cat in the box until we open it, since we cannot predict the arrival of the particle. Schrödinger therefore postulated that, before we open the box, the cat is both dead and alive, i.e. it can exist in two possible states at the same time. This seems very fanciful but in the real world of the quantum such behaviour is common. The strange behaviour of the quantum world leads to all sorts of practical consequences such as encrypting messages and possibly building a superfast computer that does not use conventional electronics.

At the end of the talk a number of the audience asked questions. One was about the existence of free will. If we cannot predict exactly what happens in a “quantum event” can we influence our own destiny precisely? The speaker would not commit himself!

Cat loving readers can be assured that no cats were harmed either during the talk or whilst writing this review.

Robin Jakeways

AGM, Dinner and talk: Brewing up a Storm - Barrie Pepper.

3rd December 2008

Fitting the convivial mood after the AGM and dinner, Barrie Pepper, the well known writer, journalist, BBC speaker, City Councillor and especially the author of 18 books on pubs and beers, and former Chair of the British Guild of Beer Writers, gave an intriguing talk on the theme of beer. It was a high speed erudite romp through an anthology of references to beer in English literature and poetry. We had beer from Chaucer to Shakespeare, to Dickens and Chesterton; hymns of appreciation of the amber nectar which suffuses the English consciousness, redolent of sunshine and nostalgia for the rural England of Housman, Thomas Hardy, Larkrise and Hovis adverts - and the conviviality of Dickensian alehouses.

There really was only one way to end, – with the bittersweet lines from GKC

*It may be we are meant to mark with our riot and our rest
God's scorn for all men governing. It may be beer is best.*

John Lydon

Reports of Grants

Celebrate Headingley Literature Festival.

£400 awarded to June Diamond to “pump prime” the first presentation of the Celebrate Headingley Literature Festival

Our first small-scale literature festival was considered a great success. Houses for all eight events were full to overflowing. It seems that the local community responded positively to our offer of accessible events with a strong local flavour. We received useful coverage in the local press.

Lawnswood School was appreciative of the poetry slam we sponsored, facilitated by local performance poet, Michelle Scally Clarke. They have enthusiastically agreed to a repeat performance. The event in itself did much to meet our objective of inclusivity, aimed as it was at young and possibly disaffected young people. In addition, older people were well represented at the teatime event and the early evening events. These were key targets, as both groups have suffered especially from the shift in Headingley demographics towards young adults.

We felt that all events were interesting, well presented and covered a range of literary media. The Society’s grant enabled us to confirm bookings with artists Joe Williams and Michelle Scally Clarke and to negotiate with Theatre of the Dales, so adding an extra item to the programme. The money went towards these fees, room bookings, etc. Next year we shall aim for a range of published authors, in particular, novelists, fiction writers and writers on social, historical and political issues. We should like to keep the strongly local flavour and connections, possibly sponsoring artists to create events.

June Diamond

Leeds Day Limmud.

£250 awarded to Antony Conway in support of Leeds Day Limmud

The Leeds Day Limmud was held on 22 June 2008 at Weetwood Hall. More than 300 delegates from Leeds, Newcastle, Manchester and Sheffield attended a programme that included 54 presenters across five sessions of a day of enlightened learning. A specially themed programme was presented for 20 participants aged between 6 and 7.

The event included a surfeit of topics ranging from Jewish art to embroidery, coinage, personalities and even the changing perceptions of Israelis in the UK through football. Various aspects of Israeli life were evaluated through literature, the media and the Middle East conflict. The organisers also scheduled a large musical section enabling delegates to learn about music in the bible, the life and songs of Hans Eisler, Jewish wedding dances and Israeli line dancing. And away from the lectures, two guided tours of Jewish Leeds were arranged.

Whether hearing about the Holocaust, “Holy” rows in Yorkshire, understanding the Koran, or Israel at 60, Leeds Limmud 2008 provided something for all delegates.

An innovation at Leeds Limmud was a two hour session on the previous Saturday afternoon. Seven presentations took place at the Ziff Community Centre. Amongst the presenters were Cantor Stephen Robins of Woodside Park Synagogue, London, Eva Frojmovic of the Leeds University Jewish Studies Department, and Rabbi Jason Kleiman of Beth Hamidrash Hagadol Synagogue. Stephen Robins ran a cantorial session and Jason Kleiman did a session on organ donation.

Delegates were unanimous in praising the event and the atmosphere of the Day which would not have been possible without the generous financial support from a number of individuals and organisations, including the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society.

Anthony M Conway

Leeds Cancer Centre Arts Trail.

£2500 awarded to Peter Stones on behalf of the Leeds Cancer Centre Arts Trail in support of the production of a leaflet on the arts programme "Tonic" at the Centre

Research shows that arts in the hospital environment provide a measurable benefit to patients, greatly reducing the negative health impacts of stress, anxiety and depression.

A substantial collection of artistic works from a wide range of artists had been prepared for the recently opened Leeds Cancer Centre, and have been put on display in all six floors of the Centre and on the terraces. The creation and purchase of these works of art have been supported by a large number of donor agencies. The leaflet describing the arts and environments programme giving details of the works, artists and places of display has been generously supported by the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society.

Lotherton Hall Masterclass. 5th March 2008

£300 awarded to Dr Adam White towards the costs of a Chamber Music Master Class at Lotherton Hall

The event attracted a capacity audience of 60 people in the Drawing Room at Lotherton. The day began with a talk and demonstration by Ken Forrest who rescued the two historic pianos at Lotherton and restored them to full playing order in 1999. He spoke about the firm of Erard which made the two instruments, the technical innovations which gave rise to its prosperity and its unwillingness to continue innovating which brought about its eventual demise, demonstrating the various developments with models. The talk was so valuable that a copy of his text has been requested for the archive. We then proceeded to the main business of the day with the Rhodes and Tanera piano trios from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester rehearsing works by Brahms and Schumann under the guidance of Ben Frith. This gave the audience a remarkable insight into the study and concentration which is required to produce a memorable performance of a great work of classical chamber music and it was fascinating to watch the trios' performances develop under Ben's instruction. The artists fully acknowledged the benefit which they had derived from the event at a venue which is remarkably suitable for the performance of music of this kind.

The day was rated an outstanding success by all those involved and the Lotherton music committee has already resolved to hold another event of a similar kind next year. We are most grateful to the Society for its financial support.

Adam White

Curator, Lotherton Hall

Mr Mercury: The Life of Edward Baines 1774-1848 (Merton Priory Press, Chesterfield, 2009).

£1000 was awarded to David Thornton in support of the publication of his book on the life of Edward Baines.

Edward Baines, editor of the *Leeds Mercury*, Member of Parliament for Leeds and man of letters, became one of the most significant political figures of the West Riding of the early nineteenth century, and the iconic figure of provincial Dissenting Whiggery. His campaigning newspaper, the *Leeds Mercury*, became the guiding light of liberal provincial radicalism for almost half a century.

Baines's pioneering use of the weekly editorial ultimately gained him a place in the pantheon of newspaper history. However, not only did he address every major political, religious and social issue of the day, but he also opened the columns of his paper for public discussion and provided a forum for an intelligent exchange of views throughout the West Riding.

His beliefs mirrored the liberal-radicalism of provincial nineteenth-century England. He was able to identify middle-class society's changing attitudes and moods and articulate the fears and hopes of both Whigs and Dissenters. His philosophy was based upon a deep commitment to Christian principles whilst justice, freedom and truth formed his credo.

As a Member of Parliament he went on to become the mouthpiece of the Dissenters at Westminster and he further added to his achievements by becoming a man of letters. His four volume *History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster* is still regarded as a classic and it set new standards for local historiography.

Despite his achievements no biography of him has been attempted since his son's work was published in 1851. It is thanks to the £1,000 grant from the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society that the above work has now been published. The author and publisher are indeed grateful for the support they have received. No doubt Baines would have been equally grateful but then he was, after all, a founder member of the society!

David Thornton

Music and the Idea of the North. Leeds Town Hall. 5th -7th September 2008

£1000 awarded to Dr Rachel Cowgill towards the costs of an international conference to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Leeds Town Hall

This weekend conference, dedicated to exploring intersections between music and northern cultures and identities across the globe, was one of many events marking the 150th anniversary of Leeds Town Hall. It was organised by Leeds University's Centre for English Music and Leeds Metropolitan University's Institute of Northern Studies, with the support of many organisations including, among others, the Royal Musical Association, Opera North, Leeds International Concert Season, and Leeds University's Centre for Canadian Studies. The convenors were particularly grateful for a grant of £1000 from the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, which was applied to general costs (including travel and accommodation for our four excellent keynote/plenary speakers). Like its venue, Cuthbert Brodrick's masterpiece, the conference itself was an exceptionally inspiring and challenging event that keyed into a variety of current research projects representing a wide range of disciplines. A suitable slogan might have been 'North Is A State Of Mind'.

There has been considerable interest recently in 'Northness', and it was a particular pleasure to hear keynote addresses by distinguished guest speakers Professors Peter Davidson (Professor of Renaissance Studies, University of Aberdeen) and Sherrill Grace (Professor of English Literature, University of British Columbia), whose recent publications in this field (*The Idea of North* (2005) and *Canada and the Idea of North* (2001/2007) respectively) have been so innovative and stimulating. Peter Davidson's view of a non-centralised baroque European culture, including the memorable expression 'Geordie baroque', was presented with rare eloquence and poetry. Sherrill Grace extended her previous work on Canada and the north in many directions, and gave an enthralling and moving account of John Estacio and John Murrell's opera *Frobisher*, premièred by Calgary Opera in 2007.

With a total of fifty-three papers from nine different countries, topics ranged widely, with the conference theme imaginatively interpreted: Manitoban indigenous dance, Jake Thackray, Glenn Gould's experimental radio documentaries on *The Idea of North*, the Nazis and 'Nordicness', lesbian and gay culture in Manchester, the dynamics of North and South in North Indian music, Granville Bantock and the 'great northern choruses', all found a place. Contributions were of a consistently high standard, but what was equally as impressive was the sheer enthusiasm of so many of the speakers. David Cooper's account of folk music in Ulster was informed by personal experience which illuminated his analysis of cross-border and cross-community tensions. Whit Bernard spoke of the stimulus he found as a composer in the musical culture of Latvia, which resonated strongly with George Kennaway's Lithuanian research. Nikki Dibben discussed images of Iceland and national identity in contemporary popular music most engagingly. Conference papers infused with such personal involvement are perhaps rarer than one would like, and this event was full of them.

The weekend included two performances. The Orchestra of Opera North, the Leeds Philharmonic and Festival Choirs and the Leeds Guild of Singers gave a dramatic and highly polished account of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* (first performed in Leeds Town Hall in 1931), with a darkly brooding Robert Hayward, expertly conducted by Richard Farnes. The next day, the orchestra's no. 2 viola, Vivienne Campbell, gave an exquisite performance of *The North Shore* by Yorkshire-born composer Gavin Bryars (at the piano) whose subsequent talk managed

to bring together virtually all the principal themes of the conference. Delegates were also regaled on the Town Hall steps by the tones of the West Yorkshire Police Band over lunch on the Sunday, and browsed the exhibition panels expertly prepared by Rachel Milestone and Dave Russell on the history of Leeds Town Hall displayed through the corridors.

This conference was stimulating, fun, and endlessly surprising.

George Kennaway and Rachel Cowgill
University of Leeds

Leeds Festival Chorus.

£1000 awarded in support of Leeds Festival Chorus

The new choral commission by Judith Bingham, entitled *Shakespeare Requiem*, received its world premiere in Leeds Town Hall on 29 November 2008 before an audience of around 800 people as part of the Leeds International Concert Season. The performers included members of the Leeds Festival Chorus, marking the 150th anniversary of the first formation of the Chorus.

On the new 35 minute commission, music journalist Patric Standforth wrote: “The Shakespeare Requiem is a compact and imaginative combination of carefully chosen extracts from the Latin mass, sung by the chorus, with timeless words from Shakespearean monarchs delivered by soloists... The whole Requiem is presented with colourful operatic imagery... A beautiful new work, sensitive, cohesive and clearly heard, directed with commitment by Simon Wright, the artistic director to the Festival Chorus, with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.”

On the performance, critic Geoffrey Mogridge wrote: “The world premiere of Bingham’s Shakespeare Requiem was the centrepiece of last Saturday’s 150th anniversary celebration of the birth of this renowned choir... Clearly Bingham’s work displays a deep understanding of the unique character and the strengths of this 170-strong body of singers. The astonishing dynamic range, refinement of tone, the blending and balance of voices, an absolute integrity to the text; these were the hallmark of the Chorus’s performance under the baton of Simon Wright and superbly played by the BBC Philharmonic.”

The concert was recorded by the BBC who expressed themselves very happy with the recording. The transmission date, on Radio 3, has yet to be settled. The BBC’s decision on whether there should be a Proms performance in the near future is eagerly awaited.

The Chorus is most grateful to the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society for its grant towards the commission and performance and was delighted that four representatives of the Society were able to attend the premiere. The Society’s support has significantly increased the Chorus’s confidence to take on the risk of new large scale commissions more often.

Peter Farmer

Northern Ballet Theatre.

£1000 awarded to the Northern Ballet Theatre towards promoting their production of A Tale of Two Cities

Northern Ballet Theatre presented the world premiere of *A Tale of Two Cities* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse on 30 August 2008. The production was the first full-length ballet to be created by young contemporary choreographer Cathy Marston, who combined the dancers' classical ballet skills with contemporary technique to produce a challenging and innovative production. After a successful run of nine performances in Leeds, which garnered much national press attention, the production toured to Nottingham Theatre Royal and Sheffield Lyceum Theatre in September. The production was described as a 'distinctive, ambitious and rewarding ballet' (Yorkshire Post) and commended for its 'sophisticated, multi-layered story-telling' (The Telegraph) and 'solid craft and invention' (The Times).

A grant from the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society supported the outreach activities associated with the performance in Leeds. Due to the contemporary choreography of *A Tale of Two Cities* and the team of young artists that had come together to create the production, it seemed like an ideal opportunity to further NBT's commitment to attracting young audiences to ballet in Leeds. NBT used part of the grant to produce a flyer aimed at the 16-24 year old age group which offered subsidised tickets for two evening performances.

Other outreach activities focused on people with visual impairments, through a 'touch tour' of the set and costumes and an evening audio described performance; older people, through preview talks and a 'Hey Days' workshop in partnership with the Playhouse; and the general public through pre-performance talks which aimed to provide a deeper experience, introducing audience members to the work of those behind the scenes and the creative and technical processes for the production.

The Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society's grant helped to make the grand occasion of a ballet World Premiere in Leeds an even more special one for the people of the city, enabling NBT to share the experience with under-represented and 'hard to reach' groups throughout Leeds.

Megan McLoughlin

Trusts and Foundations Officer

Rodley Nature Reserve Trust.

£400 awarded to support production of new leaflets for the Reserve

The grant has been used for the printing of 10,000 new leaflets for Rodley Nature Reserve. The new leaflet shows an up-to-date plan of the Reserve with a description of the various habitats and what might be found there. The leaflets will be particularly helpful for new visitors who are not familiar with the Reserve.

Since our original leaflet was printed, the Reserve has seen a number of changes, most notably the creation of four new dragonfly ponds and a large new dipping pond for school groups to use.

Phase 2 of the dragonfly ponds project is now underway and the latest ponds, which are in course of construction, are also shown on the new leaflet. Phase 2 also includes the creation of a new marshy area and improvements to the river bank. The dragonfly ponds project has already received generous support from the Society.

The Reserve provides a valuable asset for local people with free entry, well-maintained paths, toilet facilities and a visitor centre with refreshments available. More than 16,000 visitors came to the Reserve in 2007 and every year we see new faces. Nature-related activities are arranged for children, with many primary schools and uniformed organisations such as Brownies coming each year.

We are always striving to further improve facilities for disabled visitors and recent developments include the construction of a new hide overlooking the wet grassland with a special ramp for wheelchair access. A similar hide and ramp are planned for the lagoon area with a wheelchair-friendly path from the road. These are due to be constructed later this year.



Dragonfly area, Rodley Nature Reserve

Rodley Nature Reserve is run entirely by volunteers and could not function without the generous support from Friends of Rodley Nature Reserve and organisations such as the Society.

Peter Murphy
Secretary, Rodley Nature Reserve Trust Ltd.

Ilkley Literature Festival.

£250 awarded to Ilkley Literature Festival to support an event in the “World Poet’s Tour”

On 12 October 2008, with the support of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, Ilkley Literature Festival staged an event in the “World Poet’s Tour” series organised by the London based Poetry Translation Centre. It was planned to feature three distinguished visiting poets: Farzaneh Khojandi, widely regarded as the most exciting woman poet writing in Persian (Farsi, Tajik) today; Noshi Gillani, the foremost woman poet writing in Urdu; and Kajal Ahmed, a leading poet from Kurdistan whose work is written in Kurdish. Unfortunately, shortly before the event took place, both Kajal Ahmed and Noshi Gillani were forced to withdraw from the tour owing to serious illness.

Although this was disappointing, as the Festival had put a great deal of work and thought into trailing the event (including an advertisement in the national Urdu paper, the Daily Jang), after lengthy discussions with the organisers at the Poetry Translation Centre, it was decided to go ahead with a revised line-up. As a result, on the day, Kajal’s poems were performed by Choman Hardi, a distinguished poet and translator based in the UK, whose work in English is published by Bloodaxe; while Noshi Gillani’s work was read in Urdu by novelist Nadeem Aslam, Booker nominated author of *Maps for Lost Lovers*. The event also included the English poet, Lavinia Greenlaw who translated Noshi Gillani’s work and read a number of her poems in English, as well as talking about the role of the translator.

Despite this change in line-up the event went very well, with compelling readings of the work both in the original and in the new English translations, and with wide-ranging discussion on the poets’ work, and the nature and challenge of translating literary work. It was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience of some 40 people, which included fellow poets, young people, older people, members of the Asian community from Leeds and Bradford and poets from the Festival’s Mushaira. The event formed an important part of the Asian literature strand, which highlighted the best of contemporary Asian writing from across the world and attracted a wide and diverse audience, many of whom were first time visitors to the Festival.

Rachel Feldberg

Director, Ilkley Literature Festival

Ronnie Duncan Collection.

£1000 awarded to support the costs of publication of a book on The Ronnie Duncan Collection.

Ronnie Duncan is a local Yorkshire collector who has done much to encourage artists and art institutions in the region for over 50 years. Duncan’s art collection is rare in that he collected the work of his generation. He supported progressive British artists whose experiments in abstraction were largely misunderstood and under-appreciated until later decades. Duncan’s unique vision as a collector enriches the understanding of the British art world of the 1950s to the present and, in particular, it asserts the importance of the Leeds art scene within the national context.

Accordingly, the Leeds Art Collections Fund collaborated with the Fine Art Department of the University of Leeds in mounting Part I of the highlights of the Duncan Collection from the

1950s and 60s in 2007. This has been followed by Part II of the exhibition in the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery of the University in autumn 2008, focussing on artworks collected by Duncan from the 1970s to the present. The exhibition attracted 4571 visitors over ten weeks.

A book, “Creativity Never Rests”, paying tribute to Ronnie Duncan and his 60 years of collection, has been published by the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery of the University of Leeds with the support of the Leeds Art Collections Fund and the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society. It includes scholarly essays that explore different aspects of Duncan’s collection

Layla Bloom
Exhibitions Officer

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