



NEW SERIES

THE PEERAGE IN QUESTION
THE CAVENDISHES

WEDNESDAY 4, TUESDAY 17 OR WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH

Why a family with a Suffolk name and principal seats in Derbyshire should be anointed as Dukes of Devonshire and of Newcastle is one of the eternal English aristocratic conundra. Even more remarkable is the variety of their occupations: Sir William Cavendish, the Tudor biographer of Thomas Wolsey, married the terrifying Bess of Hardwick; Thomas The Navigator was a leading Elizabethan explorer; a Duchess Of Devonshire wrote a work of science fiction, 'The Blazing World' in 1666; the polymath 1st Duke of Newcastle was a poet, an equestrian, a playwright, swordsman, politician, architect, diplomat, soldier and the patron of no less figures than Ben Jonson, John Dryden, Thomas Hobbes and Descartes; Georgiana Spencer was a Duchess of Devonshire gambler who died young owing the equivalent of nearly £4 million (her husband said when he heard 'is that all?'). Henry Cavendish was a shy 18c scientist responsible for the discovery of the density of the earth as well as of hydrogen, or what he called 'inflammable air'. The late Deborah, 11th Duchess of Devonshire, one of the Mitford sisters, rescued Chatsworth House and Estate from debt and built it into a successful international business employing 2000 people. The Cavendish houses include: Hardwick Hall, Chatsworth House, Bolton Abbey, Bolsover Castle, Welbeck Abbey, and, in London, Chiswick House, Devonshire House and Burlington House. The contribution of this one family to English life and culture has been almost incalculable.

MEET 10:30 am coffee for 11 am lecture at the Art Workers' Guild
ENDS 3:30 Art Workers' Guild
COST £85 members, £95 non-members, including coffee, light lunch with wine