

Editorial

Our December meeting is very popular as the lecture is followed by a 'mulled wine and tasty nibbles party', which signifies the start of the Christmas Season and enables members to mingle and chat. This year will be no exception and the Committee hope you will join them on **13 December** when the lecture will commence at **7.30pm** – a formal invitation is enclosed.



To ensure that there are enough glasses and plates please RSVP Laura Rose, our Secretary. If you would like to bring a guest please inform Laura, and send a cheque (payable to ADFAS) for £7 per guest.

As there will be a raffle that evening please put a pound or two in your pocket and all proceeds will go towards our educational activities for young people.

Winter weather alert for lectures

For the first time in our 12-year history, last January we were forced to cancel a lecture due to the poor state of local roads following a couple of falls of snow. Should we experience similar conditions this coming winter you will be pleased to know that the Committee have introduced an 'early warning system' so that you can find out if a lecture is to take place.

If you are a computer user simply log on to our website to check (www.alton-dfas.hampshire.org.uk) or telephone any of the Committee whose 'phone numbers are listed on the programme card. That way you will be spared the prospect of a hazardous journey and can stay by the fire with a good book and a glass of something appropriate!

For Your New Diary...

Wednesday, 15 February
Visit to the Cabinet War
Rooms and
Wallace Collection

Bookings from November via Lissa
Wilson (01420 543892)

Thursday, 1 March
Special Interest Day
Winchester – the ancient
capital of England
by Professor Tom James

This promises to be a fascinating day devoted to the art and architecture of this historic city.

Booking from January 2012
via Kit Butterfield
(01420 88356)

12-16 April
Our annual long weekend away with Truemans will take in sites in Devon and Cornwall staying in Plymouth - details to follow.

Right: Smeaton's Tower,
Plymouth



Visit to Royal Holloway College and Frogmore



On an early September day, a full coach set out on an almost local visit to these venues. Most knew of the location of the former being adjacent to the A30, indeed the daughter of two members had attended Royal

Holloway College as a student, married a fellow student and used the venue for the reception; however few had ventured inside. Founded by Thomas Holloway for the Further Education of Women, the college was opened by Queen Victoria in 1886. From 28 students then to 7700 now we learned all manner of facts about the college, although perhaps the most memorable was that 7,504,832 red bricks from Bracknell were ordered for the project funded from the profits of Holloway's pills and potions! To say it was an experience was rather understating the case. The architecture was distinctive and people seemed to either like it – or hate it.

The main building in what was described as a chateausque style by Crossland, could be described as 'a bit over the top' however we were given coffee on arrival then treated to a tour of the main building, including a rather splendid chapel, before lunch

in the Picture Gallery followed by a talk about the pictures. They comprised a selection of Victorian works which had been acquired by Holloway at auction and contained a number of well-known subjects including *the Railway Station* by Frith (1862), the portrait of *Princes in the Tower* by Millais (1878) and *The Babylonian Marriage Market* by Long (1878), as well as many other very competent pieces that were greatly enjoyed.

Frogmore was an interesting contrast being a modest 17th century house, acquired and extended by King George III in 1792 as a country retreat for Queen Charlotte. On her death in 1818 it passed to her eldest daughter (Charlotte, Princess Royal)

and, following her demise in 1840, Queen Victoria gave it to her mother, the Duchess of Kent. She lived there for 21 years and from 1866 to 1873 it was used by Princess Helena, third daughter of Queen Victoria, and her husband. The future Earl Mountbatten of Burma was born there in 1900. Queen Mary made it a sort of private museum for her collection between 1925 until her death in 1953 and it is still an official residence of the Royal Family.



Following renovations some 25 years ago, the most recent change was the decoration of the Britannia Room at the instigation of Prince Phillip following the de-commissioning of the Royal Yacht Britannia in 1997, which the Royal Family had enjoyed since she entered service in 1954. Three guides took members through the house with its rooms devoted to past royal residents, and we were allowed to walk in the grounds interrupted only by aircraft taking off from nearby Heathrow! However, the Mausoleum to Prince Albert and Queen Victoria is currently closed due to the need for building repairs; the mausoleum to Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent was not open to visitors, nor was the nearby Royal Burial ground.

Another interesting day for members which was blessed with perfect weather.



Illustrations of pictures by courtesy of Royal Holloway College.

ADFAS Scholars 2011

Your committee decided to offer a third scholarship for students embarking on the Foundation Art course at Alton College in September and following competitive interviews, three skilled and artistic young women were selected. Below are comments from the interviewing panel:-

Charlotte Bradley's workbook was outstanding and demonstrated both a wide variety of influences, such as the time she spent living in China, and a broad cross-section of approaches to her artwork. Her passion for art showed through her work and some of her pieces were considered to be particularly striking by the judges. Charlotte showed a keen desire to continue to expand the range of materials that she used in order to convey her ideas. She was particularly clear and eloquent in her explanations of the thought processes behind her work.

Rosie Harvey-Otway showed an excellent appreciation of the relationship between art and an understanding of self and place in the universe. Her work showed considerable logic in the thought process behind her projects. Her portrait work was considered to be a particular strength, but her attention to detail was another facet of her work that impressed the interviewers. Rosie's planning was a major strength and her determination to achieve specific goals was also seen to be a major asset.

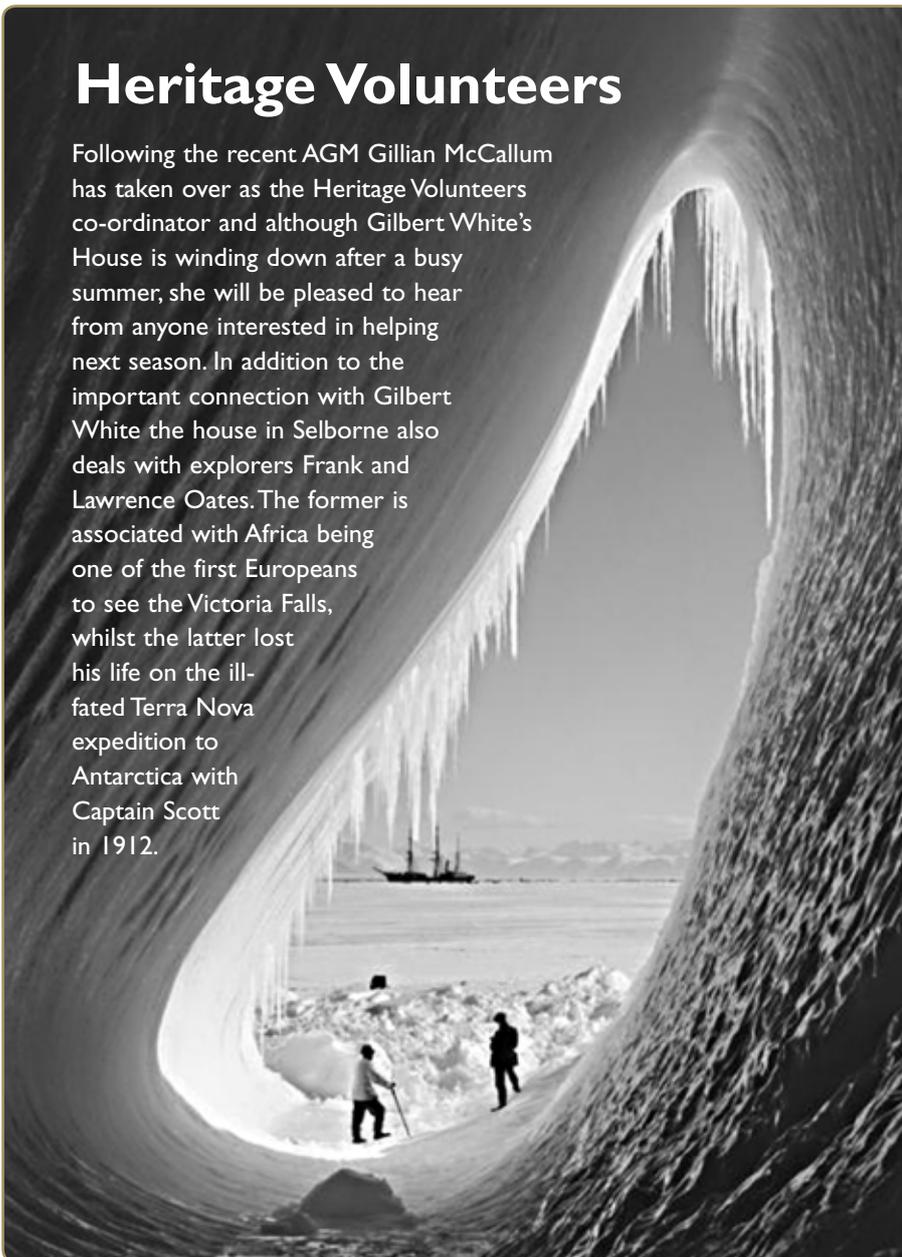
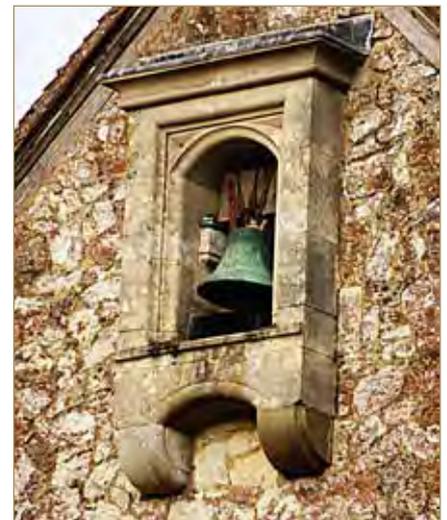
Caroline Young proved herself to be a technically gifted artist whose work showed a clear derivation from inspiration from artists such as Picasso and Lucian Freud. Her work showed evidence of a willingness to experiment with new approaches and a preparedness to be flexible. Her main focus was on illustration but her work showed a growth in breadth as she assimilated a wider range of influences and integrated this into her pieces.

Heritage Volunteers

Following the recent AGM Gillian McCallum has taken over as the Heritage Volunteers co-ordinator and although Gilbert White's House is winding down after a busy summer, she will be pleased to hear from anyone interested in helping next season. In addition to the important connection with Gilbert White the house in Selborne also deals with explorers Frank and Lawrence Oates. The former is associated with Africa being one of the first Europeans to see the Victoria Falls, whilst the latter lost his life on the ill-fated Terra Nova expedition to Antarctica with Captain Scott in 1912.

Church Recorders

There has been much progress at St Nicholas, West Worldham during the summer and work has begun on preparing parts of the printed record. Amongst the interesting features is the ancient bell (seen here), which was rehung in the bell niche under the western gable when the church was re-built in the late 19th century. It has been suggested that the bell dates from the foundation of the building, which is thought to be the latter part of the twelfth century.



Forthcoming Lectures

13 December at Alton Maltings Is Christmas in Good Taste? - David Phillips

Hasn't Christmas gone downhill and got hopelessly vulgar? Wasn't there a time when it was a celebration of real values? We review some wonderful and some gloriously awful historic and modern Christmas imagery to explore the extent to which that's true. A light-hearted historical survey of mid-winter celebrations reveals that our traditional Christmas is a much more recent invention than we might think. We look at revels and rough-house Edwardian party games, and discover a marriage chronicled in annual photos of a couple with their tree and gifts over forty years, from 1900. But no question, our twenty first century version is often in downright poor taste. Why not come along and find out what makes it so tacky?

10 January 2012 at Alton Maltings O Yes It Is – history of Pantomime - Jane Tapley

Our speaker will examine the fascinating story of how Pantomime developed from its Greek and Roman roots, through the religious plays of the Middle Ages to the Italian Commedia Dell'Arte. We will see characters of the Harlequinade and how actors like Grimaldi, the most famous clown of all, Music Hall stars and today's TV actors have contributed to the art of Pantomime.

14 February 2012 at Alton College History of Greenwich - Rosalind White

This lecture will provide an overview of the history of Greenwich, concentrating on the periods since the enclosure of the Park in 1427 by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. It covers the Tudors including royal births and deaths as well as the fate of Old Greenwich Palace during the Commonwealth and its re-building during the Restoration. We will learn of Queen Mary II and the darling object of her life – the Royal Hospital for Seamen that includes the Painted Hall and Chapel. Coming up to date it examines the closure of the hospital and opening of the Royal Naval College (until 1995) and its designation as a World Heritage Site.

13 March 2012 at Alton College Myth and Legend in Early Greek Art - Louise Schofield

A welcome return by this popular lecturer and it will be interesting to see how many of the well-known myths and legends from the lands of the Iliad and the Odyssey are depicted in art. With the formation of the world and the birth of the gods it is surprising how many names are involved so check up on your cults and earthly representations in readiness.

10 April 2012 at Alton College Secrets of the Royal Pavilion - Jackie Marsh Hobbs

The extraordinary story of King George IV's exotic Regency Palace, which in spite of its turbulent history has managed to survive and is now beautifully restored to its original 1823 splendour. It is one of the most famous buildings in Britain, attracting over 300,000 visitors a year from all over the world with its majestic Indian architecture on the outside and its lavish Chinoiserie interior.

To the Fallen



For much of human history memorials have been erected to commemorate victories in great battles. However, by the end of the nineteenth century it was common for regiments in the British Army to erect monuments to their comrades who lost their lives in the many small Imperial Wars that accompanied the expansion of the British Empire.

Locally we have mid-19th century family monuments in village churches for named individuals, generally from the higher strata of society, who died on active service overseas. St Lawrence church in Alton has a brass plaque listing names of local men who died in the Boer War. In Chawton cemetery is a handsome Portland Stone memorial to the memory of Corporal Ernest White of the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment who was killed in South Africa in March 1901.

However it was after the great losses of the First World War that commemoration took centre stage and most communities erected a war memorial listing those who had gone to war and not returned. Such war memorials can be a building or a simple plaque; many take the form of a monument or statue and serve as a focal point for Remembrance Day services.

On ADFAS visits we have seen, in passing, a wide range of memorials including a variety of crosses, statues of many differing types and large sculptures dedicated to particular military units. Many were erected by public subscription, most were created by sculptors and all are worthy of our interest from both a decorative arts as well as an historical perspective.

There are battlefield cemeteries created after WWI by the Imperial War Graves Commission (now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission), also monuments commemorating the dead, of what was known at the time as the Great War, with no known war grave, such as the Thiepval memorial on the Somme and the Menin Gate at Ypres in Belgium.

Many of the community memorials to the dead of World War I have been modified to include the names of local service personnel who died in World War II as well as later conflicts such as the Korean War, the Emergency in Malaya and the Falklands Campaign.

Tony Cross