



# AFMS NEWS

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## Toulouse Group Visit the UK

As had happened last year, when Carol Barton hosted them in Reading, the French Group from Toulouse under the aegis of Dr. Michel Bismuth, once more visited this country.

They flew to Bristol, accompanied by Andrea their teacher of English and stayed in Cardiff. On the afternoon of Friday 16th March, they were guests of Roger Celestin in Berkeley visiting Edward Jenner's past home, now a museum and a temple to vaccination. After a short film on Jenner's pioneering work, they visited the museum in which exhibits showed how in May 1796, Jenner tested the hypothesis that an inoculation of cowpox fluid from the post famous cow in history - Blossom - would protect a child from smallpox. Amongst those supporting vaccination already practised at the time, had been Voltaire (1694-1778) who held that some 60% of the population caught smallpox. A seminal event led to the eventual total eradication of smallpox declared by the WHO in 1979. The history of this eradication was not new to our Society, as in 1989 - ten years later - Sir Christopher Booth gave a superb British Council Lecture to the Toulouse AMFB Meeting entitled; "The Conquistadors of Smallpox " before our Gala Dinner.

The French group learnt that Jenner in 1770 had been an apprentice in London to the famous anatomist and surgeon John Hunter. The latter was in the army during the Seven Year War and was stationed in Belle Ile, off the coast of Brittany, occupied at the time by the British Army. Of interest to the group was that this was the place where Alexandre Dumas' père had set the characters that appeared in his novels of 'The Man in the Iron Mask' and 'The Three Musketeers'. There too Monet had painted their famous rocks. Hunter passed on to Jenner much of what he had learnt in the Army.

They also learnt that Jenner was interested in natural history and studied the life of the cuckoo as a hooligan in its host's nest! He was made, as a result, a Fellow of the Royal Society. The group also visited the Sasakawa Centre, the gift of a Japanese philanthropist, and had time to see the outside of Berkeley Castle. They then returned to Cardiff to attend the France v Wales rugby match. Many of them have either joined the AMFB or will do so and will attend the October meeting of the AFMS.

Dr Roger Celestin



## AFMS NEWS

Welcome to the latest edition of the AFMS news. If there is anything you would wish to have included in future editions, please send an email to the administrative secretary at tonyridge72 (at ) yahoo.co.uk

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## • Meeting and Events.

### • October 2012

Scientific Conference  
Greenwich  
3rd to 6th October

### • February 2012

Chamonix Winter  
Meeting. TBC



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## **AFMS Conference 2012 Royal Greenwich; October 3rd-6th**

With less than three months until our conference, we are delighted to report that all places for the conference have been fully booked. The response has been amazing with more French delegates attending than in previous years. Along with an exciting scientific programme, the social programme includes a River Thames cruise and a walking tour of Greenwich to explore the impressive buildings designed by Sir Christopher Wren and Indigo Jones.

### **Social Programme for the AFMS Conference**

#### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

16.00-1800 Registration at the Devonport House Hotel.

19.30 Meet in the bar followed by buffet meal (20.00)

Talk "The History of Royal Greenwich" (by Greenwich Guide)

#### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

09.30 Group 1: Guided tour of The Royal Observatory (meet guide at DHH 0930)

11.15 Coffee at Rangers House (National Heritage) followed by Guided Tour  
Walking back to DHH - (due back 12.30)

Group 2: Walk to Ranger's House through Greenwich Park (15-20 mins)

Guided Tour of Ranger's House followed by coffee (11.00)

Meet Guide for visit of Royal Observatory - (11.00-12.15) Return DHH 12.30

12.30 Lunch at The Devonport House Hotel (Buffet style)

14.15 Depart (on foot) Hotel for Greenwich Pier and guided Thames River Cruise

Boat departs 14.30 Afternoon Tea 16.00

17.45 (approx) Return to Hotels

Evening: Free to take dinner in the hotel or in local restaurants.

#### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October.**

09.30 Group 1: Visit (walking) to the Cutty Sark - guided or self guided (tbc)

11.00 Leave Cutty Sark for The Fan Museum

11.15 Coffee in The Fan Museum

11.30 Guided Tour of Fan Museum

Group 2: Walk to the Fan Museum - Guided Tour

11.00 Coffee in Fan Museum

11.15 Walk to Cutty Sark for (11.30) tour (Guided or self guided)

13.00 Lunch at the Devonport House Hotel.

14.15 Walking tour of Greenwich to include Painted Hall, Chapel, Queens House,  
and National Maritime Museum (5-6 groups: 20-25 per group)

16.15 Return to Hotels

17.00 Depart by coach for the Gala Dinner at the House of Lords

23.00 (approx) Coaches return to hotels.

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### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Morning free for shopping, sight seeing etc

12.30. Lunch

For those remaining:

13.45 Coach arrives DHH

14.00 Leave for Guided trip to Ightham Mote (approx 1 hr travel time)

15.00 Self Guided visit of House / Visit of Gardens

16.30 Kentish Cream Tea in Ightham Mote.

17.00 Coach leaves

18.15 Return to Hotels (approx)

PM an informal informal (and optional) to one or more of the famous River Pubs'

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### Ightham Mote - National Trust Property KENT

The AFMS is pleased to announce that Ightham Mote will be visited on the Saturday afternoon of the conference. Described by the historian, David Starkey, as "one of the most beautiful and interesting of English country houses," Ightham Mote is the natural choice for the post conference tour. Ightham Mote lies in the rural Weald of Kent, near Sevenoaks. Dating from the early fourteenth century, the medieval moated manor house has seen many changes throughout its 700-year history, and has been owned by medieval knights, courtiers to Henry VIII and high society Victorians. Today, Ightham Mote is a Grade I Listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, set within peaceful gardens, with an orchard, water features, lakes and woodland walks.

Donated to the National Trust in 1985 by Charles Henry-Robinson, the National Trust have ensured the survival of this important building through a £10 million, 15 year conservation programme. As a result, it is now possible to enjoy the Tudor Chapel with its 16th Century painted ceiling, the Drawing Room with Jacobean fireplace over-mantle and frieze, as well as the Victorian Billiard Room and more recently Mr. Robinson's apartment. The surrounding estate offers a wealth of lovely and interesting walks through farmland and woodland. It is sure to be a most interesting visit.



### **Obituary**

Sir Christopher Booth - who gave an outstanding talk on the Gala Evening of our Toulouse meeting in 1989, entitled "The Conquistadors of Smallpox" - died last Friday, the 13th July. He had just celebrated his 88th birthday last month. Christopher was one of the three "Knights" who have given a talk to the Society. The last one was Harry Kroto, in Bordeaux, who spoke about Carbon 60. Christopher was knighted for his work, made an FRS and shared in 1996 the Nobel Prize for chemistry.



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## Manchester Meeting May 2012



The 17<sup>th</sup> Manchester meeting was once more held at the Alliance Française de Manchester. We were visiting the new premises in Portland Street for the first time since the French Ambassador opened them. We continue to be spoilt as the presentations by our five students were of the highest quality, both in terms of medical content and in the quality of the spoken French. The Alliance staff member who sat in on the conference was “bowled over” by the students’ fluency.

The winner (as usual by a close margin!) was Imogan Ptacek from Manchester University who spoke on her experiences in Rwanda. She won a prize of £50 and will be invited to compete for the James Tudor Prize in London at the scientific meeting along with Tom Slater and Mary Thornton from Manchester University who were narrowly beaten by Imogen. We had some non-Manchester students at the meeting as well; one was from Yorkshire and despite the Roses history we hope to advance this! Thanks to our *ancien secretaire* Dr Mark Cottrill and his wife Liz for a wonderful buffet and great wine choices. Dr Mark Savage

## Royal Academy - Impressionsim Exhibition

If you have not yet found a reason for spending some time in London this summer, here is yet another one. London’s Royal Academy is playing host to one of the finest collections of Impressionist paintings – by the likes of Monet, Manet, Renoir, Pissarro, Degas and Sisley – in the world. The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts is currently undergoing major refurbishment. For the first time in its history ( it opened to the public in 1955), the core of its holdings of 19th-century French paintings is on loan to London’s Royal Academy.

*A Taste of Impressionism, Royal Academy, London (020 7300 8000) 7 July to 23 Sep*

French student Jihane Adleon is looking for help with a work placement.....

Currently in my fifth year of medical studies at the University of Paris 5 in France, I have the opportunity to take a sabbatical next year. I would like to spend a whole year dedicated to medical internship in foreign countries.

My goals are to consolidate my knowledge through intensive practice, gain experience in medicine abroad and improve my level in English. In England, I would like to work from March 2013 for six weeks in three various departments from either; neurology, paediatrics, gastroenterology, nephrology, infectious diseases, endocrinology and diabetology.

If you can help please can you contact Jihane on [jihane.adelon@gmail.com](mailto:jihane.adelon@gmail.com)

## Committee

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## Did you Know?

At Mont St Michel, cars and coaches have now been banned from driving over the 19th-century causeway to park on the mud-flats beside the island. New car parks have been built almost a kilometre inland with buses to take tourists to the island after they have paid €8 to park.

## Administrative Secretary

Please send details of any change of address, incorrect addresses, subscriptions and changes in email to

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