



SFF

Journal of the RSM Senior Fellows Forum

Contents

Editorial	3
Forthcoming events	
<i>Programmes</i>	
Internal Events	4
External Events	5
Walks with Sue Weir	5
Camera Club	6
Abstracts and biographies of speakers	7
Meetings reports	
International investigations of places of detention	11
External events reports	
Around Kings Cross	13
Early autumn visit to Kew Gardens	15
A visit to London Zoo	18
Article	
Mr. Beatty's legacy in the death of Admiral Nelson	20
Information for authors	24

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Editorial

Catherine Sarraf



Welcome everyone! Fellows of the Senior Fellows Forum! As I mentioned in my editorial for the August issue of our journal, our name has now officially been changed from the RSM Retired Fellows Society to the RSM Senior Fellows Forum (SFF). Concerning this journal, it is now the RSM Journal of the Senior Fellows Forum; it will still be issued three times a year in April, August and December, as before, with seamless continuity in numbering our issues. The journal also serves as the Archive of our Society. Thus this issue is number 78. We hope that the name change will encourage more mature RSM member to join the SFF. Having totally retired from everything is NOT necessary, to be able to join the SFF.

I'm very keen to draw your attention to the 2023 Recent Advances in Medicine and Surgery Day, held on 30th of November this year. Reports on talks of that day will be included in the April issue of the Journal of the Senior Fellows Forum. Also, please see below the announcement from our Chair, Dr Jeffrey Rosenberg, concerning the opening of a very exciting opportunity to apply for the position of Chair the subcommittee which plans the day annually.

An exciting opportunity

We are looking to co-opt a member of the Senior Fellows Forum to chair the subcommittee which plans the Recent Advances in Medicine and Surgery Day, the highlight of our academic year. The co-opted member would also join our vibrant committee

which currently meets three times a year. Committee members are formally elected and re-elected at the AGM and are drawn from all areas of medicine.

The subcommittee usually meets early in the calendar year, ideally January, to consider topics and speakers with appeal primarily to the members of the SFF. The event itself usually takes place in early December and is open to all members of the RSM as well as non RSM delegates.

The subcommittee is composed of two senior members of the main committee with input from the Academic Dean. The current chair, Professor Robin Williamson, a Past President of the RSM, has kindly offered to remain on the subcommittee in an *ad hoc* basis, having completed his term of office, to advise and facilitate a smooth transition period. The event is strongly supported by RSM teams to both promote and deliver the programme designed by the subcommittee.

We invite any interested member of the SFF to email us at sff@rsm.ac.uk in the first instance. A short statement as to why you should like the role together with an abridged CV would be appreciated. Our appointments subcommittee will then select the applications for submission to our full committee with a view to offering that role before the New Year.

Jeffrey Rosenberg
Chair, Senior Fellows Forum

Forthcoming Events

Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024

Programmes

Internal Events

Jane Reeback

2023

November

30 | **Recent Advances in Medicine and Surgery**

A whole day event featuring invited speakers working at the forefront of their medical and surgical professions

Spring 2024

February

15 | **Judy Mallaber, (MP 1997-2010)**
I was not a Blair babe – the ups and downs of life as a Labour MP

March

21 | **Michael O'Brien,**
An introduction to Hindu mythology as depicted in temple sculpture

April

18 | **Sophie Scott,**
The science of laughter

May

16 | **Simon Spiro,**
From snails to sperm whales; pathology across 10 orders of magnitude

June

13 | **Will Palin,**
(11.00-11.15 AGM of the Senior Fellows Forum)
Waking a sleeping giant: rescue and repair of the north wing at St Bartholomew's hospital

External Events

Sue Weir

2024

February

9 | **Theatre Royal Drury Lane** - A 'behind the scenes' private tour in the beautifully renovated theatre. Please be aware the backstage tour has numerous steps, ramps and small passageways.

Meeting: At the entrance to the theatre in Drury Lane at 12.10pm, tour starts 12.20pm for 1 hour.

Cost: £24.00 per person. Places are limited to 20 participants.

Please phone Sue Weir if you are late or unable to attend: 07713 402 651

March

13 | **Private tour of 2 Temple Place & lunch at Middle Temple Hall** - 2 unique & different venues.
Price: **£40.0 pp.**

Walks with Sue Weir

2024

There will be NO afternoon walks. Walks will take place at ONE TIME only, MORNING, meeting at - 11.30am, lasting 1hr 30 to 1h 45mins. Please consult the RSM website for booking details.

April

11 | **Meandering in Marylebone**

May

14 | **Secret gardens in the City**

June

7 | **Knights, radicals & a hospital**

July

10 | **Rotherhithe to London Bridge**
- a long walk!

Camera Club

Richard Lansdown

2023

December

8 | **Anne Houseman**
Drawing and photography

2024

January

17 | Members meeting

February

9 | Members meeting

March

7 | **Roger Mendham**
Title tba

April

15 | Members meeting

May

17 | Presentation meeting

June

5 | **Edward Hyde**
Title tba



One horned rhino & red panda twins at Whipsnade, Jeffrey Rosenberg and friends

Abstracts and biographies of speakers

I was not a Blair babe – the ups and downs of life as a Labour MP

Judy Mallaber

Thursday 15 February 2024



Biography

1997 – 2010 Labour MP for Amber Valley, Derbyshire – former coalmining and textiles area. Activities over the 13 years included:

- Member of education & employment, trade & industry, Treasury Select Committees
- PPS to leader of House of Lords
- Chair of UNISON MPs and vice-chair trade union group
- Chair of East Midlands Labour MPs

1985 - 95 Director (previously deputy) Local Government Information Unit – joint national trade union/council body

- campaigning against ratecapping, poll tax, privatisation and more

- promoting jobs, quality services and local democracy

1975 - 85 Research Officer, National Union of Public Employees (now part of UNISON).

Included:

- writing pay claims for NHS ancillary, ambulance, nursing, technical staff
- work on low pay and campaign for statutory minimum wage
- servicing Executive and National Committees and Annual Conference
- media relations and running education courses for members

Long-term involvement in campaigns on equalities, rights of women, employment rights, public services.

Abstract

With 13 years as Member of Parliament for the Derbyshire constituency of Amber Valley, Judy Mallaber will reflect on life during the Labour government years of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. What were the highs and lows? What does an MP actually do from day to day? Can a mostly backbench MP achieve anything? Are MPs really 'all the same' and 'just in it for themselves' as constituents often say at election time? Judy will talk about how and why she became an MP – and what she brought to the job from her previous work and campaigning experience. Did she achieve any of the aims she went in with – and make progress on her previous priorities? Being an MP involves work at Westminster – but just as important and rewarding is the MP's relationship with constituents and pursuing local concerns. What did she learn from local residents – and what were the new issues that arose? Or is the local MP just a glorified social worker? Judy will also comment on her life after Parliament – and what has changed in Parliament and outside since she lost her seat in 2010.

An introduction to Hindu mythology as depicted in temple sculpture

Dr Michael O'Brien

Thursday 21 March 2024



Biography

Dr O'Brien was a consultant neurologist at Guys and St Thomas' Hospital. He has a special interest in Hindu art, architecture and mythology and has visited South and South East Asia on numerous occasions. He has lectured to many Arts Societies (NADFAS) in the UK, France and Spain, and undertaken two extensive lecture tours in Australia, as well as lectures on Asian Art courses at The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum and in the USA.

Abstract

This lecture on Hindu mythology uses temple sculpture to describe the principal gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon, their origins from the Vedic religion, their common manifestations and some of the associated legends that these sculptures illustrate, mostly from India, but with some examples from South East Asia. The lecture aims to demystify a complex subject and necessarily involves much simplification.

The science of laughter

Professor Sophie Scott

Thursday 18 April 2024



Biography

Professor Sophie Scott CBE is Director of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London. She uses brain imaging to ask questions about how speech is processed as a sound, the neural basis of speech and sound processing and the social roles of vocalizations. She has pioneered neuroscientific studies of laughter. She gave the Royal Society Christmas Lectures in 2017, was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2020 and was awarded the Royal Society Faraday Prize in 2021.

Abstract

Laughter is a positive emotional vocalisation which has its roots in mammal play vocalisations. Laughter is often assumed by humans to be an index of humour, but most of the time when humans laugh, it has little to do with humour. Laughter is primarily a social behaviour, and we are more than 30 times more likely to laugh when we are with other people than when we are on our own. In this talk I will address the evolutionary history of laughter, look at its use in human interactions, and explore its neurobiology.

From snails to sperm whales; pathology across 10 orders of magnitude

Dr Simon Spiro

Thursday 16 May 2024



Biography

As well as his diagnostic caseload, Dr Spiro teaches undergraduate and postgraduate students at the Royal Veterinary College and engages in clinical research. Dr Spiro holds degrees in pathology and veterinary medicine from the University of Cambridge, a DPhil in infectious diseases from the University of Oxford and a master's in veterinary pathology from the Royal Veterinary College. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists and a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathology. Prior to his work at ZSL he has worked as a molecular virologist at the Pirbright Institute, developing vaccines for oncogenic poultry viruses, and as a diagnostic pathologist for the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Abstract

Dr Spiro is the veterinary pathologist for the Zoological Society of London, where he is responsible for the diagnostic pathology of the society's 23,000 animals of 800 species. He is also the pathologist for the Cetacean

Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) which investigates dead whales, dolphins, sharks, turtles, and seals in English and Welsh waters. In this lecture, he will guide you through the practicalities of performing post-mortems on animals ranging in size from the tiniest invertebrates up to the largest megafauna, introduce you to some of the fascinating diseases that can be found (some familiar to doctors, others unique to animals) and demonstrate how pathology can contribute to conservation. This lecture will include video footage of images, video and digital pathology from post-mortem examinations on animals as varied as snails, snakes, whales, rhinoceroses and lions.

Waking a sleeping giant: rescue and repair of the north wing at St Bartholomew's hospital

Will Palin

Thursday 20 June 2024



Biography

Will Palin was appointed CEO of Barts Heritage in 2019, he is an architectural historian, writer, campaigner and heritage expert. He was a curator at Sir John Soane's Museum until 2007 then served as director of SAVE Britain's Heritage. Most recently he worked as Conservation Director

at the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich where he led the multi-award winning Painted Hall conservation project. Will has lectured widely on 18th- and 19th-century art and architecture and is a former columnist of *Country Life* magazine. He is a trustee of the Georgian Group and Chairman of the Sheerness Dockyard Trust.

Abstract

In 2023, the 900th anniversary of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Barts Heritage, embarked on a landmark £9m project to repair, conserve and rejuvenate the Grade

I listed North Wing at St Bartholomew's Hospital, including its celebrated interiors, the Hogarth Stair and Great Hall. As well as addressing the historic fabric of the building, the project includes a pioneering programme of events and activities linking heritage and health - in partnership with St Bartholomew's Hospital. In this talk he will discuss the challenges and complexities of the project as well as the exciting opportunities it offers for public access and engagement, both during and after the works.



Bird of paradise, Jeffrey Rosenberg and friends

Meetings reports

International investigations of places of detention

Professor Sir Malcolm Evans, Principal of Regent's College Oxford, addressed the Senior Fellows Forum on 19th October 2023. Sir Malcolm has been an academic international lawyer who Chaired the United Nations Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture, between 2010 and 2020. His interest stemmed from his initial research into the Council of Europe's decision to investigate places of detention to see and understand the treatment people were receiving within them. He became actively involved in various organisations, leading in 2002 to the publication of *The Optional Protocol for the United Nations Convention against Torture* which was adopted in 2006. He was subsequently invited to join the subcommittee and became its Chair in 2010. In international terms there is probably more legislative prohibition on torture and ill-treatment than any other topic; nevertheless it remains prevalent. In recognising the failure of prohibition, the Protocol has focused on prevention. Over 100 states (accounting for more than half the international community) have adopted the Protocol. This allows for the subcommittee on the prevention of torture (SPT) to make unannounced and unimpeded visits to any sites of detention, including inspection of all documentation, areas within and unsupervised contact with any staff or detainees. In other words 'any time, any place, anywhere'.

However, the Protocol hasn't found favour with international human rights organisations, often with implausible and impractical notions related to orthodoxy, as the *quid pro quo* for access has required that all findings and reports are confidential to the states involved and their prerogative to decide if

and when to publish anything. The benefit of confidentiality has meant that reports can be honest and recommendations offered as to how improvements may be made. The subcommittee's role isn't to condemn but to offer mechanisms to reduce the risk of torture and ill-treatment. Sir Malcolm has found that almost always this approach, by himself and other members of the subcommittee, has led to fruitful conversations with those responsible, rather than the denial expected without the confidentiality clause.

He discussed awareness of bias and assumptions, when inspecting places of detention, which could temper a report otherwise leading to increased risk to detainees. His early work on the *Robben Island Guidelines on Torture Prevention* in Africa which were similar to the European ones, highlighted cultural differences which had to be considered. In most cases, if African detainees were denied access to family during the pre-trial stage then they wouldn't have access to any food and water (for them to be provided by their family). In contrast to Europe, access to family and the right to correspondence had to be included. This was self-evident when he visited Africa thereafter. He was unable to name countries due to confidentiality but indicated that whilst many had adopted the subcommittee's recommendations many hadn't. He spoke of other experiences and pitfalls. One was assuming that a person in detention had anything to do with the police and justice system and was being denied the fundamental right, that a third person be informed of the detention. There were instances where persons caused locking up of drunks, in a police station, long enough to enable them to sober up!

A further fundamental right is to be taken before a judicial authority within a statutory period following arrest. Again in some countries, to do so would result in automatic remand which could last for years. One had to recognise that some systems are more or less geared to corruption and moneymaking. Another challenge to orthodoxy was remembering who actually ran the prison. In South America, especially Ecuador by way of example, powerful prisoners such as drug barons could rule the roost. In some prisons the authorities refused to accompany him if he insisted on an inspection. In some countries a prisoner would be required to pay a cell fee to the head inmate to avoid inter-captive abuse, whilst the money collected was often used to bribe guards for amenities. There is false assumption that authorities can exercise control in places of detention. We assume the professionalism of the professionals. In many countries adherence to the rule of law is much thinner than one would like to admit. This is a profound dilemma in human rights terms and the principle of 'do no harm'.

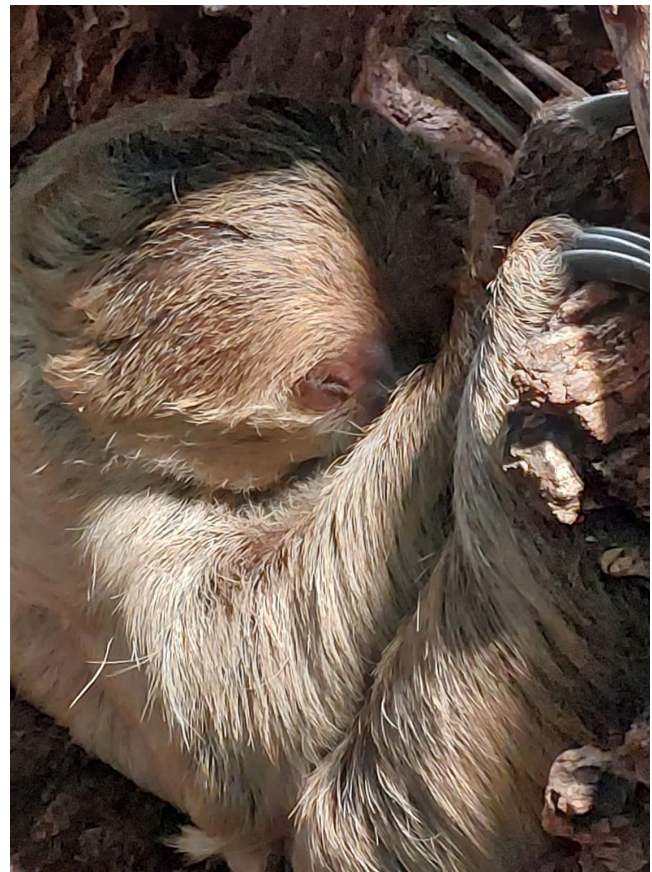
Sir Malcolm took questions from the audience. He mentioned that the USA wasn't a signatory to the Protocol and thus no visits had been made to either the mainland or Guantanamo Bay. It was not surprising that neither Russia nor China are signatories either. In those European countries which are signatories, abuses have been found, but not as gross as described elsewhere. He referred to his recently published book *Tackling Torture, Prevention in Practice* (Bristol University Press, September 2023. ISBN 978-1529225693), in which he discussed in detail legislation, mechanisms and protocols in operation, including examples of prison logs which recorded fictional accounts of calm and normal situations when the reality was anything but that.

Sir Malcolm described a reasoned process within the confines of the UN Charter by which countries to visit were selected on the basis of where it was felt that the subcommittee's recommendations would most likely be acted upon. There are countries within the system

with no effective governance and are best left to other agencies to tackle. Another strand of the Convention was to encourage countries to set up their own oversight mechanisms which could be very effective and mitigate against the need for a subcommittee visit, other than dialogue between the local agency and his team.

Clearly, it isn't possible to arrive in a country totally unannounced so a window is identified during which a proposed visit would take place. This facilitated travel and meetings with high ranking officials including government ministers. The dialogue was more important than information on effectiveness. In those 70-80 countries which had established local oversight it was possible to release the subcommittee's reports to them. Interestingly, the pandemic had facilitated remote oversight and reduction in overcrowding in some instances, especially in European countries citing Marseille, France as an example. The meeting closed with an enthusiastic round of applause and the presentation of a gift to Sir Malcolm.

Jeffrey Rosenberg



Sloth resting on log, Jeffrey Rosenberg and friends

External events reports

Around Kings Cross



Kings cross, Photo London UK

On the 13th of July, I was fortunate to join Sue Weir's group for a latest in-depth and absolutely fascinating walking tour in London. The weather was kind as we amiably strolled from our meeting place at Euston station along the Euston Road, stopping to note a wall plaque commemorating the location of the former Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. We then continued around the corner to view the bronze sculpture of Newton after Blake by Eduardo Paolozzi (1995) in front of the British Library. Sue informed us that we were now in the Knowledge Quarter (KQ)! Membership of the British Library is free with excellent refreshments on site available. We continued past the Library to the Francis Crick Institute on Midland Road (and opposite a shortcut entranceway to Eurostar Station). The current free exhibition related to editing an individual's DNA.

We carried on to St. Pancras Old Church which dates back to the fourth century and was possibly built on the site of a former Roman temple. Pancras himself was executed, aged fourteen, in AD 304 for refusing to renounce his Christianity, on the orders of Roman Emperor Diocletian. In front of the church is an image of children bathing in the river Fleet which used to run next to the church, from Hampstead to Blackfriars to the Thames. Sue reminded us that the river did not run beneath Fleet Street. In the church grounds were the sections of the Hardy tree, an ash which sadly has been irreparably damaged by weather and fungal disease since 2022.

In the 1860s part of the graveyard was deconsecrated to facilitate building of St Pancras station. Human remains were reinterred but resiting of gravestones was

delegated by the architect Arthur Blomfield to his young assistant the budding novelist Thomas Hardy (1840-1928). We noted the Burdett-Coutts Memorial Sundial commissioned for St Pancras Old Church, listing the names of those disinterred to make space for the Midland Railway. We also saw the grade1 listed mausoleum erected in 1816 entombing Sir John Soane, his wife and son. The mausoleum was designed by Sir John Soane and influenced the architect Giles Gilbert Scott (1880-1960) with the centrepiece reflecting his early representation of the iconic red telephone box. Scott also designed the Battersea Power Station.



Hardy Tree, adobe stock

Our walk then led to the entrance to Camley Street Natural Park, a wildlife paradise on rewilded land close to Kings Cross. The pathway crossed Regent's Canal with spectacular views of the canal, Coal Drops Yard and the Central St Martins' School of Art, in the repurposed Granary Building. The tour of this regenerated area of London ended at Granary Square, to allow individuals to enjoy the numerous retail and dining opportunities available, as well as the Screen on the Canal streaming the semi-finals from Wimbledon!



Regent's Canal by Granary Square, Jeffrey Rosenberg

Finally, as always our thanks are due to Sue for her brilliant tours of hidden London which always remind me how fortunate we are to live in or have easy access to such a glorious and historic capital city.

Jeffrey Rosenberg



Contemplative, Jeffrey Rosenberg and friends

Early autumn visit to Kew Gardens



The Palm House from the train, Ian Stephen

On Tuesday 12th September, over twenty members of the Retired Fellows Society met Sue Weir at the Victoria Gate of The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, a UNESCO Heritage Site since 2003. Bearing yellow wrist bands, we boarded the train, and headed for a guided tour around the gardens. This was a great way to start the day. The commentary, given by an onboard member of Kew staff, was superb, and gave us a great insight into the conservation and scientific research carried out at Kew and its sister facility at Wakehurst in Sussex. She pointed out the range of specialist areas and plants in the gardens, as well as picking out individual trees for our attention. We rapidly became aware of what a large area the gardens cover, formed by the merger by George III of the Richmond and Kew estates.

The route the train takes is clockwise round the gardens, mainly on the edges, starting off along Camelia Walk (camellias not being in flower at the time though), and then, with good views of the two art galleries (of which more later) to the front of the temperate house, followed by the recently restored pagoda. We saw the Holly Walk, which has the finest collection of holly trees in Europe, and the arboretum, containing over fourteen thousand trees. We passed the Redwood Grove, the tallest tree of which is forty metres high, and then on to the Pinetum. Our guide drew our attention to the Bishop's pine, which unusually, produces pinecones directly on the branches.

One aspect of the work at Kew is maintenance of a wild area, which is very rarely touched by any gardeners - although one was working when we passed. Part of this wild area is an acid field with some unusual plants. Passing a view of Syon House across the Thames, the train trundled above the Hollow Walk designed by Capability Brown, dug out by hand, and then passed the children's garden, which used some of the one thousand trees lost in the 1987 storm to make an area in which children can climb, the only climbing permitted in the garden. We passed a Spanish chestnut tree, the wood of which is so hard that it is used to make castanets, and then to a view of Kew Palace and the Orangery. The Princess of Wales Conservatory was seen, this contains ten climatic zones. Although opened by Diana, Princess of Wales, it was named after Princess Augusta, the daughter-in law of King George II, and the founder of Kew Gardens.



The Pagoda from the train, Ian Stephen



Interior of the Temperate House, Ann Ferguson



Intrepid explorers in the Temperate House, Tilli Tansey

After a most pleasant hour's journey, during which most of us had compiled very long lists of sites and sights to revisit, we returned to our starting point. Sue then took charge of us, and we were taken to two art galleries. The first was the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art. Sherwood was born in 1933, and known for her interest in botanical illustration, she took a bachelor's degree in botany and a DPhil. whilst she was employed at the pharmaceutical company Smith, Kline & French, and worked on the powerful gastro-intestinal drug, cimetidine. The gallery, opened in 2008, is named after

her. She has been described as a 'driving force behind a revival of interest in botanical art'. This gallery currently houses two exhibitions. The first is 'Plants of the Qur'an', a world-premiere exhibition of brand-new botanical paintings by Sue Wickison who, in collaboration with Kew scientist Dr Shahina Ghazanfer, has collected, researched and documented myriad plants mentioned in the Qur'an. These were beautifully painted in watercolour, the ginger, tamarisk and fig really stood out. There was a short film of the artist talking about her work, where she described her 'geeky glasses' used for magnification, and showed her way of working. There were glass cases showing her preliminary studies and the colours she used. The other exhibition in this gallery was 'All the flowers are for me', a light installation by American contemporary artist Anila Quayyum Agha. Suspended in one room is a large laser cut steel cube inspired by patterns used in Islamic art and architecture. This fills the gallery space with elaborate floor-to-ceiling shadow patterns, magical to view but impossible to describe.



'Loneliest plant in the world' Encephalartos woodii, Ann Ferguson

Onward we went to the next gallery, which was paid for and opened by Marianne North, a Victorian painter. Born in 1830, she passed away before her 60th birthday and only started painting after her father died when she was 40. In those 19 years she travelled all over the world painting botanical specimens in context, in oil. The paintings illustrate plants in complete scenes, with other plants and animals, and also a stunning array of landscapes of the regions in which she travelled. The paintings are exhibited floor to ceiling and are overwhelming.



Sue searching for her 'lost sheep' in the Temperate House, Tilli Tansey

A suggestion that we go to the Pavilion Bar and Grill was greeted with alacrity, and following this, a smaller number of us spent half an hour in the Temperate House. Which was designed by Decimus Burton and took 37 years to build (1862-1899). It is the largest Victorian glass house in the world and bigger than the Palm House at 4,800 square meters. Recent conservation included the replacement of 15,000 panes of glass, new walkways, repaired urns, statuary and window frames. This construction now houses 10,000 plants of 1,500 species from the temperate regions of the world, and is an extremely important scientific collection that is vital for conservation. The Octagons have changing educational and horticultural displays. The central part is divided into three areas, Australia, New Zealand and the Americas. These were viewed from the walkway by the fitter and more intrepid of the group.

Sue sent us to see what she called 'the loneliest plant in the world'. This is *Encephalartos woodii*, a cycad. A notice next to it explained that

'It has the biggest genome of any cycad, which if unravelled, would be 20 metres long and ten times bigger than the human genome. Having a large genome is generally detrimental, because it slows the rate at which plants can grow. Weedy invasive plants have particularly small genomes, making them nimble growers'

There are only male plants of this species left, so reproduction can only be done by vegetative techniques.

Our final stop was at the Treetop Walkway, eighteen metres above ground. Unfortunately, the lift was out of action, so we had to climb a hundred plus stairs, the exact number gleefully reported by the fitness tracker wearers. The climb permitted us to view tree-high scenes of the area and was rewarded with close appreciation of sweet chestnut trees, and flights of ring-necked parakeets, the first time some members of our group were to see these birds.

On returning to ground level, thanks were given to Sue Weir for leading us for a really lovely day, and some of us stayed on to go to Kew Palace, which we found interesting but rather sad. Later, four of us accidentally met up again in the shop to see the first rain of the day, which had been threatening all afternoon.

Ann Ferguson



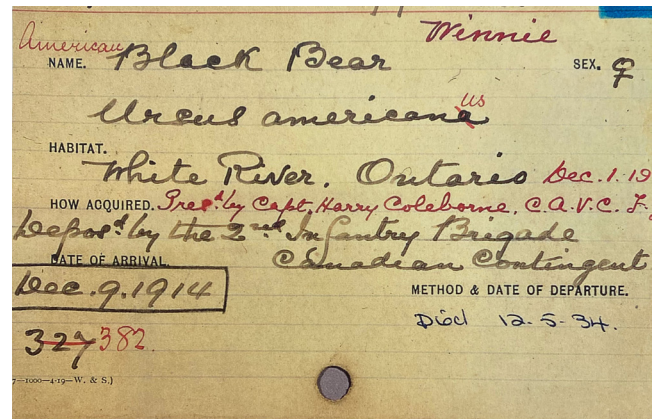
Temperate House from the Treetop Walkway, Ian Stephen

A visit to London Zoo

On Wednesday 1st of November, our Chairman, Dr Jeffery Rosenberg, organised a most interesting visit to the London Zoo where he is a volunteer. We started in the library where the library archivist Natasha Wakely had prepared some historical documents from the Zoological Society's archive. Starting with the reports of the first weekly visits by a veterinarian, Charles Spooner, his Surgeon's Journal being dated 1829-1831. He was paid £60 a year to attend the Gardens twice a week, his successor achieving £6 a week (£312 a year). There were also reports from early committee meetings and postmortem reports. One of the most interesting were the details of a Canadian brown bear from Winnipeg, known as Winnie, who arrived at the zoo with a Canadian service man in 1914 and died in 1937, and who was the inspiration for AA Milne's 'Winnie the Pooh'.



Statue of 'Winnie' (the Pooh) and her original owner. Lara O'Brien



Winnie documentation, Lara O'Brien

389	Orange striped Snake	Elaphe melanura	♀	E. Asia	Reptile etc
390	67 Great Road	Bufo marinus	♀	Top. America	
391	382 America Black Bear (Winnie)	Ursus americanus	♀	Ontario	Picked up in field in all
392	1888 Jack Snipe	Lymnospiza minimus	♀		Top. etc
393	1001 Hybrid Siamese & Silver Pheasant	Lophura diardi & G. sinensis	♀	S. China	Pheasant

Winnie's death book entry, Lara O'Brien

The other highlight was a visit to the Zoo's animal hospital where we were given an idea of the complexities of dealing with a vast range of animals from the very small to giraffes and elephants. We were shown fascinating radiographs of animals by Dr Taina (Tai) Strike, chief veterinarian, including of a manta ray, monkeys, an armadillo and a frog with gallstones. Dr Simon Spiro, veterinary pathologist, told us about the many postmortems he carries out from spiders to whales and the range of diseases, infections and infestations found in animals. An interesting example was the pulmonary vein arteriosclerosis which occurs in meerkats who have hypercholesterolaemia and get infected with a worm who enters the right atrium and whose larvae damage the pulmonary vein. We also had guided tours of some of the animal enclosures by Dr Rosenberg, a taster for future visits. Notable were the butterflies and moths which included the world's largest, the Atlas moth, with an 8 inch wing span, which has no mouth parts, is unable to feed and dies in about two weeks after, about only a fortnight as an adult. Galapagos tortoises and the Komodo dragon were thrilling. The recently installed coral reef with an amazing variety of multicoloured fish was beautiful.

Michael O'Brien



Sloth relaxing, Lara O'Brien



Contemplative gorilla, Lara O'Brien



Charming butterflies. Butterfly house, Lara O'Brien



Galapagos tortoises, Lara O'Brien



Library at the ZSL, Lara O'Brien



Atlas moth in the butterfly house, Lara O'Brien

Article

Mr. Beatty's legacy in the death of Admiral Nelson

Ian Douglas Fraser



The Death of Nelson, 21 October 1805. Arthur William Devis. National Maritime Museum

A small number of memorable paintings depict a doctor at work attending their patient. Pablo Picasso's *Science and Charity*, and *The Doctor* by Luke Fildes are notable favourites, but who can recall the circumstances and the name of the doctor in the painting? Here, in a unique setting we can identify both doctor and patient in a painting which defines a point in our national history. It is Mr. William Beatty, attending the dying Admiral, Horatio Nelson. In his painting, *The Death of Nelson, 21 October 1805*, Arthur William Devis shows Mr. Beatty, the surgeon, attending Vice Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson in his final moments. Devis places Beatty prominently in the scene. Was this a goodwill gesture or was Beatty instrumental in designing the setting? This is the story of how Beatty may have influenced the picture that Devis produced and in doing so established his own legacy.

Nelson, the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet was fatally wounded on board *Victory* during the Battle of Trafalgar. The news, in a dispatch from Vice Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood, reached London on the 5/6th November. Between the announcement of Nelson's death and *Victory's* return, Josiah

Boydell, an enterprising print seller, placed an advert in *The Times* on the 22nd November. He offered a 500 guinea prize (equivalent to £53,000 today) to any British artist who would paint the best picture of the death of Nelson so that prints might be made from the engraving. *The Death of General Wolfe* by Benjamin West was the recommended style. West and James Gillray were stirred into action as was Arthur William Devis, a respected portrait artist, detained in debtors' prison at the time. *Victory* limped into Spithead, off Portsmouth, on 5th December. Devis, released from prison, produced the necessary introductions to be taken on board. He befriended *Victory's* officers and eye-witnesses such as Beatty.

He wasted no time sketching relevant parts of the ship and images of those who had entered Beatty's workplace, the cockpit. Devis was present when Nelson's preserved corpse was taken from the leaguer barrel and the post mortem performed. His drawings included a posthumous sketch of Nelson's facial features and the fatal musket ball retrieved by Beatty. He made the preliminary sketch that would be the template for his final composition. After the state funeral on 9th January 1806, Devis continued his work on *The Death of Nelson*. Beatty, ostensibly transferred to the hospital ship, *Sussex*, obtained an MD degree from Aberdeen University which facilitated his promotion to Physician of the Channel Fleet later in September. By then he had written the 'AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE OF THE DEATH OF LORD NELSON...' which has since become the default account of the events surrounding Nelson's death.

The Death of Nelson, 21 October 1805 **by A W Devis**

The imposing six by nine-foot oil painting by Devis is displayed at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London. A contemporary oil sketch of the scene was purchased subsequently by Queen Victoria in 1852 and is displayed now at Buckingham Palace. A third, smaller version, is in private hands. The scene portrayed is situated in the dark confines of the port-side wing of the cockpit on the orlop deck in *Victory*, below the waterline. The area is illuminated by three lanterns throwing their light predominantly on Nelson who is surrounded centrally by four attendants. Peripherally, there are seven figures featured and here Devis has used artistic licence to expand the headroom of the cockpit to accommodate all twelve participants including Captain Hardy who stands overlooking Nelson. The whole scene appears deceptively calm whereas in reality, chaos, confusion, death and destruction dominated. But Devis was never present to witness the event and would have required considerable help to get the details correct.

What do we see in the painting? Nelson, a pale figure, lies centrally and is captured with his eyes partially open, rolled up, and not obviously directed. His servant the steward, William Chevalier, supports Nelson's partly dressed torso using his right arm to turn him slightly towards his right side. The Reverend Dr. Scott is seen rubbing Nelson's anterior chest wall. The purser, Walter Burke, holds the pillow under his head and shoulders which raises Nelson into a semi-recumbent position. Beatty is portrayed searching for a pulse as Chevalier looks anxiously and moist-eyed towards him. An obvious omission to the informed viewer is any indication of the entry wound made by the musket ball which had entered Nelson's chest just inferior to the acromion and the left clavicle.

Captain Hardy overlooks the scene and six more identifiable figures occupy the expanded space in the cockpit. Clockwise from the left

are Lt. John Yule, Midshipman Edward Francis Collingwood and Nelson's valet, Gaetano Spedillo, seen carrying a beaker towards Nelson. To the right of the painting, we see Mr. William Bunce, the ship's carpenter, Neil Smith, the assistant surgeon and, finally, lying injured, Lt. George Miller Bligh.

The Authentic Narrative... **William Beatty**

Devis worked on the paintings and the other images during 1806 and completed his work later in 1807. Beatty and Burke wasted no time in recording their own accounts in several publications on their return. Beatty, the respected surgeon in attendance, may have been encouraged to write his Authentic Narrative early in 1806 which he submitted to the Prince of Wales for approval prior to publication in January 1807.

Beatty headed and annotated his work as follows...

AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE
OF THE DEATH OF
LORD NELSON:
WITH
THE CIRCUMSTANCES PRECEDING, ATTENDING,
AND
SUBSEQUENT TO, THAT EVENT;
THE PROFESSIONAL REPORT
ON HIS LORDSHIP'S WOUND,
AND SEVERAL INTERESTING ANECDOTES.
BY WILLIAM BEATTY, M.D.

...and that is exactly what we get in his 99-page book.

In a compelling narrative Beatty places his account of the events leading to Nelson's death before a potential audience who he believes should not be denied the details to be found later in an official version. Beatty gave no accreditation to his sources, some clearly close to Nelson, who supplied '*the several interesting anecdotes*'. In the six weeks after the battle and

on the voyage home Beatty would have had ample opportunity to discuss the events of October in detail. Other useful sources included Nelson's published will, *Victory's* log and contributions from her crew.

The fine detail Devis received from Beatty is clear when his narrative is read verbatim. In just a single sentence and a paragraph, Beatty described the final scenario...



Detail from *The Death of Nelson*. Photograph by Ian Fraser

'Lord NELSON now desired Mr. CHEVALIER, his Steward, to turn him upon his right side... His thirst now increased; and he called for 'Drink, drink', 'Fan, fan', and 'Rub, rub': addressing himself in the last case to Doctor SCOTT, who had been rubbing HIS LORDSHIP'S breast with his hand, from which he found some relief.

HIS LORDSHIP became speechless in about fifteen minutes after Captain HARDY left him. Doctor SCOTT and Mr. BURKE, who had all along sustained the bed under his shoulders (which raised him in nearly a semi-recumbent posture, the only one that was supportable to him), forbore to disturb him by speaking to him; and when he had remained speechless about five minutes, HIS LORDSHIP'S Steward went to the Surgeon, who had been a short time occupied with the wounded in another part of the cockpit, and stated his apprehensions that HIS LORDSHIP was dying. The Surgeon immediately repaired to him, and found him on the verge of dissolution. He knelt down by his side, and took up his hand; which was cold, and the pulse gone from the wrist. On the Surgeon's feeling his forehead,

which was likewise cold, HIS LORDSHIP opened his eyes, looked up, and shut them again. The Surgeon again left him, and returned to the wounded who required his assistance; but was not absent five minutes before the Steward announced to him that 'he believed HIS LORDSHIP had expired'. The Surgeon returned, and found that the report was but too well founded: HIS LORDSHIP had breathed his last, at thirty minutes past four o'clock; at which period Doctor SCOTT was in the act of rubbing HIS LORDSHIP'S breast, and Mr. BURKE supporting the bed under his shoulder.

When the painting by Devis and Beatty's description are juxtaposed, one sees that the detail in the narrative has been incorporated into the picture. All those included feature prominently in Beatty's narrative except the carpenter. In painting the death scene so realistically Devis placed himself in prime position to win Boydell's prize. Beatty benefitted too from the post-mortem drawings of Nelson and sketches of the fatal musket ball which he incorporated into his published narrative. Devis also painted a flattering portrait for Beatty dressed and splendid in his new uniform as Physician to the Fleet. Was this a token of his gratitude for Beatty's contribution? Of interest to the medical community is Beatty's post mortem report contained in the narrative. Beatty summarised the history leading to his patient's death, gave an accurate summary of the gross anatomical findings and finally described the condition of the organs examined; a particularly impressive example being the condition of the heart valves. With his findings documented, he offered possible causes of death. Recently revisited and based on Beatty's findings, Nelson's death likely resulted primarily from neurogenic shock resulting from transection of the spinal cord at T6 (*Daniel Nijensohn, Journal of Trauma & Treatment, 2017*). The admirable detail in Beatty's report supports suggestions that he had previous experience performing or observing autopsies sometime during his training and career.

Observations

In an excellent professional historical biography, *Nelson's Surgeon* (Brockliss, Cardwell and Moss; Oxford: 2005), Beatty is recognised as 'a considerate and competent doctor ... a typical naval surgeon of his day' but one who made 'the most of a fortunate break'. More generously, we might view him as exceptional since Nelson always demanded the best in his entourage. At sea for fourteen years, Beatty was already an experienced and respected surgeon when he was recommended to Nelson. Technically it is remarkable that at Trafalgar he performed limb amputations on eleven injured sailors without anaesthesia or antisepsis and secured survival in eight of them. Then from 1806 with an MD and with promotion to Fleet Physician he was based in Plymouth until 1815 when hostilities with Napoleon concluded. Two editions of his popular narrative were printed in 1807.



Portrait of Dr. William Beatty as Physician to the Fleet, 1806. National Maritime Museum.

Discharged from active service he studied for an MD at the University of St. Andrews and became a Licentiate at the London College of Physicians in 1817. During five years in private practice in Plymouth he gained admission to the Linnaean Society and became a Fellow of The Royal Society. In 1822 he was invited back as Physician to Greenwich Hospital. Back in London he gained recognition with Royal appointments and was knighted by the 'Sailor King', William IV (Nelson's 'Best Man' when the Duke of Clarence). He became a board

member for The Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Company, the London and Greenwich Railway Company, The Deptford Gas Company and a member of the Nelson Column Project. Clearly a man with exceptional abilities. With failing health, Beatty retired in 1839 and died, unmarried, in 1842, aged 68. He declined an offer of burial at Greenwich choosing instead an unmarked vault in Kensal Green Cemetery.



The first sketch by A W Devis on board HMS Victory, Wellcome Collection.

In summary

William Beatty shared centre stage alongside Horatio Nelson in *The Death of Nelson* and was placed permanently in the public eye as his surgeon at a point of national and historical interest. In the *Authentic Narrative* the naval surgeon promoted his own image and achieved a legacy denied to other more eminent doctors. In this collaborative venture, we might conclude that although Arthur William Devis made the picture the evidence suggests it was Mr. Beatty who wrote the script.



Dr. Sir William Beatty, Physician to Greenwich Hospital, Wellcome Collection.



Ring-tailed lemur on holiday, Jeffrey Rosenberg and friends



Our porcupine family, Jeffrey Rosenberg and friends



Dwarf mongoose, Jeffrey Rosenberg and friends

Information for Authors

There are three issues per year of the Journal of the RSM Retired Fellows Society, which appear in April, August and December. Articles may be submitted at any time, and accepted ones are compiled into the next available issue space.

Each manuscript should bear the title of the article, name, address and email address of the author. Please write in Arial Narrow, 12 point, 1.5 spaced and do not justify the text. Spelling needs to conform to the Oxford English Dictionary.

Text **MUST** be submitted electronically, as a fully editable Word document.

Authors also please be sure to complete your submission with your name on it.

Accepted articles for the *Journal*:

- Solicited articles, on a topic agreed with the editor, and should be 1,500 to 2,000 words in length.
- Articles submitted by readers - 500 to 1,500 words.
- Reports of presentations at meetings of the Retired Fellows Society - 500 to 1,500 words, the author invited by the Chair of the corresponding day.
- Reports of extramural events of the Retired Fellows Society - 500 to 1,000 words, the author invited by the leader of the event.
- Reports of Retired Fellows Society tours - 1,000 to 2,000 words, the author invited by the leader of the tour.
- Short 'fillers', text and/or photographs. Poems, quotes, amusing items, brief - under 200 words.

Imagery:

With reference to submission of images (which is encouraged), it is important that each image is accompanied with a title, description and photographer acknowledgement.

Photographs should be uploaded digitally and be as high resolution as possible.