



Issue 15

Spring 2007

Chairman's Note

The Museum re-opened to the public on Tuesday 20th February - after a busy and expensive closed season. A survey of the roof in 2005 had disclosed some blocked gutters, broken tiles and flashings awaiting attention during the 2006 closed season, but two torrential summer downpours did real damage to the roof, the ceiling of the Regency Room and the nursery floor and walls.

A lot of repair and remedial work has been carried out on the roof, drainage gullies and timbers, the damaged ceiling replaced and the associated damp areas plastered and decorated... at a cost of approximately £23,000. This has been partially offset by a one off grant from Cheltenham Borough Council of £10,000.

The Roof Appeal launched by the Friends before Christmas has been most successful, raising nearly £6,000 to date. Contributions have ranged from a £5 note in an envelope dropped through the door of the Museum to a cheque for £1,000, part of a legacy generously and sympathetically shared with us. It has been most heartening and encouraging to receive such generosity from friends and supporters - many of whom have seen the publicity in the *Echo*.

An insurance claim has been submitted in respect of the storm damage to the ceiling so we hope for a further small contribution, but the Hon. Treasurer will have to dig into reserves to meet our commitments.

Volunteers continue to be the life blood of the Museum by helping in many ways. Some have moved on or away and are greatly missed, so new recruits are warmly welcomed, particularly at the start of a new season

Marjorie Imlah

Inside this issue:

Research @ HBM:	2
Gleanings from the Census	
Holst Statue	2
This Year's events	3
Philip Adlard (1926-2006)	3
Friends' Report	4
Friends' Application Form	4

Recent Acquisitions

A signed contract with publishers Willcocks & Co Ltd for an early work by Holst, his *Valse Etude in C major* for piano and violin, has recently been acquired by the Museum. Dated the 13th of March 1904, the contract is signed 'Gustav von Holst', the name the composer inherited and which he used in his early life. The contract is partially printed and completed by hand. Holst was to be paid £5 for the initial publication with a further £10 after the sale of 1000 copies and £5 after the sale of 2,000 copies. Two hundred copies were to be given to him 'free for distribution'. The contract is in excellent condition and is a fine example of a composer contract of the time.

Also included is a printed score of Holst's great-grandfather, Mathias von Holst's, *The Shepherd's Rondo* with a charming vignette of the shepherd, a shepherdess and a talented dog on the cover. Another printed work, entitled *The Matagorda Polka*, by W E Jarrett, inscribed to Lady Marlaine and published by C Hale and Son ('Music Sellers to Her Majesty') in Cheltenham, completes the new package.

The Museum was able to acquire these items with donations given in memory of Isabel Grindley.

An exhibition of recent acquisitions is in the Museum now and will continue until May.

Research @ HBM: Gleanings from the Census

In 1861 Gustav Holst's father, Adolphus von Holst, was 15 years old and living at 16 Rotunda Terrace, Cheltenham, with his family. His father, Gustavus (61), was described as "Professor of Music, Harp and Piano Forte". Under "Where Born" we find "Russia; Naturalised British Subject." His wife, Honoria (50), was born in Norfolk. Young Adolphus had two sisters, Catherine (21, listed here as Kate) and Benigna (12, known as Nina), and a brother, Lorenz (18); all of the children were born in London. Gustavus had brought his family to Cheltenham some time during the previous decade, thinking it would be a promising town for enrolling his private music pupils.

By 1871 Adolphus was 25 years old and a music teacher himself, living as a lodger at 5 Clarence Parade in the household of John Bennett, a Registrar of Births and Deaths. Not far away, at 4 Pittville Terrace (later renamed Clarence Road and now the Holst Birthplace Museum), lived a 66-years-old widow of a Cirencester solicitor, Mary Croft Lediard, with two of her daughters, Clara (29) and Susan (26). Clara Lediard was, or became, one of Adolphus's pupils.

Ten years later, in 1881, Clara and Adolphus (now more generally known as Adolph) were married, Mrs Lediard had moved from 4 Pittville Terrace, and the von Holsts were living there with their sons, Gustav(us), who was 6, and Emil (4), together with one servant. Among other residents of Pittville Terrace at this time were a widow and her daughter, born in India and Ceylon respectively, a sign of Cheltenham's attraction for ex-colonials. Next door to the Holsts, at no 3, was a "Surgeon Dentist", George Cullis (72), a widower with a housekeeper and three lodgers. On the other side, no 5, was Emily Cossens, 30 years old. Ten years earlier she had been one of three unmarried sisters, dressmakers, at that address. Now she was described as a lodging house keeper, and she had two lodgers: F.W. Young, a curate at St Paul's Church, and a Frenchman, Charles de Lanois (56), a "Professor of Languages" who taught at Cheltenham Grammar School¹. Further along the row at no 7 was Henry Layton (28) with his wife, two infant sons and two servants. Layton is described as a Professor of Music, and one wonders whether he and Adolph were friends (or rivals) as well as neighbours. These few examples show the variety of the occupations represented in this type of property in the area.

By 1891 Clara von Holst was dead, and the family

had left Pittville Terrace. Adolph had married another pupil, Mary Thorley, and two more sons had been born, Matthias (4) and Thorley (1), while Gustav and Emil were 16 and 14 respectively. They were living nearer to the centre of Cheltenham, at 1 Vittoria Walk, and had a cook and a nursemaid. Their neighbours reflect Cheltenham's growing educational distinction. Wolseley House, listed by the census enumerator immediately before Vittoria Walk, was the home of John Style (47), Headmaster of Cheltenham Grammar School, where Gustav was then a pupil² (and probably not too pleased to have his headmaster living so near at hand). Mr Style and his wife had five "scholars" living in their house, probably Cheltenham College boys, as their places of birth included Ceylon and Ireland (none were local). At 2 Vittoria Walk lived three ladies, Constance, Alice and Ellen Andrews (35, 33 and 31 respectively), all of whom were Assistant Mistresses at Cheltenham Ladies' College³.

By the 1901 census (the last currently available) Adolph, now 55, was alone, his second wife having gone with her sons to California to pursue her interest in theosophy. He was a lodger at Oxford House, next door but one to what is now Cheltenham Playhouse. Gustav (26) was in London, a visitor at the home of his friend Ralph Vaughan Williams and described as a Trombone Player. He had left the Royal College of Music and was on the threshold of his career.

Sue Fletcher

¹Arthur Bell: *Tudor Foundation* (Richard Sadler, 1974), p. 181. Monsieur de Lanois appears as French Master in the 1882 list.

²Ibid p. 181. John Style, M.A. (Cantab) was Headmaster from 1882 to 1906. During his time the school was demolished and replaced by a larger building - he held "the fortunes of the school in his hands at an important and critical time."

³A.K. Clarke: *A History of Cheltenham Ladies' College, 1853-1979* (John Catt Ltd, 1979), p. 78. "It would be very difficult to overestimate what the College owes to Miss Alice Andrews." A footnote adds, "Her sisters Nellie and Constance also gave much to the College."

Holst Statue

The Cheltenham Civic Society has decided to use money bequeathed by a former member, Miss Elizabeth Hamond, to erect a bronze statue of Gustav Holst. The sculptor will be Anthony Stones FRBS, FRSA, and the statue cast at Pango-lin studios in Stroud, but the location has not yet been announced.

This Year's Events

A full calendar of events – and possibly more to come – is planned for this year. April brings a concert and dinner with guitarist Raymond Burley at 7:30pm on the 28th in St Andrew's Church. Raymond is one of Britain's most experienced guitarists. He has performed in solo concerts, on film scores, radio and television, and in virtually every possible guitar ensemble. This is an ideal opportunity to gather a party to enjoy a splendid evening's entertainment, followed by a two-course dinner, and all for just £20 (Friends £18). Tickets for the concert alone will be £10 (Friends £8).

In the same month, Cheltenham's Mayor, Jacky Fletcher, has graciously offered to hold a coffee morning in aid of the roof appeal. This will take place on Tuesday the 17th of April in the Mayor's Parlour, and will include a sumptuous spread and a raffle.

Tuesday 15th May brings the welcome return of Gerald Towell, who will continue his talk on Arthur Bliss, which proved so popular last year. Gerald is the President of the Bliss Society and an enthusiastic expert on his subject.

Walking shoes to the fore in June, when, on the 24th, we will join the Cheltenham Circular Challenge to raise funds for the Museum (see page 4). The following day brings the Museum's Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum at 2.30pm. The meeting will be followed by Terence Gilmour-James speaking about Vaughan Williams and tea. There is no admission charge and all are welcome.

We have been promising a music sale for some time now, and we have finally determined a date: Sunday the 5th of August. Admission is free and

we are now actively seeking material to sell: CDs, sheet music, books, musical instruments, or anything at all connected with music will be welcomed. Please, in the first instance, get in touch with the Museum to let us know what you have (email holstmuseum@btconnect.com or write to the Museum).

The Three Choirs Festival takes place in Gloucester this year, and Holst will be well represented. The Volunteers' Outing will be on Monday morning, the 6th of August, when we will hear Holst's *Nunc Dimittis*, as well as music by Britten and the inspiring *Spem in Alium*.

Our Birthday Concert in All Saints' Church takes place on Saturday, the 22nd of September and will feature the young violinist Rupert Luck, a native-born Cheltonian. An added bonus is the viola which belonged to Gustav Holst and which Rupert will play.

Last year, the Museum's musical advisor, Raymond Head, gave a fascinating talk on composing. He returns on Thursday, the 4th of October to impart new insights into the composer's inspiration and working practices.

Christmas will be celebrated in the specially decorated Museum with another Victorian Christmas Day on Saturday the 8th of December. This is a whole-family event, offering free admission to two children when accompanied by a paying adult.

These events provide an enjoyable, and often educational, way to support the Museum and have proved to be increasingly popular. Please try to attend as many as possible this year. We are sure that you will enjoy them.

Philip Adlard (1926-2006)

A very moving celebration of the life of Philip Adlard was held at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe on January 6th this year. The completely full church was a most fitting tribute to Philip's wide interests and quiet popularity. Quite right!

Philip lived a rich and varied life; the natural world (particularly forestry), humanity, and music were some of the fields in which he exercised his keen intellect. Music lovers in Cheltenham would have heard him playing the viola in the Symphony Orchestra, seen him at a great many concerts and recognised his valuable contribution to the Cheltenham Music Society.

Philip had been a volunteer at the Museum since its reopening as a charity in 2000; he was the volunteer on duty on the very first day of opening! Later he became a founder member of the Friends providing, amongst other things, technical support to his wife Sue, the membership secretary.

Philip approached all of his pursuits with a cheerful enquiring mind; his humour, modesty, patience, enthusiasm and dedication were always evident. These are just some of the gifts he has left us. We shall all remember him with great affection.

Brian Carvell

The Friends' Page

The Roof Appeal

The Friend's Appeal for donations to assist with repairs to the roof of the Museum received a superb response: we are well on the way to achieving the target. Your contributions, along with a one off grant from Cheltenham Borough Council, have enabled us to get on with the work and open the Museum as usual in February.

Your timely and generous support is greatly appreciated.

Forthcoming Friends' Initiatives

In the summer we will be getting together a group of Holst Friends to walk part of the Cheltenham Circular Challenge. The idea is to help to raise further funds for the Museum. If you want to join us, make sure you get plenty of sponsors. For more information and entry forms etc, please contact Tony Checksfield on 01242 255352.

And also about walking, we know that as well as living and working in different parts of the Cotswolds and Gloucestershire, Holst was a keen walker who knew and loved much of the countryside. We have therefore started exploring the possibility of creating a "Gustav Holst Way" in the Cotswolds, linking together places that are associated with Holst.

Vaughan Williams on Holst

A copy of a BBC archive recording of a talk by Vaughan Williams about his friend Gustav Holst has been donated to the Museum through the enterprise and generosity of Tony Checksfield. Tony contacted the copyright holders and dealt with all the paperwork in order to enable this valuable addition to the Museum's collection to be made available. You can listen to the talk in the Museum. Ask for the curator's help.

Not a Friend yet?....

....You can help the Museum by becoming a member of the Friends - simply fill in the form on this page, arrange your payment and return to the membership secretary.



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APPLICATION FORM

I/we would like to support the Holst Birthplace Museum and apply to join the Friends

Name(s):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Membership options (*please tick your choice*)

	Category	Annual	Life
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	£15	£250
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint	£20	£350
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	£25	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Overseas	£25	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate	£50	£500

I/We enclose a cheque for:

I/We prefer to pay by Standing Order:

To The Manager

plc

Address:

Postcode:

Name(s) of Account Holder(s):

Branch Sort Code:

Account Number:

Please pay to the credit of Friends of the Holst Birthplace Museum's Account (number 11851012) at HSBC Bank, Cheltenham Promenade Branch, 2 Promenade, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 1LS (Sort code 40-17-10) the sum of: now and thereafter on the same date annually until further notice.

Signature(s)

Date:

GIFT AID

I wish my payments to the Friends of the Holst Birthplace Museum to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I expect to pay an amount of income tax at least equal to the amount that the charity reclaims on my behalf.

Signature(s):

Date:

Please return this form to the Membership Secretary at the Holst Birthplace Museum, 4 Clarence Road, Cheltenham GL52 2AY