

## Diary dates

Spring 2010

### Thursday 18th Feb

### Family Lace Day

Bring the children and let them try their hand at lace making.  
Boys enjoy it as much as girls - but are they better?

### Friday 5th March 10:30 for 11am

### Bridge Day

Malmesbury Town Hall. Tickets £17 to include lunch and wine.  
Available from the museum or Council members or by post;  
R Griffin, Stable House, Swindon Rd, Malmesbury, SN16 9LU.

### Tuesday 9th March 7:30pm

### Talk by Jim Gunter

### Aldhelm the greatest Englishman ever - possibly

Jim Gunter who has recently written on "Aldhelm our first celebrity" will talk on the latest work on our saint. To be held in the Museum/Town Hall. Tickets £2 to cover costs

### Friday 26th March 6pm - 8pm. exhibition.

### Preview of Lace

Wine and nibbles. All are welcome. Invitation enclosed

### 27th March - 8th May

### Carnival in Lace

A fascinating display of modern lace; bright, colourful and exuberant! Lace items for sale.

## FOAM Contacts

Roger Griffin - Chairman      01666 822230

Miranda Ford - Treasurer      01666 824651

Angela Sykes - Volunteers      01666 824211

[www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk](http://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk)



## Friends of Athelstan Museum

New Year has come and gone, but the snow keeps returning;  
Still we look forward to the Spring

### LACE

The illustration on the front cover is an example of lace work by the Bristol Lace Group. We are very fortunate that they will hold an exhibition of their work in the museum from 27th March to 5th May; the creations from these talented people are fantastic; flamboyant and exotic and some will be for sale.. There will be a preview on Friday evening 26th March 6 – 8pm to which you are invited. No charge of course although donations for drinks are welcome. It is always good to meet our members and this will be enjoyable as well as artistically stimulating, so please do come.

### EVENTS

Again for our members there will be a talk on 9th March at 7.30pm .

#### **“Aldhelm the greatest Englishman ever - possibly”**

by **Jim Gunter** in the Town Hall: Invitation enclosed. We are making a nominal charge of £2 per head to cover expenses. Please pay on the door although it would be helpful to know if you intend to come. Wine and Nibbles available.

**Bridge Day** is Friday March 5th in the Town Hall, Malmesbury. We shall start at 10.30am with tea or coffee and biscuits and there will be two playing sessions, one each side of lunch; A hot lunch, home cooked with wine. Last year we held this event in the evening but this year “by popular request” as they say we are holding it in the daytime. Tickets £17, (as they were last year) to include wine and refreshments, are available from the museum, from Council members or by post from Roger Griffin, Stable House, Swindon Road, Malmesbury, SN16 9LU. We aim to enjoy ourselves rather than play international standard bridge, although there will be prizes!! So players of all standards are welcome

### EADGYTH

You may have seen in the press, both local and national about the discovery of bones which may be of Eadgyth, the half sister of King Athelstan. We first heard about it when Mark Horton, who is co-ordinating the project came to Malmesbury to talk to us. King Athelstan, who through alliances as well as force of arms became King of All England was active diplomatically in Europe. One of his treaties was with Otto I, the Holy Roman Emperor and to seal it Athelstan sent two of his half - sisters for Otto to select the one he preferred; a kind of BOGOF arrangement.

Eadgyth was the chosen one; they married and she produced two heirs, Lustgarde and Lindolf. Adiva; the rejected one, is believed to have married minor royalty and never returned to England.

Eadgyth was entombed in Magdesburg Cathedral by the river Elbe and in 2008 her lead coffin was rediscovered. It bears her name but because of the cavalier way in which bones were moved or even replaced in the Middle Ages this does not necessarily mean the skeleton within is hers. Modern laboratory methods can now tell where the person lived; if the bones are of the right age and come from Wessex it will indicate that the name on the coffin is probably correct. We shall have to see whether this interest is translated into visitors to Malmesbury and the museum.

Mark Horton was mentioned earlier. He gave a very interesting and amusing talk to a packed and enthusiastic audience at the end of November. He spoke about his experiences on the TV programme **Coast** and some of the archaeology they had featured. We served wine and refreshments to make it a real social occasion, both for our members and the general public, we even got people from Bristol and the far side of Swindon.

We were gratified to receive **Accreditation** from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. Association. Not all museums are accredited but if you are it shows that the museum is being run well with all the correct policies in place. So pats on the back all round. This will raise our credibility and reputation.

Athelstan Museum is attracting **youngsters**. Over 100 pupils from Malmesbury School visited us in their House groups linking in with their Rural Day. The Scouts have had an exhibition to celebrate 50 years of Scouting in Malmesbury; The Beavers have paid us a visit and we expect 40 children from Wotton Bassett school soon.

Don't forget to use the **web site; [www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk](http://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk)**

Keep up to date,  
Know about; The Collection Malmesbury History Our Events  
We would love to have your feedback.

*Roger Griffin*