



Arthur French Memorial Trophy

Each year I have the pleasure of visiting Ipplepen School to award the Arthur French Memorial Trophy. All I am required to do is to review the History Project work that had been undertaken by all the classes in the previous week. This work is then put on display, and I have the tricky task of judging the best in each class and then identify an overall winner who can be awarded the trophy.

Some of you may remember Arthur French. He was one of the founders of the Local History Group and we are still indebted to him for all his work on family histories and individual records. Some of this work appears in his book entitled simply 'Ipplepen' and first published by Obelisk publications in 2003.

Arthur was enthusiastic that younger people should share his love of history. When we started awarding this trophy, we put the emphasis on local history because that seemed fitting to commemorate Arthur's work. In more recent years though we have endeavoured to widen the scope of the research and allow for more creativity and imagination.

The focus of the research this year was to answer the question 'How did other civilisations shape the world? It is always good to investigate other countries and to find out how they do things differently. The school chose to make Baghdad the focus of their investigation. For English people Baghdad would seem exotic – lots of smells and colours.

The Saplings found out about spicy foods and the Arabian nights stories featuring Aladdin and his Lamp.

Chestnut Class also took us to the Spice Market, the taste of which was not popular with everyone. I particularly liked Eleri's comment that cinnamon smells like Mummy baking!

Rowan Class compared trade in Baghdad with England during the Industrial Revolution. There were some great train pictures from Ben.

Cherry Class showed us some beautiful silks and pottery. Redwynne produced an outstanding display.

Willow Class told us how knowledge of science and astronomy had progressed quickly in Baghdad. Mila's moon picture was outstanding.

Acacia Class had the best overall display, and they were awarded the trophy. The map and words depicting 'The House of Wisdom' was eye-catching.

Sycamore Class provided the analysis by asking the question 'What was the greatest achievement of the Baghdad civilisation' and here Billee took great credit.

