

**This Learning Resource has been produced by the South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project 2014 – 2018, a public engagement project commemorating the centenary of the First World War.**

The people of South Gloucestershire served in the armed forces, became nurses and worked in factories. They made aircraft, motorbikes and boots for the servicemen: even the horses were sent to the front line of The Great War. This project tells the stories of the contribution that South Gloucestershire made to the First World War.

## Amy Hill Autograph Book - Cleeve Hill Hospital

KS 3/4

Students will learn what life was like for nurses and soldiers, in a local convalescent hospital during the First World War.

A broad curriculum based learning resource, reflecting our rich cultural heritage and encourage participation and the discussion of challenging issues.

**National Curriculum: History/English/Art and Design/RE/Citizenship**

Amy Hill was a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) nurse at Cleve Hill Hospital during the First World War. The wounded soldiers needed to recover from their injuries and they wanted something to do to pass the time, so Amy gave them her autograph book to write in. Some wrote poems, others drew pictures and cartoons. This resource gives today's students the challenge to discuss and respond.

### Teacher's information

#### This Learning Resource Contains:

- The Amy Hill Autograph Book Introduction
- 6 worksheets of individual drawings by soldiers of the First World War
- Activity – Art and design or English response to each sheet
- Other Free First World War Project Learning Resources information
- Feedback Form

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## Amy Hill Autograph Book Introduction



Photo by Hamilton,  
Blyde Hill.

V.A. HOSPITAL, CLEVE HILL, DOWNS.

Cleve Hill House, a large local residence, then owned by Mr and Mrs Cave, it was converted into a hospital and used throughout the war for convalescing soldiers.

Image reproduced by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum.

**Amy Hill** was a local girl, her parents were both teachers. Amy would have been sixteen years old in 1914. Amy became a VAD or Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse. This meant that she was not paid for her work, it was her choice to 'do her bit' for the war effort in this way. Amy would have received training for this sometimes difficult and challenging work.

Cleve Hill Hospital was staffed by two doctors and Red Cross VAD nurses like Amy. At the beginning of the war, women had fewer choices as to how they could play their part, by the end of the war there was more appreciation of the valuable roles women could play.



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**Here is Amy at home with her family in a rare, informal image of the day.**

Amy is on the right in the darker dress; her sister Winifred is on the left and their mother Caroline Hill is in the front; one of her brothers' stands behind, possibly Arthur.

Amy lost two of her four brothers in 'The Great War' within weeks of each other, her eldest brother Arthur and her nearest brother Harold.



Image reproduced by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum.

**Wounded soldiers** would come off the hospital trains with the mud of the battlefields still on them. Nurses like Amy had to clean them up and look after them. Some of the soldiers were only sixteen or seventeen years old, most were nineteen years or older. Women were not allowed to fight, so this work was something girls like Amy could do for the war effort.



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**Convalescing Soldiers:** This is one of the wards where Amy worked. The soldiers were of many different nationalities.

These soldiers were recovering from horrendous wounds, some of them life changing. Look closely at the one in the nearest bed, there are very few smiles here.

**Amy's Autograph Book:** The soldiers needed things to do to pass the time, so Amy gave them her autograph book to write in. Some wrote poems, others drew pictures and cartoons. Some were too ill and shocked to write more than their name, regiment and where they were wounded.



Image reproduced by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum.

As the soldiers got better they were able to get up and go into the garden. There were organised concerts and local outings to aid their recovery. They even had weekly visits to the Hippodrome in Bristol if they were well enough.

One of the drawings in the autograph book could be of this room, see the wall lamp and the notice behind the bed? Is it in one of the drawings?

The Cleve Hill Hospital was open throughout the war, there were 100 beds and they had 1343 admissions from the opening in October 1914 to closing in February 1919, with only 2 deaths.

**Amy Hill got married:** For Amy working as a VAD nurse at Cleve Hill Hospital was an experience that coloured her life, she went on to marry one of the Australian soldiers she had nursed and lived most of her life in Australia.

*The images and information has been reproduced here by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum from the Amy Hill Autograph Book which was given to the Museum by Amy Hill's daughter Pam Conder of Australia and the Frenchay Parish Magazines 1916 in the Frenchay Village Museum Archives.*

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## Amy Hill Autograph Book - Cleve Hill Hospital 1914 -1919

### “Royal Flying Corps.”

**Have a good look at this little picture.** It was drawn by one of the soldiers who were convalescing at Cleve Hill Hospital in Frenchay during the First World War.

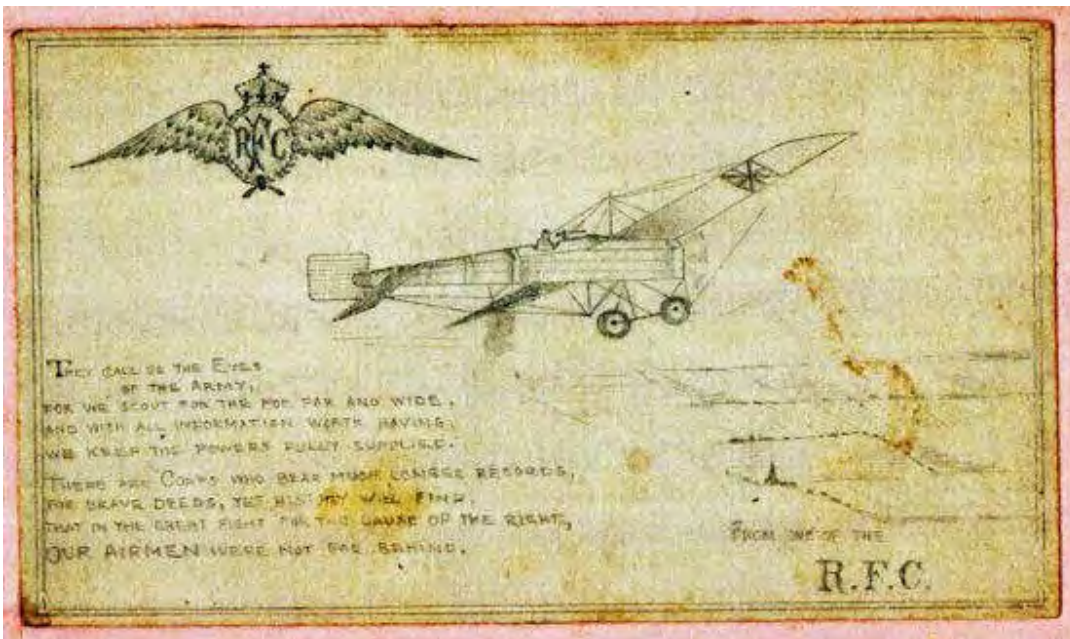


Image reproduced by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum.

*They call us the eyes of the army  
For we scout for the foe far and wide  
And with all information worth having  
We keep the powers supplied  
There are Corps that bear much longer records  
For brave deeds, yet history will find  
That in the great fight for the cause of the right  
Our airmen were not far behind*

This image and verse was created by someone very proud of the Royal Flying Corps. And the part they had played in the war. You can tell from this drawing that he was a pilot, he knew his plane very well and what the ground looked like from up in the air, a rare sight 100 years ago. The very first planes had only started to fly less than 10 years before this, so there were very few people who had handled a plane and seen this aerial view.

Go to this link to find out how lucky this man was to even be alive.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1283972/Bravery-British-WWI-suicide-club-fighter-pilots-took-Germany-Red-Baron-15-hours-training-lasting-average-just-11-days.html>

### Activity: 1 English

**Write a short story** about what might it have been like to fly for the first time in a First World War plane.  
**Or** create a verse about why someone would choose to do something so dangerous at such a time.

### Activity: 2 Art and Design

Draw your own postcard size picture in this style, it is a line drawing. Look at the small details. Look at the shading that gives depth and perspective. Draw a vehicle, a motorbike, car or bicycle.

**Use:** Fine black pen, or pencil.

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## Amy Hill Autograph Book - Cleve Hill Hospital 1914 -1919

### “Cheeky Girl!”

Have a good look at this little cartoon. It was drawn by one of the soldiers who were convalescing at Cleve Hill Hospital in Frenchay during the First World War.



Image reproduced by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum.

Two small girls are looking at each other. One has a bandage around her face, the other one looks cross. What is one saying to the other? A bandage round the face usually means toothache.

It is drawn in the style of the artist, Mabel Lucy Attwell a popular illustrator of the time.

### Activity: 1 English

Write a short story about what happens next to these two girls or what led up to this point?

### Activity: 2 Art and Design

Look up the illustrator Mabel Lucy Attwell. Which famous stories did she illustrate?

Draw your own postcard size cartoon in this style with the title:

‘Cheeky Girl!’

Or use this one to draw what happens next in a series of ‘strip’ cartoon images

**Use:** Coloured pencils or water colour pencils or coloured paper.

## Amy Hill Autograph Book - Cleve Hill Hospital 1914 -1919

### “Corporal Turner”

**Have a good look at this picture.** It was drawn by one of the soldiers who were convalescing at Cleve Hill Hospital in Frenchay during the First World War.

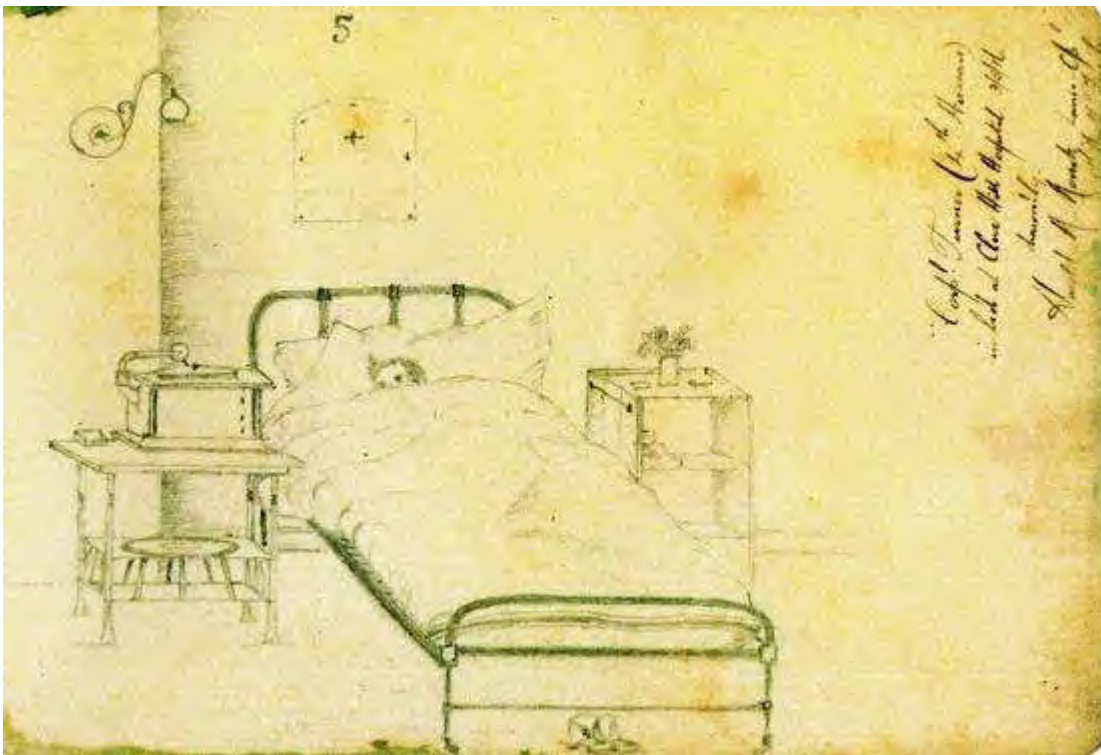


Image reproduced by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum.

This is an image of an injured serviceman who has come from a battlefield, asleep in his hospital bed, the details tell us a great deal about life in the Cleve Hill Hospital. The soldier is resting in a plain but clean and comfortable bed. Beside him is a table with a gramophone, with the records on the shelf below. His boots are at the end of his bed. There are wild flowers in a vase on his bedside table with a few other odds and ends. There is a notice board over his bed and a wall light.

### **Activity: 1 English**

**Write a short story** about the journey of this soldier from the battlefield to the hospital. **Or** tell us about the person who is drawing the picture, where is he? Why is he there? Might he be a friend of this exhausted soldier?

### **Activity: 2 Art and Design**

Draw your own postcard size picture in this style. Draw from observation a small scene with details that tell us about life today, just as the details in this sketch tell us about life in the hospital one hundred years ago.

**Use:** Fine black pen, or pencil.



## Amy Hill Autograph Book - Cleve Hill Hospital 1914 -1919

### “Do Not Expect Me Home Tonight”

Have a good look at this little cartoon. It was drawn by one of the soldiers who were convalescing at Cleve Hill Hospital in Frenchay during the First World War.



Image reproduced by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum.

**What is happening in this little sketch?** *A man is playing a banjo sitting on a punt in a river. There is a sign on the bank pointing 'To the Weir'.*

**Is he in the town or country?** *Country as you can see the field, trees and hedges in the back ground.*

**Is it summer or winter?** *Summer as he has his jacket off.*

**What is a weir?** *It is a sort of 'step' in the water that creates a deep pool above for fish and rapids as the water rushes over the top. It is for controlling the water levels.*

### Activity: 1 English

**Write a short story** about what happens next in the image.

**Or** write a story about how Amy reacted to this image being drawn in her book.

### Activity: 2 Art and Design

Draw your own postcard size cartoon in this style with the title:

'Do not expect me home tonight'

**Or** use this one to draw what happens next in a series of 'strip' cartoon images.

**Or** create a 'Flip book' where the images change slightly over several pages that can be flipped to make it a moving image.

**Use:** Fine black pen and coloured pencils or watercolour pencils.



## Amy Hill Autograph Book - Cleve Hill Hospital 1914 -1919

### “Lighting-up Time”

**Have a good look at this little cartoon.** It was drawn by one of the soldiers who were convalescing at Cleve Hill hospital in Frenchay during the First World War.



Image reproduced by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum.

**What is happening in this little sketch?** *A Nurse is giving comfort by lighting a cigarette for an injured soldier as he lies in his hospital bed.*

**Would this happen in a hospital today? Why Not?**

**Do you think the patient looks happy?** *Yes, he is smiling.*

**Who do you think drew this picture and where was he and why was he there?**

**Is this nurse Amy Hill?** *It could be.*

### **Activity: 1 English**

**Write a short story** about what happens next in the picture.

**Or** Write about the person who is drawing the picture.

### **Activity: 2 Art and Design**

Draw your own postcard size picture in this style. Draw from observation a small scene with details that tell us about life today, just as the details in this sketch tell us about life in the hospital one hundred years ago.

**Use:** Fine black pen, or pencil.

## Amy Hill Autograph Book - Cleve Hill Hospital 1914 -1919

### 'Nothing Doing'

**Have a good look at this little cartoon.** It was drawn by one of the soldiers who were convalescing at Cleve Hill Hospital in Frenchay during the First World War. This little cartoon can tell us a lot about the rapid change of life for everyone at this time.



Image reproduced by kind permission of Frenchay Village Museum.

What is happening in this little sketch? *A small boy is leaning against a lamppost with a bucket and shovel looking miserable.*

Is he in the town or country? *Town, we can see that because there are lots of cars and buses behind him.*

What do you think the bucket and spade was for? *Picking up horse manure from the street for him to sell to people for their gardens.*

So why is he miserable? *Because there are no horses now, so he not will get any money that way anymore.*

### **Activity: 1 English**

**Write a short story** about this street child. Imagine how old he is, how poor he must be, where he lives and what he might do next.

**Or** write about something that has recently changed in your lifetime, for better or worse.

### **Activity: 2 Art**

Draw your own postcard size cartoon with the title 'Nothing Doing'. Let it reflect changes that you have seen in your streets.

**Use:** Black and white and silhouettes.

## South Gloucestershire in the First World War Learning Resource

### Other Free Learning Resources available are:

The Great War - Life in the Trenches - The Alf Flux Kit Bag (Plus a Loans Box)\*

School Children in the Great War – Messages and Mufflers

The Girls who made Grenades – The Warmley Grenadiers

Empire Foods - The War at Sea - (Loans Box)\*

The Amy Hill Autograph Book - Cleve Hill Hospital

The Amy Hill Autograph Book - Wounded on the Somme

The Hill and the Flux Family

Home Life during the First World War

The Armistice Day Investigation Quiz

\* Booking is essential for the loans boxes by emailing: [museums@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:museums@southglos.gov.uk)

### For more information about this project please go to:

[www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1)

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# South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project Learning Resources Feedback Form

To mark the centenary of the First World War 1914-1918 these learning resources have been created to assist teachers in show the impact of the First World War in this area and also how communities were changed.

**Please tell us what you think of these resources** or if you have any comments or further information about the First World War in this area do let us know by filling in this form.

Please return to: [museums@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:museums@southglos.gov.uk)

Name-----

School -----Date -----

Did you find the resources easy to use? Yes/No

How do you think the resources worked with your class?

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Other Comments-----

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## Thank you for your participation

This is an HLF project supported by South Gloucestershire Council. For more information and more free learning resources on The First World War in this area please go to:

[www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1)

