



July 2013

**Tadley and District History Society
(TADS) - www.tadshistory.com**

**Next meeting - Wednesday 17th July 2013
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

‘Women in Tudor and Stuart Berkshire’

by Joan Dils

Committee News

The ‘One Hundred years ago’ list of cullings from newspapers, which used to be published in Project News, has now been put on the Society website. The years covered are 1902 to 1911.

Ann Broad continues the work and further years will gradually be added.

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,
e-mail: richard@ilexind.plus.com or Carol Stevens (0118) 9701578*

www.tadshistory.com

**TADS Meeting 18th September 2013:
'Castles of Wessex'
by Alan Turton**

Last Meeting 19th June

**A Dip into The Willis Museum's Archives
by John and Bryony Holland**

Wow, what dedication! As relative newcomers to Basingstoke, to undertake archive research is noble. Remember, the reporting of 300 years ago could see you in jail for defamation of character etc. As L P Hartley said, "The past is a foreign country, they did things differently".

John and Bryony bit the bullet and gave us a crammed cornucopia of gems from the archives about the Basingstoke area - including tiny Tadley (1725), which had a 'thin population' of 400. In 1725 Tadley still had the medieval Open Field strip system of farming. These days Tadley is the largest town in the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane, at approximately 13,000 (plus Baughurst) of the Borough's 250,000 population (2013).

Basingstoke's Brotherhood of the Holy Ghost Church Ruins were vandalised, but the stained glass windows were saved and are now in The Vyne National Trust House chapel.

In the new town of Basingstoke, Potters Walk in the shopping mall is where Potters Lane was in 1938. Years before, one chap went to Butcher Whiting for a leg of mutton for his wife. *En route* he was press ganged into the Navy. Years later on his release, and before returning home, he went straight to Potters Lane and bought the aforementioned meat....

Politicians could be devious then as now. On 13th November 1805, the Quaker Mayor Wallis, claimed for his broken windows: £700. But this was from a PREVIOUS act of vandalism by a mob. The mob was

found Not Guilty of the vandalism although they were of the 'lower classes and didn't behave properly'. So Basingstoke Council didn't pay up!

1814 saw one of Basingstoke's sons, James Smith, as a guard for Napoleon I on St Helena. He married a native woman, had a daughter, broke his wrist and was invalided out of the services. No pension in those days. So Smith became a Basingstoke postman, continuing until he was 70+ years. But he still didn't get a pension, because he joined the service too late. Smacks of the 21st century!

In the 1820s houses were sold by auction. In 1832 an Up Nately house unusually had a WC (water closet). There were usually earth closets in those days. That meant that the menfolk had to dig a hole in the garden away from the house, at full moon....

In 1836 the new railway line was an attraction for a house sale in North Waltham. David Elliott had a big house for sale in 1859 on Tadley Hill. It had out-houses and 4 acres of land and was where Tadley swimming pool stands now.

On Tuesday 10th March 1863, Crown Prince Albert Edward of Wales married Princess Alexandra of Denmark. They travelled by train from London to Osborne House, Isle of Wight for the honeymoon. They alighted at Basingstoke Railway Station where the Mayor and townspeople were frenziedly excited: the Mayor, Councillor Dr Webb and Council members composed the most oleaginous speech for the royal couple, but giving a barb to the fact that Alexandra was descended from the warlike Vikings!

John and Bryony reminded us not to take any primary source of information as gospel - check all of your links.

1884. Odiham Assembly Rooms projected a magic-lantern type show in aid of Greywell's Coffee Room. Tickets were two shillings (10p) or one shilling (5p) from 8pm, with 'Carriages at 10pm'.

1895. A 'road locomotive', viz a car, went on England's first long-distance journey from London to Southampton. 2 mph was permitted in towns,

4 mph in the country BUT a man with a red flag had to walk in front. Until flag-men were discontinued the British car industry couldn't progress. Oh, joy! - then cars could travel at 12 mph. In 1995 the centenary of the above long-distance journey was celebrated, even stopping off at Basingstoke.

1897. Lt.Colonel John May was not a soldier, but seemed to have this honorary title. His brewing family had always been extremely generous to Basingstoke but liked LOTS of recognition. The family frequently referred back to 1711-12 when a May was Mayor of Basingstoke. The Colonel gave the land known as May's Bounty for cricket as one of his many bounties in 1880.

1905. The Great Fire of 17th April destroyed the original Burberry clothing factory in Basingstoke. (It's now a famous international clothing company). At 6pm the girl who lit the gas lamps dropped material on a taper Alton fire engine took 1 hour 10 minutes to travel the 10 miles, but it was horse-drawn and one of the horses kicked a fireman - DELAY. BIG FIRE!

July 1927. Church Street, Basingstoke. A letter in the local newspaper noted something horrifying in today's world: a collection of pinned and mounted butterflies, especially the Camberwell Beauty. Butterflies in Britain are now rarer than hen's teeth and have been since about 1960. Now it's against the law to collect lepidoptera.

1931. The archives note the Candover Players' programme with 'music for the gramophone...' No first names of people involved were given eg Mrs Adams, F Hutchins, etc.

A 1981 entry refers back to the 1930s and the late Arthur Attwood aka 'Mr Basingstoke'. Arthur was involved in everything to do with Basingstoke: Scouts, newspaper reporting, stewarding at The Vyne National Trust house, printing, advertising, lecturing, etc... He talked to TADS once.

So was celebrated just some of the archives of Mr George Willis' (1878-1970) local museum, which opened in 1982 and owes its existence to this local watchmaker, archaeologist, and natural historian.

Thank you John and Bryony, for your tireless, dedicated researching.

Rosemary Bond

The unveiling of the Cody Memorial Statue at Farnborough on 7th August.



This major statue to honour and recognise the work of aviation pioneer Samuel Franklin Cody will be unveiled outside the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) Museum at Farnborough, Hants on Wednesday 7th August, the centenary of his death. He was killed when his aircraft broke up in flight over Laffan's Plain at Farnborough. His passenger on that fatal flight was William H B "Harry" Evans of Tadley, a renowned cricketer and diplomat in the Egyptian Civil Service. Evans is buried in St Peter's churchyard, Tadley. TADS have purchased the engraved brick shown above to commemorate him. The brick will be laid with others in the paving surrounding the statue of Cody.

For more information on the Statue Project visit www.codystatue.org.uk

FAST is dedicated to preserving the the memories and artifacts relating to the experimental work carried out at the Royal Aircraft Establishment and its predecessors. Their website is www.airsciences.org.uk

What's on? Events which may be of interest

Hampshire Record Office *For information ring 01962846154 or see
www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro*

Milestones Museum. For coming events: Tel. 01256 477766 or see:
www3.hants.gov.uk/milestones/whatson

2nd Jul. to 1st Sept. Teddy Time at Milestones - a series of Teddy Bear themed events all summer.

18th August - See the Thornycroft vehicles Annual meet outside Milestones.

Willis Museum (Tel: 08456035635) - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. Forthcoming exhibitors include contemporary and local artists. There are also activities aimed at young people with special events during the summer holidays.

One exhibition running from 10th Aug to 21st Sep is Dazzle - Celebrate the glamour, elegance and exquisite design of the roaring twenties with this spectacular display of 1920s beaded dresses and accessories from Hampshire County Council's Museums Service collections.

Friends of the Willis Museum *(7.30pm at the museum)*

18th July : Members' 10 minute talks.

Basingstoke Archaeological & History Society *(7.30 at Church Cottage)*

12th September - New Technologies for Archaeological Investigation by
Gareth Beale, Southampton University

The last **Hidden Basingstoke** walking tour is on Tuesday 13 August at 11am. and well worth doing. (See last month's Newsletter for more information). Ring 01256 478670 to book.

***TADS annual membership is £12 per person.
Correspondence to Tadley and District History Society,
c/o 5 Church Road Pamber Heath Tadley. RG26 3DP
Email: tadshistory@googlemail.com***