



June 2017

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 21st June 2017
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

'PadworthHouse'

By David Peacock

(Everybody welcome - Visitors £3.00)

Tadley Police Station.

The theory that Tadley Police station is sometimes open, aired in the May Newsletter, was wrong and came about through reading an out of date notice outside the station. I am afraid that the nearest open police station is the handily placed one in Basingstoke.

*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 19th July 2017

‘ Forgotten Wrecks of World War I’

By Laura Johansson

of the Marine Archaeology Trust

TADS Meeting 17th May 2017

Where is –what is that? Curiosities in Hampshire

by Jill Daniels

Presumably every county has its secret haunts and curiosities, but Hampshire's bounty seems to be boundless.

Take Basingstoke's late-lamented John Arlott, cricket commentator extraordinaire, with a local accent you could cut concrete with, and it was a beloved sound over many years' broadcasting. Arlott was also a Records Clerk at Park Prewitt Hospital, Basingstoke and a policeman, Jill said.

Where are the King of Wessex's remains in the Hyde Abbey area of Winchester? That's Alfred the Great; poor man, he had at least 3 anonymous resting places. Erected in 1901, a thousand years after his death, there's a magnificent statue of him in Winchester.

Around 1910 Geoffrey de Havilland flew an aircraft of the same name. He came from Crux Easton, a delightful hamlet near the A34 and Beacon Hill on the Hants-Berks border. His cousins were film stars Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine. Beacon Hill is also the unusual burial place of Egyptologist, the Earl of Carnarvon.

In Shirley, Southampton, there's a 13th Century Mediaeval Water House built by friars. It's over a well. They were ahead of their time, as they plumbed in water pipes in the 13th, 14th and 15th Centuries. The story is told on tiles, like a Russian 'icon'!

Overlooking Langstone Harbour near Havant is Warblington Church. Notorious Burke and Hare inspired naughty anatomists to dig up freshly-buried bodies in the churchyard – hence 2 anti-body-snatching huts built in diagonal corners creepily remain to this day.

Combe Gibbet, 1690, was erected on the Wessex Downs near Faccombe hamlet to hang adulterous murderers, George and Dorothy, who'd been seen

canoodling by George Junior. Tried in Winchester, they had to be punished near the crime scene. Hence they were hanged at the highly-visible Combe Gibbet – as a warning to others!

Hursley Parish Church has the body of Richard Cromwell, son of Oliver, buried SOMEWHERE there. He was England's Protector from only 1658-9, and as a hopeless, lazy, baddie, was ignored...

The New Forest secretes an unusual stone, the Portugese Fireplace Memorial, depicting the Portugese who came here to cut wooden pit props for the WW1 war effort. Afterwards, they returned to Portugal.

Woodgreen Village Hall, 1931, near Fordingbridge, has very beautiful murals. They are the work of 2 gifted art students who depicted local cider making, Morris dancing and fruit picking.

Then there's the sad saga of Sweet Fanny Adams, 1880, an Alton area girl, Jill said. Fanny was abducted and murdered most foully by a man, later caught. Sailors in the Royal Navy named some tinned meat after her – for reasons indescribably macabre....

In the 18th Century, a rich, baby-faced man, one Richard Taunton, owned ships and imported wine from France to Southampton. He was a privateer, a sort of licensed pirate, making loads-o'-money and not spending it. To everyone's amazement, when Richard died, he left all his money to charity, particularly for 'a school for ordinary boys', to teach them building and plumbing etc. trades. His money still flows today and funds the Richard Taunton Sixth Form College in Southampton.

Hampshire also has connections to Hull-born aviatrix, Amy Johnson, who delivered spitfires and other aircraft out of Hamble.

Winchester has a stone Plague Table, 1665-6, so food could be put out for plague victims. Remember, 50% of our population died of the plague at various times.

Little Somborne boasts connections with 'plane maker, Tommy Sopwith.

Southampton's Victoria Cemetery was one of the first municipal cemeteries in the country. Since 1848, 180,000 have been buried there. Also Southampton has a 1662 Quaker burial ground where all memorial stones are equal because we're all born equal.

Picturesque Selborne's 18th Century Rector, Gilbert White, lived and worked there all his life. He wrote his world-famous 'Natural History of Selborne' nature tome here, but didn't like the butcher's abattoir and carcasses so near his house – so he planted 4 lime trees to hide it all.

Charles Smith, Lord Palmerston's poacher-turned-gamekeeper was hanged for the poaching part, and this so enraged William Cobbet of 'Rural Rides' fame, he provided Smith with a decent gravestone – so now there are TWO. In the 19th Century unspeakable torture was usually meted out to poachers, so Smith died lucky!

Welsh-born painter, Augustus John lived at times in Fordingbridge and is buried there. Such a Lothario was he, that he patted the heads of ALL the passing children as he thought they may be his...

Jill's talk was stuffed full of facts and these are of peculiarly English quaintness. No doubt other counties and countries have beautiful and bestial hobbies and habits, ancient and modern myths and memories – but these were some of ours.

Thank you Jill, for your talk.

Rosemary Bond.



Photos from Derek Heath:

Jill Daniels;

Combe Gibbet;

Augustus John, self portrait

The Great Basingstoke Typhoid Epidemic by Bob Clarke

This new book is a fascinating account of the deadly outbreak of typhoid in 1905 that swept through Basingstoke. It was caused by a series of catastrophic errors which led to the contamination of the town's water supply. The outbreak resulted in 170 people falling seriously ill – and 15 deaths. Drawing on contemporary records and newspaper reports, the book paints a vivid picture of the impact of the epidemic.

Price £5, Published by the BAHS, *presumably available from the Discovery Centre.*

Jane Austen 200

This Summer it is 200 years since the death of the Hampshire novelist and the occasion is being marked with special events throughout the county. These are all listed on the website www.janeausten200.co.uk.

Of note are:

‘The Mysterious Miss Austen’ and ‘Jane’s Winchester: Malady and Medicine’ both at Winchester Discovery Centre until 24th July.

‘Jane and her Alton Apothecary’ at the Alton Gallery until 20th August.

‘A Jane Austen Weekend’. Jane Austen and Regency themed events at Basing House on 15-16th July,

An Open-Air Garden Theatre performance of ‘Pride and Prejudice’ in the Walled Garden of Basing House at 6pm on Sunday 20th August.

A ‘Jane Austen Sampler Course’ from 11.00 to 3.30 on 1st July at Basing House. Learn how to make embroidered samplers of the period.

Willis Museum Exhibition - see page 6

If you are interested in any of the events and cannot find the details, please contact me as I have printed copies of the flyers. Ed (See page one for contact details).

What's on? Events which may be of interest.

Milestones Museum. For coming events: Tel. 01256 477766 or see:
<http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/milestones-museum>

4 Jul to 29 Oct A Time Maze Adventure

Willis Museum - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. The Museum also hold workshops on assorted topics. *For information tel 01256 465902 or see*
<http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/52>

6 May to 19 July Angie Lewin: 'A Printmaker's Journey'

15 Jul to 12 Aug 'Roll up Roll up' circus themed paintings

29 Jul - 7 Oct 'Retail and Romance: Jane goes to the Ball' Jane Austen's connections with Basingstoke.

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30pm at the museum - booking essential for non-members. Book through the museum telephone number above)

July 20th - 'The Queen in Hampshire' by David Rymill of the Hampshire Record Office

Basingstoke Archaeological & History Society (7.30 at Church Cottage)

No Information.

Planning Applications

The proposal for a modern bungalow at Tadley Place was withdrawn.

We have just submitted an objection to a proposed development of 7 new dwellings at 3-7 Manse Lane. This proposal is very similar to one that was rejected on Appeal in 2008.

***TADS annual membership is £17 per person.
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