



**October 2017**

**Tadley and District History Society  
(TADS) - [www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

**Next meeting - Wednesday 18th October 2017  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

# **‘Silchester Environs Project’**

*By Professor Mike Fulford*

*(Everybody welcome - Visitors £3.00)*

The **Project Team** are intending to publish a book based on their research into the men named on the Tadley War Memorial. If you know of any likely funding sources please let Carol know.

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

**[www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

**TADS Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**‘Woman of Wax: the remarkable life  
of Madame Tussaud’**

**By Tony Weston**

*NB This is a change from the advertised programme*

**TADS Meeting 20th September 2017**

**An Introduction to Surname Studies  
by TADS' member, Heather Lawn**

Well, what's in a name? Lots, actually. It's all quite complicated and Heather's been researching her Lawn lineage for several years. It's a veritable minefield and not for the faint-hearted who might balk at an unexpected genealogical trail – leading to rich, royal, pauper, murderer, the unexplained 'uncle', the Australian transportee or the illegitimate child, when they expected a so-called traditional and uncomplicated line. NO ONE has this! However, people are less sensitive now than about 30 years ago, when alarmed parents may have torn up the paper for the planned family tree of their school children....

What about Goons? It's the acronym for Guild of One-Name Studies, founded in 1979. Heather said it's very useful for one-name tracking, which she is very interested in e.g. Heather Lawn, Layne, Lanes, Loan, Lones, Laan (Dutch), Verlaan, Lund, Larn, Laugharne, (from 'Talachlarne' in S.W. Wales). Robert de la Launde's Essex name meant 'open space in a wood or a glade'. Heather's surname is mostly found in England, then Australia, U.S.A., New Zealand, S. Africa, Canada, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, El Salvador, Denmark and Russia. Obviously the Lawns got about a bit!

Sometimes a name is mis-spelled because of handwriting, oral or aural errors. Useful information can be obtained from births, marriages and deaths notices or probate calendars. Apart from the one-name research, family trees and genealogy are commonly used, as in the British TV programme, 'Who Do You Think You Are?' One East London actor found he was descended from the noblest of the noble, right back to William the Conqueror..... He'd imagined a line of thieves, murderers and ne'er-do-wells! *(So would most of us, if we could find the distant links - Ed)*

Back in time the Romans had a 3-name system, they added to them, then switched back to three.

'Surname' is the Anglo-Saxon derivation of 'surnoun'. It's usually placed after the forename, except in Hungary and China. The Chinese were the first to use surnames, in the Zhou Dynasty 1046-256 B.C.

Quite hilariously the Normans couldn't pronounce 2 English consonants together, so they called 'Snottingham' Nottingham and 'Stretford', (Manchester) Trafford – which remains today as in Old Trafford football ground.

Heather said surnames often mean something, whether local, baptismal, official or foreign, e.g.

Butcher, Smith (occupational);

Brown – brown coat or skin;

Burn – Old English for stream, probably from Northern England or Scotland.

Some TADS' members names' were put into the computer to see where they may have originated or where the biggest concentrations were (1881 census):- the Bysouths: Hertfordshire; the Pyners: Romford, Essex; the Doubledays: Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire; the Cooters: W. Sussex, Surrey, Suffolk; the Gledhills: Lancashire (none in the South in 1881); the Freeborns: pockets of them in the South, the West and East Anglia; the Harleys: Fife, Scotland (sailors), Oxford and London.

So, Heather, thanks for letting us into your detailed world of surnames and research. How mind-blowingly thorough and successful you are!

Rosemary Bond

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## **Mike Fulford' talk**

If you want background information on the subject of his talk the following links are very informative:

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/silchester/Excavations/Sil-Environs-Aerial.aspx>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/research-results/recent-research-results/london-and-south-east/silchester-environs/>

## ***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.

21 Oct to 29 Oct Halloween Half Term

**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>

21 Oct to 16 Dec - **Turner and the Sun** exhibition. A local chance to see works and personal items of the great painter J M W Turner.

**Friends of the Willis Museum** (7.30pm at the museum - Non-members £2, booking essential through the museum telephone number above)

19<sup>th</sup> October - **The Archaeology of food** by Jenny Stevens

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

9th November - **Medieval Basingstoke** – The emergence of a market and industrial town, 1000-1600 by John Hare – VCH and HFC

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**Lily Ventom** 3 May 1932 – 31 August 2017 (*Although her passing was noted last month, I have some more details of her interesting life*)

Born in Yorkshire but spent most of her adult life in Tadley. She and Herbert moved south as result of Herbert having secured a job at AWRE in the 1950s.

Lily originally worked in the drawing office on site. Following the birth of their sons she became secretary /receptionist to Dr. Jo Morland at Kiln House. Later she became Practice Manager at the new Holmwood Health Centre.

Lily and Herbert were among the founders of the Tadley Common Methodist Church.

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