



**April 2018**

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 18th April 2018  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

# **‘Metal Detecting’**

***By John Forster***

*(Everybody welcome - Visitors £3.00)*

*Another reminder:*

**A Change of Talk and a Change of Date:** The subject of the September talk will now be - "A Grandmother's Legacy - an insight into five generations of an Anglo Indian family during the British Raj" by Jenny Mallin.

Also, it has been decided to move the **AGM** forward to the **12<sup>th</sup> December**.

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,  
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**TADS Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
**‘The Nabobs of Berkshire’**  
**By Clive Williams**

**TADS Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

**A History of Tea**  
**by Terri Reid.**  
(In character and costume).

Hurrah for the Chinese Emperor, who millennia ago 'discovered' this drug. He was wandering in his palace gardens when some leaves fell into his container, AND some water..... Hey, presto! A shot of tannin and caffeine to warm the cockles of his heart and camellia sinensis, TEA, had arrived.

Many Brits prefer a cuppa tea but the American Colonialists in the 18<sup>th</sup> C were protesting over our King's Tea Tax at The Boston Tea Party, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1773. The Americans threw the tea in the sea. So, the Americans mostly favour coffee or other beverages.

Terri Reid appeared before us in costume as a 1950s housewife, aka, 'Mrs. Alice Fidgett', resplendent in a cotton frock with sticky-out-petticoats – probably starched with sugar! 1953 was the year of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation and the end of the tea rationing in Britain.

In WWII Churchill had said a cup of tea was 'more important than ammunition' for our troops, and their tea wasn't rationed....

We know the Chinese discovered tea first, but secretive then as now, the crops were grown later in India by the East India Tea Company. Tea came here in the 17<sup>th</sup> C and was popularised by Catherine of Braganza (Queen of Charles II). It was very expensive. The lady of the house always locked the often-wooden tea caddy and hid the key. Tea was heavily taxed and sold in posh London tea shops – to re-energise ladies. It was known as the 'scandal broth' and also drunk in ladies' bedrooms. Men ate beef. Women drank tea. Hot drinks were deemed bad enough to cause wrack and ruin, especially for women who allegedly would neglect their husbands and housework. Tea was 'worse than alcohol' and no servants were permitted to drink it.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> C and early 20<sup>th</sup> C when the Suffragette movement was gathering pace the women could drink tea privately and plot on their own.....

You could have milk or lemon in your tea. No sugar. The protocol was to look INTO your tea cup and not stare across the table.

Ladies wore gloves especially if cake was served. Unscrupulous salesmen would bulk out tea by adding sheep dung, gypsum, sand, lead or soil.... The good old days eh!

Smuggling tea (and other goodies from abroad) was rife in the South and West of England in the 18<sup>th</sup> C. In 1740, the Hawkhurst Gang did dastardly deeds to one Daniel Chater who talked too much and was tortured to death. His idle chatter was the catalyst for a customs officer being buried alive.

As you may imagine there are superstitions surrounding what you may/may not do with tea: soak smelly feet in it; apply to boils, pimples and red noses; clean the grate; mulch it into the garden; no two ladies must stir tea in the teapot – causes ginger twins and other misfortunes. Don't even think of using TEA BAGS..... You can make wine; smoke tea in a long pipe; lay dust with it; and tell fortunes within the tea cup with the tea leaves. What more could we want from the humble brew?

Thank you, Mrs. Alice Fidgett (Terri) for your enthusiastic tea party for TADS.

Rosemary Bond.

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## **Visit to Fawley Hill near Henley-on-Thames on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept.**

Approximately 20 people have signed up for the visit. More can be added, but please notify Carol asap if you want to be included. It is car share visit and a donation of £10 for adults and £5 for children of 10 to 15 years old is requested by the museum.

Fawley Hill is the private estate of Sir William and Lady McAlpine in the heart of the English countryside. It was once described by Country Life magazine as 'the most bonkers estate in Britain'. It is home to a restored Victorian railway station, the steepest standard gauge steam railway track in the world, a railway museum and over 20 species of animal, mostly roaming wild. It has a Tadley interest in that it now the home of the fairground gallopers that were owned by the late Jimmy Williams of Mulfords hill.

## ***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>

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

25 Apr to 7 Jul. '**I Do!**' Wedding dresses over 250 years. (Exhibition).

19 May to 23 Jun '**INSPIRE**' a diverse exhibition in the Basingstoke Gallery showing the work of some of the region's premier artists.

**Friends of the Willis Museum** (7.30 pm at the museum - Non-members £2, booking essential through the museum telephone number 01256 465902)

May 17th - '**WWII History of RAF Odiham**' by Squadron Leader Chris Perkins MVO (Retd.) The talk will cover Odiham's pre-war development and expansion during the wartime years and the impact that the airfield had on the local community including Luftwaffe raids.

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

10th May '**Prehistoric Roads**' by Mike Pengelly of BAHS

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## **TADS Website**

The website has been hosted by David Bowman for free, for several years. This arrangement is coming to an end and we are now going to have to find and move it to another server. There is a possibility that this move may result in the website not being available for a short while.

***TADS annual membership is £18 per person.  
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