



September 2019

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 18th September 2019
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

'My Antiques Roadshow - find out about your treasures'

By Simon Jones

(Everybody welcome - visitors £3.00)

*This meeting will be run in the format of the BBC
Antiques Roadshow with Simon appraising objects and
giving some of their history, age and a valuation.*

Please bring items with you.

*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 16th Octoberber 2019

‘The History and Restoration of the Kennet and Avon Canal’

By Graham Horn

TADS Meeting 17th July 2019

The Edwardians 1901-1910.

by Tony King.

This talk with cine film footage of the day, turned out to be a WOW!

Many of us who'd thought Queen Victoria's second child and first son, Bertie, who'd disregarded his boyhood tutors but loved the theatre, over-enjoyed his crammed social life and food – was a hedonist who loved the ladies, especially Alice Keppel a forebear of the Duchess of Cornwall, plus 'Jersey Lily', Lillie Langtry. He may/may not have contributed to the early demise of his Dad, Prince Albert: anyway, we discovered that King Edward VII had been a GOOD and POPULAR King....

Bertie was born in 1841 and was initially constrained and closely watched by his Mum. As a

14 year-old he found Paris a joyous place, and as an 18 year-old loved Canada and the U.S.A. where he did his own thing....

He and Lord Montagu of Beaulieu were very good friends. Somehow Bertie fitted in spells at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. As 'Prince of Pleasure', among other things he enjoyed 4 meals a day and a 12-course dinner. In later life as King, his waist measured 48 inches (122 cms) and when he travelled, he travelled BIG with 85 servants plus trappings.

He adored gambling and spent silly amounts of money. Hardly surprising that he accrued a debt of £600,000 in the early 20th Century plus he bought Sandringham House in Norfolk for only £2,200.

Tony said he fraternised with all and sundry. His Mother had always despaired of him as self-indulgent and promiscuous. In 1863 he married a Dane, Alexandra, who loyally tolerated his mistresses and his 'Marlborough House Set' along with cock-fighting and rat killing.

There had been some problems in the latter part of the 19th Century: the gays of the Cleveland Street Scandal concerning Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas et al. There was some scandal of Royal involvement in the still-unsolved London Jack the Ripper murders.....

When Bertie became King Edward VII in 1901 illness postponed his coronation from summer 1902 until October 1902.

The beginning of the 20th Century made ordinary people aware of the 'haves' and 'have nots' and so a social awareness was born and catered for. The Salvation Army and Methodist Churches looked after rough sleepers (and still do). In 1909 the Salvation Army came to Tadley, also the Welfare State evolved.

The South African Boer Wars made Brits unpopular abroad. Tony said the 1908 Olympic Games and Parliament – where women were allowed to watch but not participate, exacerbated the fledgling Suffragette movement.

The pedestal telephone was used, aeroplanes traversed the English Channel (1909) and Music Halls were still thriving. Tony showed contemporary cine film of one charismatic and healthy-looking singer: Isle of Man stalwart, one Florrie Forde mesmerising her audience then and NOW!

The English phenomenon of pantomime came to London, where the principal boy was a gal and the Dame was a guy. (It still mystifies foreigners!) Gilbert and Sullivan, Edward Elgar and Cockney songs were popular. The London Savoy Theatre was the first to have electricity not 'limelight'.

Cinemas crept into being, plus gramophones, trips to the seaside, donkey rides on the sands (people were slimmer then; in the 20th Century you have to be weighed to ride....)

Gordon Selfridge came from the U.S.A. and founded his department store 1909, but died penniless because of his frivolous ways (in 1947).

John Lewis' son, Spider, noticed his family's massive fortune and decided to have a profit-sharing partnership with his workers.

When Edward VII became King he was 59 years old; stout, bearded cigar-chomping but he and Alexandra were popular peacemakers and healed rifts with foreign royalty and the French (1903), with the exception of his nephew, Kaiser Bill of Germany.

Tony said the Edwardian Era lasted unofficially till 1914 and was the light before the storm of World War I.

Thank you, Tony, for your terrific insight into this Edwardian phenomenon.

Rosemary Bond.

The Extraordinary General Meeting of 31st July 2019

The Future of Tadley and District History Society

Chaired by Carol Stevens (Society Chairman)

33 of the 39 paid-up members attended together with 1 invited guest. There were no apologies.

Business: A synopsis of the situation compiled by the committee, had been distributed prior to the meeting, with further copies available at the meeting.

Carol went through the Options A,B and C and invited questions and comments from the floor. The overriding feeling from the membership was that the society should not be allowed to close.(Option C)

It was also felt that Option B: 'TADS continuing as a Research / Project Society' was unlikely to be successful without the continuance of the 'Public face' of the society (Option A)

Discussions led to 4 members volunteering to join the committee to keep TADS as a speaker programme society. They will take up the vacant responsibility posts that will arise following the resignation of existing committee members at the AGM:

Treasurer - Christine Poile

Secretary - Rosemary Bond & Ann Broad

Programme Secretary - Stephen Barber

Steve Davidson (guest) also volunteered to join the committee and join after becoming a member of TADS.

Carol offered to remain as Chairman until December 2020 to see in the new committee, as did Richard Brown (Newsletter) and Neil Forde.

This will all be ratified at the December AGM. (Some of the volunteers may be co-opted to the committee ahead of the AGM).

Carol thanked everyone for coming and for their support.

The Guided Walk round Hampstead Norreys on 3rd August.

The 12 TADS members and friends had a very interesting afternoon in the charming village of Hampstead Norreys guided by a very knowledgeable lady and her assistant.

We started from the church and after seeing its interior were shown some of the interesting and unusual monuments in the graveyard. From there, among many things, we passed the remains of a Norman motte, learned about the several village schools and halls, explored the route of the extinct Didcot and Southampton railway. We saw the former railway hotel, lovely houses, the restored village well, were told about the nearby WWII airfield, and much more. The final place of interest was the village pub which had strong connections to Violette Szabo GC, the SOE agent who was captured on her second mission to France and executed by the Nazis.

After that we returned to the church for an excellent tea.

Richard B

Heritage Open Days

These take place over the next two weekends, 14/15 and 21/22 Sept. There are a great many events with free access to places which are not normally open. Details can be found on-line or in local leaflets.

Sound System in St Paul's Hall

After the note in the last newsletter about extraneous noise affecting the system, it worked perfectly for the July talk. From discussions with the original supplier, it seems likely that the noise was caused by interference from an external source.

Let's hope it has gone away once and for all.

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>

No special events until the October half term

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 including children's activities in the holidays. *For information tel. 01256 465902 or see*

<http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/52>

24 Sept 19 - 11 Jan 20 **Lucienne Day: Living Design** - an exhibition celebrating the life and work of one of Britain's most influential post-war designers.

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

19th Sept. **Museum Life from Australia to Hampshire** by Rebekah Waite of the Hampshire Cultural Trust

Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society (*Meetings at Church Cottage at 7.30pm*)

10th Oct. - **Art and Artefacts of Anglo-Saxon Wessex** by Professor David Hinton of Southampton University

Basing House

28th - 29th September Come along as the English Civil War Society join us at Basing House for a packed itinerary of re-enactment and historical entertainment.

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