



October 2019

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 16th October 2019
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

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

By Graham Horn

(Everybody welcome - visitors £3.00)

Committee Note

Some of the people who volunteered to join the Committee to ensure the continuation of the Society have already been co-opted in order to make a smooth transition after the AGM. There is space for extra people if you are interested in helping on the Committee.

*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 20th November 2019

‘A Celebratory History of Christmas’

By Andy Thomas

TADS Meeting 18th September 2019

‘My Antiques Roadshow – find out about your treasures’ by Simon Jones.

Like homemade jam or cake, a 'local' live Antiques Roadshow where you 'got a man in', is nothing like the homogenised, sanitised, timed, canned TV productions. It's 'human'. There's a certain frisson among the crowd: 'What will he think/value MY treasure at?'

So it was with the visit of super Simon, who co-runs his own Antiques House in Watlington, Oxfordshire. He's a Chartered Surveyor of Chattels (13th Century French; personal, moveable property) of whom there are only 200 in Britain. And he's been on TV Many of us were a spot mystified by the 'chattels' bit. Simon mentioned conspiratorially, “Don't sell your gold NOW, wait till after Brexit.....”

Our exhibits ranged from a sepia photo-print of 'The Laughing Cavalier' (£30, the real one, millions) to someone's Mum's delicate teacup, £70 (and she had a lot more of the set at home).

One man thoughtfully photographed his Dad's gruesome collection of wartime guns and knives etc., thinking he may be challenged by the Law if he'd brought the REAL items from inside his gun-cabinet. If you sell your militaria in wartime, the price is higher, Not so in peacetime. Pip, Squeak and Wilfred are First World War medals. There were even some Masonic items presented.

Simon said they should eventually go back to their OWN lodge.

Foreign silver mustn't be advertised as 'silver', it's called white metal which is somewhat galling for the vendor.

Someone asked about buyers' and sellers' commission? Well, it's how the auctioneer earns his living, Simon said.

What's an antique? There's no legal definition, but it's usually reckoned to be an item over 100 years old.

The stuff our TADS' group produced from their lofts, cupboards, sheds and dusty places was quite eclectic and fascinating. Antique-y people are crazily into BOXED stuff? Hence a 1960s colourful, boxed clown hand puppet by Pelham, is worth about £50.

Buyers are presently picky about acquiring the famous Clarice Cliff pottery. The 1930s 'crocus' design was deemed to be currently out of favour. But, like ladies' hemlines, fashions change.....

Whoever owned the 2 small, china sheepdogs discovered the smaller one was a £40. Beswick (you must pronounce it 'BESICK', Simon said).

Provenance is everything. If you have a 2p-sized piece of the Titanic's hull from 1912, ensure you have its history in writing. Otherwise it's worth 2p, not thousands of pounds (small samples were taken from the hull to test for strength.)

So, from 2 ladies' 1920s face powder boxes, complete with powder, to photo frames (get GOLD ones), our personal range of goodies valued by Simon made for a very satisfying evening. Some of us returned home glowing, not having realised that to get your loved – or – otherwise, possession personally valued is a sort of bucket-list occasion!

Simon was terrific. And he said that Auction Houses, 'were the first recyclers....

Thank you, Simon, for the magic effect of a nearly-actual auction!

Rosemary Bond.

Pub News - The New Inn has a new livery and the Cricketers has changed its name completely.



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>

26 Oct - 3 Nov **Halloween 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>

5 Oct- 9 Nov - '**Splendour of Nature**' a Basingstoke Art Club exhibition.

Until 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)

21 Nov - **A History of Thorneycroft** by Gary Bone ex-employee.

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

14th Nov - **Finding Duropolis**; Life and Death in Iron Age Dorset

By Miles Russell – Bournemouth University

***TADS annual membership is £18 per person.
Correspondence to Tadley and District History Society,
c/o 5 Church Road Pamber Heath Tadley. RG26 3DP
Email: tadshistory@googlemail.com***