



May 2006

**Tadley and District History Society  
(TADS)**

**Next meeting - Wednesday 17th May**  
**St. Paul's Church Hall 8.00 to 9.30 pm**

**“It's a Monk's Life”**

by Brother John of the Hospital of St Cross,  
Winchester

*(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.00)*

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

## **TADS Meeting 21st June**

### **“Filming Pride and Prejudice at Basildon Park”**

by John Simmons, National Trust House Manager

**Last month’s meeting (19/4/06):**

#### **‘Eye Surgery – Afloat in Bangladesh’**

It all began in 1991 when consultant eye surgeon David Moss and his GP wife Lynette visited India and saw behind the impressive tourist attractions, the extreme poverty of people with no means of support.

Persuaded by a colleague to visit Burma to operate and train local surgeons, David performed 120 cataract operations in 2 weeks.

Next to Kenya as a locum. A million people in need of help and only a 40 bed hospital. In order to operate permission had to be obtained from the local witch doctor. Boxes of spectacles donated here in the UK are valued and used.

So to Bangladesh and the Floating Hospital.

The late Sir John Wilson founded the Charity IMPACT UK. In 1993 the idea of a hospital boat was born. This could be hauled along the many waterways to reach remote country areas and people in desperate need of medical help.

After massive fund raising and a great deal of hard work by volunteers the boat was launched in February 1999 and named JIBON TARI – the BOAT of LIFE.

It stays 2 months at each location treating around 3,000 patients and performing up to 500 operations, more than half of them to restore sight.

The long queue of patients are given a coloured form –( yellow for orthopaedics, blue for ENT, and pink for eyes) - so that they can be directed to the relevant department.

It has 3 operating suites, out patient room and a 14 bed recovery ward for 28 patients – 2 to a bed. Consent is by thumb print and “can you see my fingers” a diagnostic aid. Patients stay on the boat 2 days and must stay in the

area 5 more days in case any problems arise – they come from many miles around. The team operate for 2 weeks then everything has to be thoroughly cleaned and more equipment obtained.

Orthopaedic teams operate on Club Foot ensuring a child will grow up to help support his family. ENT teams operate on cleft palate and mastoids. There is a solar powered battery charger for Hearing Aid batteries.

Training local surgeons and staff is on going.

Volunteers go into the remote villages to teach nutrition. One green leaf a week can prevent Vitamin A deficiency blindness. Home gardening projects are another IMPACT success.

David and Lynette have for many years given their time and expertise to give the gift of sight to so many Bangladeshi people of all ages, making 3 visits each year.

Their love and enthusiasm for the work and the Bangladeshi people living in such remote areas was brought vividly to life by the colourful slides and heart rending anecdotes.

IMPACT UK – a small charity making a big difference.

Thank you David and Lynette for coming to tell us your story.

Eileen Drake

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## **What's On? Local events which may be of interest.**

### **Friends of the Willis Museum** (*meetings at 7.30pm in the museum*)

18th May - The Cockleshell Heroes - Training in Southsea by Madeline Selby

### **Hampshire Record Office (HRO)** (*'Last Thursday' Lectures 1.15-1.45pm*)

25th May - Letters from camp: Hampshire voices from the Crimea by David Rymill.

**HRO** reception (1st June to 15th July) - An exhibition on 'Hampshire's sky watchers - The story of Winchester Group Royal Observer Corps'

**The Mikron Theatre Company.** The popular waterway based company are returning to the area in June with shows at 7.30pm on the 23rd at the Abbey Ruins, Reading and at 8pm on the 24th & 25th at the Rowbarg Inn, Woolhampton. Their website is [WWW.mikron.org.uk](http://WWW.mikron.org.uk)

### **Milestones Museum**

Spring Bank Holiday weekend - Steam & Vintage Show. Over 20 steam engines, plus model steam engines, tractors, barn engines, veteran cars, commercial vehicles and motorcycles gather for this annual working display in Milestones meadow.

**Winchester Cathedral** - An exhibition: 'Cracking the Code - The Holy Mystery beyond The Da Vinci Code'. (until 21st July).

This exhibition invites visitors to think about some of the main ideas and symbols in the 'Code'. Enquiries: 01962 857202

**Silchester Roman Town** - Talk on last year's dig by Prof Mike Fulford at Silchester Village Hall on 23rd May. Details from Ali Lee on 0118970002 or email: [secretary@silchester.org](mailto:secretary@silchester.org)

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## **History in the making**

**Ann Rain** - The committee were sorry to learn of Ann's death on the 10th April. She and her guide dog Garry were well known around Tadley and, although not a member of TADS, she had attended some of our meetings and took an active part in the talk on the work of the Living Paintings Trust.

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**Does History Matter?** What does history mean to you? Should it be passed on to the next generation?

The National Trust are launching a campaign - 'History matters... Pass it on' in partnership with other heritage organisations. From June you can find out more by visiting [www.historymatters.co.uk](http://www.historymatters.co.uk)

*TADS annual membership is £10 per person.  
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