

June 2008



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

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

Nautical Archaeology
by
Ian Barefoot

*Portsmouth Nautical Archaeology Society's
Project Officer for 'Diving into History'*

(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.00)

The new book - Carol is holding 12 Members' FREE copies of "The History of Tadley". If you have not had yours and will not be at the June meeting to collect your copy please ring Carol on 0118 9701578 to arrange collection .

Extra copies of the book may be bought at £6.00 each from Tadley Library or Profile Print & Copy at Bishopswood Road shops .

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Bob Brown, Tadley (0118) 981 6109,
or Richard Brown (0118) 9700100, e-mail: richard@ilexind.plus.com*

www.tadshistory.com

TADS Meeting 16th July 2008:

Ufton Court - a house of secrets

By Jane Burrell, Curator of West Berks Museum.

Note - This is a change from the published programme

Last month's meeting (21/5/08)

An Attractive Impediment -

The life of Patrick Campbell, (Lord Glenavy) 1913-80

by Nick Thomas

Stuttering is something of a taboo subject, like piles or head lice. How about 'strangle'?

The Irish 'Charlie Chaplin' of writing delved into the meanderings of the mind, the spoken word and the dictionary, etc.

Of course his 'attractive impediment' didn't stunt his TV career, either. Patrick Campbell came from a happy, somewhat hippy, colourful Irish family with a background of lawyers, barristers, police, MPs, artists and wits, writers and musicians. And more. His family was friendly with George Bernard Shaw, W B Yates, D H Lawrence, Paul Robson and other alumni.

With this eclectic mix, Patrick learned naturally how to evoke laughter and happiness in others, and eventually to be paid for doing it. His mother, Beattie, appears to have had the same smooth charm and she sweetly outwitted an IRA raid of the day!

Patrick didn't STAMMER. His 'attractive impediment' is remembered years on as quite mesmerising; as is his charismatic character.

How about STRONGLE? Is it:

- (a) a bout of wrestling?
- (b) a grouse threadworm?
- (c) a means of clearing beer? (Answer = b)

What about a FROGHOD? Is it :

- a) canvas webbing on a siege gun?
- b) a poisonous weed?
- c) the status of a frog? (Answer = c)

Patrick and his TV cohorts; Robert Robinson, Frank Muir and others asked these sorts of questions on TV's 'Call My Bluff'.

Things may have been different if Lord Glenavy, his Dad, had been a stronger personality. Patrick seems to have teetered precariously and un-tempted around an array of jobs his father coaxed him towards. Not for him the studying at Pembroke College, Oxford - his interests there were guns, drink and merry making and all he obtained was the equivalent of an ABSO of the day, not a degree! His father then imagined a German speaking company with its sibilant sounds would fascinate him - not so, and Patrick forsook the idea of a stammer free life from his early twenties onwards. If you can't beat it, join it, and that he certainly did, becoming a much sought-after speaker, writer of wit, journalist, satirist and celebrity. He even 'commercialised' his stammer and on inheriting his father's title, 3rd Barn Glenavy of County Antrim, he considered his TV appearances were 'showing off for money'!

'Call My Bluff' became a household name from 1965 onwards.

Sadly Patrick died in 1980, but how would he have dealt with this bluff?

What is a BONZE?

- (a) a secret trade word for a St James' boot maker's last?,
- (b) a Portuguese word for a Japanese clergyman?,
- (c) a game of 9-pins with the skittles painted to look like the Government of the day?

Our skilled radio script writer, humorist and speaker Nick had over 30 TADS' people playing 'Call My Bluff', and yes, the surprising answer to a BONZE is Portuguese for a Japanese Clergyman!

Thank you, Nick, for your enormously entertaining entertainment.

Rosemary Bond

Dates for your diary

The Heritage Open Days will this year be on September 11th to 14th.

The London Open House Days will be on September 20th & 22nd.

What's On? Events which may be of interest.

Hampshire Record Office

On-Going Exhibitions at the HRO

Digging through the Archives: A botanical journey round the county

Access Hampshire Heritage exhibition: How to make a start on local history research

The Record Office are now holding lunchtime lectures every Thursday from 1.15-1.45pm. For Information see www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro or ring 01962846154.

Milestones Museum - Festival of Fire Fighting

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 June, 10am to 5pm - Join us for our annual outdoor festival showcasing fire appliances and equipment from across the ages, with demonstrations and activities throughout the weekend.

Special £1 admission to show ground.

Willis Museum

Tooth and Claw - A photographic exhibition focussing on Britain's predators

Mikron (Canal) Theatre dates

Mon 23rd June at the Rowbarge Inn, Woolhampton (*now called Baedeckers*)

Tues 24th June same place both at 7.30pm (two different plays)

History in the making

Tadley, May 2008. Death of Frank Harris, well known proprietor and barber of Frank's (and Beauty Care) which was in the Bishopswood parade of shops. The premises are now part of the Pedal On bike shop. With Frank you not only got a haircut, but a series of jokes, shaggy dog stories, and his views on football and the world in general.

*TADS annual membership is £10 per person.
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