



April 2009

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 15th April
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30 pm**

Aviation in Berkshire

By Jean & Ken Fostekew

(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.00)

TADS Committee

Bob Brown, the Chairman, and Jim Coles, the Treasurer, have announced that they will be standing down from the Committee by the next AGM. Together with the existing vacancy for a Visit Organiser this will potentially leave a considerable hole in the Committee. If you are interested in joining the Committee in any role please make yourself known to Bob, as the future of TADS depends on members being willing to run the Society.

*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 20th May 2009:
‘The Story of the Royal Berks Medical
Museum’**

By Surgeon David Goodwin (retired)

March meeting report(18/3/09)

**Jack of Newbury
by Dr David Peacock**

Jack of Newbury (c. 1489–1557) was the nickname of John Winchcombe, born John Smallwood in Gloucester. He ran away to become a cloth worker in Newbury and remained there until his death. He caught the eye of his master’s wife and on the clothier’s death, married her and eventually became proprietor of one of the largest wool manufacturing establishments in the country during the reign of Henry VIII, producing at least 6,000 kerseys of cloth each year. (A kersey was about 1 yard wide by 17 yards long).

The Tudor economy was based on the export of wool. The wool came from a wide area, the spinning was out-sourced, but the yarn was dyed in Newbury in shades of blue, red, and green, taking trade from the large cities where the water was polluted. Winchcombe kersey, a course narrow woven cloth, usually ribbed, was considered the best and exported to Antwerp, Venice and the Levant through Southampton, where Winchcombe had negotiated a concession.

Jack of Newbury, a leading figure in the 40s and 50s is largely ignored historically. He was granted a Coat of Arms, and thus held high status with the aristocracy. He raised an army to help capture Boulogne, became an MP for Great Bedwyn, a JP, and was involved in the trial of the Newbury Martyrs. He purchased several manors and was invited to a reception for Henry VIII’s fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. He had a prestigious house in Northbrook Street, Newbury, with carved beams and elaborate wood

panelling. Some of the panelling from the house is in the West Berkshire Museum. The house extended from Marsh Lane to Jack Street with at least two courtyards. Part of it remains there today, (the Monsoon shop).

He began the rebuilding of St Nicholas church and was buried there when he died in 1557.

Thank you Dr Peacock for a most interesting and informative talk about this local historical figure, which was enjoyed by all the TADS members present.

Eileen Drake

A TADS outing

As was mentioned at the last meeting Sally Botwright who gave February's talk on Southwark has offered to provide a conducted walk in that area or other parts of London. This offer is being investigated and methods of transport, etc. assessed. Possible dates are: Sundays 31st May or 28th June. We hope announce the details on Wednesday evening and take deposits.

Sainsbury's Mulford Hill store expansion

It has been reported that the company are deferring their plans for the time being.

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

Hampshire Record Office

There is a Family History for Beginners event every Wednesday. The Record Office holds lunchtime lectures every Thursday from 1.15-1.45pm

For Information see www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro or ring 01962846154.

Current exhibitions are about the changing face of record-keeping and the history of Royal Clarence Yard, the Royal Navy's victualling yard in Gosport

Milestones Museum has an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the Red Cross In Hampshire.

The Museum has several special events taking place over the Easter weekend.

Willis Museum - *The Museum is closed for refurbishment. It is unclear when it is re-opening but it may be 17th April or else 2nd May.*

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30pm at the museum?)

April 17th -Brother John Hodges, 'It's a monk's life' at the Hospital of St. Cross, Winchester, Britain's oldest charitable institution.

B'stoke Arch' & History Soc. (19:30 at Church Cottage, Church Square,)

14th May - Modelling Mesolithic Settlement and Subsistence in Southern Britain by Dr Richard Carter, University of Sussex

Silchester Roman Town Excavations - Professor Michael Fulford will give his talk about the 2008 dig and plans for 2009 on Monday 27th April at 7.30p.m. in Silchester Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm. Entrance fee £3.

Basingstoke Heritage Society

The Society AGM will take place at The Willis Museum at 7.30 on Thursday May 7th. There will be refreshments and a charge of £1 for non-members. After the AGM Mark Pitchforth from the Photographic Project at the HRO will give a talk entitled "Window on the Past; Pictures of Hampshire" but we have asked him to emphasise Basingstoke photographs from the Terry Hunt collection. Terry Hunt was born in 1883 and came to Basingstoke to set up a photographic business in the town. He opened a shop in Church street in 1915 followed in the 1920s by a stationers on the corner of Cross Street and Church street. He later lived in Vyne Road. He died in 1949. *(Terry also covered the Tadley area - ed.)*

The Treloar Tromp - an opportunity to raise funds for the specialist school with a sponsored walk at Alton on 10th May. Tel 01420 526523/511.

Annual Heritage days

This year they will be held from Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th September.

*TADS annual membership is £10 per person.
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