



October 2009

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 21st October
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30 pm**

A History of Policing

By Ken Wells,

Curator of the Thames Valley Police Museum

(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.00)

TADS Committee

As previously reported, several prominent members of the Committee will be standing down by the next AGM. Above all we need a new **Treasurer**. (Jim Coles has already had to stand down for medical reasons).

The job is not particularly onerous - less than 100 bank transactions last year and 78 members to record/receipt. For more information contact Richard Brown, (see below).

*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 18th November 2009:

A HISTORY OF PUNCH & JUDY

Told by the puppets with assistance from Alix Booth

September meeting report (16/9/09)

The Life of an MP by Sir George Young MP, North West Hampshire, Shadow Leader of the House of Commons

Decent, hardworking, over 35 years experience at the job, not an aggressive “attack dog” MP, goes softly softly, lives locally, affable, family man, finger-on-the-pulse, SEEN and HEARD in the area, calm, approachable, interested, interesting, very knowledgeable, unflappable, two-weeks-holiday not-thirteen weeks, full-time MP with no extra job, steady as a rock, Tory and was nearly the 2009 Speaker.

That is Sir George – he’s also cautious, watches his words and his back (mindful of what happened recently to his predecessor, an incautious colleague who was spectacularly demoted).

Sir George described the workings of the House of Commons to about 50 rapt TADS members. He said for the most part MPs are friendly towards each other. The shouting and venom are really for show!

The Speaker of the House, currently John Bercow, acts like a referee at a football match and runs the House. He entertains Heads of State, is a major employer and must be alert for terrorists and hecklers, etc.etc.

The Whips sort of hold the whip hand and decide who’ll comment on a bill and make sure you toe the party line.

A few of Sir George’s pearls of wisdom on House life in general: in Opposition no-one listens to you! The Shadow Cabinet members are not paid for that post. They are men (or ladies)-in-waiting. There is NO such thing as a safe seat. The House used to be nice and relaxed, with cooking smells and the odd scuttling cockroach! Now in Portcullis House MPs have hygienic, isolated “cells” where one just gets on with one’s job dealing with x emails, and letters with minimum social distraction.

The Leader of the House (currently) Harriet Harman sets the agendas and deals with debates, bills etc.

During his years as MP Sir George has seen many Prime Ministers in action and therefore many styles: some talented; very talented; flamboyant; diffident; “tribal”; broody; abrasive; out of touch; in touch; unable to relax; good communicators; good orators; a man or woman “of the people” and able to diversify and make the job look easy..... What of the future, 21st century House of Commons? More women MPs, maybe less political advisors and “spin doctors”, maybe more case workers.....who knows???

Remember Sir George WILL answer your query and if you demand it ASAP, maybe a 5am phone call to you!

Extra busy though he now is, Sir George kept his promise to visit us and we did not ask any embarrassing questions.

Thank you for your interesting visit Sir George.

Rosemary Bond

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

Hampshire Record Office

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

Milestones Museum - The OctoberFest, Beer and Food Festival takes place on Saturday and Sunday, 17th & 18th October.

Willis Museum - *The Museum's series of Chinese themed events continues during the coming month.*

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

15th October - Annual General Meeting, and ‘A magic lantern show’, by Bill Arnott.. *(Bill is a Member of TADS , and if you missed his show to us in January 2007, it is well worth seeing)*

B'stoke Arch. & History Soc. *(19:30 at Church Cottage, Church Square,)*
12th Nov - Modelling Mesolithic settlement and subsistence in southern Britain by Richard Carter.

TADS 2010 Programme

If you have any subject on which you would like to hear a talk, or know of any speaker who may be able to give an interesting talk to TADS, Derek Heath would like to hear from you before he starts trying to put next year's programme together. See Derek at next week's meeting or telephone him on 9814707.

The Madcap Trophy

Does anyone have any records, photos, or information relating to something called the Madcap Trophy that was held in Tadley in the 80's ?

It may have been a one off charity event that was held at the Green (and various pubs) and comprised of games, and challenges between teams.

Our enquirer's father was part of the team who organised it.

If you know anything, please tell Derek Ward at the next week's meeting or telephone him on 9812626.

The 1911 Census

We now have almost all of the Tadley 1911 census, so if anyone wants to look at it they can. Although it cost nothing to download we did have to pay photocopy charges. We cannot re-sell it (copyright etc), but we can let members or others borrow it for a small donation to TADS towards these charges. They are the full original pages, which cost almost £4 per page on the web!!.

Iris Stanley is in the process of indexing it all for TADS, as she did for the 1891 and 1901 censuses. If you need to find other local families contact Derek Ward as above.

History in the making

September 2009 - HRH the Duchess of Gloucester visited SeeAbility's Heather House in Tadley. Her visit marked the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the care centre for children with Juvenile Batten's disease.

SeeAbility is the operating name of The Royal School for the Blind charity.

Family History Festival

Hampshire County Council are running a Family History Festival until the end of November. For information on local events see:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/fhf/fhf-whatson.htm>

*TADS annual membership is £10 per person.
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