



April 2010

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

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

***LIFE ON HALLEY 5,
AN ANTARCTIC RESEARCH
STATION***

BY DAVID STEPHENSON, AWE

(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.00)

London Walk - Val Pretlove who gave the talk on Fleet Street in March is willing to do a conducted walk in that area. She has some dates free on June and July weekends. Please bring your diaries to Wednesday's meeting.

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,
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www.tadshistory.com

TADS Meeting 19th May 2010:
'Dentaid, dentistry in the Third World'
By Dr Philip Postance

Last Month's Talk 17/3/10

Rituals Society & Power in and around Iron Age Berkshire
by Dr Andrew Hutt

So, can we blame our culture of possible rumbustiousness at football matches on the Iron Age people? Our wedding rituals? Our Sunday family roast dinner? Our rituals all began somewhere. Why not 800BC- 43AD which is a surprisingly long 850 years and can be loosely lumped together as Old, Middle and New Iron Age. Our social cohesion [or not!] is backed by society's rules and living regulations. The Iron Age may be mirrored by the 21st century's writing-less societies who still learn by rote: the ritual-rich Australian aborigines; or the Parsee Indians who practise excarnation [open-air] burials, as do the Native American Plains Indians of USA; and many other peoples worldwide.

Dr. Hutt lectured about an area roughly encompassed by Abingdon, Hungerford, Basingstoke, Heathrow, London and Surrey.

What we know is due to archaeologists' discoveries, mainly in the last 50 years, necessitated by house building, roads and other infrastructure. This has literally thrown up postholes' contents; human and animal bones from pallsided [fenced] settlements; coins, which were originally tokens of esteem; pottery shards; iron artefacts; etc. So our area included initially many small 'safe' hill-top pallsided dwellings and Iron Age forts to eventual valley-bottom homes which grew to be oppidas (larger town-like structures with probable street plans).

The oppidas were safe-havens for meetings; rituals imploring the gods' intervention in matters of harvest, fertility, death, life; for animal husbandry; potteries and iron smelting; etc.

Thatcham's [Berks] Harts' Hill Copse had 2 pallsided round houses with evidence of sheep; plus human bones placed on the edge of the settlement. Thatcham also had iron ore and wood for charcoal iron smelting. Winklebury's [Basingstoke] Iron Age house shows evidence of rebuilding 4 times - wood rots! Tongham [Surrey] had pallsided houses ----- gated communities are springing up again in the 21st C, so nothing's new! Heathrow [Middx.] had a rectangular structure, which may have been a shrine. Segsbury [Oxon] had a round house with human remains in the

post-holes. There were pit burials at Wittenham [Oxon]; Winklebury; and Rooksdown [Basingstoke] with votive [religious] offerings to gods. 1st century BC Viables [Basingstoke] yielded a baby burial site and other grave goods including weaving combs and animals - the sign of a rich deceased. Tongham [Surrey] has a well with a ladder which had to be resealed to prevent it turning to dust. Blewburton Hill [Oxon] showed evidence of the ritual burial of horses, a man and his dog, and spectacular grave effects. Enbome [Berks] had an Iron Age temple. Wandsworth (1992), and Battersea (1992), [London], yielded shields which had NOT been used for battle. Waterloo Bridge's mud revealed (1990), a small ceremonial helmet which had a PRE-CHRISTIAN cross on it, such as the Aztecs had used millennia before. There are sites all over SE England revealing priestly headdresses; un-inscribed coins, which were wealth tokens; and from 100BC, inscribed Gallo-Belgic coins, some made of gold. Poole traded pottery because of its clay. Uffington [Berks] cut its White Horse into the chalk Downs.

The Druids [Stonehenge and other sites] handled religion, public and private sacrifices, and rituals known to involve oak wood and mistletoe ----- nothing left there, then!

Some say there were 5 million Brits. in the Iron Age, but it's not verified. Biggish raiding parties went out, anyway, so again, nothing's new!

The Iron Age went bang when our isle was invaded by the Romans, unsuccessfully in 55BC because the legions were too small, the weather was horrendous and we Brits. attacked back! However, the Roman invasion of 54BC was triumphant: more soldiers, and some British chieftains and children were kidnapped, Romanised to 'civilise' them and then re-integrated into our communities. Clever stuff!

Dr.Hutt gave over 50 TADS members a very intense lecture and some very pertinent questions were asked of him.

Thank you Dr. Hutt.

Rosemary Bond

Tadley Vision

The Town Council are seeking the views of residents on what they would like for Tadley in the future. They have now composed a questionnaire which can be found at www.tadleyvision.org or contact Nicki Barry on 0118 981360.

The Falcon Pub. We understand that the building is now being bought by AWE and will be demolished to enable them to enlarge the Falcon entrance to the site.

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 - A Spring Fair from 11:00am on Sunday 2nd May.

Willis Museum - *The Museum is using the new gallery to stage a series of special exhibitions and events during the coming months. There will also be a series of special events for children.*

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

20th May - Updating the Victoria County History - Dr Jean Morrin, University of Winchester.

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

13th May - Who Cared? Nursing and health provision for soldiers and their families in the Civil War and Interregnum by Dr Eric von Arni.

Facing Up to Rome, Discoveries at Calleva - Professor Michael Fulford will give this talk on Tues. 27th April at 8pm in the Palmer Building, Whiteknights, University of Reading. Entrance is free and tickets are not required. Further information is at: www.reading.ac.uk/publiclectures

Basingstoke Library will be closed from Monday 26th April for approx. 6 months during its conversion to a Discovery Centre.

Searching for the original Tadley

On the 9th April a survey was made of the area around St Peter's church using a digital camera on top of a 20 metre mast mounted on the back of a Land Rover. This is all part of the TADS Project Group's work to try and find the lost village. The photographs have to be analysed for evidence of underlying streets and buildings.

*TADS annual membership is £10 per person.
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