



June 2010

**Tadley and District History Society  
(TADS) - [www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

**Next meeting - Wednesday 16th June  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30 pm**

***THE PAST IN STONE AND  
METAL***

***BY MALCOLM LANGFORD***

***(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.00)***

**Change of Talk on 21st July 2010.**

The talk will now be: **Thames Valley Transport  
by Paul Lacey**

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,  
e-mail: [richard@ilexind.plus.com](mailto:richard@ilexind.plus.com) or Carol Stevens (0118) 9701578,*

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

## **Dentaid, Dentistry is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World**

by Dr Philip Postance.

Open wide please! Pearly white pearlies (we hope; perhaps the odd filling!) OR rotten teeth, black, brown and bleeding, bad breath, gumboils, abscesses, mouth tumours, chronic toothache, streptococcal infections, septicaemia, 'unsterilised' bicycle spoke instruments or a blacksmith's pliers, the risk of hepatitis, and H.I.V., and probable death; NO trained dentist..... NB Sierra Leone has 5 dentists for 5.5 million people. What hideous choices.....

When we slink off nervously to the dentist with our cavity or toothache in the UK, we tend to go to a fully-equipped dental surgery with a soft lights, paintings, maybe muted music, a be-masked and gloved dentist and dental nurse, tending our every whim and whimper as they X-ray, drill, fill, swill, extract the payment, and away we go....

OR a street 'dentist' in India with a do-it-yourself option! And dentures probably stolen from the local morgue! You could have false teeth made from a sheet of copper by the blacksmith and wired into your mouth with ghastly side-effects; no anaesthetic, no sterilisation, no clean water, fear, ignorance and a witch-doctor approach. Not good.....

Phil Postance's lengthy professional and social CV curls impressively from his canines down to his toenails! And he works voluntarily as a fundraiser for Dentaid to improve the world's health. Dentaid, founded in Britain, has been going since 1996.

You don't want to know what Phil would do to cola drink manufacturers because of the cavities caused! Not to mention toothache and heartache. Sugary foods come a close second, yummy though they are. We must clean our teeth 2 X daily, and floss. Alas 'we should have looked after at teeth...' (Pam Ayres, 1970s).

Phil showed us gruesome suffering in slides from deprived 3<sup>rd</sup> World countries. Imagine, 5 billion of the world's 6 billion population NEVER see a dentist. We're talking mostly of peoples in parts of Africa, Asia and South America. And it's mostly the West's fault, because of our greed and commerce focused on emergent countries where the economy is improving and they feel the need for sugary treats, whereas once their teeth were pretty perfect.

Sadly, in the UK 40% of 6 year-olds have 1.5 cavities. It should be zero, because we have education, dentists and fluoride. In Cambodia, 90 per cent

of 6 year-olds have 7.5 cavities and there are very few dentists. The Philippines main cause of the school absenteeism is poverty and toothache. Ethiopia has a 77 million population with just 93 dentists, mostly in the wealthy capital city, Addis Ababa. Nepal's dental situation is very dire. Happily all is not lost. Dentaaid to the rescue: British dentists can send their no longer needed dental chairs, instruments, etc, to a holding area in Wiltshire, where they are prepared by engineers for a new life in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World. Currently, Dentaaid can transport and supply a portable chair, steriliser and instrument kit to anywhere in the world for £1000.

Children and adults need to be screened and treated by indigenous workers; all children must receive oral health education from their own teachers and health workers. But the biggest single factor is supervised tooth brushing with fluoridated toothpaste and a toothbrush. We hope soon everyone will be able to afford an ordinary toothbrush.

Thanks Phil for your talk about dentistry and the lack of it in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World. It made some of us gasp with open-mouthed horror, and resolved to look after OUR teeth better and maybe donate to help others less privileged to do the same. Keep up the good work!

Rosemary Bond

Philip Postance donated his fee for the talk to Dentaaid and over £100 was donated by members after the meeting. Well done everybody.

---

## **September London Walk**

The list for places is still open - requests to Carol on 0118 9701578. Details for meeting, etc. will be published in the next newsletter.

---

## **The Wigwam Schools**

Hampshire County Council have sent a letter to nearby residents and TADS which states among other things: ‘ Unfortunately, in view of the high cost of converting the buildings to any other use, demolishing the buildings and completely redeveloping the site has proved the only realistic option. ----- Therefore, in the interests of public safety and to keep costs to a minimum, the County Council now intends to demolish the buildings during the summer.’

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

### **Hampshire Record Office**

*For Information see [www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro) or ring 01962846154.*

**Milestones Museum** - The museum will be open on the evenings of Thursdays 24th June and 29th July.

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

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

June 17th The work of the Wessex Film and Sound Archive - David Lee. This talk by the manager of the archive will include examples of archive film on North Hampshire.

**B'stoke Arch. & History Soc.** (19:30 at Church Cottage, Church Square)  
No meetings until September.

**Silchester Dig** - Reading University will be working on the Calleva site from 28th June to 8th August. The open days are on Saturdays 17th & 31st July.

---

## **History in the Making**

The Tadley Skate-park on Tadley Common was re-opened last month after a £100,000 re-build. The cost was paid by funds raised in memory of 'Jake & Lee', who were killed in a car accident.

Work on the new extension to Sainsbury's is now well under way as those of you using the store will well know.

*TADS annual membership is £10 per person.  
Correspondence to Tadley and District History Society,  
PO Box 7264, Tadley. RG26 3FA  
Email: [tadshistory@googlemail.com](mailto:tadshistory@googlemail.com)*