



July 2010

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

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

***TRANSPORT IN AND  
AROUND THE THAMES  
VALLEY 1920 - 1950***

***BY PAUL LACEY***

**London Walk on Sunday 19th September.**

It is expected we will meet at or near St. Clement Danes Church, The Strand, just before start of Fleet Street at 10.30 am. The details will be confirmed by email or telephone at beginning of September. Contact Carol for more information.

*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)**

**TADS Meeting 15th September 2010:  
The Salvation Army Heritage Centre  
By Major Stephen Grinstead**

**Last Month's Talk 16/6/10**

**The Past In Stone (Thatcham, Berks.)  
By Malcolm Langford.**

Look at the flint!

Is it a STONE?

Or, is it an axe head, or a hammerhead?

The flint won't go away or change because it is a STONE.

Local, approachable, 'human', self-taught amateur historian and archaeologist with a dry sense of humour, and a rich fruity voice: that's Malcolm. AND he was born in New Road, Tadley of Cotterell family stock, now a proud resident of Thatcham.

Malcolm told us he began as an enthusiastic 11-year-old, prodding away among 'stones' i.e. arrowheads, etc, etc. Malcolm, aided by Bob his 'Man Friday' told tales of a Thatcham, as-we-didn't-know-it, in Mesolithic times. Then it was like an iced cake, but the icing was 2 km thick, and Thatcham was joined, with the rest of the now-UK, by ice to Doggerland (now the Dogger Bank) and an unrecognisable Europe. This was when not-so-primitive humanoids criss-crossed an alien world of ice, travelling for example from Spain to North America. Eat your heart out Columbus (1492) you didn't discover the new world. Nor did the Vikings. Ancient man did, approximately 21,000 years ago. We know this because of the 'X'- gene checks, matching up peoples in Spain, Melanesia, Australia and even Inuits of the Arctic Circle area.... The New World's not so new.....

When rivers cut through the melting ice in the Doggerland area, etc, the UK was cut off from Europe.

Take Thatcham Sewage Works. It was begun in the 1930s, extended in the 1950s and that's when Malcolm's fun started. The lad Malcolm prodded around, as kids do, taking note of fine flint arrowheads, axes, hammerheads with crazed marks to strengthen them, and other artefacts.

And so an archaeologist not to be messed with was born.

Malcolm reckons history will have to be rewritten because scientific changes

and gene and DNA analysis let us interpret finds much more accurately. He said that Mesolithic man was not so ‘ug! ug! let's drag that woman away’, but quite intelligent and able to plan ahead. And his arrowheads can still CUT you..... Do touch Malcolm's exhibits of stoneware but don't cut yourself. He even makes his own replicas and drills holes in stones (well, tries) and concludes that ancient Thatcham man was a pretty smart guy, clever and patient...

Between 8,500 BC and 3,500 BC, Mesolithic man lived in the River Kennet Valley when the river was much wider. There's evidence in the Thatcham Sewage Works area (1961) of beavers, dogs, resin from pine trees, pine cones, gorge fish hooks (as used now by Inuits for fishing through ice holes), pine martens, wolves, string made from vine leaves, man-made dams for fish farming, etc. Thatcham, was, and is, wonderful, and it is the oldest continuously inhabited place in Britain.

Thatcham man (and others) obviously did well to survive and bring up his family using the tools we saw ----- good job he did, or we wouldn't be here now! ‘We are family....’ Malcolm said and thanks to him (and Bob) for the enthusiastic living history, countless thousands of years old.

Rosemary Bond

NB. TADS' Cyril Turner brought his metal detector find from Kingsclere, (Spring 2010), a beautiful escutcheon at the size of a 10p piece.

---

## **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 last Thursday evenings of each month and there will be a talk. On 26th Aug. at 7pm it will be a ‘Social History of the English Civil War soldier.’ Evening tickets are half the normal day price.

The **Thornycroft Society** vehicles meet is at Milestones Museum on Saturday 21 August.

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

On 29th July there is a free Archaeology Roadshow aimed at children.

## What's On? (Continued)

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

The Silchester Association **Roman Weekend** is on 17 and 18 July. It will be located opposite the Roman Silchester Insula IX excavations. Contact Jo Stanley, 0118 970 0282, for details.

### Talks at Silchester Church

Monday 26 July starting at 7.30pm. Professor Michael Fulford giving a survey of the Calleva excavations.

Wednesday 4 August 11.30am to 12.30pm Excavating Scottish Henge Monuments. (Speaker TBA).

*(No admission charge for either of the above, but retiring collection for church funds. Tea and biscuits etc. available after the talks).*

Saturday 24th July at 7.30pm. **Augustus John** - an illustrated talk about the life of the celebrated artist, to be given by his son Tristan de Vere Cole. Tickets £7, to include light refreshments, fundraising for refurbishment of the church organ. Enquiries / Tickets: Richard Fletcher, 0118 9700633 or Richard Rand, 0118 9700450

**Hampshire Historic Churches Trust**, Saturday 11 September, Sponsored Ride & Stride, visiting churches in the area. Information Ralph Atton, 0118 970 0825. This is part of the Historic Buildings open weekend.

---

## History in the Making

TADS member **John Feuillade** died in June just short of his 80th birthday after many months in and out of hospital.

Londoner John came to Tadley in the 1950s to work at AWRE as an engineer and spent the rest of his career there. He was a Scout as a youth and remained in the movement until his death. He was part of the Calleva Lifeguard Club, a counsellor with the Tadley CAB, a National Trust Room Steward at the Vyne, and many other things in the community at large.

*These details were culled from a tale of his life by Ann Broad. The Editor will be very happy to supply a full version. (See page 1 for contact details).*

*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)*