



February 2012

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 15th February 2011  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

# **'Timber framed buildings in Tadley and North Hampshire'**

**by *Bill Fergie***

*(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.50)*

**Annual Subscriptions** of £12 per person are now due. If you are paying at the February meeting will you please put your cheque or cash in an envelope bearing your address (a second hand envelope will do) . This will help the Treasurer recognise who has paid and get the receipts prepared. New members please give details, including Phone No. and email address. Subs may also be sent to our PO Box. (See bottom of Page 4.)

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,  
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**[www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

## **TADS Meeting 21st March 2012:**

### **‘The secret Thames’**

by Duncan McKay

Last meeting - 18th January

## **The Work of a Registrar**

by Steve Thirkettle

Hatching, matching and despatching - that's what Steve said his job was about. Quite an appropriate occupation for such an urbane, unshockable man, when the people on the receiving end of his words were often euphoric over a baby's birth, dizzy with delight at a wedding, and distraught when dealing with a death....

Steve asked us, the 50 or so TADS members present, what we thought at such times. After much muttering ONE brave man volunteered that he recalled everything about his marriage ceremony 50 years ago .... For some people, such times were numbingly blurred!

In England, the 'art' of registration came in tentatively during the early 16<sup>th</sup> century when Churches began registering baptisms and burials.

The early 18<sup>th</sup> century saw Churches compulsorily keeping precise records, even if some of the dates were rather 'elusive'. Maybe Big Brother out there needed to know how many potential soldiers had been born! This was probably the idea 2,000 years ago when Baby Jesus' parents became involved in the Roman census.

When Queen Victoria ascended the throne in 1837, (1<sup>st</sup> July), England began proper registration and our Colonies followed suit. Comparing an English 1839 marriage certificate with a 2009 one, the language is different but the function is the same e.g. 'bachelor' and 'spinster', and now 'single', 2009. And today it's all done electronically.

Registrars are likely for random Ofsted-type inspections, so personnel must be provided with training and facilities.

Births, deaths and marriages are all recorded somewhere, including Civil Partnerships. Moslem and Hindu weddings etc. etc. are not currently recorded because they aren't recognised in English law. Recording is legally necessary, and illegitimate children can be re-registered if the parents marry, so they can inherit along with siblings.

Since 2002-3 Citizenship ceremonies have been conducted.

Registrars are multifunctional, Steve said. They perform Naming ceremonies which aren't baptisms; Commitment ceremonies which aren't marriages; and renew Marriage Vows.

All Hampshire records from 'the Year Dot' i.e. 1837, are stored in Winchester, which is where you go for research purposes.

If you marry in e.g. Barbados, get lots of certificates there because you can't get them retrospectively back in England!

If you die abroad, the local authority must issue a Death Certificate before the deceased can be returned to the UK. Military personnel are treated and recorded by the Armed Services. If you expire at sea, but within the 12-mile limit, that's deemed to be in the UK.

Captains on board ship can't officiate at weddings (this is being reviewed in 2012), but since 1994 outside venues like hotels, conference centres etc., are allowed to provide this service with the appropriate official conducting the ceremony.

Registry Offices musn't be remotely religious - no candles, etc.

No famous clients for Steve, just the occasional gypsy wedding and a raunchy, raucous but legal motor cycle wedding. Noisy, but it's what the bikers wanted! Occasionally an engaged couple may change their minds but not tell Steve - that's D.N.A ! (did not attend).

So thank you, Steve, for an insight into what was 11 years of your life: hatching, matching and dispatching.

Rosemary Bond

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## **The Tadley CV**

The publication of this document was announced by Carol at the last meeting. It has been some time in gestation and is a world first, to coincide with the release of the National CV for Great Britain. It can be accessed through the National CV website: <http://www.thenationalcv.org.uk/>, then click the blue box 'See the world's first local CV'. The backing 30 page CVpedia will be on the TADS website in due course.

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

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

**Milestones Museum.** For coming events: Tel. 01256 477766 or see: [www3.hants.gov.uk/milestones/whatson](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/milestones/whatson)

11th - 19th Feb. 'Victorian themed half term week at Milestones' -  
Celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth.

21st Feb - 15th April 'LEGO ® Mania at Milestones Museum' Come and watch 150,000 Lego bricks being placed one by one to create a magnificent minifigure scale model of the great Tudor Palace, Basing House. Built by Duncan Titchmarsh, the UK's only certified professional LEGO builder. Plus many other things involving the little bricks.

### **Willis Museum**

1st Mar. 'A creative writing workshop with poet Andrew McMillan'

The museum is also running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery.

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

16th Feb. '60 years of AWE' Kate Pyne, AWE Technical Historian,

15th Mar. 'My Life in Films' Alan Turton.

**Basingstoke Archaeological & History Society** *(7.30 at Church Cottage)*

9th Feb. 'The Staffordshire Hoard: Art, Wealth and Power in the 7th Cent.'  
by the Hon. Prof. Leslie Webster.

8th March. 'Experimental Archaeology' Jennifer Foster, Reading University

***TADS annual membership is £12 per person.  
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