



September 2013

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 18th September 2013
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

**‘Castles of Wessex’
by Alan Turton**

(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.50)

Committee News

At the July meeting some slips requesting ideas for future meeting were put on the chairs. The response was good and the slips will be available again at next week's meeting.

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

www.tadshistory.com

TADS Meeting 16th October 2013:
‘Roman Uniforms’
by John Smith

Last Meeting 17th July

Women In Tudor & Stuart Berkshire
by Dr Joan Dils, Lecturer and Author

Women's Libbers, eat your hearts out or burn your underwear at what freedom SOME women had in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Francis Bacon (1561-1626) said women were young men's mistresses; companions in middle age and old mens' nurses ... And - men did WORK, they went out and came home. Women did their duty, were obedient, and did everything else.

Not everyone knows about people movement in that era, and the guys and gals weren't always chaperoned, either...

Women were obedient and respectful as daughters. Usually. NO girl went to school till the end of the 17th century. Adam Stout had 7 sons who went to school and became apprentices until maybe 24 years of age. Daughters did housekeeping. Some Berkshire girls travelled a long way to be maids, e.g, to Staffordshire. But Alice Brown of Thatcham only went as far as Midgham, where she became one of the family and, no doubt, kept an eye out for the son and heir there...

A gal saved her money for her trousseau while spending a little on pretty ribbons and beautiful buttons, just as her 21st century descendants have an eye for shopping now. The girl's master kept an inventory of her spending. As some Dads do now.

A girl needed a husband. There were no career opportunities in those days, and only 5%-10% of youngsters had arranged marriages: to protect dynasties and fortunes.

One Robert Loder kept an inventory of his crops: if the barley harvest was low it was possibly because of the courting season! Young people could have a feast without adults present. Amazing.

Joan Greenwood lived in Newbury and her sweetheart, John Roberts, walked often from Reading to court her, but when her Dad saw a ring exchange, he said "NO". And you didn't go against your Dad. Marriage wasn't a bed of roses for women, your husband controlled everything. You had to produce children, but NOT a baby each year, but maybe every 2 years, and as you aged, fewer babies came.

Many babies died at birth and weaning was dangerous because of contaminated food and water. Beer was usually drunk instead of water. The gentry employed wet-nurses, but more rich babies died than those of the poor.

The Tudor/Stuart wife's days were predictably busy. Corn had to be fetched from the flour mill and she and her maid would make bread and beer. Wood was used for fires; charcoal was a luxury. 4-5 year-old girls did the spinning and weaving of wool and linen.

In 1500, William Bowe's wayward wife only had eggs and milk - she was having an affair and didn't keep house properly.

In 1618, wealthy Robert Loder's Berkshire household comprised 8 souls and they consumed 199 lbs (98kg) of butter, 2 bushels of crabmeat (1 bushel = 8 gallons or 26.4 litres), plus hops, malt, salted pork, chickens, eggs, 470lbs (approx 900kg) of cheese, bacon but not much beef or vegetables, except peas, beans, garlic and herbs.

Poorer people dined on the basics of cheese, beer and bread. 'Strong' beer was from the first brew and special. 'Small' beer was the watered down second or third brewing for everyday drinking.

House cleaning and washing were not high on the agenda, but if you did leave your washing to dry and whiten on the hedge, it could 'walk'.

Women's clothes - one good Sunday gown and one for working which could expand should that be necessary, and that was achieved by adjusting tape fastenings.

Women came off badly in the marriage stakes which were controlled by Church Courts. Nagging wives were punished and horns were hung round their house. And beware witches. One woman, Joan, had a brutal husband and when he beat her she was patched up with soap.

If a farmer died his widow carried on farming; likewise a clothier's widow. Other widows sold ale and bread. Widows were made to check dead bodies for bubonic plague (1550s-1660s), but were paid well for this and their sons might be given a business. Ordinary women did not have much to leave in

their wills - hence Alice Reynolds left a sheet with a seam down the middle (sides to middle).

Until recently men wrote up history and featured in it, but now in the 21st century there are several influential women historians - and Joan must be among them, as her excellent experience and knowledge show.

Thank you so much Joan for your insight into a world we have lost.

Rosemary Bond

WW1 Commemoration

We have just had a meeting with local councillors and representatives of some of the parishes and the British Legion. As far as TADS are concerned, we would like to make contact with relations of those listed on the WW 1 section of the Tadley War Memorial.

I can supply a list of the names, in hardcopy or by email.

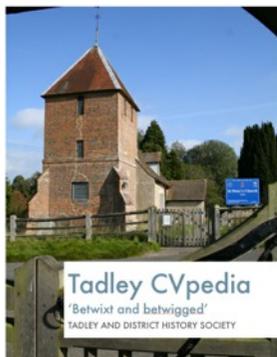
Richard Brown.

Basingstoke Local and Family History Open Day

This free event will be held in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre (Library) on **Sunday 13th October** from 10 am to 3 pm. TADS will have a stand as will other local history organisations. There will also be representation from Family History Societies, no doubt with on-line access to the many web-based archives.

Tadley CVpedia - on the next page there is an article about this document and its availability as an ibook for the iPad tablet. Ian Burn has been responsible for doing the work with a lot of help from Carol and others. The result is absolutely brilliant and will be a modern way of making it available to schools and others for free. Tadley leads the way!

Tadley CVpedia now available as an iBook



The National CV of Britain is a profile of Britain (for fun, illumination and inspiration), using a forward-looking history technique, based on the format of a CV (curriculum vitae). This can be accessed at their website (<http://www.thenationalcv.org.uk/index.html>). It celebrates Britain's record of pioneering achievements across any number of fields of human endeavour over many centuries.

TADS contribution to the National CV project

The headquarters of The National CV Group is in Tadley and TADS has been supportive of the project – *Tadley's CV*, the world's first 'local CV', is available from the National CV website. TADS, together with the National

CV Group, have also produced a longer version – *Tadley's CVpedia*.

The National CV Group were very keen for TADS to go out into local schools and, using the CV and CVpedia, promote Tadley. TADS did not have the confidence that its members had the necessary professional skills to do this properly. It decided it was better to produce an iBook version of *Tadley's CVpedia*.

How to obtain your copy

The iBook version of *Tadley's CVpedia* is available for free via Apple's iTunes.

Open Apple's iTunes and select iTunes Store (1), enter 'Tadley CVpedia' in the search box (2). You should then see a screen similar to the one shown on the left. Select the button 'Download' (3). After entering any necessary passwords, the *Tadley CVpedia* will then load and appear as a book on your iPad Bookshelf.



What's on? Events which may be of interest

Hampshire Record Office *For information ring 01962846154 or see
www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro*

Milestones Museum. For coming events: Tel. 01256 477766 or see:
www3.hants.gov.uk/milestones/whatson

11th -13th Oct.. **Hampshire's OctoberFest** - a celebration of Hampshire's finest Beer and Food producers . Based at The Milestones Museum and adjacent parkland the festival has full programme of demonstrations, exhibitions, craft workshops as well as live music and dance, street entertainment, traditional games, competitions and children s activities.

Willis Museum (Tel: 08456035635) - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. Forthcoming exhibits include contemporary and local artists.

One exhibition running until 21st Sept. is Dazzle - Celebrate the glamour, elegance and exquisite design of the roaring twenties with this spectacular display of 1920s beaded dresses and accessories from Hampshire County Council's Museums Service collections.

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

19th Sept. A history of Church Cottage, Basingstoke by Bill Fergie.

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

10th October 'Operation Nightingale' – Excavations at Barrow Clump -
Richard Osgood, MOD

Basing House has 3 events coming up:

14th Sept. A Family Tudor Day.

5/6 th Oct. A Civil War weekend

31st Oct. Halloween Ghost Walks.

***TADS annual membership is £12 per person.
Correspondence to Tadley and District History Society,
c/o 5 Church Road Pamber Heath Tadley. RG26 3DP
Email: tadshistory@googlemail.com***