



May 2014

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 21st May 2014
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 7.45 to 9.30pm**

'World War 1 Memories'

By TADS members

(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.50)

Please note the start time of 7.45pm for the May meeting!

(We have 5 short talks and more)

Derek Ward - We are very sorry to report the death of Derek, TADS Vice-President emeritus, on Tuesday 6th May after a long illness. An obituary is on page 6 of this newsletter.

The Funeral Service will be on Tuesday 27th May at 13:00 at St. Mary's Church, Newchurch Road, Tadley. No flowers please.

(A Private Cremation will follow later, family only).

www.tadshistory.com

TADS Meeting 18th June 2014

‘Living with Jane Austen’

By Richard Tanner

TADS last meeting - 16th April:

The Ladies of the Tower of London by Tony Strafford.

Evocative title, eh! About 50 of us wondered what, and who, was coming – then a mature vision appeared wearing a stiflingly hot navy and red-trimmed Yeoman warder's uniform (designed in 1852 by Prince Albert). Tony said their dress uniforms of red and gold cost £10,000 each....

They say the ravens of the Tower of London must remain for ever, or England will be lost. So they have their own special Yeoman Warder and their wings are clipped....

Tony's confident 'Beefeater' presence was also very reassuring for Blighty's future. The 'beefy' term was applied in the 17th Century because of the guards' strong, healthy appearance.

What tales he told of ladies' lives at the Tower. And its history. And what happened to some men there!

The Tower of London belongs to our Queen – she keeps the Crown Jewels, etc. there – and it was built by William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, in 1066 as a fortress and a castle. Tony knew the Tower intimately having lived and worked there for over 20 years.

It's always had a colourful history with its builder wanting to marry a maiden called Matilda, a relation. The Pope said 'No' and William was annoyed and did consummate the non-wedding anyway. He was excommunicated but paid to get back in the Pope's favour. Poor old William when he died, 1087, someone desecrated his grave back in Normandy.

The list of the Tower's horrors and vandalism continues.....

'Bad' King John (reigned 1199-1216) was a good administrator BUT, devious, wicked and a lecherous, leering sexual predator who was spurned by the delightful Maud Fitzwilliam. So he gave her a poisoned egg. However, King

John's come-uppance came when he was travelling north via East Anglia and he lost his treasure chest in the Wash. When he reached Newark, Notts, someone poisoned his wine! And they are still searching for the treasure in the boggy Wash.....

Edward I (reigned 1271-1307) 'Hammer of the Scots' was also nick-named 'Longshanks' because of his ungainly legs and 'Droopy Eyes' which he inherited from his Dad! He had an arranged marriage but actually LOVED the lady: Spanish Eleanor of Castile, Infanta de Castile. Today Londonised as the pub 'Elephant and Castle'. Eleanor bore Edward 16 children. She went everywhere with him, but sadly en route back from Scotland to London, she died. After her internal organs were interred in Lincoln Cathedral he commemorated her with 12 stone crosses for the 12 days/nights journey home. Waltham Cross is the best of the 3 remaining original crosses.

Tony said that the herb, rosemary, was introduced into England to improve ambience and smells – teeth cleaning, breath freshening, and for remembrance....

The quarrelsome wars of the Red Rose Lancastrians and the White Rose Yorkists, resulted in lots of acrimonious trips to London involving the Tower. Henry VI was incarcerated by Yorkist Edward IV (husband of the 'White Queen', the money-seeking Elizabeth Woodville). Edward murdered his younger brother, the Duke of Clarence by drowning him in wine.....

Notorious, vain and clever King Henry VIII is in everyone's house. Puzzled? His face is on the King of Clubs in a pack of cards. His 6 marriages, divorces, deaths, beheadings are very well known and kept the Tower busy..... His Mr. Fixit, Thomas Cromwell, had been charged to find Wife No. 4 for Henry and obtained a painting of the Flemish Anne of Cleves. When Henry saw her perceived ugliness she became known as 'The Flemish Mare' and Mr. Fixit was beheaded.

Thomas Culpeper cuckolded his King with Wife No. 5: Catherine Howard. She was beheaded in the Tower and Culpeper was 'hung, drawn and quartered'. Henry VIII made us a Protestant country by default and he wickedly wrecked many ecclesiastical buildings and literally **de-faced** statues. Henry eventually became too fat to be buried in his prepared stone sarcophagus – so it went to Admiral Lord Nelson in 1805....

Lady Jane Grey, the Queen of 9 days, was only 16 when she was executed in the Tower.

Sun tans are quite popular in the 20th and 21st Centuries but in the 16th Century rich no-need-to-work fair maids had white skin showing their 'blue blood'.

However, we Brits insulted the 16th Century half-Spanish Mary Tudor for her swarthy skin and she was known as 'The Farmer's Wife who cut off their tails with a carving knife' of the popular nursery rhyme three blind mice: the mice being the 3 Bishops burnt at the stake in Oxford!

England's King James I (VI of Scotland) was 'disgusting, foul-mouthed and foul habited', and he had the prison/palace Bloody Tower 'converted' with money from the Tower's prisoners. Sir Walter Raleigh was one such prisoner: he sailed off to find El Dorado's gold, failed and was executed. His wife was given his head and she thereafter carried it around in a bag.

Left-handedness wasn't tolerated in the 16th Century AND you had to put your RIGHT foot over the threshold first. A watching footman ensured you did this!

Tony, though an ex-soldier and retired Yeoman Warder since 2005, said that Beefeaters were given 1 lb. (500g approx) of meat daily and 8 pints of beer. You mustn't drink 'one over the eight'! Beefeaters are still paid 42p/week (approx. 8 shillings and sixpence) the wage being set in 1827.

Tony put it to us: what would have happened to the British monarchy in world standing, if in 1511 the Prince of Wales hadn't died aged 7 weeks: would we all be Roman Catholic? What about our Royal Navy or British Empire, our explorers.... what if?

Thanks Tony for a fabulous evening, we left with smiles and chuckles!

Rosemary Bond

How many of us know that Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII had six children:

1. A girl -still born or miscarried, January 1510.
2. Henry Duke of Cornwall (would have been Prince of Wales).
Born 1st January 1511, died 23rd February 1511 aged 52days.
3. An unnamed son born October 1513. Died after a few hours
4. The second Henry Duke of Cornwall. Born and died December 1514.
5. Mary - later Queen Mary 1 of England.
6. Unnamed baby girl. Born November 1518, died within a week.

Thanks to Ann Broad for finding this information.

April's speaker Tony Strafford in his Yeoman Warder uniform



DEREK WARD 1932- 2014

In April 2010, the speaker at TADS was a young and enthusiastic David Stevenson. His subject 'Life on Halley 5, an Antarctic Research station'. This was, sadly, the last time that we saw Derek at a TADS meeting. Despite his incapacity following a stroke, he had made the effort to come to meet David and relive and compare his own time spent on the Antarctic ice-shelf at Halley Bay. Derek, a meteorologist, had been selected, together with 19 other enthusiastic young scientists, to establish the first observatory (Halley 1) at Halley Bay, from January 1957 to December 1958, instigated by the Royal Society as the main British contribution to the International Geophysical Year 1957-8. From his personal accounts of the time spent there, conditions were hard; mainly only ex-Army clothing and a great number of "Heath--Robinson" inventions to improve conditions. It was on his way home from this Antarctic adventure via Cape Town, South Africa, that he met Vickie and, as they say, the rest is history.



Derek and his sister, who survives him, were born in Rubery nr. Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Even as a young man he was a restless soul; cycling from John O'Groats to Lands End and later the length of Ireland. His bicycle remained his favourite mode of travel, as he disliked driving. Even after his fall by Honeysuckle Cottage he continued to ride his bicycle using one pedal only, until Vickie caught him!

After leaving college Derek spent much of his working life living in exotic and interesting locations in pursuit of his work with the Meteorological Office: Antigua, Bahrain, Germany, Canada and Lerwick (Shetland) weather forecasting for the oil rigs. Finally Derek was transferred to Bracknell for a quieter life and eventually the family settled in Tadley in 1983.

He was soon involved in the local community and was one of the founder members of TADS in 1984. He was Vice Chairman for most of his active time on the committee. His contribution to TADS was invaluable, and his presence at meetings, his research ability and contacts has been an enormous loss. Carol nicknamed him the “Terrier” as he relished the chase; picking up a task and running with it until it was solved, and at lightening speed! His legacy lives on in the many books TADS have produced which, without his help, would be the poorer.

Derek had many strings to his bow: a walking railway timetable, a philatelist, a legal family researcher, and photographer. In Expedition Leader Joseph Mac Dowall's account of the Antarctic expedition he refers to Derek as “an enthusiastic and accomplished photographer”, as anyone who was fortunate enough to have seen one of Derek's talks about his time there, will know. His photographs of penguin activity were both amazing and entertaining.

Bank of England Visit

The visit to the Bank of England will be on Tuesday 16th September, with the formal presentation by Bank staff at 2pm. This will allow members to have lunch before the visit and continue seeing the exhibits afterward (or before) if they wish.

Carol has booked for a maximum of 25 people so at the moment we have plenty of space for you and friends. Bookings to Carol or at the next meeting.

World War I Project.

We have been meeting almost every week to get well advanced before the holiday season starts. We recently visited the Community Centre hall to plan the layout of the exhibition.

What we would still like to know is how the Tadley War Memorial was funded and how the names to go on it were selected. If you have any information please let us know.

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

Willis Museum - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery., including:

Paul Kidby Discworld and Beyond, Saturday 05 Apr to Saturday 28 Jun. Paul is best known as the illustrator for Terry Pratchett's Discworld books. He is also holding Adult Master classes and family workshops in Illustration during April and June. For details contact the museum on 08456035635.

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

June 19: The Newbury coat, by Jan Blight

Basingstoke Archaeological & History Society (7.30 at Church Cottage)

12th June - AGM Followed by 'New light on the Bayeux Tapestry' by
Dr Matthew Bennett, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

Southampton Historical Walk

A Historical Walk in Southampton will take place on June 21st led by Julian Porter.

Anyone who wants to attend should e-mail Julian at jcmporter@gmail.com.

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,
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***TADS annual membership is £12 per person.
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