



**October 2014**

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 15th Octoberber 2014  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

## **‘The English Pub’**

**By Phil Wood**

*(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.50)*

### **Committee news**

The WW1 Exhibition was very successful - see report on page 5.

Bank of England visit - see report on page 4.

We are still looking for a volunteer to take over the role of talks programme organiser.

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

**TADS Meeting 19th November 2014**  
**‘Dickens at Christmas’**  
By Vera Hughes & David Weller

**TADS last meeting - 17th September:**

**Medieval Southampton**  
by Blue Badge Guide, Jack Wilson.

Saxon 'Hamwih' (Southampton) was always destined to be great and big from the word go. It's on the receiving end of four high tides daily which happen to have swirled round the Isle of Wight to great advantage.

When a tiny 60-acre medieval town, Southampton, clung to Upper Southampton Water on its southern sea side and to the muddy banks of the R. Itchen to the east: it often took a physical bashing from invaders until city walls, vaults, gates, ditches, and a double moat, were constructed, plus gun emplacements. The town gunner had his own house luckily - as he mixed his gunpowder in it!

Southampton bumbled along, through thick and thin, good times and bad, until the small city spewed out all over the place leaving its original historic core to be now admired as one of England's earliest planned towns. It was the START of urbanisation in our islands.

The city has 4 barred gates. 3 Remain. They were shut at night to keep out the marauding French especially in 1338 during the 100 Years' War. 'Above Bar' meant north of the Bargate. There was a bell by the Bargate and you had to **pay** to trade in Southampton in medieval times, 1250 – 1650.

The city walls were made of rubbish, quality rubble from the Isle of Wight, but had expensive Caen stone for the steps. Southampton had England's largest medieval city wall with merchants' houses once built into it. (York and Chester had good walls too, Jack said).

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century (1806) Jane Austen visited the city. She worshipped at All Saints Church, one of the 5 old-city parish churches.

Also in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Southampton became an industrial city and the local fields were crossed by the railway and colonised by houses. The thinking was: 'the finest crop for any field is a crop of houses for it to yield.....'

Finally, the muddy banks of the River Itchen were reclaimed and converted into the massive and now world-important docklands.

The West Gate is where the West Quay shopping area is now but in medieval times warring armies went to sea through it. Two buried cannon balls are still visible in the wall by the gate.

The SE Gate, God's House Gate, had been the exit from the city in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. The citizens had tried to canalise the River Test as far as Salisbury but it wasn't viable.

Southampton was peppered with walls, castles and follies to improve security. Behind Castle Gate were the castle kitchen and a 'flush' toilet, i.e. the tide came in and did the flushing 4 times daily.

Gervais le Riche, one of King Richard I's (the Lionheart) chaps, put up Southampton rents for the King. Richard I (r. 1189-99) didn't speak English, hardly visited the place, but needed cash to pay for his Crusades. It was said he would have sold London if he could! Southampton was important at the time as the sea port exporting Winchester's wool.

Next to the West Gate was the Fish Market, till the 17<sup>th</sup> Century when the locals declared they didn't like the pungent odour.....

In World War II Southampton was bombed mercilessly, thereby destroying many of its precious medieval buildings. So some buildings are restored and have 'fake' facades but beautifully restored interiors. The Tudor Merchants' Hall is one such building, as is the Tudor House, a timber-framed building in the heart of the old city.

It was from near the Maritime Museum that the religiously-harassed Pilgrim Fathers sailed to America in the 'Mayflower' and 'Speedwell' ships, in August 1620 (in the reign of King James I)

There are 5 parish churches in the Old City: All Hallows, All Saints, St. Peters, Holyrood and St. Michaels. Holyrood was badly bombed in WWII but has a memorial to Merchant Seamen, including the ill-fated Titanic, which sank on her maiden voyage to U.S.A. in 1912.

So Medieval Southampton, formerly Saxon Hamwih, was a tiny vibrant town which has evolved into one of the most important merchant shipping and cruise terminal ports in the world.

Thank you, Jack, for your impassioned talk of your beloved adopted city!

Rosemary Bond.

## **TADS visit to the Bank of England on 16th Sept.**

The formal visit was at 2pm when one of the Bank's educational staff gave a one hour illustrated talk on the history of the bank, the buildings throughout the ages, and its current role in governing and regulating the financial affairs of the country. About 25 TADS members and friends were present.

After the talk we were free to explore the small but very comprehensive museum. Currently there is a section featuring the Bank during World War 1 and the exploits of some of its staff who served in the armed forces.

To many the highlight was perhaps trying to lift a small pure gold bar (about 30 lbs weight) which was securely caged and worth a mere £305,000!

While in London our visitors took the opportunity to fill the day with other things. One of the most popular was to see the ceramic poppies filling the moat of the Tower of London. Eventually there will be one poppy for each of the 888,246 British and Commonwealth fatalities during the First World War. It is an amazing sight.

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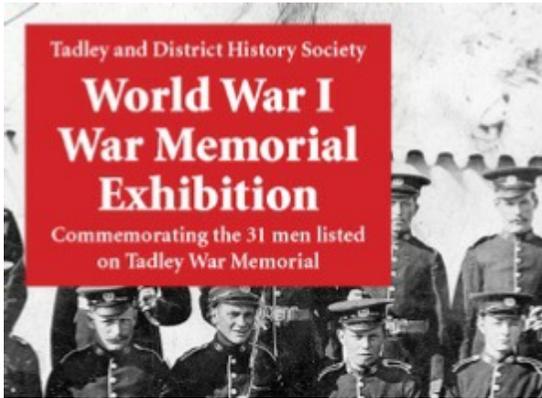
### **Obituary - Caroline Louisa Gibson 1925 – 2014**

Louie was a member of TADS for several years coming with her friend the late John Aling. Born one of 7 children within a Leprechaun's leg distance of Northern Ireland but just south of the border, in County Monaghan, Louie, as she was always known, grasped all of life's opportunities with joy, gusto and positivity.

She and her husband moved to England in 1953, eventually owning Gibson's Garage in Charter Alley. A devoted mother of 7 herself, Louie was not your average pensioner. She involved herself with all the visits and activities of TADS; with her family; with Ramsdell Ladies' Club; holidaying; gardening; and even recently sampling Chinese food for the first time!

Louie, may the road rise up to meet you, the wind be on your back and the sun shine warmly on your face..... (just part of an Irish blessing).

Rosemary Bond.



## **TADS World War 1 War Memorial Exhibition**

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**

The exhibition held in the Community Centre was very successful and all involved are to be congratulated.

It took three and a half hours to set up on Friday evening and Sat morning. There was some trepidation at 10.00am on Saturday wondering if anyone would come, but we needn't have worried. There was an excellent turn-out, with a constant stream of visitors all day long.

The press were there, (Basingstoke Gazette reporter and photographer, and Newbury Weekly News photographer). Ann Court, the deputy Mayor of B & D Council, and Sir George Young, MP, were there, also David Leeks (Tadley Town Council).

The contributions of Sherborne and Pamber Societies added greatly to the Exhibition as did the excellent children's work from The Hurst and Priory Schools.

All the exhibits were safely dismantled and packed away in less than an hour ready to go into the library, Hurst, and/or St, Paul's Hall.

Many people congratulated TADS on the exhibition, both on the day and by letter and email in the following days.

We had British Legion collecting boxes scattered around the exhibition which raised a magnificent total of £70.30.

The TADS exhibits are now being progressively displayed at the library and we hope they will be shown again at St Paul's Hall on Sunday the 9th November.

## **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)*

Now on - **'The Soldier's Tale'**. A WW1 family experience

Tues. 14 Oct. at 7.00pm - Railways of the Great War - Talk by Rob Langham.  
The use of railways of the Great War was essential to the war effort,  
both at home and at the front. £5 per person. Book on Tel No above.

Saturday 01 Nov. at 11:30am

The Uniform and Equipment of the British Soldier  
Join Steven Fairbank, member of the Great War Society, in this  
fascinating introduction to the uniform and equipment of the British  
soldier 1914-18. £5 per person. Book on Tel No above.

**Willis Museum** - The museum is running an ever changing series of special  
exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. *For information tel 0845 603 5635 or*  
*see <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/willis-museum.htm>*

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

October 16: AGM & 'Jane Austen and the villages around Chawton,' by Jane  
Hurst. This talk is a "tour" around the villages in the Chawton and Alton area  
that Jane Austen and her family knew, illustrated by old picture postcards.

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

13th November - Exploring Virgil's Paradise: Survey and excavation on the  
Italian President's estate near Rome by Professor Amanda Claridge –  
Royal Holloway College, University of London

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