

December 2015



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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 16th December 2015
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

***‘Annual General
Meeting and Social
Evening’***

**Minutes of the last AGM
Annual reports
Treasurer's report and annual accounts
2016 Programme
Election of Committee
Any other business**

We need a Quorum of 20 people minimum, so please come.
An additional committee member is urgently needed to manage the talks programme.
Subscriptions are being recommended to remain at £12.00. They can be paid on the evening by cash or cheque in an addressed envelope, please. (Envelopes will be available).

Drinks will be served but the Committee would welcome donations of food and help with the domestic work..

*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 20th January 2016

‘Secrets of the Box’

By Tony Weston

TADS Meeting 18th November 2015

The Last Days of King Charles I

19.11.1600 – 30.1.1649 (reigned 1625-49).

by Alan Turton.

Poor Charles. His older brother (died) and sister were good looking and charismatic. Having been a nervous, stuttering, undersized child with rickety feeble legs, he grew up to be only a 5 foot (152 cms) tall king with a 'little man's' complex, and was easily influenced by the LAST person to advise him. This was especially true of the Duke of Buckingham, his late father's favourite. That was until the Duke was stabbed by a knife-wielding fanatic in 1628. It may have been a sense of personal inadequacy which made Charles ill-equipped to rule and later die on the block, the victim of rebellion and regicide. He was generally depicted in paintings on horseback – it disguised his lack of height.

Alan said Charles was an educated man, with a Scots accent, but riven with angst, and involved in so many conflicts that he was doomed. Poor man, he was constantly on the move for not paying his Army; imposing the Navy Tax (1634); and appointing an unpopular Archbishop of Canterbury. For ever dipping and diving, fearful and escaping sometimes disguised as a boy – which he did in Newark, Notts among other places – because The Civil War (Roundheads and Cavaliers) began in October 1642.

A gilded life it was not. Once in 1647 he hid in Titchfield Abbey, Hampshire, hopefully en route to the Channel Islands. Alas, all the seaports were closed but eventually he managed to reach Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight. Here he was treated right royally and his own carriage was available, plus a specially-constructed bowling green. A washer maid at Carisbrooke Castle tried to help him by smuggling letters. She apparently had a softer spot for him than she should – although he had been married to Queen Henrietta Maria since 1625. The Queen was as politically inflexible as he was.....

If only Charles had listened to the voice of reason and agreed to The Treaty of Newport (IoW) he might have lived.

Historian and former curator of Basing House, Alan has appeared in at least 2 films about Charles I, one being The Battle of Preston: the Scots lost! Charles' running ended in 1649: he was taken to Windsor Castle via Winchester, even trying to escape on a racehorse! A new black suit was made for the trial. No one wanted to be JUDGE, even wearing a mask, and it's true no good came to those involved in Charles' death. His Roundhead Puritan adversary, Oliver Cromwell (who coined the expression 'warts and all') decided the small stubborn King should be executed and the monarchy must end.

The expression 'Keep it under your hat' i.e. a secret, came because it was alleged that Charles was wearing a reinforced steeple hat called 'a secret'. It didn't save him.

Cromwellian supporter and poet, Andrew Marvel wrote of the King's dignity in death:

'He nothing common did, or mean
Upon that memorable scene...'

The executioner was paid 30 pieces of silver! Ghoulish on-lookers removed relics as souvenirs: bone, hair etc. and entrepreneurs sold real or fake blood for 2/6d. (12.5p). One of Charles' knitted silk waistcoats is in the Museum of London and the other at Longleat House, Wiltshire. Known as 'The White King' Charles was eventually given a decent funeral 200 years later and is in a vault in Windsor's St. Georges' Chapel.

After the 1649-1660 interregnum, when we briefly became a Commonwealth, the English again rejoiced to have Charles II enthroned even if he was a rather silly womaniser (the very famous and glamorous Nell Gwynne being one of his mistresses).

Thanks, Alan, for your passionate and informed story of Charles I; and we'll watch out for you in the television re-enactments.

Rosemary Bond.

What's on? Events which may be of interest

Milestones Museum. For coming events: Tel. 01256 477766 or see: www3.hants.gov.uk & search for - milestones museum

Traditional Hampshire Mummers play at Milestones Museum. Performances will take place on Victoria Place inside the museum at 12 noon and 3 pm on 19, 20, 22, 23 and 27 - 31 Dec. plus 2 and 3 Jan. The play is included in the normal admission tickets for Milestones.

Willis Museum - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. The Museum also hold workshops on assorted topics. *For information tel 0845 603 5635 or see* <http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/52>

The Museum has Jane Austen themed events on Jan. 20, Feb. 10, 16 & 18

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30pm at the museum - booking essential for non-members. Book through the museum telephone number above)

No meeting in January

Basingstoke Archaeological & History Society (7.30 at Church Cottage)

14th Jan. - Truckle Hill, Wiltshire; a Roman bath house rediscovered - Phil Andrews, Wessex Archaeology

A TADS Calendar

After a gap of a few years, TADS has revived the tradition of producing a calendar. It features colour and black and white photos taken by Barry Howard who grew-up in Tadley during the 1960s and 1970s but moved away after leaving school. Many of the photos show places which either no longer exist or that have changed out of all recognition. The calendar, costing £8.50, is on sale from Profile Print & Copy and Tadley Library.

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