



July 2017

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 19th July 2017
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

'Forgotten Wrecks of World War 1'

By Laura Johanssen
of the Marine Archaeology Trust

(Everybody welcome - Visitors £3.00)

Tadley War Memorial - At last we have found out when the War Memorial was erected and dedicated - Sunday 10th November 1929. A result of Carol combing through the micro-fiche copies of the Hants and Berks Gazette held in Basingstoke Library. (*AKA The Discovery Centre*).

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,
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www.tadshistory.com

TADS Meeting 20th September 2017
‘An introduction to surname studies’
By Heather Lawn of TADS

TADS Meeting 21st June 2017

Padworth House, Berkshire.
By David Peacock.

Padworth House has always been something of an enigma. Still is. Although it's only about 4 miles NE of Tadley you could pass it by, clothed as it is on all sides except the North by woodlands. The River Kennet wends its way below and the Kennet Canal pushes through in a straighter line. Beenham and Bucklebury villages (think, the Duchess of Cambridge's childhood stamping areas) nestle over the valley.

This 18th Century Padworth Manor House is noted in an Anglo-Saxon charter and has a Norman church alongside its Medieval, Tudor and Stuart roots. The Littlefield family owned it in the 16th and 17th Centuries until the Civil War (1642-47).

David showed us pictures of the house interior, and the ancient oak beams are crudely cut, probably with an adze. They are 'tree like' and held together by very old metalwork. The 17th Century Ground Floor panelling still remains, even as the house has 'expanded' outwards.

Owned in the 1650s by Thomas and Ann Brightwell this new Georgian-looking house embraced inconvenient straight lines – because it was de rigueur of the time, although your views out of some windows were HALF obscured....

The house is used as a college now but it does look somewhat heartless, unloved and dusty, although the plaster work, ceilings and fireplaces have exquisite work by the renowned Robert Adam.

After the English Civil War when Thomas and Ann Brightwell were the owners, they naturally wanted to keep it in the family – even though they had 4 daughters. The 4 daughters each had one quarter of the Estate. However, it went a bit pear-shaped when the daughters died young (due to childbirth and other mis-fortunes), so one son-in-law ended up with the whole pile! He was Christopher Griffith who'd made his money in Slave Trading....

Although this is a Grade II listed building, at times someone's been happy to slap on the Dulux (paint) in a haphazard manner, and covering some fine plaster work and details, forever. David said nothing can be done about this as it's INSIDE the house.....

Some illustrious figures have lived here over the years. One had to change his name to inherit. Thus in 1808 Grenadier Guardsman, Matthew Chitty Darby's surname became Darby-Griffith. (As in the 1960s when a descendant of the Sussex poet Shelley, became BENYON at the adjoining Englefield Estate). David told us Darby-Griffith had a son, Christopher, of whom it was said by the Punch Satirical magazine: 'THE DEVIZES M.P. IS THE MOST BORING M.P.', 1864.

In the 20th Century poor Major Darby-Griffith shot himself because of failing eyesight in 1932.

One of 'The Two Fat Ladies' the lusty TV Motorbike riding cook, Jennifer Patterson was cook there in the 1980's before she made big-time TV with her sidecar sidekick, Clarissa Dickson-Wright.

Some of us were left with a feeling of sadness and disquiet as David told us of this seemingly unloved, slightly unkempt rough diamond of a once-illustrious house.

Anyway, thank you, David, for telling us of this enigmatic Padworth House, so near to Tadley, yet so far.

Rosemary Bond. Tel: 981 2114

Congratulations to Ann Broad and husband Michael on their recent 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Jane Austen 200

An event not mentioned last month is the 24 'Sitting with Jane' decorated book benches sited throughout Basingstoke and a bit wider. They are fun and worth seeing.

What's on? Events which may be of interest.

Milestones Museum. For coming events: Tel. 01256 477766 or see:
<http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/milestones-museum>

4 Jul to 29 Oct **A Time Maze Adventure.**

20 Aug. The **Thornycroft Society Road Run** of historic commercial vehicles from Milestones Museum.

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 01256 465902 or see*
<http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/52>

6 May to 19 July Angie Lewin: **'A Printmaker's Journey'**

15 Jul to 12 Aug **'Roll up Roll up'** circus themed paintings

29 Jul - 7 Oct **'Retail and Romance: Jane goes to the Ball'** Jane Austen's connections with Basingstoke.

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30pm at the museum - Non-members £2, booking essential through the museum telephone number above)

July 20th - **'The Queen in Hampshire'** by David Rymill of the Hampshire Record Office

Basingstoke Archaeological & History Society (7.30 at Church Cottage)

14th September **'Homes for Heroes' – Pandora's Box;** an unexpected journey over 5000 years of incredible history by Si Cleggitt of Wessex Archaeology

***TADS annual membership is £17 per person.
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