



**September 2017**

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 20th September 2017  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

# **‘An introduction to surname studies’**

*By Heather Lawn of TADS*

*(Everybody welcome - Visitors £3.00)*

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

**[www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

# **TADS Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **‘Silchester Environs Project’**

By Professor Mike Fulford

### **TADS Meeting 19th July 2017**

## **Forgotten Shipwrecks of WWI** **by Laura Johannsen** of the Maritime Archaeology Trust, Southampton.

However much you respect the calm or the cruel sea, thousands of shipwrecks are out there, off our southern shores about 1,100 are known (plus thousands more). WWI shipwrecks of 100 years old are now protected: many are war graves. That wrecks are difficult to raise is undisputed but new discoveries demonstrate how maritime archaeological remains provide evidence to give a new perspective on human history: artefacts, ecofacts, samples, sediments, documents, manuscripts, accounts, all help to piece together this 'jigsaw' of accidental or purposeful destruction.

Young Finnish marine archaeologist, Laura, explained to us her consuming passion for her work. The Maritime Archaeology Trust (MAT) is based in Southampton and is non-profit making. It has outfields also in Qatar, Cyprus and France. In fact M.A.T. seems to inspire countless volunteers, be they divers or land-based.

Of the thousands of sunken wrecks round our shores, over 6,800 vessels were sunk in WWI. These were not just warships but almost every shape and size of vessel: metal or wooden, involved in our war effort. Nothing was spared. Small fishing trawlers, merchantmen and big cargo ships, even Portsmouth's Horsea Wireless Station, were all obliterated by the enemy. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1914, three British ships were sunk in one hour.

A potent horror for the sinkings was the new below-the-belt German idea of submarines for warfare. Subs, stealthily sank anything in their paths in order to starve and demoralise us British out of existence. The enemy sank hospital ships and even the British Cunard liner, the Lusitania, with a lot of Americans on board. They nearly succeeded, too. In 1917 we were 6 weeks from starvation. They would have WON WWI. Incidentally, subs had numbers then, not names.

Due to our unpreparedness and ignorance of what havoc and destruction enemy subs could wreak, we suddenly woke up and ships travelled in convoys. Laura showed us a photo of a big fat book – sadly recording the masses of ships sunk in the ONE month of June 1914. Said book is now in the National Archives at Kew, London.

It's not possible to retrieve every wreck, so each is carefully photographed and charted as soon as possible – time and tide waits for no man, metal corrodes, wood rots and the seabed is constantly on the move because of currents and tides.

In WWI, it's estimated that 2,479 merchantmen, 675 fishing vessels, 254 warships and 815 Auxiliary ships were sunk. A British submarine was wrecked off the Isle of Wight with 26 men on board. 8 climbed out but the sub was accidentally hit again by HMS P32, causing more deaths. Only 6 submariners survived. Off Dover, HMS Nubian was hit, then towed towards Chatham Naval Dockyard. En route she was hit again. She and another wreck were raised and welded together. Result: HMS Zubian!

HMS Eleanor sank off the Isle of Wight. Volunteer diver, Dave Enders found her in 2009, 400 metres down in the stormy, swirling murk. Her boilers and hull were retrieved and put together like a jigsaw puzzle. (Divers stay down from 30 minutes to 1½ hours.)

The toilet from SS Polo, torpedoed off Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 1918 has been 'virtually accessed' by volunteer, Katie. She took hundreds of photos to achieve the 'loo' picture in the magazine.... If you were to dive to a wreck and loot it, you could be fined or even jailed. Divers must be trustworthy.

Laura says drones can be used for seacoast/land wrecks sometimes because of deep, deep mud, as by the M27 near Hamble, Hants. Also, R.O.Vs (Remotely Operated Vehicles) are used to explore the sea floor if it's too deep or dangerous for humans to dive.

Laura, you and your colleagues are certainly spreading the word about ALL shipwrecks and we thank you for your raw enthusiasm!

Rosemary Bond

Should you wish to get involved:

Maritime Archaeology Trust - [www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org](http://www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org)

## ***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.

21 Oct to 29 Oct Halloween Half Term

**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>

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)

21 September 'Heroes and Villians of the Basingstoke Canal'  
by Roger Cansdale of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society.

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

12 October 'The history of Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth' by  
Michael Underwood – Project Architect

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## **Lily Ventom**

I am sorry to report that Lily died at the end of August. Together with her late husband Herbert, she was a very long time member of TADS. The Funeral Service will be held at Tadley Common Methodist Church on Wednesday 20th September at 11.30am, followed by a burial at Tadley Cemetery.

***TADS annual membership is £17 per person.  
Correspondence to Tadley and District History Society,  
c/o 5 Church Road Pamber Heath Tadley. RG26 3DP  
Email: tadshistory@googlemail.com***