



February 2018

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 21st February 2018  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

# *‘Brickwork’*

**By John Harrison**

*(Everybody welcome - Visitors £3.00)*

**Annual Subscriptions of £18 per person** are now over-due. If you are paying at the February meeting will you please put your cheque (preferred) or cash in an envelope bearing your name (envelopes will be available at the meeting) . This will help the Treasurer recognise who has paid and get the receipts prepared. We are also asking all members to sign a new data protection form in order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. Subs may also be sent via Carol (See bottom of Page 4 for address.)

*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 21st March 2018**

### **‘A History of Tea’** (in character and costume)

*By Terri Read*

## **TADS Meeting 17th January 2018**

### **A History of Hampshire through 10 or more Objects.**

**By Tony Cross.**

When Tony breezed into our TADS' lives recently he made it perfectly clear what we already know – Hampshire is an interesting county. And much more. Our county is mostly based on chalk with river gravel, some clay and heathland. The chalk bit means it was once hot and covered in sea – hence fossilised remains of sea creatures, and sharks' teeth in gravel pits are there for the pulling out.... (I've done it!) Chalk's too soft for building use in the elements but the flints it contains can be beautifully knapped for interiors (*and exteriors – Ed*) and also used for gun flintlocks.

Nearby we have Silchester (Calleva Atrebatum) a fascinating ruined Roman town of 107 acres with flint walls 10 feet (3.1/2 m) thick and 20 feet (6.1/2m) high. And a church within the walls.... Tony was sometime Curator of Alton Museum which has a Saxon buckle excavated in 1959. It's quite gorgeous, made of: silver; silver-gilt; garnets; and mother-of-pearl.

The village of Chawton, nr. Alton is one of many Jane Austen sites. 2017 was the bi-centenary of this internationally famous author's death. To the South West is Droxford where Churchill and other WWII leaders came in 1944 to discuss – and immediately implement – the D Day landings in Northern France.

Poor old King William Rufus has a New Forest Stone to remind us of his untimely death/assassination in 1100. Who done it?? Anyway, Sir Walter Tyrrell high-tailed it off to France post haste. A pub commemorates him; while poor Rufus' resting place at Winchester Cathedral hasn't been peaceful. His bones have been constantly moved.....

Hampshire being so close to France has meant constant paranoia by Henry VIII and later Prime Minister Palmerston and others, with the building of forts and defences to keep the French away from Portsmouth's sea coast AND chalk hinterlands!

Florence Nightingale, 1820-1910, that feisty lady-with-the-lamp-nurse of Crimean War (1854) fame, was the first baby girl to be named after the Italian

city. Although born in Derbyshire she lived and died here and is buried out west in Wellow. Her legacy has also been the benchmark for later hospitals e.g. Royal Victoria Military Hospital at Netley, 1863, (now sadly no more). Passenger White Star liner, R.M.S. Titanic, was built in Belfast but sailed out of Southampton in 1912 of the unsinkable-but-hit-an-iceberg-and-sank infamy, lost 1,800 lives. Some 121 casualties were buried in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Tony said. This tragedy also gave rise to memorial hospitals, e.g. Gosport War Memorial Hospital, now sadly 'rationalised' i.e. shut, by the powers-that-be..... Basingstoke had a War Memorial Park to commemorate the 1918 conclusion of WWI and a war memorial, 1923, to those who fell. Quite brilliantly and amazingly, 23 villages didn't lose anyone, so they DON'T have WWI memorials. Hampshire had its first K1 telephone kiosk in Bembridge, Isle of Wight, in 1927. Designer Giles Gilbert Scott based it on something Egyptian..... K6 (1935) was the kiosk most commonly in use – although even they are disappearing, and now collectors' items.

The R.A.F. is 100 years old on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and R.J. Mitchell (1895-1937) designed the famous Spitfire 'plane. You can snap one up now in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century for a cool £3.1 million, Tony said. Woolston (built) and Calshot (flew) seaplanes. The 1931 Schneider Trophy was the coveted seaplane speed icon award. The Germans bombed the Woolston Supermarine factory in September 1940 – it's now housing, but the car park has a brick Spitfire outline. Spitfires were assembled in Hangar 5 in Tadley and rolled out onto Aldermaston's runway.....

Aldershot's Military Cemetery contains many Falklands personnel – maybe Surgeon Captain Rick Jolley who died in December 2017, will be buried there? He was the only man to be decorated by the Brits AND the Argentinians, for saving lives.

Aldershot, once a quiet heathland village of 900 souls, was transformed into the Home of the British Army, by Queen Victoria's Consort, Albert. The Military Cemetery has the grave of the American Pioneer aviator and eccentric, known as Samuel Cody. Sadly when he test-piloted one plane, a Tadley man was with him when it crashed. Cody had a near-state funeral in Aldershot.

There are COUNTLESS other places/things of interest in Hampshire, but it's pleasing to see our Tadley has a toehold in the various exploits, objects and ventures.

Thank you Tony, for jogging our memories as to how wonderfully interesting Hampshire is!

Rosemary Bond.

## ***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>

LEGO® returns to Milestones with an exhibition from 6<sup>th</sup> Feb to 18<sup>th</sup> April -  
***Mythical Beasts*** - Legendary creatures come to life in LEGO® Bricks

**Willis Museum** - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. The Museum also holds workshops on assorted topics. *For information tel. 01256 465902 or see*  
<http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/52>

**Friends of the Willis Museum** (7.30 pm at the museum - Non-members £2,  
*booking essential through the museum telephone number 01256 465902*)

15<sup>th</sup> February. ***The English Civil War Soldier*** by Alan Turton.

15<sup>th</sup> March.- ***The Basingstoke Workhouse*** by Barbara Large

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

8<sup>th</sup> March. ***Stonehenge – New discoveries*** by Professor Mike Parker-Pearson

### **Silchester**

16<sup>th</sup> March. ***Silchester Roman Site Dig 2017*** by Prof. Mike Fulford. A talk in the Village Hall. 7.30 for 8 pm. Tickets on the door. - Adults £3.00, Children £1.00.

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***TADS annual membership is £18 per person.  
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