



March 2018

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

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

‘A History of Tea’

By Terri Reid
(In character and costume)

(Everybody welcome - Visitors £3.00)

A Change of Talk and a Change of Date: The subject of the September talk will now be - "A Grandmother's Legacy - an insight into five generations of an Anglo Indian family during the British Raj" by Jenny Mallin.

Also, it has been decided to move the **AGM** forward to the **12th December**.

*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 18th April 2018

‘Metal Detecting’

By John Forster

TADS Meeting 21st February 2018

Brickwork

By John Harrison.

Rat Trap, Chinese, Rowlock, Sussex, Garden Wall, American, Header, Shiner, Soldier, Sailor, Stretcher, Flemish, English, Symmetrical, Common, Monk Bond..... and no doubt more. Who'd have thought it! These are either parts of a brick or ways of laying bricks. Luckily in our part of the world we have the freedom to enthuse about almost anything! And what about the 'frog'.....? For a connoisseur and lover of bricks as John obviously is, his idea of heaven is to travel round England and abroad gazing upwards to see WHICH type of Bond is where. And how it was probably fired? And how it's weathered? Good or average quality? Status symbol or slapped up quickly and hidden away?

John has a large collection of bricks, ancient and modern, stashed away in his home.....

Bricks are very ancient building materials and the Romans used them.

Unsurprisingly, John has a Roman brick in his stash. After the Romans left Britain in the early 5th Century, we smashed up some of their brick buildings (probably in temper because of their Occupation here) and went back to wattle and daub until approximately the 13th and 14th Centuries. Anyway, you need clay of any colour, silt and sand to make bricks and there's lots of that in our part of England, especially the Thames Valley. London Clay is 'young', only 6 million years old. Tadley and environs had at least 4 sources where clay was dug and bricks made. And Little London had its Roman tile-making site. The Wokingham – Bracknell area had 33 brickworks within a 4-mile radius in the 16th Century. The last one closed in 1970.

Bricks were once made by hand and often didn't have a 'frog'. The wet clay was cut with a cheese-type wire, and the bricks fired in a beehive-shaped kiln or a clamp that was smallish and rather inefficient. The heat came from the bottom of the kiln. As bricks are so heavy to transport it's sensible to make them in your locality if possible. The 'frog' is the indentation where the

bricklayer can slap in more mortar/cement to get bonding power. Nowadays bricks are manufactured in massive factories, extruded by machines like squeezing soft cheese into shape from a tube.

They are then gas-fired. John said a German, one Freddie Hoffmann, invented a kiln in 1858, which didn't waste any heat. It was lozenge-shaped. There's a museum-piece Hoffmann kiln in Yorkshire and quite predictably John went INSIDE it while visiting.....

Thomas Lawrence was the big brick/tile manufacturer in East Berkshire – that's after he'd tried every other profession! He made 10,000,000 bricks annually, then the London Brick Company flooded the market and Lawrence folded.

Like clothes and hairstyles, brick types fluctuate in fashion. In the 18th and 19th Centuries some buildings were clad in thin bricks to give an elegant and/or modern appearance.

Predictably someone thought of a 'Brick Tax', therefore bricks were made BIG and became unwieldy to avoid that tax....

Although where the clay is dug gives clues to a brick's colour, firing also chemically changes its colour. Defective bricks are scrapped or used for hardcore. It's possible to buy D.I.Y. ready-made ornate chimney stacks and wonderfully patterned bricks these days, with roundels and terracotta additions.

Some of us will look at bricks, and all kinds of old and new buildings, more closely in future, I'll warrant!

Thanks, John, for your passionate tale of colour, shape, size and pattern of the not-so-humble brick.

Rosemary Bond.

More about bricks: jaharrison.me.uk

Annual Subscriptions of £18 per person are now over-due. If you are paying at the March meeting will you please put your cheque (preferred) or cash in an envelope bearing your name (envelopes will be available at the meeting) . 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.)

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 6th Feb to 18th 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)

15th March.- ***The Basingstoke Workhouse*** by Barbara Large

19th April - ***The Rise and Fall of the Hackwood Estate*** by Brian Spicer

Basingstoke Archaeological & History Society (7.30 at Church Cottage)

12th April - ***The forgotten spy; espionage in the 20s and 30s***

Dr Nick Barratt – National Archives

Silchester

16th 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.

The **TADS Project Group** have got the necessary funding for the War Memorial book thanks to a donation of £200 from AWE and a whopping grant of £5000 from Tadley Town Council. Our very grateful thanks go to both organisations. On with the writing!

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