

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 176

August 2006

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Annual subscription due 1st September

Rates unchanged: £11 individuals, £15 family; £7 students and over 60s; over 60 family rate £12. Please send your membership application form and cheque payable to BAHS to Garth George, 71 Camrose Way, Basingstoke RG21 3AW. If you haven't signed a Gift Aid form and would like to, please ring Garth. Tel 01256 464763.

<http://www.bahsoc.org.uk>

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2006**BAHS Programme Notes****2007**

14 September **Images from the Air - Recent work on Craborne Chase**
Martin Green.

This is a welcome return by Martin who has previously talked to us about his archaeological work on his farm, which lies adjacent to the Dorset Cursus. He has conducted excavations covering several periods and sites, most recently a training excavation, which will be almost complete when he comes to see us. The lecture will deal with his foray into the air, and all the new sites and interpretations which resulted.

12 October **The Tichborne Claimant** *Gill Arnott*

Gill gave this talk last year to the Friends of Basing House, where it was very well received. As I had to miss it then, and as I am often asked to include more historical topics, I thought we would invite Gill to come back to Basingstoke for a repeat performance. The story of this disputed inheritance was a 'cause célèbre' in the 19th century, and will I'm sure interest and entertain us all.

9 November **Keeping up with the Atrebates: populations, identities and social change in the Late Iron Age** *Richard Massey*

Richard did a lot of research on our local Iron Age sites for his doctorate at Reading and presented a summary of his work at the Hampshire Field Club conference recently. This lecture will be of particular interest to those who have joined in fieldwork in our area, with its preponderance of sites of this period. Come and hear Richard's interpretation!

14 December **Christmas Social Evening: the usual formula**

11 January **Richard III** *Prof Michael Hicks*

Michael has recently written a book on Richard III and has agreed to come and give us a talk on this controversial monarch. He will give more details of his exact title later in the year, so watch this space!

8 February **Human Evolution** *Prof Chris Stringer*

Many members will remember Chris's previous visit and his talk on the Neanderthals. We are lucky to be able to hear him again in between his foreign field trips etc, this time talking about the subject of his new book, which has been greeted by the academic reviewers as the new text book on the topic. If you want to hear the latest thinking on the topic, do not miss this lecture!

8 March **What can we learn from human bones?** *Simon Mays*

Our scientific slot this year is a look at the study of human bones, one of the major sources of information from certain types of site. Simon deals with sites from all over the country through his work at English Heritage, and he has certainly done the bone reports from some of our local sites. There is discussion in these politically correct days about the justification of disturbing buried bodies, but expect fighting talk from Simon!

12 April **Kiplin Hall: a Jacobean house and its families** *Dawn Webster*

Dawn is another old friend of the Society, who has lectured to us and shown us round a museum where she previously worked. She is now working in Yorkshire at this lovely house which has had some interesting inhabitants - perhaps she will persuade us to have a Society outing to Yorkshire!

10 May **The County's Archaeological collection: behind the scenes**
Kay Ainsworth

There will be some members reading these notes who will think they have already seen enough of the collections at Chilcomb in the sterling work being done on Sundays by these good volunteers. But this is a chance for Kay to put these important and wide-ranging collections in context for us all, and maybe encourage even more volunteers to join the Sunday team.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 8 June 2006

New committee:

Mark Peryer (Chairman)

Margaret Porter (Hon. Secretary)

Peter Good (Hon. Treasurer)

Barbara Applin, Garth George (Membership Secretary), Marten Harris, Graham Hayward, Marjolein Mussellwhite, Susan Strawson, Mary Oliver (co-opted), Virginia (Ginny) Pringle (co-opted), and Ian Waite (co-opted).

Changes were agreed to the Constitution and Excavation Rules. The final version is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Society Outings

**Visit to Silchester Excavations,
Thursday 10th August**

Meet at the Silchester car park at 6 pm for a 6..30 pm visit (remember to allow time to walk to the site from the car park). We shall, as usual, take a collection so that we can make a donation to the Silchester Excavations Fund.

Society Outings

**Site Tour Of Dunkirt Barn Excavation
Saturday 16th September**

A site tour of this year's Dunkirt Barn excavations has been arranged for the morning of Saturday 16th September and our guide will be Dave Allen. If all goes to plan it should be possible to see the results of the season's investigation of an area to the west of the villa complex which the geophysics suggests is an aisled hall.

The site is close to the village of Abbots Ann, just to the south west of Andover. If you would like to join the tour, we shall be meeting in the Car Park of the Eagle pub in Abbots Ann at 09:45 and we shall then travel in convoy to the site ready to start the tour at 10:00.

The most direct way to get to Abbots Ann is to take the A303 to Andover, then the A343 to Salisbury, then take a right turn to Abbots Ann. The Eagle is on the right towards the centre of the village.

Please note that the Field Club will be running a similar trip a fortnight earlier, but this trip has been timed to allow us to see the completed excavation.

Please let Mark know if you need or can offer a lift – he can take up to 4 extra people. He also suggests we have lunch at the Eagle afterwards, so please let him know if you plan to do this so that we can warn them about likely numbers.



*Whitechapel
Bell Foundry*

Arrangements are in hand for a visit in early March next year, to both of these highly interesting venues, (exact date to be confirmed).

Leaving by train from Basingstoke on a Saturday morning about 10am and returning late afternoon, we will be visiting the Music Hall for a guided tour lasting about an hour. This will be followed by a local lunch, and then a guided tour of the Bell Foundry at 2pm which should take between one and two hours. Both venues are sited very close to each other.

The Whitechapel Bell Foundry, established in 1570, possibly even earlier, is Britain's oldest manufacturing company, concentrating solely on the manufacture of bells and their fittings. Large bells for church towers accounts for most of their work, with some manufacture being devoted also to hand bells and other small bells. Besides having manufactured such bells as Big Ben, the premises themselves are Grade II listed and provide a colourful history of the past.

Wiltons Music Hall is the world's oldest surviving grand music hall, where, in the 1850s and 60s classical overtures, opera and folk songs were enormously popular, long before "old time music hall" evolved. The building has a fascinating past, going through many different lives before finally being given a Grade II listing after campaigning by Sir John Betjeman. It was re-opened as a theatre in 1999.

Further details on both venues can be found on the web at www.wiltons.org.uk and www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk. There is a fixed price per head for the tours, which totals £12 per person and will need to be paid when the date is confirmed. Rail fares your own responsibility at the time.

If you are interested in joining this trip then please contact Ginny Pringle by mid-September. You can contact her on email at ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk or by phoning 01256 862165. As soon as we have an idea of numbers we will confirm the exact date, which is likely to be either March 3rd, or March 10th. The Bell Foundry in particular is very popular with groups on guided tours, hence the early notice of this visit and the necessity to book well ahead.

FIELDWORK REPORT

Mark Peryer

The dig at the Grange took place during what seems to have been the only wet fortnight this summer – the last two weeks in May. Despite the weather, we made good progress and got below the level of the final Time Team trench to reveal the detail underneath. What emerged was a jumble of walls and footings, some of which belonged to the Mansion and some which were Tudor or earlier. We found a Tudor well, which was partially covered by the cobbled surface of the Mansion's courtyard.

Those who came to the AGM in June will remember the light-hearted lecture from Dave Allen that summarised this year's season at the Grange and gave a retrospective of the last six years' work. Sadly, this season was the last but at the AGM we marked the occasion by awarding a life membership of the society to Dave in recognition of the time he has spent gently introducing many of our members to practical archaeology and then encouraging them to develop their skills.

The three field walks carried out so far have now been written up and the reports sent to David Hopkins, the County Archaeologist. I hope to get these emailed to everyone who took part in the walks – but if you think I've missed you off my list or would like a copy, then please contact me. The fieldwork team hope to arrange another field walk either close after the harvest or later on in the year. I'll send details out via the field work email list when the arrangements have been made.

We shall be conducting a Resistivity training survey at Lambs Field in Worting over the weekend of 23rd/24th September. The objective is to train people on the use of our resistivity meter as well as to get a fix on the location and size of the square enclosure in the field.

If you'd like to get on the field work email list or get involved with the above activities, then please contact me on **01256 780502** or drop me an email: mperyer@f2s.com

'THEN AND NOW'

An exhibition of TERRY HUNT PHOTOS at the Willis Museum

To celebrate the 75th birthday of the Willis Museum, the Friends of the Willis Museum are exhibiting in the top floor gallery some of the collection of photographs by Terry Hunt, with photographs taken recently by Bill Fergie from the same "footprint". This is a fascinating way of seeing how Basingstoke has changed. One puzzling photograph of Sarum Hill shows various road signs to Winchester and other places, with one in much bigger letters to SOUTHAM – why was that so big when South Ham was no more than a farm, and why only one H? Yes, you've guessed it, we could only see part of a sign to SOUTHAMPTON!

The digitised collection of Terry Hunt photos can be studied in the Resources Room at the Willis.

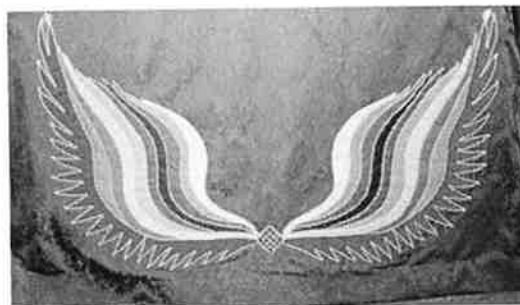
Dates for your Diary

Wednesday, 6th September, 7.30 pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College

A Double bill presented by Basingstoke Video Film Makers

ANGELS' WINGS AND SUCH THINGS

A new video showing how Atherton Harrison's designs for chasubles, hassocks etc were inspired by the special character of some North Hampshire churches, while roundels on the Basingstoke Cope symbolise aspects of Basingstoke



FAME AND FASHION

A film made by Atherton and Harvey Harrison in 1965, illustrating changing fashions from the 18th century to the 1920s in the context of famous personalities and places.



Tickets £6.00

Either from Basingstoke Video Film Makers, who can be contacted on their website

(www.geocities.com/basingstokevfm).

Or ring 01256 465439

Or 01256 397412.

Display of Chasubles, hassocks etc and the Basingstoke Cope.

Display by Basingstoke Video Film Makers.

Part of the proceeds will go to the churches involved.

DVDs of the two films will be on sale (£8 00) or can be ordered from the same sources as the tickets.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 7th AND Saturday 9th September
Chawton House Library will be open to
the Public from 10.00 am - 4.30 pm

Visitors will be able to see the principal rooms including the Great Hall, the Dining Room and the Tapestry Gallery together with a Library reading room and can also explore the gardens and grounds. Chawton House Library is a specialist library and study centre with a collection of over 7,000 volumes focusing on women's writing in English from 1600 to 1830.

Entertainments. Children's Treasure trail. Regency Dressing up.
Shire horses and rides. Home-made light lunches and teas.

Chawton House Library, Chawton, Alton, Hants GU34 1SJ
Tel: 01420 541010 Web: www.chawton.org

Dates for your Diary

*Saturday 9th September, 10 am to 4 pm
St Michael's Church Cottage, Church Square*

No need to book – just turn up



Free to explore



It is hoped that the results will be available of the dendrochronology survey recently done on timbers in this historic building.

Come and explore the 500 year history of one of the oldest secular buildings in Basingstoke, from Tudor cloth works, 18th century maltings, Victorian school through to 21st century church hall. Events include: photographs, displays, guided talks, recorded memories, local children's art, children's history trail.

Family friendly event. Light refreshments. Full wheelchair access. WC.
Organised by the St Michael's Church Cottage Management Committee

Contact us: jennyruitt@hotmail.com 01256 467131

BASINGSTOKE
TALKING HISTORY

REPORT
Barbara Applin

Basingstoke: A Place to be Proud of

The Society was nominated for an award in the Ambassadors category, for the book *TAKING THE PULSE OF BASINGSTOKE*. – though we didn't win!

Grant from the Gannett Foundation

However, I am glad to say we were successful in receiving a grant of £1800 from the Gannett Foundation. This is the charitable arm of the publishers of the *Basingstoke Gazette* and other Southern newspapers, and was for community projects, especially local history. This will cover the cost of digital equipment which will bring the Basingstoke Talking History into the digital age, replacing equipment which has had heavy use. It will also enable us to copy some of our taped interviews to be loaned out through Basingstoke Library, like Talking Books. We have now begun choosing tapes, checking their audibility and consulting the speakers in case they wish any of their remarks to be edited out.

Burberry's

Material from our tapes and researches has been passed to John Hollands who is preparing an exhibition at the Willis Museum to celebrate the founding of Burberry's in Basingstoke 150 years ago.

As always, we would welcome anyone who would like to take part in interviewing, transcribing, researching or just helping. Ring me on 01256 4654539.

QUERIES

? George W Glen

Stan Vick, USQ, 90-year-old, is trying to trace this uncle who lived in Basingstoke in the 1920s until he died; born about 1890, had two children. Possibly Glenn

? Jacobs

Pamela Sykes (née Jacobs) is asking if there are any publications with photos of the Jacobs Saddlers and Harness Makers business in London Street (Jacobs Alley/Jacobs Yard)

? Brian Butler asks where is this church?



If you go down to the woods today...



Virginia Pringle



Ancient woodland... – conjures up images of the great English oak and carpets of bluebells, with coppiced hazels sitting snugly under a rustling green canopy. All noise blanketed out, apart from the call of the cuckoo and, from somewhere deeper in the heart of the wood, the echo of a woodpecker tapping at the bark of an old tree.

Now.... close your eyes and step back in time. What would you have heard then? The sound of spades and picks as men dug out saw pits, the rasp of saws on logs, woodlanders chopping hazels to make hurdles and pea sticks, the casual talk of charcoal burners building their kilns, their pigs snuffling amongst the debris, the snorting of horses pulling the flint carts. Step back even further in time, to a time when the wood wasn't even there – you find yourself standing on the top of a hill, looking down on encircling ditches and banks, with sweeping views across the countryside.

What stories can our woodlands tell us about their past? By opening our eyes, we can walk through woodland and begin to understand what went on before. We don't necessarily need to dig - instead we can observe...

Early in May this year, I had the opportunity to attend a “woodland archaeology” seminar organised by the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership at Hampstead Norreys. It was a very pleasant day; a series of talks in the morning, including one from David Hopkins of Hampshire County Council, and a guided archaeological walk in a local wood in the afternoon. What the North Wessex Downs AONB is aiming to achieve, in collaboration with local archaeology officers at County level and local landowners, is to survey and record archaeology that lies hidden amongst woodland of the Downs. This region covers parts of Hampshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire.

So what is woodland archaeology? It can be archaeology associated with woodlands, e.g. remains of charcoal burning industries, and it can also be archaeology not directly associated with woodland, but found in woodland, e.g. old hill forts subsequently covered with woodland, such as the one at Credenhill in Herefordshire. One of the bonus features of woodland archaeology is that woodlands can generally aid preservation by covering and protecting (although sometimes damage caused by the upheaval of tree roots when trees are blown over can comprise the archaeological evidence), whereas elsewhere, features may have been ploughed out over the years.

Whilst walking through the wood at Hampstead Norreys, I hadn't realised that one wood could hold so many features: saw pits, charcoal burning hearths, strip lynchets, coppicing boundaries, old trackways, even a huge mystery mound, - too large to be a barrow, but not as big as Silbury Hill – perhaps a viewing platform for medieval hunters! Even the perimeter boundary of the wood, with ditch and pollarded trees, was plainly medieval in origins – it all just needed pointing out!

Some trees can be indicators of great antiquity; for example, very mature trees growing on park pales or along banks can help date such archaeological features. Not only understanding the trees themselves, but *how and where* they are planted helps us understand the archaeology. Even the names of woods can sometimes offer clues as to their history. For example, a wood now called The Frith or Free Wood or Beare Wood is almost certain to be pre-Conquest, from Old English *fyrhp* or *bearu*. The name Park Wood may indicate the wood was once a medieval deer park. One can observe the individual features in a wood, such as ancient tracks, ditches, banks and mounds, but can also look at them in combination to observe the landscape and its history. Some of the archaeology may be modern – such as remains of war time military uses. In the Chilterns, WW2 airmen even carved initials into trees to commemorate specific air crashes!

Many features occurring in open countryside have already been recorded over the years by aerial photography, but those in woodland are not so easy to spot from the air. As a result, important archaeological features in woodlands have sometimes never been mapped or recorded. - A previously unknown Bronze Age barrow was recently discovered during a woodland audit. So next time you go for a walk in your local woods, have a more careful look and see what you can find, - every lump and bump is there for a reason, - you might even find a snortelwoozle (or a heffalump).

Would anyone like to help to
edit the Newsletter?

Please ring me:

Barbara Applin 01256 465439

Dressing the Tudors.

Ann Broad.

Earlier this year the *National Trust Magazine* dropped onto my doorstep. With it, as always, was the *Thames and Solent News* including the 'What's on Across the Region' lists. Glancing through, my eye was caught by an unusual activity 'Dressing the Tudors – A fascinating talk and demonstration on Tudor clothing, from underwear to outer garments, followed by a light lunch', taking place at The Vyne in May. 'Great,' I thought, 'I'll book up straight away as this is likely to be popular.'

So it was that on a beautiful, sunny, warm day in May a friend and I assembled with others for coffee outside the Brewhouse Restaurant prior to being gently ushered to the floor above the restaurant. There we found Jane Malcolm-Davies dressed in a kirtle with her hair in plaits tied at the end with tapes and Ninya Mickhaila in a black Tudor dressing gown. On a stand was a superb modern reconstruction of the costume worn in the Tudor painting of the 1530's in the style of Holbein, known as the Man in Red.

Introducing themselves, Jane explained that she and Ninya had worked together for over 10 years at Hampton Court Palace where she managed costumed interpretation and Ninya was principal costume maker.

Jane first asked the audience what difficulties they could imagine when trying to reproduce historical costumes. Answers ranged from the difficulty of seeing exactly how they were made from portraits, for example, to the difficulty of obtaining the correct materials. She then told us that it required quite a degree of detective work and included pictorial references, written documents of the period, the archaeological record and research by reputable costume historians. Statues are also of value as it is sometimes possible to see the back view and in one particular instance, a red petticoat worn under a small farthingale in a monument to Elizabeth Greville in St Nicholas's Church, Alcester and dated 1559.

Jane then explained that they had puzzled long and hard about how the Tudor ladies had managed to keep their hair neatly under their headdresses and came up with the theory that if they plaited their hair, as Jane had, it was possible to wind the plaits round the head and secure them with the tapes tied to the end of the plaits. This done, she then donned a neat black bonnet with a heart-shaped brim, explaining that she was the owner of a shop which provided items such as gloves, lace ruffs etc. to the aristocracy. As she was at present only dressed in her kirtle (petticoat), which with its fitted bodice formed the foundation of most styles of Tudor dress for women, she would now add the bum roll around her waist, and her overdress and she was ready to visit her aristocratic lady to advise and dress her for her late-Elizabethan evening at Court.

Ninya then doffed her Tudor dressing gown, revealing a short linen undergarment and below the knee knitted stockings held up with garters. A transformation was about to take place. First came the bodice of white silk, laced down the front, then the farthingale, rather like a flat flying saucer, was tied around her waist, edged with velvet. Over this is placed a back-fastening taffeta petticoat, which was covered by the black silk skirt.

Next came the jacket-type top of the dress, black with enormous white padded sleeves, criss-crossed with black embroidery. The jacket edges were laced together with a long lace threaded through internal lacing strips and finally the stomacher was pinned over the lacing and the edges of the jacket were pinned to the stomacher. With the addition of a ship brooch pinned to one sleeve, long necklaces, an expensive lace ruff, a fan, gloves and a diadem in her hair, Ninya was ready to attend an evening masque at the Court of the ageing Queen Elizabeth I.

Jane told us that, considering that fabrics in Tudor times were made mainly from wool, linen and silk, and processed entirely by hand, it was amazing how many different types and qualities of fabrics were available.

At one time a ruff of very expensive lace was required. As Jane came from Nottingham, she spoke to a lace manufacturer with her request. Although they could make what she required, they could not provide less than £1,000 worth. She purchased it, used £250. worth for the ruff and sold the remaining lace on E-bay.

With respect to cod-pieces, an unforgettable part of Tudor male costume, these were padded and meant to accentuate the strength and maleness of the male. However, when Jane and Ninya were talking to groups of children who visited Hampton Court, they found they had to cover the cod-piece of their red velvet Tudor costume with the skirt of the coat to prevent the children dissolving into giggles.

The talk was completed as we watched two very elegant Elizabethan ladies walk down the stairs to enjoy a very good lunch with us all.

***MY EARLY LIFE IN SERVICE:
LOUISA PAICE OF BASINGSTOKE***



A review by Brian Butler

This fascinating little booklet has been published privately by Diana Mackarill, Mary Shelley's cousin and the niece of Louisa Daisy Paice (1882 – 1974). Louisa wrote an account of her life in service in Basingstoke between 1894 and 1899 and later in London and beyond. Diana has taken this, illustrated it with some old photographs and added notes on Louisa's large family. The result is a "must read" for anyone interested in local people and places. My great grandmother was a Paice before marriage. I wonder if we are related?

Louisa first worked for a Mrs Roper at the Brewery House. Later she went to the Jackson family at West Ham House to start as a "Between Maid". She was informed at her interview that she would have to rise in the morning at 6.30am. Breakfast was at 8.30am, prayers in the dining room at 9.00am and at 10.00pm. Apart from all the work in the house there was attendance at St Michael's Church on alternate Sundays and for good measure a weekly blowing on the church organ. Louisa's wages for all this would be £9 a year.

Louisa stayed with the Jacksons when they later moved (by special train!) to Harrow Weald in Middlesex. Some months after the death of Queen Victoria, however, the family were on the move again, this time back to Hampshire and a furnished house near Hook called Sheldons. This proved unsatisfactory and the family, with Louisa, moved on to Oldbury Hall, Atherstone in Warwickshire. Eventually Louisa was to go to London to work for another family.

In a postscript Diana details her aunt's subsequent travels around the world in service up to her retirement in the 1950s, when she returned to Basingstoke.

I think there is a lesson here. Keep a journal. You never know what interesting facts a younger member of the family might reveal to later generations!

CALENDAR

Thurs 10 Aug	Visit to Silchester (page 3)	BAHS
Wed 6 Sept	<i>ANGELS' WINGS AND SUCH THINGS and FAME AND FASHION</i> Central Studio, 7.30 pm (page 6)	
7-10 Sept	Heritage Open days: Guided tours of Basing House, 3 pm at Kiosk	
7-9 Sept	Heritage Open Days, Chawton House (page 6)	
Sat 9 Sept	Heritage Open Day, Church Cottage (page 7)	
Thurs 14 Sept	IMAGES FROM THE AIR, RECENT WORK ON CRANBORNE CHASE Martin Green	BAHS
Sat 16 Sept	Visit to Dunkirt Barn excavations (page 3)	BAHS
Wed 20 Sept	FELONS AND FINGERPRINTS	TADS
Thurs 21 Sep	THE HISTORY OF BOARD GAMES	FWM
Fri/Sat 23/24 Sept	Resistivity training (page 5)	BAHS
Tues 10 Oct	RESTORING SHIPS' FIGUREHEADS	FBH
Thurs 12 Oct	THE TICHBORNE CLAIMANT Gill Arnott	BAHS
Sat 14 Oct	MIGRATION & SETTLEMENT IN THE LANDSCAPE: Conference 10 - 5	HFC
Wed 18 Oct	RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF LOCAL VILLAGES Gordon Timmins	TADS
Thurs 19 Oct	TAKING THE PULSE OF BASINGSTOKE – A YEAR LATER Barbara Applin	FWM
Thurs 9 Nov	KEEPING UP WITH THE ATREBATES: POPULATIONS, IDENTITIES & SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE LATE IRON AGE Richard Massey	BAHS
Wed 15 Nov	THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND FROM PUB SIGNS	TADS
Thurs 14 Dec	WINE AND CHEESE	BAHS

BAHS Our Society; lectures 7.30 pm at Church Cottage

FBH Friends of Basing House, 7.30 pm, Basing House new tea room

FWM Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 pm at the museum

HFC Hampshire Field Club; Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College, Winchester. We can send one representative; details from our Secretary

TADS Tadley & District History Society, 8 pm St Paul's Church Hall, The Green, Tadley

Secretary: Margaret Porter 01256 356012

Website <http://www.bahsoc.org.uk>

Items for Newsletter to Barbara Applin; e-mail 106441.3542@compuserve.com