

etc. If you see anything untoward (eg cows eating plastic) please phone the duty warden whose number is on all entry gates.

Proposed four day visit to the Black Country Museum (Dudley) and Coventry.

Friday July 22nd to 25th staying at the 4* Quality Hotel, Walsall. Cost £144 to include coach travel throughout, dinner, bed and breakfast, and all museum entrance fees. However there is a £30 single room supplement and a small charge for our minibuses to Savacentre from where the coach starts. More details and names to Bob Bysouth on 0118-970-0457.

Visit to AWE Collection

Bob (Brown) has arranged the second visit for Tuesday 26th April. Meet at 6.15pm (for a 6.30pm start) in the main car park of AWE. For those of you who have booked please ensure you have some photo identification such as your passport.

Congratulations to Tadley Town Council - awarded A Quality Town Council Award on 25th January 2005.

Local History Month 1st May till 5th June 2005.

TADS will be represented at the Basingstoke and Deane Local History Fair to be held at the Willis Museum on Saturday 7th May 2005. Carol may need another couple of volunteers to help man the TADS stall. All our publications will of course be on sale.

Walking for Health. Do you enjoy walking? Then come along to the launch of a new Health Walk Pilot Scheme in Tadley. Date of launch and first walk is Friday April 29th at 1.30pm at St Pauls Church. Walks will last for around 1 hour and there is no charge. Further walks are planned for the first Friday of each month viz; 6th May, 1st July, 2nd Sept etc.

Tadley Sparrow Club

The welcome notes of the cuckoo and nightingale have been heard in the surrounding area especially in Pamber Forest. But there is another tale to be told as related by the Secretary of the Tadley Sparrow Club on Friday evening last week on the occasion of their annual dinner. The report presented showed that 1500 heads of sparrow had been "shewn in" during the season so that this vast number of little birds will return no more to be a worry and a loss to gardeners and farmers, but there are plenty left and all kinds of schemes and devices have to be resorted to if a dish of green peas is to be enjoyed later on when the ducks are ready.

From the Hants and Berks Gazette 22nd April 1905.



Tadley and District History Society (TADS)

The next meeting for 2005 will be on

Wednesday April 20th

Meet at St. Paul's Church Hall, Tadley - 8.00 to 9.30 pm

“Upstairs, Downstairs”

an illustrated talk

by

Brian Spicer

Ex-administrator - Hackwood House

(also inside: last month's meeting

Tadley-Brighton-Everest by the Watsons)

(Everybody welcome - Visitors £1.50)

TADS forthcoming meetings and other events

May 18th - "Nearly on your doorstep" Welsh Castles by Chris Rossier
 June 15th - Kennet Valley Community and Wildlife Action
 July 20th - The Coroner's Office service - David Richards

Talks and exhibitions at the Willis Museum

until Apr 23rd - Exhibition - "Passion for Pattern"
 Apr 21st - More wild flowers of our countryside - Gerald Ponting
 May 7th till Jun 18th Exhibition - "Spectacular Spectacles"

Last month's talk

16th March 2005

Tadley-Brighton-Everest

An illustrated talk by Christine and Brian Watson

A wondrous tale, that, but with a simple explanation; Christine and Brian live near Tadley, have a Church and charity link with a Brighton man named Paul Young, and aim to raise money for educating and revitalising homeless people on Paul's patch.

How to raise money? Simple. Be sponsored to go to Mount Everest's Base Camp.

Christine and Brian made their Nepalese mountain trip sound like a mountaineering experience in Wales, but with altitude and attitude!

After training in the mountains of Cumbria and Wales, Christine and Brian exchanged the luxury of a stop-over in the oil-rich Doha (since sadly hit by a car bomb in mid-March 2005) for Kathmandu's mists, bedlam, cacophony of cows and cars and general poverty but REAL living.

To do a trek you ideally need Mars bars and multi-layered thermal clothing, cheques and currency, an acute awareness of what altitude sickness is, and attention to planning detail. You have to be prepared to be helicoptered out of the mountains if you are altitude sick because 1 in 6 people die in, on, or near Mount Everest.

Who needs headaches, gasping for breath, utter hopelessness and exhaustion, and being put in a sort of recompression bag to ease the burden on your heart?

We TADS' members willed Christine and Brian up every painful, yet proud inch, of the tortuous mountain paths of Sagarmatha National Park towards Everest's Base Camp at 17000 feet. It took 10 days with minimum of washing, cold making your camera batteries, biro, and pencils malfunction and expedient use of your 3 pink biodegradable loo rolls. When you were

tired you could feign extra tiredness and hold up your group of 7 and Guide Shahid, by hiding behind a boulder to get your breath back.

The up-side of all this? Incredible views, glaciers, white on white, sunshine, looking UPWARDS to see life in its proper perspective, being grateful for what you have, admiration for the Sherpas and porters who work so hard and so fast for so little; the cordon-bleu type meals produced by this 26-strong support staff who carried food, water, tents, medicines; remembering the effectiveness of Yeti airlines at Lukla Airport and the relaxed pot-noodle eating pilot reading his paper while his aircraft was prepared for flight.

Quite surprisingly the Base Camp at 17000 feet is a boulder-strewn area 3 kilometres across with a recently-wrecked helicopter emphasising one's proximity to death.

When Christine and Brian were there it was minus 15 degrees Centigrade but sunny, bright and clear with none of the rubbish you hear about in press reports. (The army had cleared up!)

The sherpas and porters carry enormous loads at fast paces, sometimes the equivalent to 12 boxes of beer. And it's on their heads. The ladies sort the yak dung, putting it Hansel-and-Gretel-gingerbread-house style, to dry ready for burning.

Never stand in the way of a yak. It may just flatten you. Always turn the Buddhist prayer wheels as you pass.

What was the outcome?

The Watsons raised a marvellous £9,300 for the Brighton charity, astounding them AND the Nepalese.

Warning! If you meet this charismatic Paul from Brighton, you may just end up on a charity bash yourself.....

Thank you Brian and Christine from T.A.D.S.' members for your talk, your pictures, your energy and your religious convictions and dedication.

Rosemary Bond. (0118-981-2114)

Sale of TADS 2005 calendars

It was agreed by committee that any calendars that we have left can be purchased for £1.00. Even if you don't want the calendar/diary part the photographs alone are worth collecting and even mounting.

History in the making

Have you been to see our new "residents" yet. The Town Council have obtained several Dexter Cattle to help keep Tadley Common grazed. Please be careful both with your own animals and the closing of the gates on entry