



Quack doctors advertised at, and frequented, seaports and fairgrounds. No regulations. No questions asked. Do-It-Yourself.

What about Owbridge's Cough Mixture, Beecham's Pills, Carter's Little Liver Pills and Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup? This syrup actually contained morphine and an over-zealous or over-tired mother could sometimes accidentally kill her baby.

Then as now advertisers gave away freebies: cards, dominoes and free music. One ditty went 'Hark the Herald Angels sing, Beecham's Pills are just the thing, two for mother one for a child, makes the patient meek and mild.'

If like Joan Jenks you collect medical memorabilia, you could pay an antiquarian a few pence for a glass bottle or a massive £4000 plus for a leeching jar. We saw a wooden stethoscope, glass, china and pretty earthenware containers for medicines. Then came Bakelite ones. Now it's plastic all the way. If you have original boxes for your collected items, so much the better.

How do collectors obtain all this stuff? Well many of us hoard medicines, and when The -Day-of-Reckoning comes our relations clear our houses and either throw away or SELL the contents...

At one Oxford allotment the gardeners' vegetables were being systematically dug up—by collectors digging for old bottles, etc. in the former rubbish dump beneath. (Tadley/Heath End's was near A.W.E. West Roundabout.)

Joan, you have an interesting and unusual hobby. Thanks from nearly 60 T.A.D.S.' members for letting us get the feel and touch of the many artefacts and Prescriptions, which you brought along to show us.

Rosemary Bond

Travel Tokens

Just a reminder to our elderly members that the RED travel token MUST be used up before the end of March. It is hoped that the coach company being used for the Treloar visit will take tokens. Please check with Bob Bysouth.

TADS sponsorship at the 2005 Silchester Dig

Please let Bob Brown know if you know of anyone, preferably from the local area, who would like to be sponsored for a week's activity (tuition included). Early enrolment may secure their selected week.

Tadley and District History Society (TADS)

The next meeting for 2005 will be on

Wednesday February 16th

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

“Paying the Parson”

an illustrated talk

by

Mr O Jenks

**(also inside: last month's meeting
Medical Bygones by Joan Jenks)**

(Everybody welcome - Visitors £1.50)

*Comments and queries, suggestions to Bob Brown - Tadley (0118) 981 6109,
Derek Ward - Tadley (0118) 981 2626 or mail DGWard@BigFoot.com*

Subscriptions for 2005

2005 subscriptions have not been increased so remain at £8.00 for a single member and £15.00 for joint membership at the same address. For those who have not paid please try and settle up at the next meeting so that the committee can produce the new membership list.

Tadley Medieval Ring

The medieval ring found some time ago in Tadley has, within the last week, been released for sale. Due to local interest in the ring TADS, with other societies, has been asked to contribute towards the cost of purchasing it so that it may be held at the Willis Museum.

The County Museum Service needs to have local support to justify the major part of the cost. As the cut-off date (1st February) for reserving the ring for the museum and raising the required valued price of £2400 was at very short notice, TADS committee, after a quickly held special meeting, have promised a contribution of £240. Should the valuer's price not be pledged in time then the ring will go to public auction and possibly be lost to a private collection. And out of public view.

The ring is 13th -14th century, made of gold with a sapphire stone in a four prong clasp. The sides of the ring are facet cut, each facet being marked with a cross, as was the style of the time.

At the next TADS talk on 16th January two pictures of the ring will be available for members to see. Towards the end of the meeting it is hoped to answer any queries.

The committee do believe that this is an important local find that should be available to be on public display in the area. Should any member unable to come to the 16th Feb talk wish to comment please contact a committee member in the usual way.

TADS OUTINGS

The weekday outing to Treloar School has been arranged for either Thursday March 17th or April 14th. Depart St Pauls 10am, return by 4pm. Cost £15 to include the coach and lunch. If you can't make either of these dates and have already placed your name on the list please let Bob Bysouth know (970-0457)

A date for your diary. The summer TADS outing will be on the last Saturday in September (Sept 24th) but venue has yet to be decided.

Bob Brown is still working on the AWE visit

TADS forthcoming meetings and other events

Mar 16th - Tadley - Brighton - Everest - Christine and Brian Watson

Apr 20th - "Upstairs, Downstairs" - Mr Spicer

May 18th - To be notified. - change to programme

Talks and exhibitions at the Willis Museum

until Apr 23rd - Exhibition - "Passion for Pattern"

Feb 17th - Paddle Steamers on the Swiss Lakes - Mr Ashley Gill

Mar 17th - Looking at the countryside from above. David Graham

Apr 21st - More wild flowers of our countryside - Gerald Ponting

May 7th till Jun 18th Exhibition - "Spectacular Spectacles"

Talks by Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society

Mar 10th Reconstruction of the Ferriby boat - Dr Edwin Gifford

Last Thursday Lectures at HRO Winchester 1.15 to 1.45 pm

Feb 24th - "The Parish Pump" insight from parish magazines - David Rymill

Lat month's talk

19th Jan 2005

Medical Bygones by Joan Jenks

Pills, potions, tinctures, mixtures, mustard poultices, rhubarb pills, castor oil, they're all here.

The latest cure; all singing and all dancing cures,

The Panacea for all ills.

Nature's herb ointment.

Naturally in Victorian and Edwardian times some of the above CURED EVERYTHING. Well, so their advertisers said. It seems as though Victorian and Edwardian advertisers were less than careful about their claims to rid the rich and the poor of ulcers, chilblains, boils, 'flu, colds, epilepsy (still no cure), heart disease, liver complaints and much, much more. (Obviously this was pre-N.H.S.)

In 1843 one Chemist's apprentice, Mr Holloway, made lots of pills, spent £1000 a year on advertising them, ended up in prison but eventually got his act together, becoming very wealthy. He founded London's Royal Holloway College...

You could be cured IN ONE HOUR (1882) if you took 'Globe Pills' made from some secret chewable shrub. And that was for typhoid!

Apothecaries and amateurs could make their own pills with a wooden pill-making machine with a sliding lid. Then the pills were sugar coated.