



1966-2016

Alresford Historical & Literary Society



**Newsletter November 2017**

## **The Secret Theatrical life of Dr John Hoadly 18<sup>th</sup> Century Rector of Old Alresford**

**with Brian Tippett** Professor Emeritus of Winchester University

**Wed November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017**

7:30 Methodist church Jacklyns Lane, Alresford. Visitors Welcome: £3:00 at the door.

**Brian Tippett** has given talks to the Society on many occasions over the past twenty years on many different literary topics, most recently on John Keats and Edward Thomas. He holds degrees from Oxford University and was before his retirement, Assistant Principal of what is now the University of Winchester.

### **The Secret Theatrical Life of Dr John Hoadly, 18th Century Rector of Alresford**

A genial and talented man, Hoadly was one of the most colourful characters ever to have lived in Alresford. He was a man of two worlds. Rector, Chancellor and holder of other lucrative church appointments given him by his father the Bishop of Winchester, he used some of his wealth to reconstruct Old Alresford's church and rectory. But his first love was the theatre, not the church, and throughout his life he continued to write anonymously and associate with most of the big names in the arts — Fielding, Handel, Garrick and Hogarth. The last two were his high-spirited guests at the Rectory in 1746 when they performed a scurrilous playlet hardly suitable for a leading churchman's eyes and ears.

**Newsletter.** Latest copy date for the January issue is December 18<sup>th</sup> 2017

Please send Copy to Robert Fowler 01962 734125 email to: [secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk](mailto:secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk)

## Simon Barker, John Galsworthy and the Forsyte Saga

A specialist in Elizabethan and Jacobean drama, Professor Barker discovered an absorbing second interest in the life and works of John Galsworthy which he shared with members in this entertaining address.

Galsworthy was one of the most notable writers of his day but has since been forgotten and neglected. That he is remembered at all owes much to the famous 1967 BBC TV adaptation of his Forsyte novels starring Eric Porter, Kenneth More, and Susan Hampshire (who has shared her memories of the production with Simon). Broadcast on Sunday evenings its appeal was so compelling that churches rescheduled evensong.

Encouraged to write by Joseph Conrad, Galsworthy went on to compose 20 novels, 173 short stories, as well as poetry and essays but it was his plays that made him famous. In these and also as a campaigner he addressed controversial issues of the time — prison conditions, women's suffrage, workers' rights, vivisection, housing for the poor.

He shunned personal publicity but was mobbed in America, was offered (but declined) a knighthood, became an OM, and received a Nobel prize. During his last illness the Prime Minister and King made daily enquiries. He played a leading role in founding the international writers' organisation PEN.

His literary reputation suffered because, unlike contemporaries such as James Joyce and Virginia Woolf, he was not a 'modernist' innovatively exploring the inner consciousness of his fictional characters.

Today he has an enthusiastic following in Russia, is remembered for his good works in Storrington where he lived, and there are welcome signs of a revival of interest more generally. BT

## **NEW** - Alresford Articles Number 7

Our new publication of Alresford Articles is now available and will be on sale at the next Speakers evening. It has 48 pages with colour covers and is priced at £ 4 for members. (See Flyer Attached)

Just 2 of the 10 subjects covered are  
The Old Cricketers Inn by Paul Dix : and  
The Grand Western Entranceway by Brian Rothwell

## Executive Committee to April 2018

Chair: Glenn Gilbertson	732726
Secretary & Membership: Robert Fowler	734125
Treasurer: Vic Prior	733380
Newsletter Editor: Robert Fowler	734125
Speakers Secretary: Trish Ferris:	732054
Hall Steward- Andrea Sutton	736584

### **Other Committee Members:**

Brian Davies/ Nancy Webb/Brian Tippett

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **GRAND NATIONAL WINNER**

The winner of the Grand National in 1893 was Cloister, an eight year old of fifteen hands.

Trained by Arthur Yates at his stables in Bishops Sutton and ridden by a local man Mr Dollery, the horse won by 40 lengths.

Mr Yates loved steeplechasing. To train Cloister, he laid out a course exactly the same length as twice round Aintree, from Whitehill above Bishops Sutton towards the Tichborne Church, using it as a marker. Before reaching it, but using the River Itchen as a water jump, he turned towards Cheriton Church. The course finished on what is now Cheriton Recreation Ground. Both Tichborne and Cheriton Churches have towers, not steeples!

The horse was ridden to and from Alresford Station for the journey by train to Aintree and back, stopping for refreshment at the Ship Inn in both directions: The return ride took rather longer

**Researched by the late John Adams, of the Alresford Historical and Literary Society**