



**April 2015**

**Tadley and District History Society  
(TADS) - [www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

**Next meeting - Wednesday 15th April 2015  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

***'The Bare Necessities  
- The History of  
Underwear***

***By Ruth King***

*(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.50)*

**Committee News:**

Neil Forde has joined the Committee to provide much needed help with the management of the website.

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,  
e-mail: [richard@ilexind.plus.com](mailto:richard@ilexind.plus.com) or Carol Stevens (0118) 9701578*

**[www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

## **TADS Meeting 20th May 2015**

### **‘The Battle of Waterloo’**

By Rupert Matthews

## **TADS Meeting 18th March 2015**

### **Place Names of West Berkshire**

by David Pocock

What's in a name? What indeed! Long live the complicated compilations of our English (and other) local Berkshire place names. Only we Brits. could think it, say it, spell it, in so many different ways over so many hundreds of years.

By the way O.E. means Old English, circa 450AD -1100 = Anglo Saxon.

M.E. Middle English (1100 – c.1500). O.Scand. Old Scandinavian.

D.B. - from the 1086 Domesday Book.

Of course many of the peoples above had carte blanche to our land as invaders, etc., infiltrating our language, too.

Everyone knows a town with 'Chester' in it has Roman connections (54 BC till 440 AD) But who lived there before? In Silchester, Hants, lived the Atrebates tribe before the Romans. (My archaeologist daughter, Susie, found a Celtic murder victim's skeleton on the very first day of her dig!)

Less dramatically, Brightwalton, Berks began as Beorhtwaldingtune in 939 A.D. an O.E. name of a chap called Beorhtwald, the spelling being noted down then by the only people who could write: monks. The name was changed 24 more times until 1830 (I counted!)

David's erudite, intensely knowledgable talk was rammed with roots, routes, thoughts and translations, some of which he studied from the works of scholar Margaret Gelling (1924-2009). Perhaps the average villager wouldn't care two hoots about all this.

We do.....

David said since the 1970s great progress has been made in identifying place names. 'Ham' O.E. means homestead, village, manor – hemmed in by water, marsh, or a river bend. Some 'fords' don't even have a river crossing. Perhaps

they did once, but the River Lambourn, where lambs were washed in the pure chalk stream water, has Boxford, East Shefford, Welford (Weligforda) etc. Most villages in West Berks have O.E. (Anglo Saxon) names. That's after the departure of the Romans and before 1066. Before the 18<sup>th</sup> Century there were no fixed spellings. It was quite willy-nilly.

Surprisingly Newbury is a new spelling after 1068 D.B. 'Neuberie': new borough. 'Barroc' is the old name for Berkshire.

River names often survive: R. Thames, Celtic 'dark water'; 'R. Lodda' = R. Loddon, Celtic, 'muddy stream'; R. Kennet: uncertain origin of name; R. Ock – 'brook of a man named Occa'.

Lots of information is gleaned from Anglo Saxon charters and maps, although mapping was pretty casual way back, and not really used for army recce. The village of 'Combe', O.E., means a blunt-ended valley formed in West Berkshire's chalk. Compton 'Combe-ton' O.E. a farmstead or village in a valley.

Speen is a Roman name: 'Spinis' or 'Spinai' a place where thorn bushes or wood chips are found.

'Grim', Grim's Bank or Ditch – O.Scand. from when the Vikings were rampaging around our Danelaw area!

Reading: 'ring' or 'ringas' people of Reading, from the followers of Reada c.900 O.E.

Sonning: people of 'Sonningas'. Settlements were either built by a river or a spring or stream, but there aren't too many on the chalky Ridgway or the, then densely wooded, Windsor Forest.

East Garston – estate of 'Esgar' 1180 O.Scand. There was never a West Garston.....

'ley' D.B. - woodland clearings, E. and W. Ilsley - a clearing for owner 'Hild'.

Peasemore and Catsmore – meres or ponds in the village.

Tidmarsh – marshland, 1196 M.E. 'Theod-merse'.

Stratfield Mortimer: street, road and dwelling of the Mortimer family.

'Worth' – O.E. an enclosed settlement . Aldworth, Padworth, Chaddleworth.

'Clere' – bright stream; Highclere, Burghclere, Kingsclere (all on the Hants/Berks border but in Hampshire). Alfred the Great allegedly willed

Kingsclere village to his family in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century. It has royal connections to Edward the Confessor, William the Conqueror and later kings. Kingsclere had land for 16 ploughs, 21 villagers, 31 smallholders, 2 water mills, 7 slaves and 6 acres of land. D.B.

'Aeldremanestone', 1086 D.B. a very strange long name meaning 'farmstead or town of an earl'; 'ealdorman'. It is still a place of intrigue now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, famous or infamous depending on one's point of view: Aldermaston.

David, to hear your lecture was amazing and it has opened up a can of worms – or gold! - for us.

Thank you so much.

Rosemary Bond.

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## **Family History**

The Society often gets enquiries from people trying to trace their family history who have ancestors who lived in the Tadley area. We help where we can. These enquiries have been partially prompted by the TADS website which has a lot of information on it about Tadley Families that the late Iris Stanley put together while doing her own research. We often get messages saying how much this information has helped people.

In view of all this we are going to add a page to the website addressing family history and on which we can put details of people seeking information.

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## **Gallipoli**

A new exhibition promising to challenge the historical perceptions of a major First World War campaign has opened at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth.

2015 marks the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign, in what is now modern-day Turkey, and the new exhibition *Myth and Memory* explores every element from troop deployment to their evacuation nearly a year later. Through never-before-seen exhibits and witness accounts, the displays re-tell the misunderstood story of Gallipoli which has been distorted by national myth and how all the branches of the Royal Navy were instrumental in supporting operations on land.

## TADLEY PLACE

After years of abuse and neglect Tadley Place is at last undergoing restoration work. I was recently invited to have a look around while it was still “work in progress”. The new owners are full of enthusiasm for the project and are pursuing every avenue to uncover and unravel its history; that of its original owners, the Ludlow family; and the structure itself. As much as possible of the original oak frame is slowly being revealed and restored, but still its original build style and date remain a conundrum. Bill Fergie and Edward Roberts, both well known local experts in oak framed buildings, accompanied me on the visit. Edward agrees with the owners’ consultant surveyor in thinking that the existing building was probably a 3 phase build. The first phase being post 1550 with the second phase built sometime between 1575–1625. The third phase comprised the 20<sup>th</sup> century “farm” extension on the west side. The original phase was probably encased in brick at the time of the second build phase giving it the overall gabled appearance we see today. To date, the long thought idea that it was part of a much larger Tudor house does not seem to be the case. It is believed, however, that it may have been similar in style to the Ludlows’ other house at Hill Deverill, Wiltshire (see revised ‘red’ version of “History of Tadley” pages 15-17).

From my research of the Ludlow family and their history in this area, I believe that there may have been a dwelling on the site prior to 1550. Alternatively the first phase is of an older date than presently thought! It is a very exciting project.

Carol Stevens

*(Tadley Place is up the hill and round the corner on Church Lane, which goes past old St Peter’s Church. It has a large black tithe barn in front of it. There are some historic photographs of the building in ‘People and Places’ page 100 - Ed)*

## **What's on? Events which may be of interest**

**Hampshire Record Office** For information ring 01962846154 or see  
[www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro)

**Milestones Museum.** For coming events: Tel. 01256 477766 or see:  
[www3.hants.gov.uk/milestones/whatson](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/milestones/whatson)

### Rations and Reminiscence

2:00pm Friday 08 May, 12.30pm & 2.00pm Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 May.  
Join our Costumed Interpreters in celebrating Victory in Europe.

**Willis Museum** - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. For information tel 0845 603 5635 or see <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/willis-museum.htm>

The Trench Coat until Sunday 31 May 2015. This exhibition includes the display of an original Burberry WWI cavalry trench coat and other garments to tell the ever evolving story of a coat which has become an iconic fashion garment.

**Friends of the Willis Museum** (7.30pm at the museum - booking essential for non-members. Book through the museum telephone number above) )  
April 16th -Magna Carta – The Great Charter of 1215, Dr Alex Armstrong, volunteer guide at Salisbury Cathedral

**Basingstoke Archaeological & History Society** (7.30 at Church Cottage)

14th May Rebuilding the past - Luke Winter, Centre for Ancient Technology, Cranbourne.

**Basingstoke Discovery Centre** (01256) 470666

Tuesday 28th April at 2pm. 'A history of Brewing in Hampshire' by David Williams of the Brewing History Society. £3 per person, booking may be advisable.

**TADS annual membership is £12 per person.**  
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