



February 2020

**Tadley and District History Society
(TADS) - www.tadshistory.com**

**Next meeting - Wednesday 19th February 2020
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

‘The Zulu Wars - end of an era’

By Richard Anderson

(Everybody welcome - visitors £3.00)

Membership fees - These are now due. If you are one of the few who have not rejoined, the fee remains at £18 per person. The Treasurer (Christine Poile) will take cheques or cash at the coming meeting or payment may be sent via Carol Stevens at 5 Church Road, Pamber Heath, RG26 3DP.

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

www.tadshistory.com

TADS Meeting 18th March 2020

**‘The History of Smelly Alley, Reading;
fish and the decline of fishmongers’**

By Kevin Little

TADS Meeting 15th January 2020

**Beer, Sausages and Marmalade; Food, Drink,
Politics and Tourism in 19th Century Oxford**

By Liz Woolley

Liz is a full time Local Historian and specialist on Oxford. Her talk considered the provision of food and drink in Oxford.

Oxford is a great University town and there has long been the division of Town and Gown. (Today it is a City, but Liz said nobody seems to know when and how it was so designated).

It is difficult for a university to exist without the support of a thriving town and that was what Oxford became in the 19th century, the population doubling between 1850 and 1905 and having many prosperous businesses who provided regular employment.

All towns needed brewers, if for nothing else because beer is a safe drink compared with the public water supplies of the time. The brewing industry was dominated by four families; Tawney, Morrell, Hall, and Treacher. The industry is still reflected in local road names e.g. Brewer St., Little Brewery St. In 1875 there were 8 major Breweries, but by 1899 there were only four, all in the St. Thomas area of Oxford. The decline in number continued so that just Morells and Halls survived into the mid 20th Century. (Today there are no breweries in Oxford other than two micro-breweries). Liz showed a photograph from 1916 of the women running Morrell’s Lion Brewery while the men were called up in WWI. The brewing families became prominent in Politics, Education and Philanthropy. In 1878 the politics got mucky to such an extent that due to a corrupt election the town was disenfranchised of its Parliamentary seat for a whole Parliamentary Term.

Oxford was also an agricultural and market town. Livestock came to the market on hoof and later by train. Naturally the town had a lot of butchers and in the early 18th Century a Mrs Dorothy Spreadbury created what became the ‘Oxford Sausage’. In Victorian times the sausages were available by post. They are still made today and are different in that they contain veal as well as pork. Butchery grew into a big industry – Hughes Sausage factory had gates which came from Magdalen College and a very tall chimney. Bakers and corn merchants were also important businesses. In 1875 there were 70 commercial bakers and 20 corn merchants. Of course there were also big grocers like Underhills, Grimbley, and Hughes. Boffins Tea Rooms became a favourite of early tourists.

Perhaps the best known food product from Oxford is ‘Frank Cooper’s Oxford Marmalade’. The business started in 1874 and by 1902 the factory employed 60 people. The marmalade was so liked that it was taken on Scott’s polar expeditions. I remember seeing the distinctive white pots with black lettering at my Grandparents home in the 1950s. It is still sold today, but the company is now part of Premier Foods.

Thank you Liz for your interesting and detailed talk about the ‘Town’ which supported the ‘Gowns’ in the beautiful City of Oxford.

Richard Brown



Cancelled - Visit to the Mary Rose project

Unfortunately, when the final numbers were counted we were well short of the 15 minimum, so there was no option but to cancel the visit.

What's on? Events which may be of interest.

Milestones Museum. For coming events tel. 01256 477766 or see <http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/milestones-museum>

15 Feb - 19 Apr. - **Space Explorers.** An out of this world brick adventure! Explore over 20 space-related brick models, complete two interactive mission trails, ride a flying saucer, and much more!

Willis Museum - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. The Museum also holds workshops on assorted topics including children's activities in the holidays. *For information tel. 01256 465902 or see <http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/52>*

18 Jan - 18 Apr. - **Microsculpture.** The Insect Portraits of Levon Biss

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30 pm at the museum - Non-members £2, booking essential through the museum telephone number 01256 465902)

20 Feb - **Napoleon's Lost Soldiers and Seaman** – French Prisoners of War in Hampshire by Paul Chamberlain

19 March - **Castles in the Air** - Bizarre Victorian Inventions by Nick Brazil

Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society (*Meetings at Church Cottage at 7.30pm*)

12 March - **Mino-Tourism;** The representation of the palace at Knossos on Crete in early post cards. By Katy Soar – Winchester University

Parking at St. Paul's Hall

There is a danger of blocking access to the Rectory, so please do not park too near the gates. Carol's large VW car is a good marker to the limit of parking. It would also be useful if a space opposite the door can be left for the speaker.

***TADS annual membership is £18 per person.
Correspondence to Tadley and District History Society,
c/o 5 Church Road Pamber Heath Tadley. RG26 3DP
Email: tadshistory@googlemail.com***