



June 2020 (Email only)

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

The lock-down eases a bit.

A TADS Talk via Zoom on Wednesday 17th June at 8 pm

‘Putting Tadley on the map: from Gough to Google’

By John Leighfield

The Society are very pleased to have John Percival Leighfield CBE provide this month's online talk. He has had a passion for maps since his schooldays and will discuss, in a highly illustrated talk, how maps have developed from the 14th century until the present day. He is a British IT industry businessman who was previously chairman of Research Machines from 1993 until 2011. Currently he is a Director of Getmapping, a UK supplier of aerial photography, mapping products and data hosting solutions.

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Future TADS talks

All talks at St. Paul's Hall have been cancelled until September and it is looking unlikely that we will be able to resume even then.

Meanwhile we will try to continue using Zoom.

A past TADS Meeting - 20th March 1991

Local Pubs

By Arthur Attwood

It is always a pleasure to welcome Arthur Attwood to the Tadley and District History Society and true to form, he entertained us with facts, figures and intriguing stories.

The evening began with a tale of mathematics in the form of arithmetic or 'summing' books belonging to a former Mayor of Basingstoke, William Cannon (1814-1817) who by all accounts was a butcher - described as a 'nice and beefy man', he had a shop where the Post office is now, in London Street. Here are a few examples from the school summing books:

Divide 6196783529461578 by 144 and tell the quotient.

Divide 2736891439876156 by 45.

In 777 half guineas how many moidores are there? (A Portuguese gold coin worth 27shillings)

In 488 six and thirties how many half guineas would you find?

Change 860 half guineas into Marks.

In 2260 sixpences how many crowns or pounds?

A crown being 5 old shillings, but what of a half guinea, and what is a six and thirty? If anyone knows, please enlighten us.

I have to say that there were no errors or corrections in either book and every exercise was written and completed with exceptional neatness.

Meanwhile, on to local pubs.

In the past pubs, have always played an important role in everyday life, particularly in small towns such as Basingstoke. For example, when the population in Basingstoke was about 7,000 there were 50 pubs and ale houses. In Odiham district in 1891 there were 15 pubs serving a population of 2,666.

Most publicans also had to have other means of income to supplement their earnings from the pub trade. For example, the publican of The Feathers, Up Nateley, was also a brickmaker; at Wooton St. Lawrence, William Garrick, a Beerseller, was also a carpenter and wheelwright. At the Bolton Arms, Basing, George Bosley, Landlord, was a brick, and tile maker at the Chineham Brickworks. At the Six Bells, Bramley, Ely Engerfield was also a bootmaker.

Around 1891 there is the record of a pub in Bramley called The Carriers Arms Beerhouse, This could have been the pub later named The Pigeons although there was also a pub called The Three Pigeons owned by Mr Lodder,

In the area outside Basingstoke, the George and Dragon at Baughurst was kept by William Ford; the New Inn, also at Baughurst, was kept by a Samuel Gundrey. The Vine near Ramsdell, kept by Mr W Knight. In Tadley, The Fighting Cocks was kept by a Mr Hewitt, the New Inn Beer House by G E Nash and the Fox & Hounds kept by Harvey West. The latter family names still well known in the Tadley area - could they be related?

In 1750 John May opened a brewery at the bottom end of Basingstoke, and there was also another Brewery in Winchester Street which belonged to a Mr, Adams. This used to be the Old Victoria hotel. He is the same Mr. Adams who whipped up the animosity against the Salvation Army at the time of the riots in 1881.

About 1395 there are also records of people in the Basingstoke area being fined for serving watered down beer(an unforgivable crime!) known as 'selling and breaking the assize of ale`. Some people also fined for selling underweight bread.

The oldest public house in Basingstoke is The George (The Hole in the Wall) dating from 1495, which has been saved from oblivion by the Basingstoke Heritage and is to be renovated and preserved.

The Wheatsheaf, Basingstoke, where at the Michaelmas Fair, a sale of labour took place, this has links with Tadley and Baughurst as the farm workers came to ply themselves for hire. They also renewed their

working clothes from a shop called 'Angels' in Wote Street. On occasions like this, pubs were open all day and during the drinking, merry making and games of dominoes, etc., a man would come round ringing a bell to inform drinkers that various sales were about to start in the Market Place.

Many of the pubs named are now no more, but Basingstoke and the surrounding areas, still have a goodly number of pubs.

Bert Rogers, 1991

The late Arthur Attwood, Mr Basingstoke, was a supporter of TADS from the start and spoke to the Society at least 4 times, this being the last time. He died in February 2002 aged 86.

Bob Brown, 17 October 1929 – 2 May 2020 (Age 90)

Bob who died last month, was born and brought up in Brixton. On leaving school he qualified as a Chartered Mechanical Engineer then took a three-year commission as a technical officer in the RAF. After a short time of working for Rolls Royce in Hucknall, Notts, he came to AWRE in 1960 and worked there for thirty years before being able to retire early at the age of 60. He immediately became actively involved with a variety of local community enterprises and in 2003 received a Good Citizen's Award by Tadley Town Council.

One of his main interests was local history. During one of the Church Fetes which he organised, he asked a lady to collect names from anyone who would be interested in a local history group. Thus, in 1984 with retired school headmaster Roger Searing as Chairman, he was a founder member of TADS, becoming Chairman himself a little later. For over twenty years he acted as Programme Secretary arranging speakers with a variety of historical interests for members' monthly meetings. He was actively involved in many of the TADS publications and booklets.

He retired as Chairman of TADS at the end of 2009 and later became TADS' first President.

Five years ago he was diagnosed as having Parkinson's Disease and Vascular Dementia. For the last eighteen months he lived in a Care Home where he died peacefully.

Rev. Pat Brown

Derek Heath

I am very sorry to report that Derek died on 6th June. He had multiple medical problems and had not be at all well for some time. He was in his late 80s at least.

Another former employee of AWRE/AWE, Derek was a long standing member of TADS. In 2009 and 2010, succeeding Bob Brown, he did a very good job as Programme Secretary.

He used to take photographs at meetings and send the results to me for publishing in the Newsletter. He was still attending meetings last year, although it was obvious he was moving with great difficulty.

When in march I asked for interest in using Zoom for meetings, Derek was the only person to reply.

Richard Brown

Museum of Army Flying Lock down lectures

The museum is holding a series of short lectures by Paul Beaver on Zoom at 7pm on Monday evenings. The subjects are all about Military Aviation and relevant to the Museum. They are now into Series 2. For a limited time all the previous lectures can be found on the museum's website:

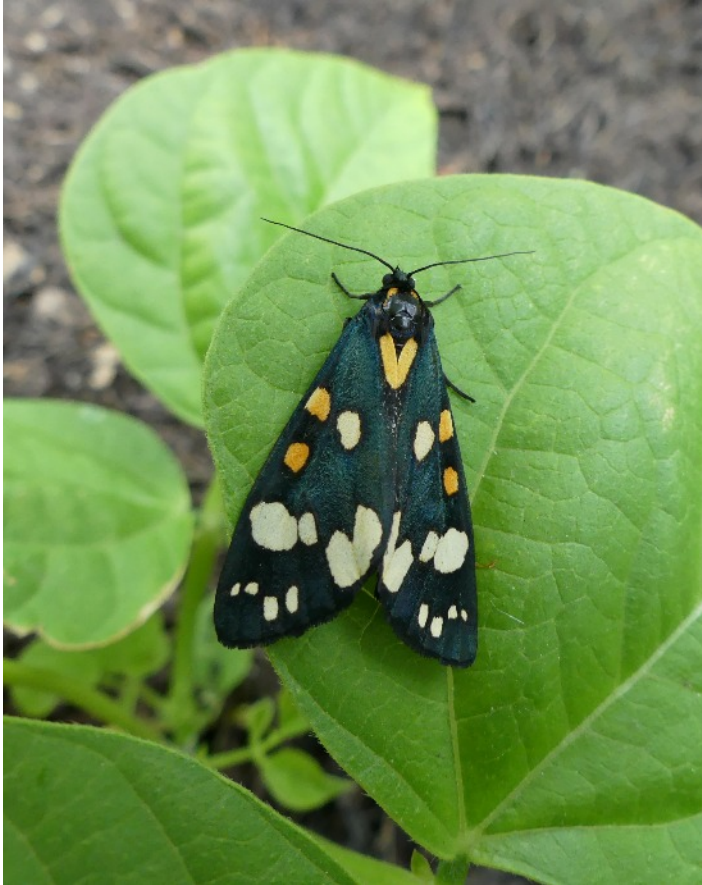
www.armyflying.com

Local Natural History

We are fortunate to live in an area with nature all around us, you never know what might turn up. Here are a couple of recent visitors to our house and garden:



A red damselfly which one morning was nearly asleep on the window sill in our bedroom. You can see it really is a small dragonfly. They are normally so lively it is a job to get a camera anywhere near them.



A Scarlet or Garden Tiger Moth. It is the underwings that are scarlet and unfortunately they are not showing on this one at rest on our beans.

***TADS annual membership is £18 per person.
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