



July 2021

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

19th July - Freedom ?

Wednesday 21st July at 8 pm via Zoom

‘The Pursuit and Sinking of the Bismark’

By David Bickerton

The pursuit and sinking of Bismarck is one of the enduring stories of WW2 which continues to fascinate. More than a hundred British warships were involved in the 5 day, 1,750 mile hunt. The British battlecruiser, HMS Hood was sunk within 10 minutes of engaging the mighty Bismarck which then disappeared for more than 24 hours and she was almost within reach of safety before the British won the day.

2021 is the 80th anniversary of the sinking.

The log in details for the talk will be sent in a separate email.

If you need help using Zoom, the TADS Website has information and a contact number.

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,
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www.tadshistory.com

Future TADS talks

15th September 2021@ 8pm in St. Paul's Hall??

'The History of Houses' By Trevor Ottlewski

TADS Zoom Talk on 16th June 2021

The Great Sandhurst to Sandhurst Walk, via Sandhurst.

by Graham Harding (assisted by Helen)

Graham and Helen moved to Sandhurst, Berkshire in 2004. Through misdirected post they rapidly found out there are two other Sandhursts in southern England and so was born the project to walk from the one in Gloucestershire to the one in Kent via their own. All of one hundred and eighty miles in more or less a straight line. Well it is until you take into account the obstacles to walkers which get in the way and attempt to stick to marked footpaths. After all there is not much pleasure in walking along the gutter of a trunk road or any road other than the most rural. The walk was split in two with Berkshire to Kent done in 2017 and Gloucestershire to Berks done in 2018, but Graham recounted it as if they did it from Gloucestershire to Kent.

Sandhurst, Glos. has a tiny population of only 450 compared to the 20,000 in Berkshire, while that in Kent has a population of 1,500. Obstacles to walking in a straight line include motorways and rivers, which mean finding bridges, Gloucester airport was another, but the first they encountered was flooding of the area just after they started (April), so it is not as easy as it appears. Graham talked about places of interest on their route. The Air Balloon pub on Birdlip hill, overlooking the Severn valley; the Chedworth village sign incorporating local things of interest; the A49 Fosse Way Roman road; Colm Rogers a Thankful Village (none of their soldiers killed in WW1); Bibury, a picturesque

village overstuffed with tourists; St Mary's Church at Fairford, a great wool church with 28 medieval stained glass windows (*well worth seeing – Ed*); Lechlade has a Christmas shop which seemed rather incongruous in June; 5 miles of the Thames path; Iron age forts, including Uffington on a very hot day and being thankful for a memorial water tap high on the downs.

Then getting nearer to home when crossing into Berkshire at Lambourn and following the river Lambourn all the way to Newbury and the Watermill theatre. A section of the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath and pass through our own patch to see Calleva Atrebatum and Silchester Church, before going east along the Devil's Highway to the River Blackwater and Eversley Ford on the Hants/Berks border. Since it was by now November it is fortunate there is a footbridge across the river. Finally the very awkward railway bridge in Sandhurst and home, very near to the Royal Military Academy.

The second part started in an icy cold January by following the River Blackwater into Surrey and towards the Hog's Back (the North Down running from Farnham to Guildford) and finding the tiny village of Christmas Pie – possibly a farmstead (Pie) belonging to the Christmas family, and the nearby ancient Church of Wanborough. No time to look in the Watts Gallery at Puttenham, nr. Guildford (G F Watts Victorian Painter and Sculptor) now a World Heritage site. Then find the River Wey and the Wey and Arun Canal which is being restored. Through Bramley and Womersley seeing the old railway station and then the cap windmill at Ewhurst. Leith Hill a high point of Southern England, where the mud was extremely sticky and on into West Sussex not far from Gatwick Airport and negotiate the major obstacle of the A23 which runs north to south. The Bluebell Railway had a bonus in the visiting form of the Flying Scotsman. The Ashdown Forest village of Hartfield is the centre of Winnie the Pooh territory, and passing a deer park they not only saw deer but an adder. And so from Sussex into Kent.

The early paths in Kent were memorable for an encounter with the worst stile of the whole walk. Stiles are important to walkers. Another Roman Road was crossed - this one runs from Rochester to Hastings. Then they see the splendid Bodiam Castle before finally making it to the third Sandhurst.

You may have noticed from the references to months that these walks took a very long time, around 5 to 6 months. I originally envisaged them walking from one good hotel or B&B to another with a good bath and meal at the end of each day, but no they do it in a more measured way which fits around work and life by using his and hers cars and both driving to the finish of the day's planned walk. They then both go in one car to the start and walk. Thus they have a car

at both ends of the walk. In this way they do segments of 5 to 6 miles at a time. They do have a hotel break at the start and finish, and why not?

However you do it, it is a very good way of experiencing the English countryside in all its seasons. Well done Graham and Helen and thank you for telling us about your 180 mile walk across southern England.

Richard Brown

TADS Meetings

As usual there is no meeting in August.

With the easing of Covid -19 restrictions we are still hopeful of getting back to real meetings at St. Paul's Church Hall. We are hoping this will start with the September meeting. Due to Covid cleaning requirements it may be in the church rather than the hall. We will let you know as soon as something is decided.

The Committee

The last Bank in Tadley to close

Having reported in May that Barclays Bank is to close on the 30th of this month, Lloyds have now announced that they are closing their Tadley branch on 26th October. Their letter emphasises how little the branches are being used and how there are good alternatives with online banking, etc. Presumably that is why only a few months ago I queued outside for half an hour in very cold weather.

Whoever wrote the Lloyds letter is also so in touch with Tadley that they advise that after their closure the nearest cash machine is 0.06 mile away at Barclays Bank!!

The Perils of Bell Ringing

On Christmas morning 1903, about five minutes to eleven, just before the divine service, a churchwarden at Silchester Church, found to his cost, that Church bells can pose an unexpected threat to life. The Hants. and Berks. Gazette described the incident as follows:

A serious accident occurred to Mr. James Goddard, who was taken up to the roof by the rope of the tenor bell (which was set up for ringing) and then dropped down amongst the seats.

Mr. Herbert and Mr. Lush, with others, carried Mr. Goddard to the sitting room the farmhouse nearby. He was afterwards conveyed home, where the 'locum tenens' in charge of Dr. Langley's practice, was quickly summonsed. It was found that he had no bones broken, but was badly bruised and had a bad cut on his head.

Being an elderly man it was a very bad shake-up for him. For days it was feared that serious internal complications might result. It was curious how the accident could have happened, as Mr. Goddard has had upward of fifty years experience at the Church, and had been Clerk for over 30 years.

Such incidents occur surprisingly often, even in modern times. Two accidents not so near to home are described in the rest of this article which is on the TADS Website.

An unusual sign.

How many of you have noticed that the newish inn sign for the Pelican in Pamber Heath is see through? (The area in front of the Pelican is cut away). I have not seen another sign like it.



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

Milestones Museum is open. The website to buy admission tickets online and pre-book a day and time to visit can be found at:

<https://www.milestonesmuseum.org.uk/>

A new attraction, **Milestones Pier and Penny Arcade** is now open. Simply book your visiting time at reception upon arrival! As well as learning all about the history of piers, you can walk along the boardwalk and view the traditional seaside scenes. Laugh at your friends in the postcard-style photo opportunities and wacky mirrors just like you would at the actual seaside!

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery is also open. Entry is by pre-booking a day and time to visit. Classes, workshops and live performances are available to book at Hampshire arts centres.

<https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum-and-sainsbury-gallery>

A new Free exhibition is open from 30 July - 16 October 2021:

The Magic of Middle-earth - Journey beyond the books to discover the artistic legacy of J.R.R. Tolkien's incredible fantasy world.

Friends of the Willis Museum like TADS are hoping to restart live talks in September. More information in the September news letter.

St Peter's Graveyard.

Members of TADS Project Group are doing some clearance work to unearth some of the old graves. If you would like some exercise by helping please contact me or Carol.

Richard B

***TADS annual membership is £20 per person.
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