

October 2021

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

At last a face to face meeting!

Wednesday 20th October at 8 pm in **St. Paul's Church**,
The Green, Tadley. RG26 3PB.

‘John the Painter: Arson in His Majesty’s Dockyard’

By Alan Turton

Alan is an excellent speaker who has been to TADS several times. Join us for his talk about the life of James Aitken (28 September 1752 – 10 March 1777), also known as John the Painter. Aitken was a mercenary who committed acts of sabotage in Royal Navy dockyards in 1776–77 during the American Revolutionary War .

***Important** - We have put together a list of Covid related rules for attending the meeting. These will be sent out as a separate document.*

Please see page 2 for information about parking at the church.

(Everybody welcome - visitors £3.00)

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

www.tadshistory.com

Future TADS talks

17th November 2021 @ 8pm in St. Paul's Church

‘Kings, Boxes and Dots - A history of the Royal Mail and Post Office.’

By John Rogers

TADS Meetings - Parking at the Church

We are meeting on the same evening as another group who will be in the hall. We hope to get back in the hall at some time in the future.

Since there will be two groups, parking spaces may be limited. If the car park is full please park alongside the Green and take care not to obstruct driveways.

TADS Meeting on Zoom, 15th September 2021.

The History of Houses

by Trevor Ottlewski

Trevor is Chairman of the Wokingham History Group and has a special interest in the area's historic buildings. He gave a chronological review of houses from pre-Roman to the present, with very good illustrations from real buildings.

His first point was that the building of houses is a very labour intense process. Even the very early houses of the Iron Age used a great deal of timber, from trees which had to be cut down, shaped to be useful, and moved to where the house was to be built. Until fairly recent times all the sawing and shaping was done by hand, using saws, axes and adzes.

Iron Age houses were round with thatched roofs, a smoke hole at the top. They would have been cosy with a single large space. We find evidence of them from post holes left in the ground where the wood has rotted away. The Romans, in Britain for only 400 years, brought lots of skills – brick and tile

making, plastered and painted walls, heating, mosaic floors and glass. Their houses had multiple rooms and gardens. After the Romans left all that was forgotten and the inhabitants of Britain went back to large huts.

The invading Normans brought many changes and by 1300 A.D. there are examples of single cell open hall houses with flint walls, thatched roofs, and central hearths with a smoke hole above in the apex of the roof. These evolved so that by 1350-90 A.D. the cruck frame was used with mortice and tenon joints, and the houses were now built on the ground not anchored in it. Walls were wattle and daub and today blackened roof timbers are evidence of the open hall style with a central hearth. Windows were 'Mullion' with vertical bars. *There are local examples of cruck framed buildings- Ed.*

Changes in style continued. Trevor showed an example of a mid 1400s Wealden House with 200 main timbers in its construction. It had a large open hall in the centre, a single room at one end, 2 floors and a cross passage. The labour used to build it must have been enormous. Jettied floors were another innovation where the upper floors extend over the supporting outer wall or wooden frame of the building. This may have been for structural reasons but at the least the jetty sheltered those below and the walls from the rain (or chamber pot contents). In the 1500s chimneys came into use, replacing the central open hearth, and with them the inglenook big enough to sit people inside the chimney base for extra warmth. It was also a place where a salt cupboard would be located to keep the household salt dry. By the early 17th C. glazed windows with small diamond panes came into use and by the end of that century glass making was good enough to allow bigger sash windows. A 1660 Merchants House in Marlborough shows that interior decoration, which was often quite gaudy, even went as far as a 'tromp l'oeil' staircase. Bricks were beginning to be used for building, although they must have been locally produced as they are very heavy to transport.

The interior style of houses was much more like our own with multiple rooms and full height staircases, although fireplaces were back to back placed in the centre of the house. The early 1700s brought the lovely brick built Queen Anne style of house, and twenty years later brick terraces were being built in the bigger towns. Although costly, the move to brick buildings was partly a response to the terrible 1666 Fire of London which tore through the closely packed timber buildings. A 1774 Act of Parliament made bricks a requirement for town houses.

The coming of the railways in the 1840/50s made it easy to produce bricks centrally and distribute them cheaply, as were slates and roofing tiles. Hence the building of mass 'Victorian' terrace housing. The railways even enabled the

start of commuting and the fashion for country villas.

The Edwardian period had its own style, a subtle change with the beginning of the 20th C., although the fairly small number of Arts and Crafts houses were very distinctive. Bungalows also began to appear at this time, something coming out of the Indian empire. The later 1920s brought the first large estates of suburban houses, and in 1929-30 came a limited number of Art Deco buildings which had lots of glass giving light and airy interiors.

The period after the Second World War saw a great demand for housing to replace that destroyed by the German bombing. The quick answer was pre-fabs. They were supposed to last only a few years, but 70 years later there are some remaining in use, including a few in Basingstoke. Another legacy of the War was the building of the new towns and the overspill invasion of old ones like Basingstoke. Trevor lives not far from Bracknell, a New Town, and said it is actually very well laid out and with recent refurbishment even the Point Royal tower block “works well”. Since then there has been relentless expansion in all towns. Trevor's Wokingham has 12,000 new houses being built. You can see changes in style about every 10/20 years. Is the 2020s style a Wimpy/Barrett mongrel? Who knows what will come next.

Thank you Trevor for you very interesting and lengthy talk about houses, a massive subject, but something in which we all have a vested interest. We are lucky that in Tadley we have some very old buildings to remind us of the way houses developed.

Richard Brown



Burrell's Farm

This is possibly Tadley's oldest house. Timber framed it dates from 1490-1500.

The new Information Board in Tadley

The board was unveiled by Avril Burdett, Chairman of Tadley Town Council on Saturday 25th September. Those in attendance included Cannon Richard Harlow the Rector of St. Paul's Church; Town Councillors and their wives, TADS Committee members and TADS Members. The board is sited at the small memorial garden near the New Road roundabout behind the bus stop on the New Road side. The board explains why the Memorial Garden is there and the history of the Tadley War Memorial which was once sited nearby.

Funded by Tadley Town Council, the board was designed, commissioned and installed by the TADS Committee.

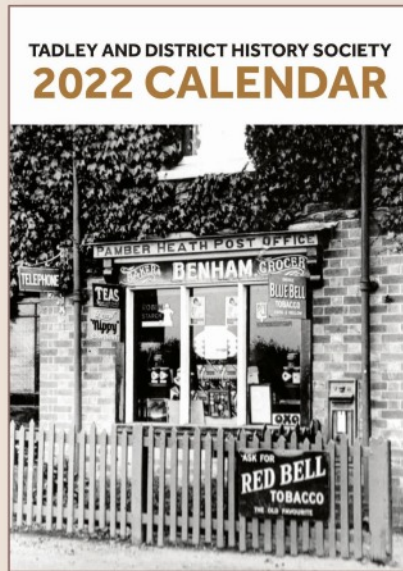


Below - TADS Carol, Richard Harlow & Avril Burdett
(and a No 2 bus).



TADLEY AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY 2022 CALENDAR

nostalgic views of local shops through the years



£7.00 EACH OBTAINABLE FROM

Profile Print & Copy (cash or cheque)
50 Bishopswood Rd, Tadley RG26 4HD;
5 Church Road, Pamber Heath RG26 3DP.



OR ONLINE FROM TADS WEBSITE [WWW.TADSHISTORY.COM].

This Calendar should be on sale by 1st November.

Caen Hill Locks, nr. Devizes



TADS had a talk about the Kennet and Avon Canal in October 2019. While I am familiar with much of the canal from Hungerford to Burghfield, we recently visited the Caen Hill flight of locks just to the west of Devizes for the first time. The flight is an amazing sight, 16 consecutive locks climbing the hill towards the town. There are in fact a total of 29 locks in just over two miles, climbing 237 ft in all. They were opened in 1810 and of course all the work was done by hand. The engineer was Scotsman John Rennie who was among other things responsible for the first Waterloo Bridge in London.

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/>

Have a terrifically terrifying time this **Halloween** half term at Milestones! Saturday 23 - Sunday 31 October.

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery is open with a few restrictions. <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum-and-sainsbury-gallery>

27 October 2021 - 30 January 2022. **The Art of W. Heath Robinson**, a free exhibition. (*The man who drew crazy machines-Ed*).

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30pm at the Museum - Non-members £3, and book through the Museum on 01256 465902)

21 October - AGM for members and friends

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

11th November - **Stanford in the Vale**: A hidden past revealed. By David Ashby – Researcher, University of Winchester

Double jabbed or not, continue to take care.

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