



March 2022

## TADS Newsletter

Website - [www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)

Next Meeting - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 8 pm, at  
**St. Paul's Church**, The Green, Tadley.

### ‘Animals in the lives of famous people’

By Susan Howe

Many famous people had deep relationships with their pets. While in Athens in 1850, Florence Nightingale rescued a baby owl which she named Athena, and hand-reared, carrying her around in her pocket. After Florence left for the Crimea, the poor creature was neglected and died. The bird was later stuffed. The Duke of Wellington rode his beloved horse throughout the Battle of Waterloo. Copenhagen is buried in the grounds of Stratfield Saye House. Oscar Wilde took his pet lobster for walks around Oxford. Who knows what Susan will come up with?

If you wish to stop receiving the Newsletter please email Richard Brown or notify Carol Stevens or a Committee member.

*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)**

## **Future TADS talks:**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

### **‘Flying the Vulcan Bomber’.**

**By Sqn. Ldr. Joe Marsden**

## **TADS Talks.**

For the rest of the year we are in St Paul’s Church providing that face to face talks will be the norm from now on. We may move to a new venue next year as we have completely lost our slot in St. Paul’s Hall.

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## **TADS Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### **The Wren Churches of London**

(The 51 Churches built by Sir Christopher Wren  
but not all surviving in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)

by Lance Whitehouse  
efficiently assisted by his wife.

Lance is obviously a very important and knowledgeable man, steeped in London's history of yesteryear but very much a man of our time. He is Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Bakers, for a start. This Company was founded in 1155 before the signing of the Magna Carta. It seems like a ceremonial big boy's club, but raises lots of cash for charity. The 110 Livery Companies last year raised £94 million for charity – a magnificent amount. I guess the Livery Companies protected their members before Trades Unions were evolved. Lance said bakers sold their wares as a Baker's Dozen i.e. 13, because if you sold underweight goods three times you were ejected from the Bakers' Livery Guild. Incidentally Livery companies are up-to-date e.g. there are now Water Conservation'; Tax Advisers; and Information Technology Liveries.

One of Lance's forbears may have been responsible for the Great Fire of London in 1666 because Thomas Farriner didn't 'cover his fire' i.e. curfew =

cut fire and so London's very, very dry wooden houses complete with jettying (top storey jutting out over the street) went up like a tinderbox.

However, I digress.... Wren's churches.... Sir Christopher Wren, born 1632 in Wiltshire was actually an Oxford astronomer and a buddy of King Charles I. He became an architect.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century it's said that people living on the North bank of the River Thames were very righteous but those on the South bank were gamblers, ne'er-do-wells, encouraged bear baiting and prostitution, etc.

Wren's 51 churches built after the Great Fire cost approximately £5,000 each to build. Many have oddities concerning their construction. Obviously Wren headed a team of craftsmen including; Inigo Jones, Kempster, Hawksmoor, Hook and the wood carver Grinling Gibbons. Lance said if the church in question had a carved OPEN peapod Gibbons had been paid; if not, the peapod was carved closed!

Wren added to St. Stephen's Church built in 700 AD – he put in domes and columns although some citizens were not crazy about the domes.....

St. Mary le Bow (of Bow-Bells Cockney fame) had a Wren special steeple and an ecclesiastical court. Dick Whittington heard Bow's bells and 'turned around' remaining in London, making his fortune and was thrice Lord Mayor of London. Lance said he did NOT have a cat. Dick's buried in St. Michael's Paternoster Church Royal.

One of Wren's Churches has been rebuilt in Fort Missouri, U.S.A: St Alderbury's. He used only the best materials that let in, or reflected, the light – Portland stone granite, marble and often plain glass.

The Chelsea Pensioners' Hospital is also one of Wren's creations; but his piece de resistance is St. Paul's Cathedral, the seat of the Bishop of London as the mother church of the London Diocese completed in 1675. It replaced the old St. Pauls which was badly damaged in the Fire of London. Somewhere on a stone in St. Paul's, Wren wrote: 'If you want to see my genius, look around you.' Sadly he died soon after this, probably of exhaustion but aged 91 years.

Lance mentioned many historical gems: Christ's Hospital School's yellow socks were dyed specially with a rat-repellent yellow dye! In the 16<sup>th</sup> C Adam Rich made the first tiered wedding cake; the City of London Square Mile is an oblong; in 1830, one 'Jimmy Garlic's' mummified body was found during a Wren re-build; if your surname's CHAPMAN your ancestors were probably Market traders; 'Hangman' Judge Jeffries was buried in London; the Wren Church of St. Vedast-alias-Foster has a Baroque-style steeple and a sword

stand. The priest there officiated at Agatha Christie's wedding. The priest looked like Hercule Poirot, so she incorporated him into her novels.

WWI and WWII weren't the only occasions when some of Wren's churches were destroyed; the Victorians felled a few. Lance remarked that TWO livery companies wanted the same registration number : 6. The compromise was alternate years of 6 or 7, hence the expression 'at sixes and sevens.'

Sailors set their timepieces by Greenwich Observatory's clock. It had a red ball which fell daily at 12.55 p.m. and then the ship sailed 'on the ball' at 1 p.m.

Lance knew Dr. Chad Varah who began the Samaritans charity while rector at St. Stephen's Church, Walbrook between 1951 and 2003. And so Lance continued with nugget after nugget wrapping round his Wren church stories.

Thank you, Lance for your erudite, warm and amusing tales of Sir Christopher Wren and his London Churches.

Rosemary Bond.

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One of Sir Christopher Wren's finest churches, St Bride's, Fleet Street with its 'wedding cake' spire.



## Can you help TADS?

**A PROGRAMME SECRETARY IS REQUIRED** – This is an opportunity for you to choose topics for 2023 that you may have a particular personal interest in – Regular attendance at committee meetings is not essential for this position. There are only 10 talks to arrange each year.

**Please contact Carol or Richard if you can help with this position.** (*Contact details are on page 1*)

It will ease the pressure on the remaining members of the committee if we can fill this post.

**WEBSITE MANAGEMENT** - Steve has resigned from building and managing the website after more than two years of intensive work for which we are very grateful. Ian and Neil are looking to manage the website, but if any member can help in any way it would be much appreciated.

**Please contact Carol or Richard if you can help with this position.** (*Contact details are on page 1*)

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**Proposed Lidl Store** - As some of you will have noticed the site on the corner of Saunders Fields by the traffic lights has now been fenced off. A basic archaeological survey has been done.



**Greenham Common Control Tower** - The control tower has been preserved by the Greenham Common Trust and is now a permanent exhibition centre explaining the history of the common when it was a WWII and ‘Cold War’ USAF airfield. The ground floor has a small cafe. If you are prepared to climb the 64 steps there are splendid views from the tower control room. It is not far from Tadley and well worth a visit. Parking and entry are free, but donations are welcomed.



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## **Berkshire Archaeological Society Day School**

The Society will be running a day school ‘Archaeology of Roman Berkshire 2022’ on Saturday 2nd April 2022 from 10am to 4:15pm in St Nicolas Church Hall, Newbury RG14 5HG.

I have booking details and can email you a flyer.

Richard Brown

BAHS are fifty this year and having a special day of talks and celebration in July.

# From Nero To Cromwell, And Beyond

50 years of discovery in North East Hampshire



A conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the  
Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society

Saturday 2nd July, 2022 at the Sherfield Park Community Centre  
9:30 am to 3 pm



**Speakers:**

**Professor Mike Fulford CBE**

Silchester: Reflections on the last 50 years

**David Hopkins** - Hampshire County Archaeologist

People and Place: The story of Basingstoke's archaeology

**Alan Turton** - Author and military historian

Hunting the Golden Calf: 375 years of treasure hunting and archaeology  
at Basing House

Tickets, in advance, from [enquiries@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bahsoc.org.uk)

Free for BAHS members, non-members £20 (includes lunch and a year's BAHS membership)

[www.bahsoc.org.uk](http://www.bahsoc.org.uk)

## ***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/>

26-27 March - **Mother's Day.**

9-24 April. **Play Days: Games at the Museum** during the Easter holidays.

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

Until 2 May. **BRICK BY BRICK** presents an exciting display of artwork by international artists, designers and photographers who use LEGO® bricks as their medium or inspiration.

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

17th March - '**The History of the Watercress Line**' by David Powers

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

14 April - '**The Archaeology of the Meon Valley**' by Kay Ainsworth, Archaeologist, formerly of the Hampshire Museums Service.

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**TADS needs help to keep going. Please see page 5.**

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