



April 2022

## TADS Newsletter

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

Next Meeting - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 8 pm, at  
**St. Paul's Church**, The Green, Tadley.

### ‘Flying the Vulcan Bomber - a personal perspective ’

**By Sqn. Ldr. Joe Marsden**

Joe's talk will concentrate on the Vulcan – illustrated by photos and film clips to show its capability. He will briefly cover the history of the Vulcan but will mainly talk about the personal aspects of flying this famous aircraft. He will cover crew responsibilities, preparation and the practicalities of the various roles he was involved in without missing the more light-hearted aspects of the job in a journey that took him from Cyprus in the East to Midway Island and Alaska in the West as well as up into the Arctic Circle to test Russian response.

*(Everybody welcome - visitors £3.00)*

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*

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## **Future TADS talks:**

**18<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

### **‘Memsahibs and their servants’**

**By Jenny Mallin**

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

### **Animals in the Lives of Famous People.**

**By Susan Howe.**

Did you know Napoleon was fidgetty while sitting on his warhorse, Marengo? No, nor did I. Elite, terrific London Tourist Board Guide, enthusiast and entertainer, Susan, revisited TADS and had many of us laughing uncontrollably. Her 2017 lecture apparel was noteworthy and so was today's. This equally stunning pinky-red ensemble on a glossy black background reminded me of a diurnal Burnet Moth! Incidentally, Burnet Moths release poisonous hydrogen cyanide when attacked. Susan doesn't! This outfit and Susan's smiling demeanor was reminiscent of a naughty schoolgirl crossed with a poised, posh debutante. And yes, I've had her blessing to describe her thus!

By the way, Susan said Napoleon I of France (1769-1821), 'the Little Corporal', had the discomfort of PILES, aggravated by Marengo's saddle so he couldn't concentrate on the Battle of Waterloo, 1815. And we won.....

In WWII's horrific Belsen Concentration Camp the good thing about FLEAS was that they prevented the guards from nosing round the sleeping quarters too frequently.

During the world's recent Covid-19 lockdowns, Berlin's wild boars missed the tourists' discarded or binned food – so they stripped the locals' allotments instead.

David Attenborough's late wife was very patient at dealing with traumatised mammals and so London Zoo used her for soothing a male gibbon with its arm in a sling.

Teachers at a Devizes Primary School were impressed with the good

behaviour of two lions who'd escaped from Chipperfield's Circus. The lions slunk into the dining hall and delicately stole the children's cheese and onion sandwiches.....

Susan loathes the Tower of London: obviously so did most of its occupants therein. King Richard III (1452-1485) the last Plantagenet and Yorkist monarch whose remains were found in a Leicester car park in 2012, tried to freeze and starve his prisoners. But Henry Wyatt had a pet cat which snuggled up to him for warmth and also squeezed through the bars to catch the odd pigeon or rabbit for his boss. A sympathetic gaoler cooked the food caught by The Caterer Cat. The king died but Henry lived to a ripe old age and his Coat-of-Arms incorporated his Caterer Cat.

Arundel Castle in West Sussex is the seat of England's premier dukes – of Norfolk. They were, and are, devout Roman Catholics and because of this Henry was peeved because Sir Philip Howard (1557-1595) had escaped and fled to France. Philip had his dog with him and it wore a collar with gaps to hide and relay secret messages. There's a statue of Sir Philip and said dog in Arundel's R.C. Cathedral i.e. the Cathedral of Arundel and Brighton.

Twinkling with mischievous news, Susan told us of young Isaac Newton, of apple-falling-off-a-tree fame. He had a cat which easily pushed doors open. So Isaac invented the cat flap, which was eventually extended with mini-arches to let the kittens through as well.

The last French Empress Marie-Antoinette, wanted passage on a ship to escape France because she and her husband were being bothered by nuisance revolutionaries. She wanted to go to the New World with her 5 polydactile cats (5 digits on each paw). The cats went. She didn't. But now there are many such cats on America's eastern coast. Writer Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) had one.....

There are numerous such tales of famous people and their animals, Susan said:- Ranulph Fiennes' Jack Russell travelled to both Poles; Charles I's cousin, Prince Rupert went into battle aged 12 years with his white poodle – the dog escaped and was shot; Charles I, he who hid in everyone's loft/tree/shelter was advised to leave his battle horse behind and pretend to be a foot servant. He didn't and was captured; In WWII author Anthony Beevor was in Germany with his regiment when he realised that animals and birds silently avoided the terrible area around Belsen – no birds, no bees, no butterflies; Ruined Berry Pomeroy Castle in South Devon is tucked away in a deep wooded valley with a history of intrigue. Dogs don't like to be walked

there as it smells of death; Molehills are dangerous: William of Orange (1650-1702) was Dutch by birth but became King of England, Scotland and Ireland. As a Protestant the Irish didn't like him at all and were gleeful when his horse tripped over a molehill, the soil gave way, and the horse and William fell. The Irish drank a toast to 'the little gentleman in fur jackets' which caused the accident; Pre-Raphaelite painter and poet, Dante Gabriel Rossetti lived at 16 Cheyne Walk in London in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> C with his pet kangaroo, Roger. Roger hopped around Cheyne Walk kicking at the neighbours' door knockers! Rolling Stones rock star, Mick Jagger later lived there.

Copenhagen, the Duke of Wellington's beloved horse, kicked his master when the Duke walked behind him. Piqued, he sent the horse back to London from Belgium (Waterloo). When Copenhagen died the Duke commissioned a life-sized horse statue to go in St. Paul's Cathedral. No. No horses! So the Duke buried him standing up at his family seat, Stratfield Saye in Hampshire only about 7 miles east of Tadley....

There are countless more nuggets of intrigue, amazement and awe at the stuff animals can get up to – with or in spite of their famous owners.

Thank you, so much, Susan, for a delightful evening. You warmed the cockles of many hearts.

Rosemary Bond.

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## **Annual Subscriptions**

We have, reluctantly, withdrawn the facility for paying subscriptions through the website. However they can now be paid direct to the TADS account using BACS. (Details are on the website). Alternatively they can be paid by Cash or Cheque posted to Carol's address given at the foot of the last page, or by Cash or Cheque at a meeting.

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## The 1921 Census

Many of you who are interested in family history will be aware that this census was put online earlier this year. This is the last census that will be released for the next 30 years as the 1931 Census was destroyed by fire in WWII (not due to enemy action), and the 1941 Census was not held for obvious reasons.

Censuses have lots of information about our ancestors and are a very good way of confirming what you may learn from other sources. Although it was carried out just over 100 years ago, the older of us will have known some of our Grandparents listed in the Census. The Census was scanned by Findmypast and is accessible through the website <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>

Searching is free but payment has to be made to view each original record (£3.50) or the transcription (£2.50). The search engine seems to be very good and Jane and I found all our parents very easily.

Of local interest are my maternal grandparents who were living at the College Arms, Pamber End (now the Queen's College Arms), with their 4 children. My mother was a schoolgirl aged 12 at the Priory School. What is not acknowledged is that the place was a public house. My Grandfather's occupation is a Motor Engineer at Thornycrofts (but out of work) and Grandma is occupied with 'Home Duties'. I can only presume that as he did not like 'the pub atmosphere and smells' to quote my mother, he avoided saying they lived in a pub. Elsewhere I have seen him listed as the licensee!

Richard Brown



## ***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/>

Until 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)

21<sup>st</sup> April - **The Victoria Cross Awards to the Hampshire Regiment** in WW1 by Nick Saunders

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

12th May - **The World of Stonehenge** by Dr Neil Wilkin, Curator, Early Europe (Neolithic and Bronze Age Collections) British Museum

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