



October 2022

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

**Next Meeting - Wednesday 19th October at 8 pm, at
St. Paul's Church, The Green, Tadley.**

‘Whiteknights Park - from the Marquess of Blandford to the University of Reading.’

By Ian Burn

An illustrated talk on the history of Whiteknights Park in Reading, from the late 1700s through to the present day. The talk will start with the time when the Park was home to the Marquess of Blandford, and continue through the Victorian era when Alfred Waterhouse, architect of the Natural History Museum, lived there. Bringing events up to the present day, the talk covers the acquisition of the Park by the University of Reading in 1947 and the University's growth through to 2022.

(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 or Carol Stevens (0118) 9701578*

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Future TADS talks:

**16th November - The Commonwealth War Graves
Commission**

By Andy Day

14th December - TADS AGM (Note the change of date)

TADS Meeting 21st September 2022

The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

By Richard Anderson. Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire.

'Please make love to me gently', was the cry in Arabic of a certain nameless officer cadet as he and others whooped it up after a prank. Unfortunately for them, the Sandhurst Commander, General Philip Tower, understood Arabic! However, he then congratulated the group on their prank, their initiative and their unusual clothing!

Such was one of the anecdotes of our worthy, and now responsible, lecturer. Richard said that the 200 year-old Sandhurst is the 'University of Leadership' where one is encouraged to think outside the box as well as learn soldiering.

In days of yore gentlemen bought their commissions, the first military academy being R.M.A. Woolwich, 1741. It taught technical subjects, maths, science and military history for the Royal Engineers and for the East India Company until 1809. As an Austrian officer had described British swordsmanship as reminiscent of 'someone chopping wood', it was decided officers had to be properly trained – and so Sandhurst opened in 1810 with Col. John le Marchant the first Governor.

Richard said officers' drill is battlefield drill where you have guns in the 4 corners and soldiers in the middle. He was Intake 51 in 1971 and when you're given your number it's yours for life and tells your 'history'.

Regimental Sergeant Majors (R.S.Ms) and others in authority carry pacessticks,

which have pointed ends and are frequently stuck up a soldier's nose to kowtow him into line. Officers carry swords. Soldiers carry rifles. The first 14 weeks of training sort out the wheat from the chaff, as they are a physical and mental nightmare – you work 22 hours a day, 7 days a week, with a wink of sleep if you're lucky. The Welsh Brecon Beacons are a favoured torture ground, and you're given 2 days rations for a 3 day exercise.

Apparently Churchill and Monty were not good officer cadets..... and one Saudi Arabian King didn't know right from left turns on the parade ground. His mates had to shock him by whispering 'pork' to make him turn correctly. When disciplining errant kings and princes the R.S.M. would leer over the poor, rich young man and say 'You 'orrible little man, Prince, Sir!'

22% of cadets are now women and they are treated as harshly as the men. Real rocks, bullets and bombs are used. Max Factor brown cosmetics are used for camouflage, not burnt cork anymore.

At regimental dinners one stands for the National Anthem – whereas the Royal Navy sits (so they don't fall over while at sea?) Very soon all cyphered buttons etc. etc. will have to be changed from E.R. to C.R. for King Charles III.

Currently there are 255 officer cadets at Sandhurst ranging in age from 19 to 23. 78% are graduates and 52% are originally from state schools. Formerly there was a 20% failure rate but it's been reduced to 12% possibly because for example; in the past if you twisted your ankle and struggled on, failure was imminent. Now you can get medical treatment then return to action – a change of philosophy.

Understandably there's a bond between an officer and his/her soldiers.

Richard said that modern warfare is changing rapidly and today's officers and men must have a greater understanding of technical and cyber intelligence: tanks and aircraft carriers etc. will soon be outdated and drones and computer systems will be used instead.

Thank you, Richard, for your comprehensive 'Shop Talk' and for hearing of your billiard-playing Young Officers: 'the Snookers'; not to mention the 'blazers', jackets originally the fashion of H.M.S. Blazer, now adopted by all.

Rosemary Bond.



The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.



Hangar 5 and Spitfire production

Spitfires were built in Tadley during WWII. Did any of your relations work in hangar 5 and if so, do you know what they did? Any information at all, even names, will be useful.

The Editor.

Whitehouse Farm

The 5 new industrial units have now been completed and are occupied.



On the subject of building development, **Lidl's new store** is coming along fast and will be opening in December.

Warning - the **A 340** past the site will be completely closed from 17th to 21st October for work to take place on connecting the sewers and other underground services.

Hopefully the diversion signs will prevent chaos.

TADS AGM date - Please note that the date has been brought forward by a week to Wednesday 14th December as it was decided the original date of the 21st was too near Christmas.

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/>

Their next special event is Halloween half term, 22-31 October.

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

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

8 Oct - 5 Nov. **Looking Through the Window** an Exhibition by artWell

26 Oct - 22 Jan. **Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize 2022**. An exhibition of the shortlist and winning drawings.

(The Museum will be closed 19-21 Oct for the exhibition changeover).

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

17 Nov. **The Trafalgar Way** A talk by Kathy Brown

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

10 Nov. **Buildings of the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Anglo Saxons** – recent works at Butser Ancient Farm. By Trevor Creighton of Butser Ancient Farm.

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