



November 2022

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

Next Meeting - Wednesday 16th November at 8 pm, at
St. Paul's Church, The Green, Tadley.

‘The Commonwealth War Graves Commission’

By Andy Day

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is a global organisation, caring for war graves at 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries and territories. They commemorate almost 1.7 million individuals, ensuring that all the Commonwealth men and women who died during both world wars are commemorated in a manner befitting their sacrifice.

(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

www.tadshistory.com

Future TADS events:

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

The date has been brought forward by a week to as it was decided the original date of the 21st was too near Christmas.

TADS Meeting 19th October 2022

Whiteknights Park, Reading, from Family Estate to University Campus.

By the very knowledgeable yet modest TADS man,
Ian Burn.

Such a beautiful place has indubitably been a 300-acre gem for the Reading area.

Various manorial-type owners of Whiteknights Park have built interesting houses at different sites in the parkland and in so doing, have prevented other random development.

The history of Earley, in east Reading, pre-dates the Norman Conquest and is recorded in the Domesday Book. In the 12th Century the Manor of Earley Regis (owned by the King) came into the possession of the de Erlegh family who had a descendant in the 14th C known as the White Knight. Hence the name.

So what began as a coveted rural gem has continued roughly as such to this day. However, some of the younger members of rich families have caused despair because of inappropriate behaviour. One such was the Marquis of Blandford (of the Marlborough/Blenheim family): his rakish, lazy, indolent ways from 1812 onwards meant he was always in financial trouble and in 1819 was declared bankrupt. Ian said it didn't inhibit him from buying 3 beautiful, rare flowers for 21 guineas (£22.05), destroying 2 and declaring he had the

ONLY remaining rare flower in England.

The 1819 bankruptcy saw him owing £600,000 (many millions in today's money) but nonetheless building the North and South white gate lodges. Joshua Reynolds painted his portrait. His family lived at Whiteknights between 1789-1819.

The Englefield family, now on a large estate near Theale, moved from Wiltshire to Whiteknights in 1619.

By 1798 Ian said the estate had passed on to Henry Byham Martin. It's strange this wonderful area changed hands so frequently.

Over the hundreds of years, each resident family built a substantial and beautiful manorial-type house. There have been 6, Ian said, some of which haven't survived. Some families made their money on the now-despised back of slave owning and sugar plantations, etc. One house, The Wilderness, was built in Blandford's Woods. It was demolished in 1960. Blandford Lodge, 1867, is still going strong, and is now admin. offices. The Jewel in the Crown, Foxhill, built in 1868, Grade II listed, was used by the University as accommodation till the 1980s, but is now the Law Department.

Sir Isaac Goldsmid, who happened to develop London University, bought Whiteknights and subsequently sold it to Reading University in 1947. Reading University had opened as an extension of Oxford University in the London Road area of Reading between 1860-70 and in 1926 was granted its University Charter. (In 1960 there were only 22 universities in Britain).

Extras

From an historical aspect it's interesting to find that the Englefield family originally moved from Wiltshire (Royal) Wootton Bassett because their estates were confiscated for recusancy in 1585 i.e. remaining loyal to the R.C. Church and refusing to acknowledge C of E worship. They neglected their Whiteknights acquisition, favouring literature, their new C of E workshop and science. They are now established at Englefield Park near Theale – the Benyon family.

We know a fair bit about The Park because of the lavishly detailed 1819 book by writer Barbara Hofland, and her artist husband Thomas (1777-1843). Some of Thomas' paintings were used on German covers of Jane Austen's books. Sadly the Hoflands weren't paid for their book; but 2 of Thomas' paintings are owned by the University.



Reading University is famous for its Agricultural degrees. Rich landowners sent their sons there and they were housed in the posh Wantage Hall. Also Reading had the famous British Dairy Institute down the road at Shinfield, 1896-mid 20th C.

Sir Walter Palmer of Huntley & Palmer biscuit fame (1857) paid for the present Coat of Arms in 1896 (different from the blazer badges). The Palmer family were heirs to a Quaker tradition of public service and have helped the University generously.

Gyosei International College bought a small part of the University in 1989 to establish a residential college for Japanese students. My daughter, then at Reading, often mentioned the smell of the Japanese cuisine at St. Andrew's Hall! But the University re-purchased St. Andrews and it became the Museum of English Rural Life (M.E.R.L.) in 2005. It captures the changing face of British farming.

Thank you, Ian, for your interesting talk and your eclectic views on Reading University. It is so near to Tadley and yet so far from the average person's knowledge.

Rosemary Bond.

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Sue Froome

We are very sorry to report the death of Sue Froome who had been a member of TADS for a long time. We understand that she died peacefully at home.

Sue was very proud of her local roots. Although she came to the last meeting, her attendance at TADS meetings had been a bit random in recent years as our meetings often clashed with her bell ringing at Ramsdell church.

At the moment we do not have any information about a funeral.

Hangar 5 and Spitfire production

In the last issue I asked if any of you had relations who worked in hangar 5 assembling Spitfires during WWII. I was very pleased when Derek Monger reported that his Grandfather Arthur Long was one such worker.

Any more?

Developments

The area around Lidl's new store is a hive of activity. Lloyds Bank has become Pet's Corner and Barclays Bank is being converted into a food store.

Lidl's is expected to open on 9th December and they have plenty to do in the next 4 weeks. The photo below was taken yesterday (10th Nov).



Remembrance Sunday

Knitted poppies have been springing up all over the country and Tadley is not exempted.



Tadley War Memorial - above

St Mary's Church -Right



Local Services on Remembrance Sunday 13th November:

St Paul's, the Green at 3pm after a short parade.

St Luke's, Pamber Heath at 10.45 am.

Silchester and Heath End War Memorials at 10.50 am.

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 - Milestones **Christmas Market** on 3 & 4 Dec.

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

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

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

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** - the long distance route which runs from Falmouth in Cornwall through Basingstoke to the Admiralty in London. A talk by Kathy Brown

There is no meeting in December

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

8 Dec. From Rouges to Royalty: **a brief history of England's racecourses**. By Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer of Surrey County Council.

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