

March 2023

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

**Next Meeting - Monday 13th March at 8 pm, at
Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall, Heath End Road,
Baughurst RG26 5LU. (A new venue, see page 2)**

‘A Photographic walk through Tadley’

by Tads Project group

From Dix Hill to the Falcon triangle in photographs old and new. My goodness how things have changed, but not everything. The Project group have had great fun and serious debate selecting the photographs and endeavouring to get matching new photos. As many of the old ones were taken from the middle of the road, I am pleased to tell you no Project Group members were run down in the process. Please also see the note on Page 6.

By the way - our new venue is really good!

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: **At our new venue!**

Due to our change of evening we have been struck by 2 consecutive bank holidays so our next talk is not until:

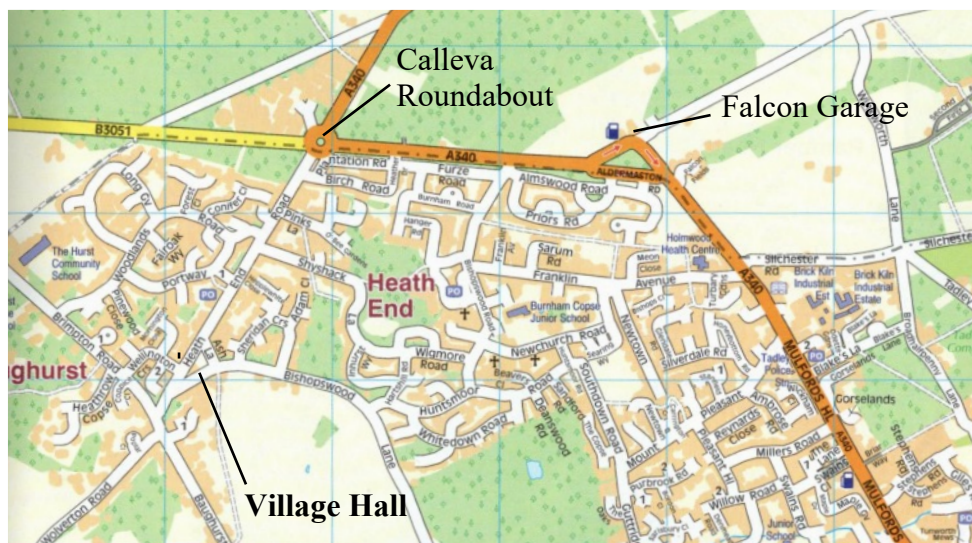
Monday 12th June 2023 in Baughurst & Heath End Village Hall -

‘The Duke of Wellington his Life and Service’

By Brigadier Michael Aris

Our New Venue

Our first two meetings in Baughurst and Heath End Hall have been a great success last month and very well supported. It is a modern hall with a large car park, a built in projector screen and sound system and padded chairs. The hall is a bit further away from the centre of Tadley than the Church, but it is readily accessible being on the left hand side near the end of Heath End Road coming from the Calleva roundabout, and just before the acute turn off into Bishopswood Lane. See map below.



TADS Last Meeting 13th February 2023

All Things British – Eccentrics, Heroes and Tea. by Susan Howe.

Some foreigners think we Brits are rather dull... Not so (mostly!) Susan luckily is having an amazingly colourful life: once Personal Assistant to Sir John Betjeman; organising riding tours in The Rockies; tiger hunting in India etc. etc. and London Blue Badge Guide; talker of quirky and unusual facts AND Susan usually dresses in an extraordinarily way-out way!

Susan reminded us of the wisdom of our late Queen Elizabeth (1926-2022) and the fact that King Charles' coronation arrangements have been in the planning stage for months. Of course, the venue, Westminster Abbey has been a Royal Peculiar building since Henry VIII's reign. That means the deans are 'free wheeling' and not beholden to the usual Church of England Authorities.

One William Buckland, an early 18th Century eccentric, decided to play with his food. He tried to BBQ bumblebees and hedgehogs etc. and also proclaimed himself an authority on where he was in England. He tasted the topsoil. Are we in Uxbridge? No, we're in Isleworth..... When some unwary person foolishly showed him the preserved heart of France's Sun King, Louis XIV, he ate it.

Edward James, who may/may not have been the son of King Edward VII, built a beautiful house at West Dean near Goodwood in West Sussex. He had a carpet made depicting ballet shoes to impress his Portuguese ballerina love. When she wouldn't marry him he destroyed that design and used the paw prints of his favourite dog instead in the new carpet.

Coco Chanel wouldn't marry the immensely rich Duke of Westminster because she would lose her name – although he presented her with bouquets of flowers with diamonds hidden in their petals.

In the pre-car era of the 1890s Lord Rothschild had an obsessive idea to train zebras to pull his London carriage. He imported many zebra species to see which was the most trainable – but couldn't better 3 zebras/1 horse or 3 horses/one zebra. Obviously most Eccentrics are incredibly rich!

In the 1960s, a Cumbrian judge was so enraged by Dr. Beeching's railway cuts that he pulled the train's communication cord to disembark at his favoured station. Daily....

Scientist Dr. Miriam Rothschild occasionally instructed her butler to record the dawn chorus when she felt lazy.

Swashbuckling Roundhead, Nathaniel Fiennes impressed the Cavaliers by preventing some of his more reckless fellow Roundheads from beheading the Saints' statues at Winchester Cathedral. As Winchester was the Royalist (Cavalier) HQ they decided to have a 'winter war' and deflected attention to Alton – only 20 miles SE of Tadley – to try (in vain) to take the Church. It is still pock-marked by cannon balls and other missiles aimed at it. Incidentally, the Fiennes family is still swashbuckling in the 21st Century – just try to stop the lively septugenarian explorer, Sir Ranulph.....

Surely Sir Archie McIndoe, experimental plastic surgeon extraordinaire of Guinea Pig Club fame, must be one of our heroes. He has healed badly burnt servicemen at both his East Grinstead hospital and his 'accolites' hospital in Basingstoke. (*Sir Harold Gilles at Park Prewett Hospital was McIndoe's cousin – Ed*). Post-operative patients from WWI onwards, including 2 Vietnamese in the 1970s, were sent into towns in pairs to 'normalise' them for their own confidence and that of the general public.

One 'Happy' Hodgekinson still flew war planes using his hollow prosthetic legs. He later took advantage of those legs to smuggle perfumes, nylons and spirits etc. etc back to Blighty.

The oh-so-British 'cuppa' tea is not obviously indigenous at all (except tea is now grown in South Cornwall – at a price). The Chinese and Indians grew tea and it was popularised here by the Portuguese bride of Charles II, Catherine of Braganza. Predictably the London pub landlords weren't thrilled, but Twinings Tea Shop, 1605, thrived. Catherine probably didn't like the ale drunk in England then because the water was unsafe. Sensibly she brought a chest of tea with her. It's well-known that tea was prohibitively expensive, the mistress of the house kept the tea caddy's keys with her at all times.

Poor Dr. Johnson was so impoverished as an undergraduate that clothes and shoes were left at his door. However, although he compiled the first English dictionary he never did graduate.

Potter Josiah Wedgwood saw a business opportunity by creating a black teapot – and it had 2 spouts to pour faster. The black of the teapot set off the ladies' white arsenic faces, never minding their deaths from arsenic poisoning. (Why do we follow fashion so slavishly?)

Susan said we Brits cherish our eccentrics, admire our unlikely heroes and, like our 17th Century Queen Catherine, many refuse to start the day without a 'cuppa'.

Thank you, Susan, for your funny, individual, note-less, conversational and entertaining chat.

Rosemary Bond.



Not a black Wedgwood twin spout teapot but a late Victorian Staffordshire one belonging to Hampshire Cultural Trust.

Membership Subscriptions.

Subscriptions are now overdue and thank you to the many members have already rejoined.

A copy of the Membership form was included with the AGM papers. Copies are also be available at TADS meetings or can be download from the TADS website.

We ask members to complete the form and return it, signed and dated, to TADS Treasurer, Christine Poile. The form includes a number of payment options, please follow the instructions for your chosen option. Alternatively, you can renew your membership subscription when attending one of our forthcoming meetings. Our bank no longer accept cheques with TADS as the payee, it must be Tadley and District etc in full. I have a stamp with it on if you are paying at a meeting

Christine Poile, TADS Treasurer.

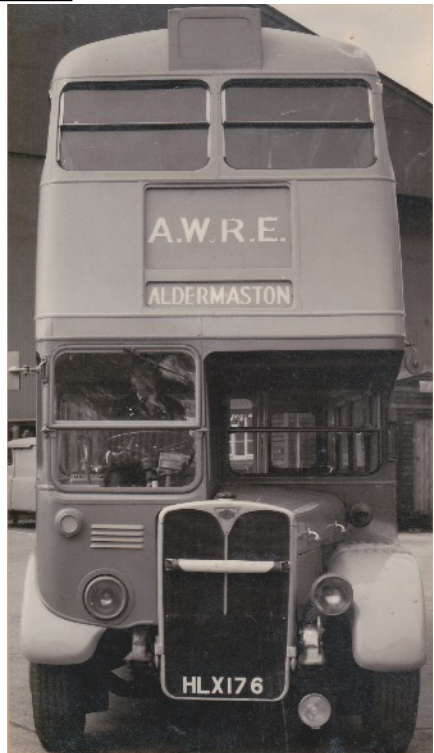
Photographs

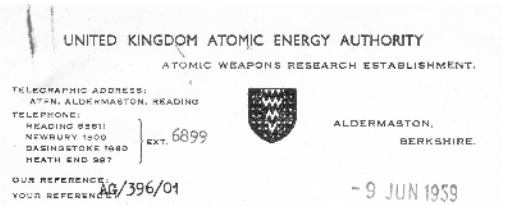
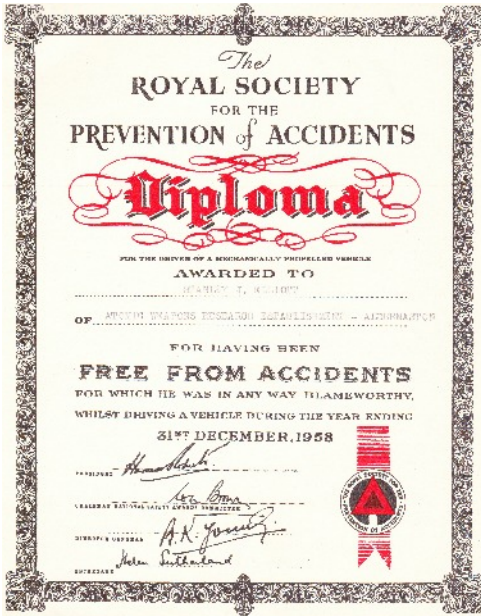
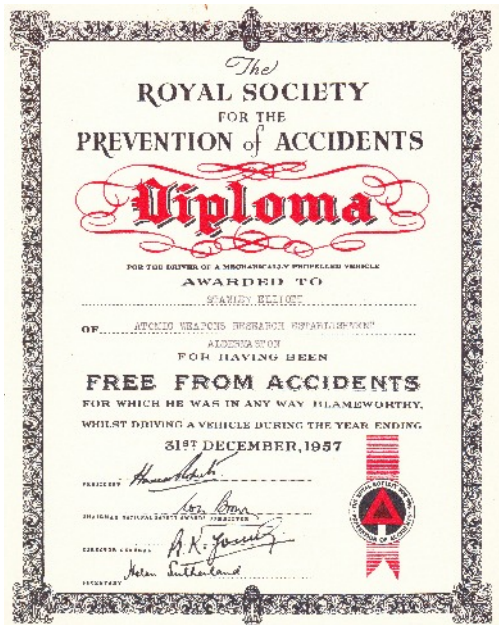
We are always interested to see old photographs taken in the Tadley district. If you have any that you think will be of interest please bring them along to the March meeting and I will scan them for our collection, if you are willing.

Peter Elliott sent in this one of his father Stanley Elliott at the wheel of an AWRE bus in the late 1950s/early 1960s.

Peter also included photos of Stanley's ROSPA medal and certificates which are shown on the next page.

Keep them coming.





Memorabilia of Stanley Elliott an AWRE driver

The new skate park on Tadley Common

This is coming along well and yesterday, 6 March, they were concreting the ramp surfaces.



What's on? Events which may be of interest.

Milestones Museum The website to buy admission tickets can be found at: <https://www.milestonesmuseum.org.uk/>

18-19 March. **Mother's Day Weekend** at Milestones

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

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

2 Feb - 1 May. **Shoes: Inside out** - a free exhibition featuring footwear from 11 AD to the present, with X-rays of many of the exhibits.

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

16 March - The real **Downton Abbey**, by Ian Porter

19 March. 2.00pm Sunday afternoon talk - **The return of the red kite**, by Keith Betton, Chairman of Hampshire Ornithology Society

£5 inc. Refreshments. Book at www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum-and-sainsbury-gallery

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

9 Mar - Recent **Archaeological Discoveries at Manydown**
by Susan Porter

13 Apr - **Towards the Neolithic?** Two sites in southeast Turkey by
David Whiter

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