



July 2023

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

Next Meeting - Monday 10th July at 8 pm, at **Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall, Heath End Road, Baughurst, RG26 5LU.**

‘The Livery Companies of London ’

By Lance Whitehouse

The Livery Companies were established in the 12th century by groups of tradesmen, craftsmen and merchants with similar skills and interests. These groups formed a guild for their specific trade or industry. As a form of identification of which a guild member belonged to, they would wear different coloured tabards as part of their regalia and this would become part of their livery.

The ethos of the companies today is to support their membership in all aspects of their industries with a special emphasis on charity and education.

(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:

August - No meeting.

Monday 11th September 2023 in Baughurst & Heath End Village Hall

‘The Complete History of Thatcham’

by Dr Nick Young

**The Duke of Wellington – a life of service.
By Richard Bennett and Professor John Missenden.**

The auspicious first Duke of Wellington had a pretty bad start. Born Arthur Wellesley in 1759 near Taunton in Somerset and then removed to Dublin, Ireland, his Dad thought him ‘not promising.....’ even as a second son, and sent him to a French Military School.

But by 1793 he was a Lieutenant Colonel and it’s said he learnt ‘some of his trade’ from the Grand Old Duke of York.

Arthur had wanted to marry Catherine Pakenham, but her Mum said ‘No!’ - he wasn’t rich enough or at all suitable – so he immersed himself in military duties fighting the French in India and also later in the Iberian Peninsular War.

Apparently Arthur’s military men relied on him for good planning, great intelligence, reconnaissance, logistics and ‘not antagonising the locals.....’ Arthur led from the front. He hanged any soldiers who stole from the locals. His 9 years of teeth-cutting in India saw him emerge as ‘Sir’ and ‘Major General’.

He re-wooed ‘Kitty’ (Catherine) but rumour had it she had become rather ugly in the interim years; and also their temperaments were unsuited. Wellington was made a Duke in 1809 and Duchess Kitty bore him 2 sons, but sadly she

died of cancer aged only 59. Although the two had been estranged he wasn't without female companionship and if threatened with exposure would say 'Publish and be damned!'

Apparently a 'cold' person Arthur was greatly admired and trusted by his men, whom he called 'the scum of the earth'..... It's said that Wellington met Admiral Lord Nelson only once. (Nelson was killed 21st October 1805).

During the Peninsular War, 1808-14, Wellington's troops always wore the sovereign's bright scarlet uniform – camouflage wasn't the thing, then.

We Brits were defeated by the French at the Spanish Battle of Victoria, but in 1813 we beat them, now led by Joseph Bonaparte who'd been put in charge by Napoleon. We returned all the captured loot but NOT Joseph's chamber pot! The silver chamber pot was kept by the 14th Light Dragoons (now the Royal Hussars) whose officers drink champagne from it on special occasions even now.....

Ever the frustrated Empire-builder, Napoleon Bonaparte decided to concentrate his fighting towards the east of Europe but the famous Battle of Waterloo (10 miles south of Brussels) found Wellington safely mounted on his very famous horse, Copenhagen, hidden on a rainy ridge, with the French disadvantaged and the Imperial Guard 'withering and dying.' With the French vanquished, we grateful Brits gave Arthur the money to buy Stratfield Saye estate which is about 6 miles east of Tadley. Not being an ostentatious sort he didn't demolish and re-build the 200 year-old house. Although it's one of Hampshire's largest piles it's small by comparison to Blenheim Palace etc. and he did have a London pad, Apsley House near Hyde Park which had iron bars on the windows.... thus the nickname Iron Duke stuck. Arthur disliked unnecessary expense so made his new house very comfortable with oil lamps, steam baths, water closets, proper drainage and radiators. However he always kept 40 servants at Stratfield Saye,. The Duke's front door leads directly into a stately hall with stone floors incorporating mosaics from nearby Roman Silchester which he owned at that time. (It's now owned by Hampshire County Council).

When he'd been a soldier Wellington didn't have a second-in-command, and quite remarkably he was never injured. 48,000 British, French and Prussian soldiers were killed at Waterloo.

Arthur moved seamlessly into politics in 1820 and by 1828 was Prime Minister for the first time. It's said he didn't really enjoy politics but enjoyed telling people what to do!

He retired from politics in the 1840s.

Arthur, little in stature but big in attitude and land ownership – he had 3,000 acres in Spain, some in London, Tadley, Baughurst and Basingstoke, the Walmer area in Kent and Wellington College in Crowthorne, Berkshire. (The current 9th Duke is still a Governor of the college). And he gave his name to certain rough weather boots, but not the rubber ones as they were still not invented.

As an agnostic when he died aged 83 he was still able to be buried in Westminster Abbey, and lies next to Admiral Lord Nelson!

Our area of Tadley and district seems to be so rich in lively history. Thank you, gentlemen for your erudite talk about the famous Iron Duke.

Rosemary Bond.

TADS ‘An Historic Walk Through Tadley’ display in the library.

The display was in the Library for three weeks and created a great deal of interest. It is said that one person came from Bath to see it! Some of the Library staff asked why we could not leave there when we came to take it down on the agreed date. (We do have to pay a weekly fee for display).

In view of the above we have now decided to put it on display again in the Autumn in conjunction with the release of the 2024 TADS calendar which will feature some of the photographs used in the display.

Bewley Homes proposed housing development

How many people, other than TADS Project Group, realise that the proposed development on land next to Skates Lane could cover part of the Portway Roman Road which runs from Silchester to Salisbury. For more information see the TADS Paper on our website at this link:

<https://www.tadshistory.com/tads-papers-5-the-portway-and-other-roman-roads-in-the-tadley-area/>

Alan Cooke



Sadley, Alan died on 8th June at the age of 88 while living with his daughter in the Isle of Man. He was a member of TADS for several years before moving to France with Lorna. He was a very efficient archivist for the Society and helped with the writing of some of our publications. His death follows that of Lorna at the end of December last year. A lovely man.

Bishopswood Farm



Mrs Jean Riddell gave me some photographs of the Farm taken in 1965. They include Mr and Mrs Appleton who ran it. (Next page). We are always interested to receive copies of photographs of any period as it is surprising how rapidly things change.



Above - The barn at Bishopswood Farm

Left - Mr & Mrs Appleton

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/>

22 Jul - 3 Sep **Summer Fun at Milestones**

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

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

Until 30 Jul: **Our Windrush Story:** The arrival of HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury in June 1948 bringing 802 passengers from the Caribbean was a seminal moment in British history. This exhibition commemorates and celebrates the contribution of the Windrush Generation to Basingstoke.

Sunday July 30th "Sunday tea and talk" (2pm-3.30pm) **Wessex Castles**, by Alan Turton. Writer and military historian Alan Turton was formally the Curator of Basing House.

Tea or coffee and cake are served afterwards. There is a charge of £6.

Please book on-line at

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum-and-sainsbury-gallery

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

20 July - **Goldings and the Russell family of Basingstoke**, by Debbie Reavell. The Russells were an upwardly mobile family that acquired land at Eastrop at the time of the Enclosures, and eventually created the mansion known as Goldings.

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

No lecture in August.

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