



September 2023

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

**Next Meeting - Monday 11th September at 8 pm, at
Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall, Heath End Road,
Baughurst, RG26 5LU.**

‘Thatcham in Old Photographs ’

By Dr Nick Young

Thatcham is truly an ancient town with archaeological finds covering every period from the Palaeolithic over 12,000 years ago, right up to today. Dr Nick Young will describe the more recent history of Thatcham using old photographs of the town.

He is booked to come again next year to tell the full history of the town.

(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:

Monday 9th October 2023 in Baughurst & Heath End Village Hall

‘The Windsor Chair’

by Stewart Linford

TADS last meeting 10th July 2023

World War I – Where the Money Went

by Roy Larkin.

It’s a constant source of wonder that when a lecture is unavoidably delayed, a TADS’ member steps into the breach. Roy, author, of quiet voice and dry sense of humour, is one such person. Also, he has a vast knowledge of WWI – and where the money went. One often thinks of wars in terms of rivers of blood and the loss of human life.

The northern and western French countryside was strewn with the horror of war and the battles, trenches, mud and mire from 1914-18 to 1919 and beyond.

When the conflict began in 1914 the monetary exchange rate was £1 sterling to 1 French franc. The 1914 cost of £645,000,000 was astronomically high but it soon rose to £7.1/2 billion – with the earlier cost for Britain of 2 Boer Wars adding into the despair of it all.

In August, 1914, a 3-ton heavy goods vehicle cost £795, 100 of them being produced per week by November 1914. 250 pairs of anti-snow/mud skid mechanisms for vehicles cost £12,000.

Even port fees for warships were mind-bogglingly expensive at £50/day each. The port of Le Havre could accommodate 7 ships, leaving spaces for France’s own ships. French dockworkers were understandably ‘picky’, Roy said,

because they had to continue with their own work – but never on p.m. Saturday or all day Sunday.

By September, 1914, Saint-Nazaire had 25 ships in 12 berths, the French having priority.... The port of Dieppe was also very busy but only receiving hospital ships. Back in the UK, Liverpool had 78 ships awaiting berths and the whole set-up was crowded and inconvenient. One hears how bloody and awful the first ‘proper’ world was, but from what Roy said some of the officers were rather extravagant and ‘picky’ at the beginning – the Hotel Continental’s food bills were high and the officers didn’t like the ‘paperwork’ involved....

Back in Tyne and Wear, N.E. England, damage was done to Lord Ravensworth’s castle and he was paid £111,870. compensation. Tenant farmers were also compensated for damage, if the Army had used their land.

In Northern France a tented community of 177,000 sprang up in 1915 – don’t know what they did to their groundsheet, but apparently the repair bill was always high....

In 1917 there was a German air raid over Dunkirk and £10 million worth of British, Argentinian, New Zealand and Australian wool was destroyed.

At Wimereux Hospital, 1914, the establishment was well-used but had to be handed back to the French in the same good condition ‘ - it was, but sadly was destroyed in WWII.

The Fron-goch Distillery was used as a P.O.W. Camp in 1914 and again for our involvement in the Irish situation in 1916 – and it then closed in December 1916.

Wilton, nr. Salisbury supplied lorries for transporting road stone to maintain military roads. By 1917, 96,400 miles on the continent had been covered by moving 28,000 tons of said stone.

The Germans naturally had photos of road traffic but they were ‘faux’, Roy said.

Seeing as WWI hadn’t lasted the ‘few weeks’ originally predicted, the Army personnel had to be warmly clothed: the first issue of winter trench coats cost 12/4d (60p approx.). The second issue, £1.13s. 1d. each; with an undocumented number of fur coats costing £2 million, until the April of each year when they were cleaned and ‘made fit’ and stored again for the next winter.

Tinned jam for 10,000 soldiers cost about £1,000 in 1916.

In 1914 a French Renault or a British-made ambulance both cost £484. Later the price rose to £1,008. because we needed to supply our own spare parts for repairs.

Incidentally, during WWI the Royal Navy was still considered to be the 'Senior Service'.

Originally German, the Coventry Daimler Company built army lorries. Roy said in 1916 Coventry Daimler built a new canteen for its workforce, costing £20,809. 'Big engines' were required for the war effort and in 1916 Daimler Coventry built 40-60 per week, employing 1,300 extra engineers. Also, many thousands of war horses were commandeered for the army and horse shoes and forage cost £229,708. in 1918.

Horses were retained until 1919 because they were needed for repair and salvage of areas in Northern France.

The cost of 25 Christmas turkeys in 1915 was £22.....

In 1917, £36 million worth of gun tractors (carriages) were bought although the design made them immovable in the mud and mire of France, and ruined what roads there were anyway! In 1918 it took 2 days to move a Holt gun tractor. By 1916 motorcycles were widely used, needing tyres and other accessories costing £2 million a month.

All the mud and filth necessitated decent footwear. No so. Boots were made so badly in Valdeliene, near Calais that they only lasted ONE day. For some reason, Roy said, they were also manufacturing ladies' leather boots – maybe they lasted longer!

The whole sad story of WWI's cost in lives and MONEY should have taught us in wars, no one wins. As we know we didn't learn that lesson as we were at it again 21 years later.

The last repayment for WWI was made in 2017, but to whom??

Thank you Roy, for the horrifying and mindless tale of WWI's costs in cash. You have so much information at your finger tips.

Rosemary Bond.

The Committee are very grateful to Roy for stepping into the breach when the scheduled speaker went sick.

TADS 2024 Calendar and ‘An Historic Walk Through Tadley’ display in the library.

The 2024 Calendar is finished and to mark its publication we still intend to put the display back in the library next month. The calendar of course is based on the display and uses some of the photographs.

Bewley Homes proposed housing development near Skates Lane

The initial test of public opinion has now closed. From reading many of the public submissions on the Basingstoke and Deane website it has zero public support.

The comments/submissions can be found at:

<https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RWYQORCR0AP00>

It is a very sensitive area surrounded by: 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ancient woodlands, 2 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, let alone our own historical interest in the Roman Road crossing the site and the Medieval fish ponds on the boundary with Ron Wards Meadow. Some of the fields are tucked away from modern day life and seem as if they could be unchanged for one to two hundred years.

Access to the proposed estate from the A340 at the bottom of Dix Hill is also likely to be challenging.

The Tadley and Pamber Rural Protection website at <https://tprp.co.uk/> has a lot of information and photographs.

I have put a couple of photos of some of the area to be destroyed on the next page.





The great barn at Tadley Place looking superb with its newly thatched roof.



The Mole at Monk Sherborne is back in business but now called the Olive Tree.

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/>

Until 31 Dec. Our new **Wash Day** exhibition. From domestic living to household gems, what will you find? Come and view washing, drying and ironing goods from throughout history. How did the Victorian laundress wash bloomers? What products did they use, did they have the options we have today?

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

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

Sunday September 24 talk 2pm-3.30pm, hosted by the museum management: The **peregrine falcon**, by *Keith Betton*
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)

Thursday September 21st - The wit and wisdom of **Gilbert and Sullivan**, by *Dr Stephen Goss*

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

14th Sept - **Dummer** and Beyond, Exploring the evolution of a chalkland village. By Dr John Hare, Victoria County History

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