



January 2024

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

**Next Meeting - Monday 8th January 2024 at 8 pm, at
Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall, Heath End Road,
Baughurst RG26 5LU.**

‘Welcome to my World - Butler to the Royal Family’

by William French

William joined the Royal Navy at 15 where he was trained as a chef but then moved on to become a No. 1 Steward. Later on he graduated to personal steward/valet to a senior officer at NATO HQ. He saw action in the Falklands aboard HMS Battleaxe. Still in the Royal Navy, and after a short spell as Leading Steward, he was appointed Royal Class Steward on the Royal Yacht Britannia serving the Queen and Prince Philip and many other members of the royal family. William’s memories of the Royal Yacht and life aboard are clearly very dear to him. After the de-commissioning of Britannia, William’s skills and experience took him to Ascot House, near Wing, where he managed a household of 30 staff. When the house was taken over by the National Trust, he moved to Kensington Palace as ‘breakfast butler’ and was at the Ritz Hotel in Paris on the night of Princess Diana’s tragic demise.

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 12th February 2024 in Baughurst & Heath End Village Hall:

‘Railways in Victorian Berkshire’

By Richard Marks

TADS Last Meeting 11th December 2023

TADS Annual General Meeting

Our thanks go to everyone who attended the AGM. You comfortably achieved the necessary quorum. The previous year’s Minutes were accepted without any matters arising.

The Chairman, Carol, thanked the members of the committee and others for all their hard work in keeping everything running smoothly and for keeping members informed. The committee are still generally meeting on Zoom as a more efficient way of working.

The new venue has proved to be a big improvement on St Paul’s Church although more expensive, and we recognise that Mondays are not so good for some people. Stephen Barber had put together an interesting programme and we were delighted when we had 31 visitors to the November talk about building Spitfire aircraft during the war. Other highlights were the exhibition in the library using the new display boards bought with a Basingstoke & Deane councillor grant. The 2024 Calendar was themed to go with the exhibition. Three committee members attended a one day archiving course at the HRO in Winchester. We have also been busy raising awareness of the archeological importance of the site by Skates Lane, proposed for new housing.

The Treasurer, Christine Poile offered up her financial report together with an accompanying narrative, and she thanked Peter Searle for acting as scrutineer once again. The Society finances are in a very good position. The accounts were accepted.

The committee proposed two minor amendments to the Society's Constitution. These were accepted.

Ian Burn reported on the work done by the Project Group this year. The Exhibition and calendar had taken up a lot of time. The production of a leaflet covering points of interest in Tadley is being started. Towards the end of the year a short video showing evidence of the line of the Portway Roman road was produced. Completed research topics are being written up and posted as TADS project papers on the TADS Website. Some of the papers are a reconfiguring of information previously published in different forms.

Members are always welcome to join the project group especially if there is a topic you want to investigate and need help.

Stephen has put together a varied and interesting programme for 2024 and the usual Programme cards were available at the meeting.

The committee was re-elected without change and is:

Carol Stevens – Chairman

Christine Poile -Treasurer

Ian Burn – General secretary / graphics/ Webmaster

Neil Forde – Assistant webmaster / Facebook

Stephen barber - Talks programme

Richard Brown – Newsletter editor

There was a discussion about publicity and we were very pleased that there were a couple of volunteers to help with posters.

The evening concluded with a welcome opportunity to chat with other members while enjoying a snack.

2024 Programme

Feb 12 - Railways in Victorian Berkshire by Richard Marks

Mar 11 - The Versailles Treaty: failure or folly by Colin Oakes

Apr 8 - 500 years of the Vyne, Basingstoke by Claire Tilson

May 13 - General Brock and the Maiwand Lion, by Mike Cooper

2024 Programme continued.

Jun 10 - The Great Train Robbery by Tony Keep

Jul 8 - Stratfield Saye House, a virtual tour by Michael Aris/Richard Bennett

Aug 12 - No meeting

Sept 9 - The complete history of Thatcham by Dr Nick Young

Oct 14 - To be confirmed.

Nov 11 - Roller and Burberry by Ian Burn (TADS Project group)

Dec 9 - Annual General Meeting and social.

TADS Membership Subscriptions.

TADS membership is by annual subscription. Subscriptions are now due. We have a membership form which combines a member's information and agreement on the use of member's data (often referred to as the GDPR requirement). Copies of the form will be available at TADS meetings and can be downloaded 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.

You can also renew your membership subscription when attending one of our forthcoming meetings January or February 2024.

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/>

10 - 18 Feb - Play Days: **Games at the Museum** returns!

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

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

Until 28 Jan. **We think the world of you:** an art exhibition by David Remfry, RA. *Evocative pencil and watercolour portraits exploring the connection between humans (including a number of celebrities) and their canine companions.*

28 Jan at 2pm - Sunday tea and talks: £6 and must be booked.

The last 5 miles of the **Basingstoke Canal**, by Roger Cansdale.

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

Jan 18 - A guide's guide: working in **historic houses** in the 21st century, by Sarah Somerville. (*Currently at Shaw House, Newbury*)

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

12 Jan - Every Day **Life And Accidental Death** in 16th Century Hampshire by Professor Steven Gunn, Merton College, Oxford University.

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