

March 2024

## TADS Newsletter

Website - [www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)

**Next Meeting - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 8 pm, at  
Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall, Heath End Road,  
Baughurst RG26 5LU.**

### **‘The Versailles Treaty: failure or folly?’**

**by Colin Oakes**

The Versailles treaty of 1919 ended the war against Germany, but it is also seen as a great folly. It is more than 100 years since it was signed, can we now examine and understand it properly? Was it truly the reason for the second world war or just flawed from its very conception? Colin will examine what the Treaty really was and what it led to in this talk on a controversial and complex subject.

*(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](mailto:richard@ilexind.plus.com) or Carol Stevens (0118) 9701578*

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## **Future TADS events:**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in Baughurst & Heath End Village Hall:**

### **‘500 years of the Vyne, Basingstoke’**

**By Claire Tilson**

**TADS Last Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## **Railways in Victorian Berkshire** by Richard Marks.

In our busy lives do we ever consider how to travel from A to B? Not so long ago, options were limited. Richard made us think about railways. His enthusiasm is so great I think he has diesel fuel instead of blood and steel railway lines for bones..... He even is nearing the end of 6 years’ studies for a Ph.D in all things railway and has become a professional historian.

Happily also, railways seem to enthuse many local people, as we had a full-house for this lecture.

Berkshire was important BEFORE the railways came as it’s near to London, Oxford and Newbury. The first Reading station was built in 1840. Already the Kennet and Avon Canal linked this area with Bristol and Brunel had constructed railways where the land was flat – including the Kennet and Thames Valleys. Railway lines were usually constructed from both ends simultaneously, Richard said. Railways transported food, industrial products (textiles etc.) and troops more easily than previously.

The railway from Reading also linked up with Portsmouth, Southampton Docks and Weymouth. Much of this network came in the 1840s and 1850s – for freight. Passenger services evolved later, Richard said – people WALKED miles in those days!

The railway companies guarded their networks very jealously. Some even had their own hospitals and houses – if you left you could be OUT of your house and with no hospital either.....

Newbury Station (built 1847) was very important because it had horse racing's branch line, the Lambourn Valley Railway (1898).

The Oxford and Great Western Junction Railway opened in 1852. Abingdon and Wokingham were linked in by the railway in 1856; Faringdon in 1864; Wallingford and Watlington, 1866; the Wantage Tramway, 1875; Didcot linked with Southampton, 1882. Remember, the North of England had railways sooner because of their heavy industrialisation and collieries.

After the 1850s PASSENGERS travelled by rail more, helped of course by branch line connections. People discovered they could visit their friends; the theatre; commute to work, etc. etc.

One has to bear in mind that some towns did not want the railway or a station at first: Oxford and Abingdon, for example. Wantage had a special archway so passengers could access the station. Welford Park, west of Newbury seems to have been always off-limits - now because of some American secret activity there. The railways have always had their own police force (transport police).

Tadley missed out on railways (and canals) – probably because it gained importance only since A.W.(R.)E. Aldermaston came to the area in the 1950s.

Richard informed us that many railway networks and stations ceased to be in the 1960s, but the railway systems in Berkshire are pretty robust.

Thank you, Richard, for your lively and informative talk – obviously you have a massive love for the romance of the railways.

Rosemary Bond.



# **TADS Membership Subscriptions.**

TADS membership is by annual subscription. Subscriptions are now overdue. 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.

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## **Skates Lane, Tadley - potential housing development.**

Bewley Homes have now made a formal application for outline planning permission for the building of 245 houses and a convenience store, under reference 24/000349/OUT. Full information, drawings, studies, comments and much more can be found on the Basingstoke & Deane Council website through the following link:

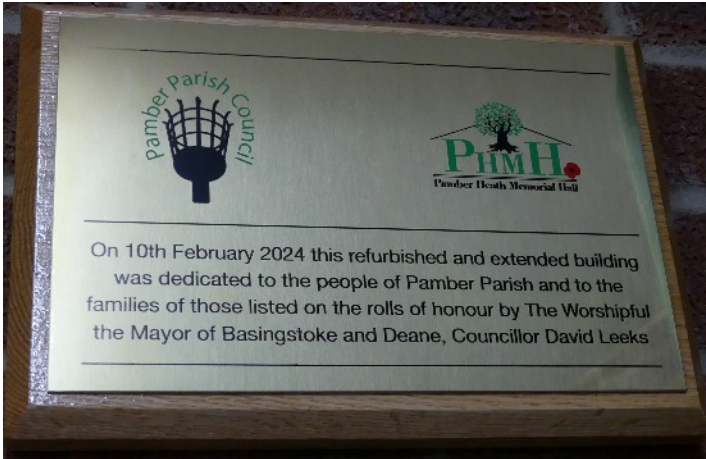
[https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S8WMGXCRILIT00&activeTab=su mmmary&fbclid=IwAR2A\\_3edqTTMCyoR76IcDtU4VMRr4yUFCFI8RFI2OLLM39UxSLbntIDuqYU](https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S8WMGXCRILIT00&activeTab=su mmmary&fbclid=IwAR2A_3edqTTMCyoR76IcDtU4VMRr4yUFCFI8RFI2OLLM39UxSLbntIDuqYU)

The September 2023 TADS Newsletter has some pictures of the area which would be developed if the application is successful.

Comments on the application may be submitted to Nicola Williams at the Planning Department via their website or by post. The closing date is 18<sup>th</sup> March.

# Pamber Heath Memorial Hall

On Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February the hall was officially reopened by the Mayor of Basingstoke our own David Leeks. The main hall now has a stage, the meeting room has been enlarged, and the preschool now have their own separate room and facilities. *The photos show: 1. The dedication plaque in the entrance hall; 2. The official party - The Mayor and Mrs Leeks, The Pamber Parish Council Chairman, and the Members of Parliament for NE and NW Hampshire.*



# The Telephone Directory

I think it is worth recording that the ‘Phone Book’ which arrived a few days ago is the last ever. It is a shadow of its former self and presumably a victim of everything now being ‘on-line’.

**The Phone Book**

**BT**

We've been delivering it to you from 1880 to 2024

Now distributed and delivered by 

**Basingstoke, Alton and Farnborough**

Our last book has landed at your door

**FINAL EDITION**  
Hold on to it forever



## Natural History Corner

We are lucky that in Tadley and district we have some excellent habitats close to the housing with several SSSIs (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and SINCs. (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation).



This is one of the many ponds on Silchester common, an SSSI. These ponds have formed in old gravel workings and become important habitats for amphibians and all sorts of other pond life. I have been involved in surveys of some of them and we have found all three UK species of newt in them, including the Great Crested. The team leader has done some evaluations of the survey results using two methods: BMWP for assessment of water quality, which was very good. And CCI score for aquatic invertebrates. This calculated score was almost off the top end of the scale (potentially of national significance and may merit statutory protection).

Treasure them.

## ***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/>

29 Mar to 14 Apr **Bun & Ted's Spring Challenge** Easter Holidays fun for children.

### **The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery**

Until 28 April - Becoming Roman: **Silchester**: a town of change:

24 Mar, 2 pm – 3;30 pm, Sunday afternoon talk (followed by tea or coffee and cake) **Timber framed buildings in and around Basingstoke**, by Bill Fergie. £6 and must be booked.

To book go on-line at [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum), call in or phone 01256 465902.

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

21 Mar, 7.30 pm: **Southampton Boy Evacuee and the WW2 Blitz**, by David Styles. Our speaker was that evacuee!

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

11th March - **Touchstones Of The Past** by David Hopkins, Hampshire County Archaeologist. How Basingstoke's past has shaped the towns present in terms of street layouts and surviving buildings and their fabric.

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