



40th Anniversary year
1984-2024.

January 2025

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

**Next Meeting - Monday 13th January 2025 at 8 pm, at
Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall, Heath End Road,
Baughurst RG26 5LU.**

‘The Invisible Corps’ by Roy Larkin

Another aspect of World War 1. A look at the story of The Army Service Corps 1914-1918. Soldiers cannot fight without food, equipment and ammunition. They cannot move without horses or vehicles. It was the ASC's job to meet their requirements..

Revealing a story of evolution, ‘passing the buck’ and meddling civilians.

(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 10th February 2025 in Baughurst & Heath End Village Hall:

Spitfire Production in Tadley

By Richard Brown (TADS)

TADS Last Meeting 9th December 2024

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, expressed pleasure at the Society achieving its 40th Anniversary. The Committee and Project Group are still meeting on Zoom but with the odd face to face project meeting.

This year's speaker programme was Stephen Barber's last as he has now resigned this position. Once again he organized a varied collection of topics from the less serious talk in January on what the butler saw – literally, when William French was butler to Nicole Kidman to the brain frazzling evening with Colin Oates debating whether the Treaty of Versailles was a failure or just folly. Thank you Stephen for all the interesting talks you found for us over the past years.

The 2025 programme has been organized by Bernie Williams to whom we are indebted for stepping in to the job so quickly. It is a time consuming and onerous task; some speakers do not wish to commit to dates too far in advance while other cannot fulfill the dates you offer resulting in a last minute juggle of speakers and dates – with the deadline for the printers looming large. Unfortunately, we already have a change to the published programme in June. New Programme Cards were available at the meeting.

In June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings TADS was involved in providing a display at 3 events : An exhibition at The Hinds Head in Aldermaston; the service at St. Mary's church in conjunction with the Royal Air Force and Cadets; plus the Treacle Fair alongside the Royal British Legion.

TADS Facebook group now has over 2000 followers and has generated some interesting enquiries one of which led to 3 Canadian visitors with Tadley roots taking tea and cake in my lounge and to a question asking what role did Tadley Court have in WWII.

My thanks go primarily of course to the committee – the stalwart few. Thank you all for your continued support, and dare I say enthusiasm ? To Peter Searle who once again scrutinized the end of year figures. To Rosie who continues with the task of writing up the talk reports (for umpteen years), and to Ann for typing the script before sending it on to Richard.

Lastly to Profile Print & Copy who not only continue to do our printing, often at very short notice, but who now deliver to my door .

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.

Ian Burn reported on the work done by the Project Group this year. The current work is on the production of a folded leaflet covering points of interest and the history of Tadley. This will be distributed for free and will be funded by a generous donation from Helping Hands. Completed research topics are 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 guises. Members are always welcome to join the project group especially if there is a topic you want to investigate and need help.

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

Richard Brown – Newsletter editor

The evening concluded with a welcome opportunity to chat with other members while enjoying Christmas nibbles and mulled wine.

Tadley and District History Society (TADS) 2025 Programme

Monday 10 February 2025

Spitfire production in Tadley by Richard Brown

Monday 10 March 2025

It's not all beer and skittles by Sue Ellis

Monday 14 April 2025

Donnington Castle, Newbury by David Peacock

Monday 12 May 2025

Battle of Hastings: regime change 11th century style
by Mike Cooper

Monday 9 June 2025

The History of Basing House by Alan Turton

Monday 14 July 2025

The Real Downton Abbey – what it was really like to be in domestic
service by Ian Porter

Monday 12 August 2025

Summer recess – no meeting

Monday 8 September 2025

900 years of Pamber Priory by David Cullum and TADS Project Group

Monday 13 October 2025

British Railways during World War II by Richard Marks

Monday 10 November 2025

Beatrice Shilling – female aviation engineer by Ken Fostekew

Monday 8 December 2025

Annual General Meeting and social

Besom Broom News

The December list of new Royal Warrants issued in the name of King Charles III, included A. Nash of Tadley for the supply of Besom Brooms and Peasticks.



The Nash house on Mulford Hill proudly displaying their Queen Elizabeth II Royal Warrant

One of the last broomsquires (besom makers) in the area, Wilfred Gundry, died last month. He was a cousin of the late Arthur Nash of Mulford's Hill.

TADS Archives

For many years the Society has rented a modest cupboard in the Tadley Community Centre, in which we store what are effectively the Tadley archives - papers, photographs, maps, and more. Access has always been a problem as we have to ensure the room in which the cupboard is located is not in use when we want to get into it.

We have now been asked to vacate the cupboard by the end of March.

We are now looking for somewhere to move the archives. Commercial stores are available, but they are very costly. If anyone has any suggestions we can investigate please contact Carol or myself. Contact details are at the foot of page one.

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/>

15-23 Feb. Play Days: old style **Games at the Museum** during half-term.

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

26 Jan. 2 – 3.15 pm Sunday afternoon talk – **The Murder of Thomas Briggs** by Paul Stickler. *In 1864 the reputation of rail travel was rocked by the violent and unexplained murder of a city gentleman. The talk explores the subsequent criminal investigation and leaves the audience to decide on the guilt or otherwise of the man tried for the crime.*

(followed by tea or coffee and cake) £7.00 and must be booked. To book go on-line at www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum, or call in, or phone 01256 465902.

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30pm at the museum, non-members £3.00 and please book by telephone on 01256 465902)

16 Jan. **Caversham Park's** 930 Years at the Centre of History by Dr Stephen Goss. *First recorded in the Domesday Book, Caversham Park on the north bank of the Thames has played a central role in history for nearly a millennium. The estate became a refuge in WW1 and was taken over by the BBC during WW2. It became a centre for intelligence throughout the Second World War, the Cold War and the 'War on Terror'.*

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

3 Feb. **Bits Buried in Pits:** The St Mary Bourne horse harness hoard by Dr Sophia Adams of the British Museum. This will be an online talk. *NB. The BAHS meetings have moved to the first Monday of the month and will no longer clash with our own meetings.*

**TADS annual membership is £20 per person.
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