October 2026

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

Next Meeting - Monday 12th October 2026 at 8 pm, at Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall, Heath End Road, Baughurst RG26 5LU.

'The social history of the civil war soldier'

By Alan Turton

Alan is a military historian, who specialises in the English Civil War and the period up to the mid-18th century. From 1987-2011 he was the curator of the English Civil War site of Basing House (once the largest private house in Tudor England), which underwent the longest siege of the English Civil War. Drawing on many decades of both re-enactment, living history and original research, Alan's talk will give the background to the life of the ordinary English Civil War Soldier, both Royalist and Parliamentarian, using real and reproduction artefacts and clothing. Alan will show the audience how the soldier was dressed, from the inside out, how he was armed, fed and paid.

(Everybody welcome - visitors £4.00)

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 07966095607

Future TADS events:

Monday 9th November 2026 in Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall

'Pamber Priory - 900 years'

By TADS Project Group

TADS Last Meeting, 14th September 2026

Rover Scouts in the War

by Brian O'Neill

Brian is a member of the Hampshire Scout Heritage Team who are based in the New Forest. He was not a scout as a boy but joined them in 1972 after serving with the army and has served in a considerable number of adult roles.

Most of you will know that Robert Baden-Powell, 1857-1941, was the founder of the Scout movement. He was a British Army officer, writer, artist and sculptor with the extraordinary ability to draw with one hand while writing with the other. He gained national fame for his 217 day defence of Mafeking during the Second Boer War during 1899/1900. He was very impressed by the ability of the young people present in the siege and thought long and hard about what sort of training organisation might appeal to them. In August 1907 he held a one week camp for 22 boys of all classes on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour from which he created the Boy Scouts in 1908 and co-founded the Girl Guides in 1910 with his sister Agnes. His book *Scouting for Boys* became the foundation of global scouting. King Edward VII was very supportive of the Scout movement.

At the outbreak of the First World War the movement was still very young and was placed at the will of the Government to help where they could. One notable act by the Scouts was the building of huts in conjunction with the YMCA which were used as rest centres for troops back from the Western front in France. Several of the original Brownsea Island scouts were killed during the war. One of them was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross, Jack Cornwell aged 16 died from injuries sustained while in action on HMS Chester at the Battle of Jutland.

After the war the Rover Scouts were formed in 1921 for young men aged from 17 to 25 years old. Later there was no upper age limit. They became involved in community and similar work. For example they ran the fire brigade of Freshwater, I.o.W. Others helped with children rescued from the Spanish Civil War. They had an annual parade in Windsor Park, and became elevated to King's Scouts.

At the outbreak of the Second World War the Rover Scouts were of the first age group to be called up into the Services. Those that remained at home did all sorts of things. Brian showed a number of photographs of them in action: Picking fruit; Assisting in the evacuation of children from the cities; Waste paper collection; Painting white lines at the side of the road to help motorists find their way in the blackout; Serving in the Home Guard; In Southampton they joined the Ordnance Survey with map work; Fire watching during bombing raids – 17 were awarded the George medal. In Monmothshire the Jonah Patrol was formed, which in reality was a secret resistance/sabotage unit for 17 year olds.

Charles Dale of Portsmouth from a very poor family started a military scout unit. He was captured in Italy, started a newsletter and escaped three times. Each time he was captured he drew maps to help others. He got moved to Stalag VIIA in Bavaria and formed the '1st Cosmopolitain Rover Scout Crew, Stalag VIIA'. The Germans seemed happy with the idea as it kept prisoners occupied. This led to other crews being formed. They had their own Membership cards and printed rules. There were 8 crews formed in the Far East, although the Japanese were not in favour and they had to be run as secret societies. The was even one in the infamous Changi Jail in Singapore. Charles Dale returned home to Eastleigh after the war and started a new Scout Group.

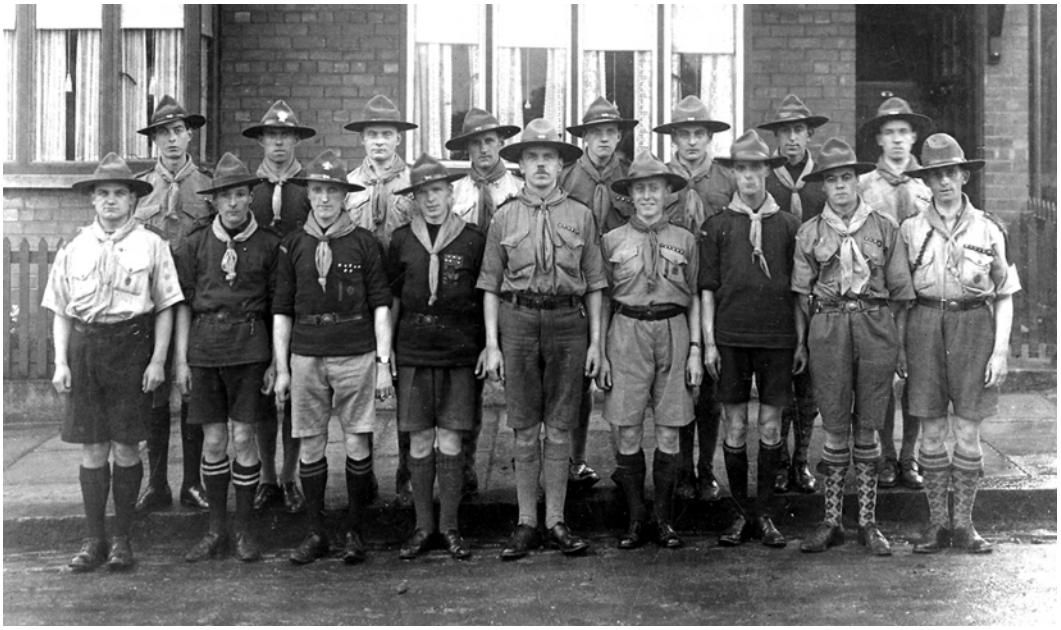
After the war the Rover Scouts continued until 1967 when they were renamed Venture Scouts and then Explorers. There are still Rover Scout troops in many parts of the world, including the UK, operating as parts of independent Scout organisations. Scouting is still going strong with about 57 million worldwide in 200 countries. In the UK there are nearly 600,000 with 107,000 on waiting lists due to a shortage of adult leaders. Hampshire with 25,000 is the largest Scout county, and there are over 2000 scouts in the Basingstoke districts.

Brian emphasised that service is at the heart of Scouting.

Thank you Brian for your very interesting talk about a lesser know aspect of the Scout movement. Above all:

Be prepared.

Richard Brown



Rover Scouts in the 1930s

Stephen the Royal Steersman

With the current interest in the Bayeux Tapestry a long article in the current Berkshire Local History Association magazine is very topical. And it has local interest.

Stephen was the Royal Steersman who piloted William the Conqueror across the Channel to Pevensey in 1066. He like most of the Norman Knights was well rewarded after the conquest with gifts of Manors and parcels of land. One of his holdings was the Manor of Padworth, which is very near to Tadley.

Our thanks to Ingrid M Jensen for piecing together his history.

Is this Stephen the Steersman? *Image from Bayeux Museum*

Coming soon to a building in Tadley. A new blue plaque.

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/

7 - 8 November - Milestones **Beer Festival** 2026

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

Until 1 Nov: **I Grew up Nineties** (sic) more than 200 objects and artworks of the period on display.

The next Sunday afternoon talk will be on 25th October at 2pm, hosted by the Museum Management (*Archaeology Gallery, second floor*) will be **Medieval & Tudor Food** by Jenny Stevens.

£7 including tea, coffee and cake. If able, please book online at:

https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/sunday-tea-talk-medieval-tudor-food-pottage-peacocks-jenny-stevens

Friends of the Willis Museum *(7.30pm at the museum, non-members £5.00 and please book by telephone on* 01256 465902)

15 Oct, 7.30pm: **AGM** with "Victorian Refreshments"

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

2 Nov - "**Made with humility and skill**": The origins and development of the Verwood-type pottery industry by Dr Dan Carter – Archaeologist.

TADS annual membership is £25 per person.
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