



September 2007

**Tadley and District History Society
(TADS) - www.tadshistory.com**

**Next meeting - Wednesday 19th September
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

‘The Whitchurch Silk Mill’

By Geoff Hide,
Guide and family descendant

(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.00)

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www.tadshistory.com

TADS Meeting 17th October 2007:

‘A Barrel Organ Bonanza’

Richard Kerridge and Keith Hilson. Collectors.

Last meeting (18/7/07)

Women in Khaki

By Ian Bailey, Curator of The Adjutant General’s Corps Museum,
Peninsular Barracks, Winchester

According to TADS’ member and venerated Lady in Khaki - Clare Best, (A.T.S.), it’s a wonder we Brits won WWII. What with the F.A.N.Y.s (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, 1907), the A.T.S. (Auxiliary Territorial Service, 1930s), the W.R.A.C.s (Women’s Royal Army Corps, 1949) and multitudes of men wondering if women in khaki could cope, eventually the women just got on and did the job.

Clare said she served at Aldermaston Court (among other places) and began with a khaki uniform but no shoes. Supplies were tight. Clare said everything was disorganised. Ian Bailey painted much the same general picture.

In the 17th century women marched with the Army for all sorts of reasons, working as cooks, seamstresses, washerwomen and first aiders (later the F.A.N.Y.s). They were known as Camp Followers.

Numbers were controlled, and paid for by the army, but women were kept off battle sites (even Florence Nightingale was off-site in the 1850s Crimean War). In 1881 there were Army nurses at Netley, Hants, but NOT at battle sites.

The affluent F.A.N.Y.s had to buy their own nursing uniforms and own a horse, in order to dispense First Aid. There were 40 F.A.N.Y.s to start with in W.W.1. Women wanted to fight, but men wouldn’t let them because it took their jobs and the little woman should really be at home looking after the kids....

1915 saw the founding of the Women’s Legion. Even the Pankhursts ceased suffragetteing temporarily in 1916, because of the Great War.

A spirited lady, later known personally to Clare, one Helen Gwynne-Vaughn, was the first A.T.S. Director (1916). Then came Jean Knox who tweaked their image, as did her Deputy, Lesley Whately.

Women wanted to wear khaki now.

By the end of WW1, the 'Tommies' were thinking of disbanding 'Les Tomettes', some of whom had won Military Medals. However, Queen Mary approved of them; and the 1930s Hitler threats and WW2 meant the 'Muck and Manure Brigade' (F.A.N.Y.s) and the A.T.S. sallied forth, allegedly in non-combatant duties: driving, (one drove Rudolf Hess in Scotland and wouldn't tell him where he was!); and other services needing energy and initiative. Apparently some ladies fired the odd gun!

Ian Bailey hinted that in WW2 Tidworth Garrison (Hants) was thrown into some chaos by the addition of the A.T.S. who appeared wearing MEN's uniforms when theirs got rain-sodden; or civvies with a badge!

Obviously when the Tommies were in close proximity with the khaki A.T.S. it was all a new notion and things could get frisky. One lady went for a medical but accidentally ended up naked on a stage!

Little accidents aside, women were soon volunteering as fitters, welders, electricians, linguists, etc. and by 1943 were employed in over 80 trades, with trade pay and independence. Pandora was finally Out Of The Box! However, equality brings equal danger and many A.T.S. girls were killed in accidents as well as Action.

March 1945 saw our Queen, as Princess Elizabeth, as an apparent A.T.S. driver and mechanic in the Camberley area.

In 1949, the A.T.S. became the Women's Royal Army Corps (W.R.A.C.), and still the women in khaki march on...

Thank you, Ian, for your Curator's touch; and thank you Clare, for your I-was-there hands-on anecdotes. All quite fascinating and living history here in Tadley.

Rosemary Bond

Find out more from the website: WWW.WinchesterMilitaryMuseums.co.uk

TADS News

Carol and Derek from the Project Team visited Hampshire Museum HQ at Chilcomb on the 22nd August at the invitation of Wendy Bowen head of Historical Photographic Collections to look at any photographs they had of our area, especially those of Pamber Heath. This was followed by a tour of the Chilcomb site with thoughts towards a TADS general or project visit in the future.

During the afternoon a visit to Hampshire Records Office was made where information was gained about the dedication of the Stained Glass

What's On? Events which may be of interest.

Hampshire Record Office

Thursday 27 September - **The English Civil War**: some Hampshire sources by Sarah Lewin (*A Last Thursday' Lecture 1.15-1.45pm*)

4 September-27 October - **Literary Hampshire** - An exhibition exploring some of Hampshire's literary links using items from the collections held in the Record Office.

B'stoke Archaeological & Historical Soc. (7.30pm in Church cottage)

11th Oct. - The **Portable Antiquities Scheme** in Hampshire, Sally Worrall.

Friends of the Willis Museum

Thursday 20th Sept. - **North Hampshire Gardens** through the ages by Elizabeth Proudman.

Willis Museum exhibitions

25th Aug to 6th Oct - **Basingstoke at work**. Celebrating the industrial achievements of the town, past and present.

10th Oct to 10th Nov - The Scouts: Celebrating 100 Years of Scouting.

Milestones Museum

Wed 24th Oct. Theatre of Making - **Fired Up**

A variety of workshops for all the family in metal and ceramics and demonstrations in bronze casting, glass blowing and live firings of ceramics.

Kingsclere - The **Tidgrove Warren Farm** excavation site will be having a special public open weekend on Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd Sept. The farm is off the B3051, half way between Kingsclere and Overton.

History in the Making

Tadley, 19th July. **Albert West**, broom maker, died aged 96 years. See 'Around Tadley fact and fable' page 133 for details of his life.

Pamber Heath & Tadley, 11am on 10th September.

The first stage of the '**Tour of Britain**' cycle race came through the area on its way from Reading to Southampton. The first sprint of the day was at the Pelican pub in Pamber Heath. The 100 riders then sped on to Tadley traffic lights and down the Pine Apple straight on their way to Kingsclere.

Historic Ordnance Survey Maps

These maps from Cassini Publishing have been rescaled and recentered to exactly match the modern OS Landranger series. (1:50,000 scale). They are available for 1830 and 1919.

TADS Members ordered over 10 of these maps at the July meeting thus earning 35% discount for themselves and a permanent 35% discount for future TADS member orders with FREE post and packing for orders of 5 or more.

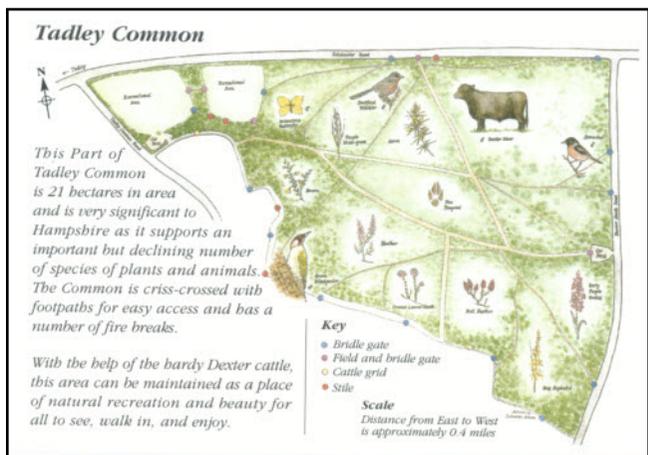
Rosmary Bond will be at the September meeting with samples and willing to take orders then.

(It is fascinating to see how things have changed, or not, during the last 187 years - the Editor)

Tadley Common Postcards

Coloured Postcards showing the flora and fauna of Tadley Common SSSI, as on the Interpretation Boards, are available at the Town Council Offices, 2 Franklin Avenue.

The artwork was by Rosemary Bond's artist daughter, Susie



TADS outing on Saturday 22nd September.

There are a couple of places left on this outing to the Winchester Gurkha and military museums (fee payable), and then to Fort Nelson, Portsdown Hill., (this is said to be an excellent museum and entry is free).

The transport is leaving St Paul's Church just after 9am, the fare is £10.

Book with David Day on 0118 9700909.

Will those already booked please pay David at Wednesday's meeting.

TADS Talks (Programme) Organiser

We are still desperate for a volunteer to take on this job to keep the Society going. It is not very onerous or difficult to prepare the annual programme of 10 talks:

In September or October list 15 potential speakers from information already available. List the 10 dates for the next year (3rd Wednesdays)

Find out how to contact the speakers. Usually easy, but can be a bit roundabout. Contact the speakers by phone. If they are able and willing to do a talk agree a date and fee. Some juggling of dates may be necessary. Try to get a balanced programme.

Confirm the arrangements in writing with each speaker and include a map showing how to find the hall.

Provide the programme to the Committee for the preparation and printing of the programmes for issue at the AGM or January meeting.

The Talks Organiser does **NOT** have to introduce the speaker at meetings, a committee member will do it.

Bob (0118 9816109) has enough leads for about 3 years of talks and is willing to hold your hand for the first year, if necessary.

*TADS annual membership is £10 per person.
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