



October 2010

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 20th October
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30 pm**

60 Years of AWE

By Kate Pyne,

AWE Technical Historian

(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.00)

Hearing Loop for Hall - with the agreement of the PCC, the committee have now placed an order for the installation of the loop and the sound amplification system. The speaker at our talks will be fitted with a radio microphone and we will also have a handheld microphone for use by the person conducting the meeting or anyone else. The system will be available for the November meeting.

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,
e-mail: richard@ilexind.plus.com or Carol Stevens (0118) 9701578,*

www.tadshistory.com

TADS Meeting 17th November 2010:
My railways and their development, 1830-1940
By Dr Peter Ellis

Last Month's Talk 15/9/10

People who made the Salvation Army what it is!
By Major Stephen Grinstead,
Director, Salvation Army Heritage Centre, London.

Lively, godley, good, chatty, enthusiastic, and a third-generation Salvationist, steeped in tradition. That's Major Stephen, telling about 60 TADS members and guests of the army.

Baughurst and surrounding areas have had a strong Salvationist presence since about 1898, and many of today's Army members are descendants of those original Corps families. They were well represented at our meeting! Add to that evangelical, impoverished, rich, eccentric, humble - these words describe some of the officers and 'soldiers' who have been drawn from early times (and today) to serve in the Sally Army during the 150 years of its existence. Major Stephen said "all ordinary people doing extraordinary things"

Before the birth of the Salvation Army in 1878, one William Booth (1829 promoted to glory, 1912) and his wife, Catherine (1829-1890), both came from a Methodist background. They admired every kind of evangelism practised by John Wesley. Just as Salvationists do now, they moved around the countryside and towns, eventually ending up where they could do the most good: in East London's gin and beer-soaked, gambling and prostitution dens among tawdriness, filth, deprivation, smoke, smog, doubt, hunger and dying.

No wonder they tried to get their converts-to-be-converted out in the fresh air! What stick they took: ridiculed and wounded by the press, the established churches, the brewers, publicans and their patrons, they pressed on. The imposing presence of charismatic William (General) Booth seemed to mesmerise all into heeding. He wasn't working alone. As well as his wife, the Salvationist WOMEN were very influential, at a time when

British women were often seen but not heard.

Of the men, the 'Hallelujah Fiddler', convert James Dowdle, introduced music, timbrels and bands which are still big in the Army; especially after the Fry family from Salisbury, whom William saw and liked, thought bands were rousing.

Peter Monks was a bare-knuckle prizefighter, William's first convert, and then his bodyguard. Fitzgerald was a feisty Irishman. Norfolk lad John Lawley, an engine driver, was converted by Dowdle. He wrote Salvationist songs, which are still sung today, and he became William's personal assistant. George Scott Railton bravely went to convert Moroccan Moslems to Christianity and later lived with the Booth family. Elijah Cadman was a (necessary small!) illiterate, climbing chimney sweep from Rugby. Traditionally, sweeps and their boys were given beer to drink after the job, so he became a drunkard from the age of 6 until he 'saw the light' and got married to a literate parlour maid. She soon realised someone had helped him write his love letters to her, and taught him the 3 Rs! They left the West Midlands to join William, and it was Elijah who wanted a Salvation Army UNIFORM. Which he got for everyone.

What about the women? As the army has always been emancipated and equally-yoked, so of the 97 officers in 1878, nearly half were women. And what a brave lot they were. Catherine Booth organised the female officers, who were very, very good at their calling. They seemed able to charm many men out of Consett's pubs (Co. Durham). Welsh-speakers, Mrs Shepherd and Pam managed to tame Abadare's miners into even treating their pit ponies better. Captain Annie Lockwood, who trimmed the 'Hallelujah' Bonnets for the 'Hallelujah Lasses', encountered violence and opposition but the women were encouraged to live with controlled danger and to overcome difficulties on the hoof. Allegedly, by praising men they prised them away from the drink Captain Caroline Reynolds was Ireland's first leader and it was she who had the first red, blue and yellow 'Blood and Fire' flag. Soon Salvationists were all over Britain. Happy Eliza Hayes was a popular lass who gained many converts by adapting Music Hall songs for religious purposes. There were even 'Happy Eliza' sweets. Manchester girl, Nancy Dickybird, sang, whistled and warbled her way in and out of trouble, notching up 150 prisons sentences because of the Demon Drink. When she converted, the publican paid for her uniform and she became a spirited Salvationist Ambassador.

Although the Sally Army is big in our area, Major Stephen is troubled about its European appeal. Where once there were 1,000 soldiers and 1,000 public,

numbers have waned. There are 1.5 million soldiers world wide. They are strong in the East and Africa. New Zealand is in a boom phase. Canada and USA have substantial armies. The Army works in 117 countries with energy, passion and devotion, personified by Major Stephen. Thank you so much, from us all.

Rosemary Bond

N.B. For historical information on the Tadley and Baughurst Corps, see TADS Project News, Issue 14 (2009).

For information on the Salvation Army Heritage Centre and other places Major Grinstead mentioned, visit
www.salvationarmy.org.uk/heritage

London Walk

Seventeen TADS members and friends met Val Pretlove at St Clement Danes Church in the Strand on Sunday 18th September for a 2 hour guided walk in the Fleet Street area of London. In ideal weather conditions Val took us round many of the nooks and crannies, which would be very difficult to find even if you knew about them. Things we saw included: Dr Johnson's house, and the statue of his cat sitting on his dictionary; old inns; the Inner and Middle Temples of the Lawyers; the old Daily Express and Daily Telegraph buildings - now put to other uses; the course of the Fleet River (now underground); and we finished at St. Paul's Cathedral.

By chance it was the London Open Houses weekend so we were able to spend the rest of the afternoon visiting some other important buildings like the Guildhall. A very good day out and enjoyed by all.

TADS Vice-President, Derek Ward, unfortunately has not recovered very much from his stroke of earlier this year and is now living in a care home in Basingstoke.

Newsletter Distribution Problems

Apologies to those of you who normally get your newsletters by post, for the non-arrival of the September issue. There was a problem in the Distribution Centre and as a result the Assistant Distributor has been relegated to dog walking duties (under supervision).

History in the Making

Herbert (Bert) Ventom - I am sorry to report the passing of TADS Member Bert on the 24th September at the age of 81. Our sympathies go to Lily and the family.

Bert was a forthright Yorkshireman who worked for many years at AWRE and AWE. He was very much involved in the activities of his church, Tadley Common Methodist. He had a love of classical and traditional music, including Brass Bands.

He was a long time member of TADS, and was very interested in the heritage of Britain & history at all levels.

Chairman Carol represented the Society at his funeral.

Sainsbury's

We have been told that the enlarged store will be officially opened on the 20th November. It will probably be closed for the week prior to that date.

Next Year's Programme of Talks

David Bowman has quietly, and with no arm twisting, taken on the job from Derek Heath and very efficiently put together the programme for next year. It has an excellent range of subjects of both local and national interest. I for one am looking forward to it.

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

Hampshire Record Office

The HRO are running 2 hour 'Family History for Beginners' sessions from 7-9pm on 10th Nov. and 8th Dec. £7.00 / session. Booking essential

For Information on this and other events see:

www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro or ring 01962846154.

Milestones Museum - has Halloween themed events for children during half-term.

The last Thursday evening talk is on 28th of October about the Horology Collections of Hampshire Museums.

Willis Museum

The Mary Rose exhibition is on until 24th December. There are also a series of Tudor themed events starting on Saturday 23rd October. Tel 01256 465902

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30pm at the museum)

October 21st Annual General Meeting followed by "Developments in lighting in the home" - Derek Anthony and David Carwardine

B'stoke Arch. & History Soc. (19:30 at Church Cottage, Church Square)

November 11th - 'Stonehenge, the debate continues' by Julian Richards, Independent archaeologist.

Silchester Church Organ Fund

October 16th at 7.30pm at the church. There is a concert of Music for brass and organ performed by the Berkshire Brass Ensemble.

Tickets £8 (*including light refreshments*) from: Ralph Atton 0118 970 0825; Richard Fletcher 0118 970 0633; Richard Rand 0118 970 0450

*TADS annual membership is £10 per person.
Correspondence to Tadley and District History Society,
PO Box 7264, Tadley. RG26 3FA
Email: tadshistory@googlemail.com*