



October 2013

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

**Next meeting - Wednesday 16th October 2013
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

‘Roman Uniforms’

by John Smith

(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.50)

Committee News

This year's AGM and **Social** will be on Wednesday 18th December. Last year we nearly didn't have a quorum so the Committee would like as many of you as possible attend. Please make a note of the AGM date in your diaries before they fill up with other events.

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,
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www.tadshistory.com

**TADS Meeting 20th November 2013:
'The History of the Didcot, Newbury and
Southampton Railway'
by Rex Hora**

Last Meeting 18th September

Castles of Wessex

by Alan Turton, ex-curator of Basing House.

Castles in the air fairy tale and romantic castles. But castles were intended to be as secure as Fort Knox, except perhaps with eccentric King Ludwig II of Bavaria, who had them built on a whim, on a mountain, so high up they were in the crystal, snowy or sunny air, and looked fabulously fairy-tale like

Alan adores castles. He was influenced by the 1952 film, 'Ivanhoe'.

The Wessex set of castles are in Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Oxon, Berkshire, and Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. They were purposefully built like the proverbial West Country outhouse, with nothing delicate or fairytale about them. Wessex is peppered by castles, mostly ruined, and lords, bishops and kings bombarded and bashed at them through the ages. They were to deter English and foreign 'heavies'

People have always constructed defensive buildings, be they hill forts, Iron Age hills fortified with wooden palisades or stones against the Romans (AD 45-ish), or the villager-built-and-maintained burhs of King Alfred the Great (who burnt the cakes!) and who successfully repelled the Vikings from his Kingdom of Wessex. A burh is an Alfred-instigated fortified town of Wessex, and burhs were built within 20 miles of each other for safe refuge. Burh remains can be seen at Reading, Winchester, Wareham (Dorset), and Wallingford (Berks). Winchester and its castle are still the hub of life in Hampshire and the castle retains its magnificent

Great Hall and on-the-wall Round Table. The remains Wareham's burh were re-shaped in WWII in case of German tank invasion....

The ancient public has always pilfered the stones of castles, even if they had been built by powerful, influential Norman bishops, such as Bishop Roger in the reign of Henry II (Reigned 1154-1189). People don't like being ordered about by the alien intrusion of foreigners and will always pull a fast one and wreck the castle if they can!

Modern archaeologists always show a massive interest in castles, but they are much more empathetic than their Victorian forbears, who dug and probed willy-nilly with well-intentioned abandon....

The Saxons incorporated a herring-bone design as in Corfe Castle (Dorset) and Rougemont Castle, Exeter, (Devon) where it's alleged that the Saxons 'mooned' at the Normans, Alan said. The Normans built castles of stone e.g. Winchester, where the stone came by sea and river from Caen, Normandy.

Some village names incorporated their castle: Castle Cary and Castle Neroche, both in Somerset.

Nearer to Tadley, we have Silchester Roman town with its amphitheatre in which King Stephen (R. 1135-1154), built a castle. Near Odiham, Hants, a castle was built by 'wicked' King John (R. 1167-1216). It had a polygonal tower to deflect missiles. There's also Donnington Castle and Hamstead Marshall, near Newbury, Berks; The Forbury, Reading, and Basing House. Donnington and Basing both formed part of a ring of fortresses protecting King Charles I's (R.1625-49) interests during The Civil War, 1642-49.

Some castles have a castle within a castle: Totes, Devon; Carisbrooke, IoW. Basing House and castle is actually THREE castles, though much battered by the Civil War sieges and pilfering.

If you wanted to 'crenellate' your house/castle, a Royal Licence had to be obtained – because these battlements showed intent to fight! Castle Drogo in Devon is crenellated without licence, but it's only 100 years old, being the folly of a rich London tea merchant!

The so-called romance of the castle era contained lots of horrors – sieges, batterings, tunnelling under the foundations, trebuchets (big catapults) which could even fling smelly dead horses at the enemy.....and much more. Castles had to modify to survive when in 1320 cannons and hand guns

came in. The Civil War was the death knell of the castle and we are now left with adored and admired ruins to live in, or holiday in.

As for Oliver's Battery and Caesar's Camp, Alan said "when in doubt, a monument is thus named!"

Thank you, Alan, for a glimpse of your Wessex castles, their lives and then dramatic swan-song to be our national treasures.

Rosemary Bond

Erratum

In last month's write up of the July talk on 'Women in Tudor and Stuart Berkshire' there was a typing error in paragraph 5 on page 3 which went uncorrected. The '2 bushels of crabmeat' should have read '2 bushels of **oatmeal**', a considerable difference!

Basingstoke Local and Family History Open Day

This free event will be held in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre (Library) on **Sunday 13th October** from 10 am to 3 pm. TADS will have a stand as will other local history organisations. There will also be representation from Family History Societies, no doubt with on-line access to the many web-based archives.

Tadley CVpedia - It was suggested at last month's meeting that as iTunes can be downloaded to a PC the Cvpedia could be accessed by that route, as well as on an iPad. Unfortunately it does not work, but a pdf version is being prepared by Ian and it will soon be available on the TADS website.

Tadley and Pamber Heath WWI Memorials

Tadley (Outside St Paul's Church).

Pte Albert George Appleton
Pte Frederick G. Appleton
Pte Albert Chapman
Pte William Cottrell
Pte Walter John. Cripps
Gnr Frederick Theodore Freeman
* Pte George Garrett
William Giles RN
* Pte Herbert Golding
* 2nd Lt John Bertram Greenup
* L Cpl F.B. Kelsey
Lt Donald Percival Lyndon-Bell
Major Merrick Hugh McConnel
Pte William James Monger MM
Sgt Frederick Nash
* Capt T.E. Painton-Jones
Pte Albert Rampton
Sgt Leonard George Rampton
Pte William Percy Rampton
Pte Thomas Rawlins
Pte A. Ernest Sandford
Pte Ernest Saunders
Driver John Saunders
Pte Louis Stacey
Pte Tom Taylor
Sgt Henry Trusler MM & bar

* Sgt Maj George Warren DCM & bar
Pte Frederick Charles Webb
Pte Arthur George West
Pte Israel West
Gunner H West – *Harvey or Herbert?*

Pamber Heath (In St Lukes Church).

Pte Frank W Benham
Charlie Hunt
William Hunt
Everard Digges Latouche
Herbert Newman
Lt Henry S Oppe, 11 Yorkshire Regiment
2nd Lt Thomas A Oppe, 4 Scottish Rifles
Pte Silvanus Pike
Pte Fredrick Smith
Pte Gilbert West

Above are the names on the war memorials. Some of them also appear on other local memorials. The asterisks indicate those for whom we have not so far discovered any local connection. Were they relatives of people living here when the memorials were erected?

If you have any information or knowledge of current relatives, please let Carol or Richard know. (*Contact details on pages 1 and 8*).

What's on? Events which may be of interest

Hampshire Record Office *For information ring 01962846154 or see
www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro*

Milestones Museum. For coming events: Tel. 01256 477766 or see:
www3.hants.gov.uk/milestones/whatson

11th -13th Oct.. **Hampshire's OctoberFest** - a celebration of Hampshire's finest Beer and Food producers . Based at The Milestones Museum and adjacent parkland the festival has full programme of demonstrations, exhibitions, craft workshops as well as live music and dance, street entertainment, traditional games, competitions and children s activities.

Willis Museum (Tel: 08456035635) - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. Forthcoming exhibitons include contemporary and local artists.

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

17th Oct. - AGM followed by "My family and other setbacks", by Mel Rees.

Basingstoke Archaeological & History Society *(7.30 at Church Cottage)*

14th Nov. - Winchester Uncovered by Ben Ford, Oxford Archaeology

Basing House

31st Oct. Halloween Ghost Walks.

Family History Research - Hampshire Geneological Society are running open drop in sessions at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre (Library) for anyone who needs assistance or just to be shown how to use the main websites. The next dates are 22 October and 19 November.

***TADS annual membership is £12 per person.
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