



**June 2014**

**Tadley and District History Society  
(TADS) - [www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

**Next meeting - Wednesday 18th June 2014  
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

**‘Living with  
Jane Austen’  
By Richard Tanner**

*(Everybody welcome - visitors £2.50)*

**WW1 Memories** - We have been very heartened by the many people who have said how much they enjoyed the meeting and how much they learned from it. Our thanks go to everybody who contributed: from the members who gave the talks and those who helped them; to those who loaned items for the displays; and those who brought things along on the evening.

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

**[www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

**TADS Meeting 16th July 2014**  
**'Codebreaker Bletchley Park'**  
By John Davis

**TADS last meeting - 21st May:**

**'World War I Memories', by 'TADS' Members.**

Amazing, surprising, invigorating, some with trades unknown to us, eclectic yet sombrely wonderful.

These 5 presentations were personal and researched memories by the descendants: our TADS members. In the 21st Century we probably know NOW more than these families, or the public, knew just after WWI (or WWII). Men, particularly, didn't air and share their feelings in those days after the war.

**James (Jim) Nye 1881-1957:** presented by his grandson, Jim West, who had been accompanied by his brother in the research and a visit to N. France near Aubers Ridge. Grandad Jim had recorded his thoughts in a pencilled letter, dated 15th March 1915, from a swampy, water filled trench with four drowned men in it. There were 100lb shells falling behind him, big enough to cause a crater to swallow up a house! Jim showed a photo of his Grandfather in a trench holding his rifle with bayonet. The bayonet had subsequently been used by his Grandma to poke the fire!

23 year old Jim had been a Cadet Colour Sergeant at London University and his deeds seem well-recorded. He'd had shrapnel from earlier fighting, along with frostbite.

Memorabilia, including more photos and his (heavy) sword, was on show. Jim described the fighting as a pitiless massacre by the Germans on 9th May 1915, with 12,000 British and Indian casualties.

**Frederick James Harley:** Ann Broad's Dad, enlisted at 18 years old with a certificate to prove his age, and his brother also joined up. As a pre-war cinema projectionist Fred was interested in photography and sent home natural photos to Blighty....

He was a Signalling and Telephony (morse code) Specialist, First Class, in the Royal Artillery and later made Ann a morse code key to use when she was in the Girl Guides. Fred didn't want to be an officer, although suitable and with a steady nerve. Ann has half a letter written to his Father in indelible pencil. (Biro's were unknown then and ink would have run). At 20, Fred was wounded by shrapnel in his forehead (1918). He had a bracelet identification dog-tag although these weren't compulsory with the British troops then. Fred remained in Germany after the war for a time showing films. He didn't hold any grudge against the Germans in WWI (or WWII) and died in England aged 85.

**William Joseph Broad** was Ann's father-in-law, and he was in the unpopular corps, the Machine Gun Corps (of the Scots Guards). William was wounded twice, once in the throat, thereafter having a husky voice. For some reason his rank fluctuated up and down!! William was discharged with a disability pension BUT had to give it up when he became a Metropolitan policeman. He died aged 83 years.

**Ellen Annetta Broad**, Mike Broad's Aunt, known as Netta was in the new service: W.R.A.F.

(perhaps her feisty mother had something to say about/to do with this!) Sadly she died aged 22 years just after the war in the 'flu epidemic which killed more millions than the war had. As Netta died in uniform her family received the 'Death Penny' a large bronze medal about 4.5 inches (11 cms) diameter and sent in a cardboard envelope with waxed paper. Ellen is the only woman recorded on Kingston-upon-Thames War Memorial.

Amazingly and co-incidentally, Peter McNulty's Great Uncle **William Sparshott**, came from Browning Hill, on the borders of Tadley and Baughurst, having been born in Thornton Heath, Surrey.

Later William went to Australia as a cleaner and joined the Australian Army, becoming a stretcher-bearer in Gallipoli where he was wounded. Sadly he died en-route to an Egyptian hospital. His family received a scroll and the

'Death Penny' - both items now missing. Peter has contributed to the Gallipoli War Memorial where his Great Uncle William is commemorated. Some TADS members have seen this memorial.

The story of Ann Bradley's Quaker father-in-law, **Ronald Herbert Bradley, 1898-1975**, told of the Religious Non-Combatants' viewpoint. The Quakers, or Friends, wanted to help but not fight. Between 1916–1919 (and again in WWII) Friends Ambulance Unit (F.A.U.) trains were on the Continent. They had operating theatres on board, despite poor lighting and train movement. They were under the auspices of the Red Cross although not popular with them.....

Ronald, known as Herbert, worked on Train 17. He secretly kept a dog-eared note book plus railway maps and photos (1916) detailing daily life and events on the train. The F.A.U.s also cared for several thousand wounded soldiers in hospital ships, and worked in 25 countries. The Quaker businesses, Cadbury, Rowntree, etc. sponsored them. By 1918, 640 men and 102 women worked in the F.A.U., obviously constantly vulnerable to death and injury.

The F.A.U. also helped German personnel....

**Richard Miles:** Pat Galvin's grandfather had a colourful and dangerous life as a tunneller, making the new Manchester sewers. As a widower with 3 young girls, Pat's mother, Eva, being one of them, Richard had initially parked the 3 girls with their maternal grandmother in London. Miles worked in Manchester for the flamboyantly brave and extrovert Major John Norton-Griffiths.

Norton-Griffiths persuaded Lord Kitchener in early 1915, that a Tunnelling Company would counteract the work of the German tunnellers who were blowing up the British front lines. He also persuaded the Army that he NEEDED to roar about the Western Front in his wife's Rolls-Royce, and they bought from her for £750!

Richard Miles was the Sergeant of the 170th Tunnelling Company, the first to go to France. Frighteningly and sadly, Pat's grandfather was killed after just 2 months' tunnelling.

The very kind Lt. Col. Sir John and Lady Norton-Griffiths met Pat Galvin's Mum, Eva, and her two sisters after the war. They are believed to have paid for their education and Nursing or Nursery training fees.

Ann Broad enthused Pat Galvin to research all of this, and the late, lamented Derek Ward helped.

So it seems our TADS local history society is a very cohesive, clever and warm-hearted group whose forebears were brave and interesting.

Thanks for a poignant and wonderful evening.

Rosemary Bond

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## **Answers to the WW1 Quiz handed out at the May Meeting**

1. Austria–Hungary and Serbia
2. Asquith
3. France
4. Jutland
5. Woodrow Wilson
6. No Man’s Land
7. Big Bertha
8. Lusitania
9. Scapa Flow
10. Nephew
11. Nurse
12. Lloyd George
13. Tommy Atkins was the example used on the official form for joining up.
14. Ireland
15. Cousin
16. Belgium
17. Verdun
18. In a railway carriage at Compiegne

David Day got 16 out of 18 right and Mark Beauchamp got 14.

Valerie Gilbert

## **What's on? Events which may be of interest**

**Hampshire Record Office** For information ring 01962846154 or see  
[www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro)

**Milestones Museum.** For coming events: Tel. 01256 477766 or see:  
[www3.hants.gov.uk/milestones/whatson](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/milestones/whatson)

There are no special events until 'The Soldier's Tale' starting on 5th August.

**Willis Museum** - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. including:

Paul Kidby - 'Discworld and Beyond', until Saturday 28 June. Paul is best known as the illustrator for Terry Pratchett's Discworld books. For details contact the museum on 08456035635.

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

June 19: The Newbury coat, by Jan Blight

The original Newbury Coat was made in 1811 by Greenham Mill in Newbury during the daylight hours of June 26th. The Kennet Valley Guild and friends re-enacted the making of the coat in 1991. Jan will explain the ancient methods they used and show slides of the re-enactment.

July 17: The Morris Singer Foundry, by David Vallance. This will be an opportunity to learn the history of this famous company, and hear what happens "behind the scenes" from this talk by David, who is currently Consultant to the Foundry. An exhibition on the foundry by The Friends will be on view at this time in the Basingstoke Gallery.

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

12th June AGM Followed by: New light on the Bayeux Tapestry by Dr Matthew Bennett, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

***TADS annual membership is £12 per person.  
Correspondence to Tadley and District History Society,  
c/o 5 Church Road Pamber Heath Tadley. RG26 3DP  
Email: [tadshistory@googlemail.com](mailto:tadshistory@googlemail.com)***