

# Tadley and District History Society projectnews

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Hospital Sunday, May 1922 – outside *The Fox and Hounds* public house, Mulford's Hill, Tadley

## Issue twelve

Spring/Summer 2007

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Copy date for the next issue of projectnews is 31 July 2007.

## About TADS

Tadley and District History Society (TADS) was founded in 1984 for people with an interest in local social history, and in the broader scope of history and natural history. Monthly evening talks are held on the third Wednesday of each month, except August, at 8.00pm in St Paul's Church Hall, Tadley. These meetings are open to visitors.

TADS is a member of Hampshire Archives Trust and The British Association for Local History.

We have two pieces of good news to give you this issue. In February, to our surprise and delight, we received an email from the great granddaughter of James 'Jimmy' Thatcher, the Tadley photographer. She informed us that the house on the cover of the 2007 calendar had been in New Road and was the home of James and Elizabeth Thatcher who were photographed at the gate. Secondly, TADS has been fortunate to have been awarded a grant from the Borough towards the cost of reprinting *The History of Tadley* by Florence Davidson. Published in 1913 and long out of print, this has always been a popular and frequently referred to book. It will be available in April 2008.

## Tadley canal

What canal, you may ask? *Around Tadley – fact and fable* (pages 14-15) describes the plans, surveyed in the early 19th century, for two possible routes for a canal through Tadley linking the Kennet and Avon Canal to the Basingstoke Canal.

## The benefits of a canal

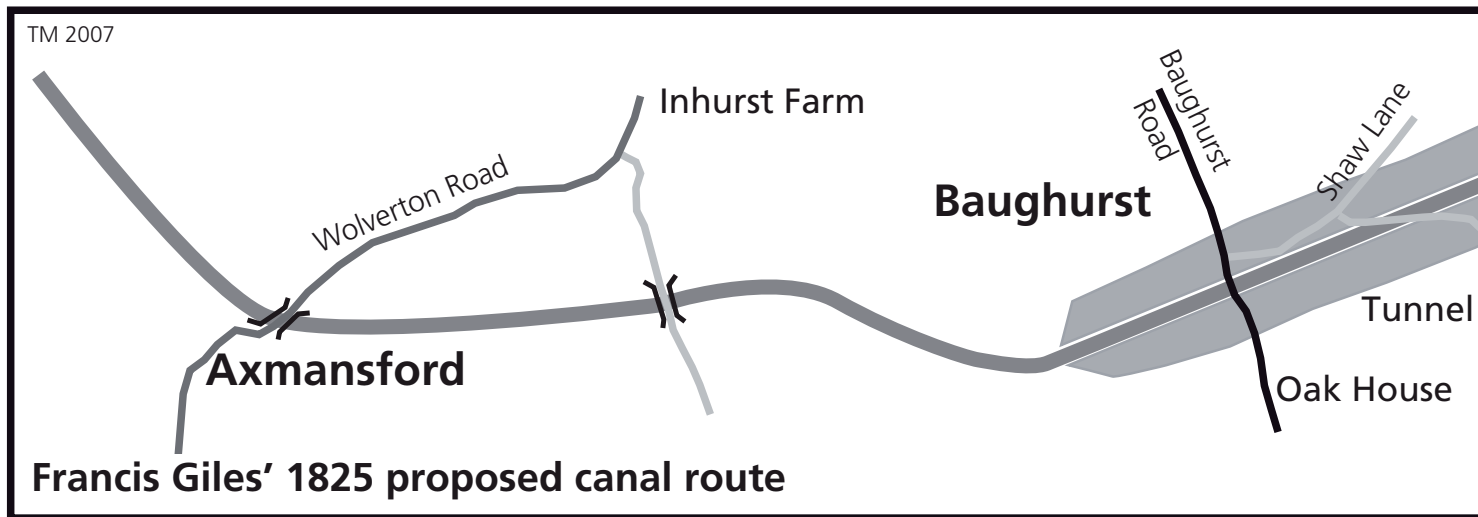
Although the effects of a canal link through Tadley can only be conjecture, the establishment of a main arterial link to the outside world could have been highly beneficial to local industry.

Tadley's woodland crafts: besoms, baskets, hurdles were already successful trades at this time but might have developed even further had there been easier access to bulk transportation. The production and use of the famous birch brooms was at its peak in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Brick making, carried out at Tadley and Ramsdell, is another example of local industry that could have benefited from closer access to a canal; such heavy goods more easily transported by canal barge than horse and cart! The Bramley munitions depot (established in 1917) might also have made use of it via the Bramley Road or a spur to the main canal at Pamber End.

The need for a wharf is vital if an area is to become a centre for growth and industrial activity. It would have provided the warehousing, loading and unloading facilities as well as landside support such as horse drawn transport and commercial activities. A successful wharf at Tadley would have enabled associated trades to flourish as well as allowing local industries to gain direct access to markets in distant towns and cities.



A computer enhanced photograph of Dix Hill showing an artist's impression of what the canal might have looked like at Honey Mill Bridge (see map at top of page 3).



And what of the 21st century? With the modern leisure industry expanding to cover most activities, a ready-made barge tie-up wharf that could cater for the holiday trade might have meant that, 'The Fighting Cocks', so close to the canal, would now be a thriving business instead of suffering its present demise! Ali Baba's would probably have been in Malthouse Lane along with the Co-Op and the Chinese takeaway.

**John Rennie's 1819 proposal**

Following the opening in 1810 of the Kennet and Avon canal, John Rennie, a noted engineer of the day, surveyed a route and drew up plans for a 21 mile link to join the Kennet and Avon Canal with the Basingstoke Canal. Although the Kennet and Avon Canal company initially endorsed the proposal they subsequently lost interest in favour of a link with the Grand Junction Canal. This, together with the failure to reach the subscriptions target of £7,500, public opposition from the local rich landowners and the depressed state of trade in 1820, resulted

in the proposal being dropped. Rennie died in 1821 but Francis Giles, who had assisted him in carrying out a number of surveys, drew up new plans.

**Francis Giles 1825 proposal**

In 1825 Francis Giles submitted plans for a Bill to be introduced to Parliament. It received its first hearing on the 17 March when it was supported by 31 petitions to 16. TADS has been fortunate in obtaining detailed planning documents from the Parliamentary Archives relating to Francis Giles' plans.

His much shorter route passed through Baughurst from just north of Axmansford Bridge, using the stream, a tributary of the Enborne as a 'fill up'. It then crossed the Baughurst Road between 'The Wellington' and St Stephen's Church. A suggested tunnel would take the route from Oak Cottage to the junction of Church Brook Lane and Rimes Lane. Here it 'takes' and follows the stream which becomes Silchester Brook as far as the main A340 at the junction with Skates Lane close to Honey Mill Bridge, south of 'The Fighting

Cocks', just clipping the rear of Burrells Farm en route. The canal then enters the Pamber parish at Mariner's Copse before taking a sharp right hand bend crossing over New Road at Pamber Green (near Cottage Farm) then aligning itself due south through Pamber Plantation. This would take in Bow Brook, a tributary of the Loddon, to Pamber End behind Elm Park Farm before crossing Bramley Road (opposite 'The Queen's College Arms'). The small stream near Holly Bush Copse would be taken and the route move on to Monk (or West) Sherborne parish before finishing at Old Basing where it would join the Basingstoke Canal.

**Estimate of the cost**

'Estimate of the probable expense of making the intended Kennet and Basingstoke Canal, now to be called the Berks and Hants Junction Canal from the River Kennet Navigation at Midgham to the Basingstoke Canal at Basing':

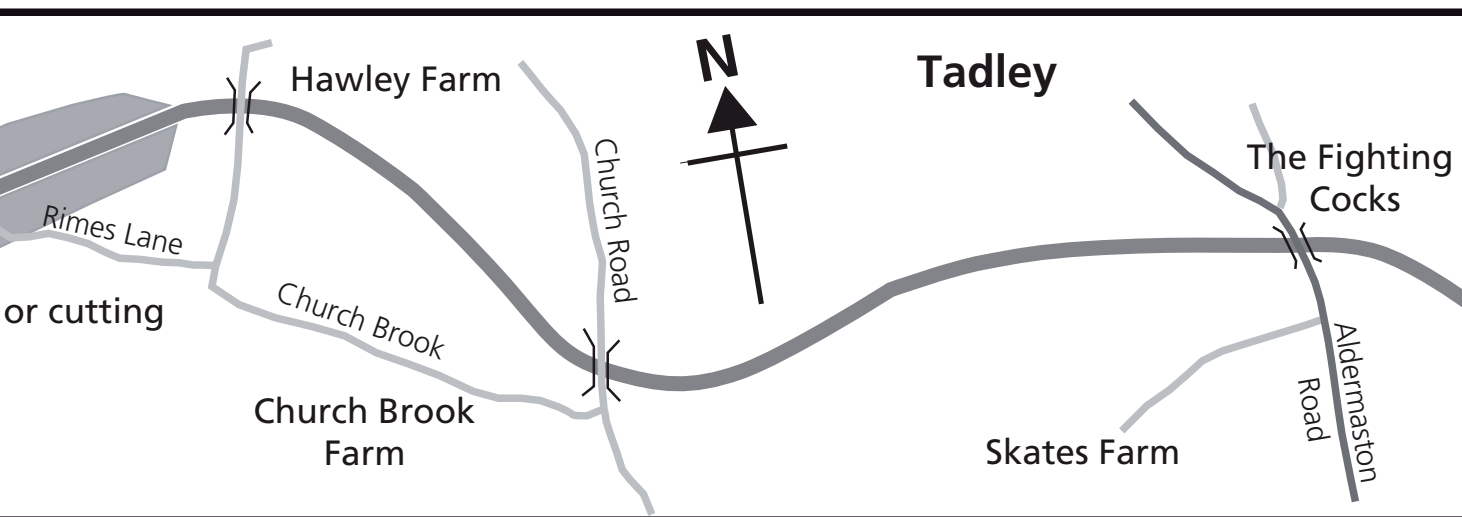
The canal to be from 35 feet wide at top water and 5 feet deep. To cutting embanking

Shareholder	Amount
Thomas Merriman for Kennet and Avon Canal	£10,000
John R Birnie for Basingstoke Canal Navigation	£10,000
Sir Riachar Birnie, Bow Street	£2,000
Robert Sutton, Castle Alley	£1,000
Sir John William Lubbock	£1,000
John Alder Clarke, Mansion House	£1,000
Samuel Mills	£1,000
John Sloper, Pall Mall	£500
David Jones, Milbank Row	£1,000

Shareholder	Amount
Robert Addison, Bloomsbury Square	£500
J G Schweitzer	£1,000
John Disney	£300
Rev Webb Juppe, Carpenters Hall	£500
George Saunders, Oxford Street	£500
Han Sandys, Crane Court	£1,000
John Richard Birnie, Bow Street	£1,000
Thomas Merriman, Marlborough	£500
J E Bickeno, Furnivals Inn	£300

Shareholder	Amount
Thomas Hasher, General Post Office	£1,000
I S Salt, Lombard Street	£500
John Martin, Mount Street, Grovenor Square	£200
Corporation of Basingstoke	£300
William Hufsey	£200
Z C Staffs, New Street	£300
Henry Cook, Highgate	£500
Daniel Sutherland, Charles Street	£200
Plus an additional 47 shareholders making a total of £70,600	

A list of major shareholders showing the wide interest and the willingness to invest in the future.



and puddling, gravelling	
towing path and fencing	£42,300.00
To bridges	£9,500.00
To seven locks	£12,600.00
To aqueducts and culverts	£14,000.00
To tunnel	£17,600.00
To land and damages	£9,000.00
	<u>£105,000.00</u>

### Local Opinion

An opinion poll of the day was commissioned and the results of the owners and occupiers of the land were as follows: in favour of the proposed canal (eight owners, seven occupiers), against the proposed canal (20 owners, seven occupiers), neither for nor against the proposal (28 owners, 44 occupiers). It was hardly surprising that with such few people in favour of the proposal and so

many undecided that the main opposition sought to rally their forces.

It was reported in the *Hampshire Chronicle* in January 1825 that a meeting of landowners and other interested parties had been held at ‘The Hind’s Head’ in Aldermaston on 29 January 1825. The purpose of the meeting was to oppose the building of the canal and to that end, ten resolutions were passed by the meeting. The Bill reached Parliamentary Sessions in 1825 and in 1826, each time getting as far as having a Parliamentary Committee look into it, but no further. The Bills did not reach the House of Lords. In 1825, the last item recorded was that the Committee reported near the end of the session that it did not have enough time to investigate fully. In 1826 the final remark recorded was that the Bill was deferred for another six months, taking it to the end of that

session. Bills that run out of time at the end of a session automatically fail. This procedure has not changed in the last 180 years!!

Tadley had, therefore, to continue to rely on the Kennet and Avon Canal wharf at Aldermaston to transport its goods until 1847, when the railway came to West Berkshire and the GWR constructed a line from Reading to Hungerford which stopped at Theale, Aldermaston and Woolhampton.

### References

- London's Lost Route to Basingstoke P A L Vine*, 1968 and 1994. ISBN 0-7509-0359-7.
- The Kennet & Avon Canal* Kenneth R Clew, 1968 and 1973.
- House of Lords Record Office, London.
- Hampshire Record Office, Winchester.
- Berkshire Records Office, Reading.

Quantity of plots of Land	Owner	Tenant	Parish	Quantity of plots of Land	Owner	Tenant	Parish
1	Henry Flower	Himself	Tadley	2	William Attwood	David Benham	Inhurst
2	Sir Peter Pole	John Gundrey	Tadley	1	Dennis Taylor	Himself	Inhurst
17	Thomas Prior	Himself	Tadley	1	John Bishop	John Taylor	Inhurst
3	William Elliot	Himself	Tadley	3	Sir Peter Pole	William Ruddle	Inhurst
19	Wither Bramstone	John Lipscome	Tadley	1	Abraham Cottrell	Richard Cottrell	Pamber
2	David Elliot	Himself	Tadley	1	Bernard Brocas	Himself	Pamber
3	Josiah Widnal	William Foster	Tadley	3	Thomas Pierce	John Ilsley	Pamber
2	Abraham Cottrell	Richard Cottrell	Tadley	1	Richard Benyon de Beauvoir Esq	Himself	Pamber
11	Dean and Chapter of Winchester	11 Different	Baughurst	2	Bernard Brocas	William Benham	Pamber
1	Charles Hide	Himself	Baughurst	1	John Barners	Richard Herring	Pamber
1	Mrs Mary Benham	Herself	Baughurst	4	Henry Clift	Himself	Pamber
1	William Attwood	David Benham	Baughurst	5	The Nifs's Fanshaw	Thomas Lambden	Pamber
2	Sir Peter Pole	William Ruddle	Baughurst	2	Christopher Griffiths	Daniel Thomas	Pamber
3	Henry Fowler	Himself	Baughurst	1	Mrs Wakeford	James Pottinger	Pamber
1	Richard Benyon de Beauvoir Esq	Himself	Inhurst	4	Sir Peter Pole	Thomas Lambden	Pamber
1	William Hickman	James Dyer	Inhurst	4	Thomas Kimber	John Follett	Pamber
4	Trustee of Charles Hide	George Lane	Inhurst	1	Thomas Pope	Himself	Pamber
2	Trustee of Charles Hide	Himself	Inhurst	4	Daniel Hasker	Himself	Pamber

## 100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, January – June 1907

Date	Page	Village	Topic
5.1.1907	5	Tadley	Mrs Phillips of 'The Wilderness' provided a tea and a Christmas tree for all the children of the Sunday School [C].
5.1.1907	5	Silchester	Mr & Mrs J J Cooper of 'Impstone House' invited neighbourhood children to a Christmas treat at the Reading Room [C].
5.1.1907	6	Pamber	Supper given by Mr & Mrs Smith to celebrate opening of the Yew Tree Laundry, Pamber [C].
12.1.1907	5	Pamber	Pamber Heath scholars entertained by Mrs Oppe and others at 'childrens' tea' [C].
12.1.1907	6	Baughurst	Rector distributed George Lamb prizes to Violet Appleby, Margaret Smith, Gilbert Attwood and Frank Abbott [C].
12.1.1907	6	Mortimer West End	Sunday School treat for children and their mothers attending Parish Church by the Rector, Rev F E & Mrs Rooks [C].
19.1.1907	5	Pamber	Arthur Long charged with stealing a horse collar, the property of Mr Thomas Bowman.
19.1.1907	7	CA	Mr Afred Kew, builder, came up for bankruptcy at Winchester Bankruptcy Court [C].
16.2.1907	5	Baughurst	Marriage of Miss Harmony Lyell, daughter of Mr A H Lyell of 'Newbies', Baughurst, to Mr Harry Price at St Lukes Church Chelsea [C].
23.2.1907	3	Tadley	Football; Tadley v Burghfield on Recreation Ground. Tadley won 2-0 [C].
2.3.1907	5	Tadley	Death after a very trying illness of Rev Henry Ellis Harvey, rector since 1892 [C].
9.3.1907	5	Ramsdell	Quarterly meeting of the Pig Club. Supper committee had a balance of 5s 11d [C].
30.3.1907	6	Baughurst	Death of Mrs Caroline Butler from Stoney Heath, carrier to Basingstoke for many years [C].
13.4.1907	7	Baughurst	Newly formed Quoit Club meets at 'The Wellington'. 7 or 8 members enrolled [C].
20.4.1907	7	Pamber	Licence of <i>The Rifleman Inn</i> transferred from Mr F J Wellstead to Mr Thomas Monger.
11.5.1907	6	Aldermaston	Open-air Rogation Services held in paddock near Post Office. At the conclusion procession returned to Vicarage [C].
18.5.1907	8	Baughurst	School medals etc distributed to most regular scholars during last year (lots of names) [C].
18.5.1907	8	Baughurst	Annual Hospital Collection and Parade on behalf of Royal Berkshire Hospital; Baughurst and Tadley Bands attended [C].
25.5.1907	6	Baughurst	Half yearly audit of the Duke of Wellington's tenantry held at 'George and the Dragon' [C].
25.5.1907	6	Baughurst	Primitive Methodist Annual Camp Meeting Services held in meadow adjoining chapel [C].
8.6.1907	6	Mortimer West End	Theft of ornaments etc at 'The Red Lion' by Sidney Brown, a canvasser for Singer Sewing Machine Company [C].
8.6.1907	6	Silchester	Primitive Methodist Centenary Celebrations for Silchester Circuit held in Chapel due to damp state of Common [C].
22.6.1907	8	Tadley	Sudden death of Postmistress, Caroline Fisher aged 67. Inquest held at 'The Malt House' [C].

## 100 years ago – national and international, Jan – June 1907

Date	Topic
1.1.1907	In China, four million people starve due to crop failure following heavy rain.
14.1.1907	In Jamaica, hundreds feared dead in massive earthquake.
22.1.1907	In Dutch East Indies, about 1500 people believed dead following a massive tidal wave.
17.2.1907	British liners 'Heliopolis' and 'Orlando' collided in the Bristol Channel, the latter sank with the loss of 14 lives.
14.3.1907	In New York, the Stock Exchange suffered the worst crash since 1901.
3.4.1907	In Russia, 20 million people starve in worst famine recorded.
6.4.1907	In Paris, Louis Bleriot flew his new monoplane ten yards.
8.5.1907	French Steamer 'Poictou' sunk with over 100 feared dead.
10.5.1907	In London, second reading of a Bill to provide an old age pension of 5 shillings per week to people over 65.
Among those who died were: The Shah of Persia, Muzaffar ud-din (January) and Sir William Russell, journalist (10 February).	
Among those born were: Wystan Hugh Auden, poet (21 February); Daphne du Maurier, novelist (13 May); Laurence Olivier, actor (22 May); George Remi, alias Herge creator of 'Tintin', (22 May).	

Articles marked [C] have been copied and archived by TADS for reference; copies are also held in Tadley Library.