

Tadley and District History Society projectnews

issue
14

FREE

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

Issue fourteen

Spring/Summer 2009

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About projectnews

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Comments and/or articles for possible inclusion in future issues of projectnews are welcome – please contact Carol Stevens; telephone: 0118 970 1578; email: tadshistory@googlemail.com.

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, The Green, Tadley. These meetings are open to visitors.

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

In this, the 14th edition of projectnews, we celebrate the Centenary of the opening of the Salvation Army Hall on Mulfords Hill in September 1909, with a history of the Tadley Corps and its place within the International Church.

After a year's absence we are pleased to be back with a new edition of projectnews. As many of you will be aware, the TADS Project Team were side-tracked last year into producing a reprint of Florence Davidson's 1913 edition of *The History of Tadley*. This resulted in yet another successful TADS publication being launched on 3 May 2008 at the Immanuel Centre, adjacent to the United Reformed Church. We were delighted that so many people made time to attend and were particularly pleased to welcome Sir George Young and Councillor Warwick Lovegrove, the then Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane. If you have not yet seen or purchased our latest book, this and our two previous publications, *Around Tadley – fact and fable* and *Around Tadley – people and places*, can be purchased from 'Profile Print and Copy' at 58 Bishopswood Road, Tadley.

The beginnings of The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army was created by William Booth (1829–1912) and his wife Catherine (1829–1890). Both came from a Methodist background, admiring particularly the kind of evangelism practised by John Wesley. This eventually led them to leave the Methodist New Connexion in 1861 to become travelling evangelists. At the beginning of 1865 the Booth family moved to London where they witnessed first hand the over-crowding and squalor, poverty, gambling and drinking. In June 1865 they founded the East London Christian Revival Union, later shortened to The Christian Mission. They waged war on drink, gambling and prostitution through the Mission's magazine and regular open-air meetings held outside taverns, clubs and gambling dens. In 1878 the Mission's name was changed to the now familiar Salvation Army as a result of Booth describing the Mission as a 'volunteer army'. William and his eldest son, William Bramwell, formulated this Christian army along military lines with workers, male and female, being known as 'soldiers' and officers ascending through the ranks.

The practices of this new movement were ridiculed and condemned by many: the press, the established church and especially brewers, publicans and their patrons. In many areas this opposition took the form of violence against its members, many dying from wounds received at the hands of the mob (The Skeleton Army). Salvationists were often prosecuted, fined or convicted for such simple offences as obstructing the highway or singing and playing musical instruments in the street.

Music was, and still is, synonymous with The Salvation Army, playing an important part in Salvation Army worship. In 1886 singing brigades were formed and for many years The Army even manufactured its own brass instruments. Herbert, William and Catherine's third son, began to set the words of hymns to the popular Music Hall tunes of the day. This received rapturous applause from the crowds and despite his early reservations William is later reported as saying 'Why should the Devil have all the best tunes'.

Through the emigration of converts and officers, the work of The Salvation Army spread rapidly and by 1880 it was working in the USA, by 1881 in Australia, followed by Canada, India, Sweden, France etc, until it had become the worldwide Christian Church that exists today. It now works in 117 countries, demonstrating Christian principles through social actions.


“Tadley, God Help Us!” – The War Cry, 27 August 1898

The first edition of *The War Cry* appeared on 27 December 1878. From 30 September 1882 until 13 February 1886 two copies a week were produced and distributed to those whom the conventional churches failed to reach. It's title reflected William Booth's mission: to wage war on crime, poverty and sin. *The War Cry* included reports of the expansion of the 'Army' around the country. This article was printed seven months after the establishment of the 'Army Post' in Tadley in January 1898.

Reproduced by courtesy of The War Cry

August 27, 1898. THE WAR CRY. 5

“TADLEY, GOD HELP US!”



WHEN Capt. Edith Griffiths and Lieut. Alice Irlam alighted at the nearest railway-station, one cold afternoon in January of the present year, and asked the way to their destination—the village of Tadley—it was not very reassuring to be greeted with, “‘Tadley, God help us’, did you say? There is only the road—a matter of six miles or so. Folks mostly give it a wide berth. Them as goes there mostly has a rough time.”

Just when and why the straggling village got the prayer, or invocation, backed on to its name, even the oldest inhabitant could not tell us; but, no doubt, the godless, reckless band of young men who spent their evenings roaming the country in search of amusement and visiting every pub along the road had something to do with it. Whenever they came there was sure to be a row, and because they kept so closely together

“‘Snobby’” said his men too.”

From that night “‘Snobby’s”” conscience was troubled, there was not a more miserable man in Tadley. He hung round the open-airs and allowed himself to be dealt with, and at last one Friday night in an adjacent parish he

Knelt at the Drum-head

and gave himself to God.

Next day the fire of persecution was strong, and “‘Snobby”” flew into a rage and “‘broke it.”” His unkindness was speedily followed by terrible remorse, and he went about in an agony of soul such as only backsliders know.

It was impossible to help him, for he now avoided the Officers and dodged those who sought to bring him back.

“‘Snobby”” to go mad, or do away with himself,” said the sinners. “‘Snobby”” must be put right.

To they laid hold of him and brought him right up to the pool in which they refused to

The Officers forgot the inconvenience of having no barracks. The open common, with the dark fir-trees for a background, was a cathedral not to be despised.

From seven o’clock till midnight the meeting often lasted, men would listen, go home to supper and return, others to bed only to dream again and come back to the spot where the meeting was being held.

One night, whilst “‘Snobby”” was yet held himself, four of his gang knelt together at the drum-head. As soon as they were through—big, strapping fellows all of them—they turned to their old captain and said, “‘Come on, ‘Snobby’, have another try: five of us to smash the devil now.”

And so “‘Snobby”” tried again and has been drumming for the Lord ever since—a marked man you may be sure, for his seat in the tap-room is vacant, and he no longer pipes for the devil’s dance.

Since his restoration “‘Snobby”” seems, like Peter, to have had a baptism of courage, and may be seen to advantage when there is a touch of fighting to be done—an attack to be made on the devil’s own ground perhaps. Mounted upon a huge boulder called

The Imp’s Stone,

reared on at one corner of the common which divides the parishes of Tadley, Silchester and Ropleigh, he beats his drum vigorously as a rallying signal to his comrades.

There is so much space between each house, that a stranger naturally wonders where the village of Tadley is. There is no clustering one another there. The folk have plenty of room to grow, and they nearly all seem to have availed themselves of the opportunity. They are a fine race, and make very presentable Soldiers.

Perhaps the finest testimony to the reality of “‘Snobby’s”” conversion is that his old mother took to the open-air meeting, and, standing very long, says contentedly “‘Now that I’ve heard his bit I think I’ll be off home.”

But some will say, “‘Whence came the drum so early in the day?”

In the first instance, it was borrowed from a temperance society; then, when the band broke up, the Army bought it, had it re-mended and marked “‘Tadley Corp.”

In addition to this instrument, there are

eight commissioned bandmen, and two more on the way.

The Sergeant-Major was saved in Queensland, and when he returned to Tadley, on the death of his father, betook himself to the Primitive Methodist chapel in uniform; he soon found his way to his native element when The Army came along, and is now the right man in the right place.

The Secretary and his wife are both Army men—his birthplace the open-air, her’s the Colour-Sergeant’s cottage. As a preliminary to their marriage the young people signed Articles of War, and were sworn-in as Soldiers of The Salvation Army.

There are six other Local Officers, fighting Soldiers every one of them. And a severe testing they are having just now in the harvest-field, away from their homes, which they only see once a week, and not always then, and separated, most of them, from their comrades. They have a grand opportunity of witnessing, for Christ, however, and are standing well to their guns, cheered by the prospect of the approach of winter, which gives them more time for meetings.

To see the two Salvation ladies picking their way across the heath by the light of a primitive lantern was a source of great amusement to the dark-eyed, mislaid comrade who

Know every Gravel-pit and Pitfall

so well that they could almost find their way blindfolded. They have kind hearts these “‘Travelers,” and voices which, if they were saved, might carry the message of salvation through cope and roof.

The advent of The Salvation Army into Tadley has worked a revolution in the song-singing even of the unconverted. The remnant of “‘Snobby’s”” band use Army music and only play Army songs now. Salvation Soldiers in the making, he believes.

When the “‘Elder Brother,” whom we have always with us, saw that God had, by means of The Salvation Army, kindled a fire in Tadley which no amount of contempt could put out, they said, “‘It is winter now. When the harvest and herring season come round, these Salvationists will come back to Tadley the same drunken fellows they used to be—The Army is bound to fall through.”

“‘Listen, Leif,” says Capt. Griffiths, as she stands at the door of the quarters, looking across the common with its interesting paths leading to a number of scattered villages—some in Hampshire, others in Wiltshire. The Lieutenant joins the Captain at the door.

The night is fine and the air wonderfully clear and sweet.

“Our Lads are Coming Home

all right,” continues the Captain, her eyes shining. “‘Doesn’t it sound beautiful?”

“‘His Blood can make the vilest clean!” and, “‘Yesterday, to-day, forever!” come in snatches across the common.

The harvesters are coming home to spend the weekend. God has kept them during another week.

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The latest come witnessed in Tadley, in connection with The Salvation Army, was a solemn assembly, consisting of the band, Treasurer and Sergeant-Major, Snippet under duress. A village barracks, as supplied by the Social Wing.

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and his men nearly always came off victors. By the time they had visited all the pubs along the road they would return home drunk, except when they halted by the way, to sleep under hedges or in ditches – as was often the case.

“We must go for the Captain of that gang, Leff,” said Griffiths, who had cheered up wonderfully at the first sniff of battle. The words “God help us!” sounded now, not as a discouragement, but as a cry which she must do her level best to answer.

Looking from his cottage-window early in the day, “Snobby” had said “Be they two little women down by the brook The Salvation Army? Then we’ll soon shift ‘em!”

At night, when the ladies started out in search of their first open-air stand, they heard the playing of a drum-and-fife band.

“That’s ‘Snobby’ in a public-house,” said Capt. Griffiths; “we’ll start here.”

The night was dark and the only figures discernible were the tall fir-trees whose “slender tops were close against the sky”, but in faith the girls sang and prayed and pleaded with “Snobby” to seek salvation – with a word thrown in for the publican who housed him and took his money for that which brought only misery and shame.

The following Sunday the moon rode high above the fir trees, revealing the fact that the ladies had bombarded – not a pub – but Snobby’s cottage! “Never mind,” said the Captain, “‘Snobby’ was there and his men too.”

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1. "The Hallelujah Beggar."
 "O yes! O yes! O yes!
 To all you sinners who it may concern;
 Two Hallelujah Lasses,
 Being a Detachment of the Salvation Army,
 Will open fire on Sin and Satan,
 At the Factory, Brook Street, Basingstoke,
 On Sunday, September 19th, 1880."
 Extract from 'The Ancient Town of
 Basingstoke' by Baigent and Millard.
 Photograph by Terry Hunt, Basingstoke.

The Imp's Stone,

reared on end at one corner of the common which divides the parishes of Tadley, Silchester and Bognor, he beats his drum vigorously as a rallying signal to his comrades.

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The latest scene witnessed in Tadley, in connection with The Salvation Army, was a solemn assembly, consisting of the Captain, Treasurer and Sergeant-Major. Subject under discussion: A village barracks, as supplied by the Social Wing.

Captain gives measurements, and the Treasurer marks out size on the common.

“Too small, Captain!” says he. “Hadn’t you best write and say so?”

“Nay, nay,” from the Sergeant-Major, “Let us send it, as they’re in the mind to; no scarcity of wood round here. Soon knock out the end that’s fast and extend to fit the people.”

By which our readers will see that the Sergeant-Major is a resourceful man. We wondered whether

A Telescopic Barracks mightn’t be the best thing for Tadley!

The first time this outdoor wing of the great Salvation Army was in a

barracks was on the occasion of a visit to Basingstoke, at Easter.

It took them all their time to respect the limits of the platform, we understand, and the Literature Sergeant, especially, found it difficult to “keep the lid on.”

His conversion, by the way, was a vindication of the need of The Army in Tadley. God convicted him of sin the very week the Army arrived, and when he first saw them he was on his way to a pub to try and stifle his convictions.

Round and round he walked, unable to enter. Then he gave it up, broke into the ring and gave himself to God. Since then his joy has been so full of glory that it takes a good many square yards in which to let off steam.

Eight dozen ‘Crys’ pass through his hands weekly.

Said an “Elder Brother” to one of these comrades, “I can’t understand why you fellows should have heard the Gospel at church and chapel all these years and neglected it till these bits of girls came along.”

“I think it’s like this,” was the reply – “We heard the Gospel – or something like it – on Sundays, and then had a week to forget it – but these lasses came to us on Sunday, and said ‘Get saved!’ On Monday they said, ‘Look here, get saved!’ On Tuesday, they repeated ‘Get saved.’ Wednesday they pleaded with us to get saved. Thursday was mostly likewise. Friday, they never left off. Saturday they were at it all the time, and when they began over again on Sunday, we reckoned it was time we did give it serious consideration!”

Perseverance – continuance in well-doing – has had much to do with the success of the work in Tadley. It has meant much sacrifice on the part of the pioneers of this village war, but it is a beautiful illustration of what can be accomplished, even in the most unpromising corners of the earth, by those whose eye is single. God bless Tadley!

Postscript

Captain Edith Griffith(s) and Lieutenant Alice Irlam were appointed to Tilehurst in January 1899, leaving Captain Nuttall and Lieutenant Meredith to expand on the good work they had begun in Tadley.

Edith remained with the Army, moving to Beaconsfield and by June 1900 to Woodstock near Oxford. From the 1901 census entry for Cowley St John (Oxford) we can deduce that Captain Edith F Griffith, aged 26, is probably one and the same person. This allows us to discover that Edith Fanny was born in Thornton Heath near Croydon, Surrey in 1874.

Unfortunately there is no further record of Alice after 1899, either in the Salvation Army or civil records. In fact Alice Irlam did not exist! TADS could find no birth, marriage or death certificate for her. Did she adopt a pseudonym for her Army work, was she an immigrant, a girl from a refuge/rescue home, did she later emigrate? We will probably never know.

The Tadley Corps 1898-2009

For 111 years the Salvation Army has had a strong presence in Tadley. Many of its present members are descendants of those Tadley families that helped to establish the Corps in 1898. During its first year, Tadley received five mentions in the lists of *The War Cry* ‘Campaign Conquests’. These were reports from the most recently established ‘war posts’ and they record that at least 40 souls were saved in Tadley during that first year.

Given our present understanding of life in Tadley in the 19th century, it is perhaps no surprise to find The Salvation Army dispatching officers to Tadley with General Booth’s dictum ‘Go for souls and go for the worst’ ringing in their ears! The resolution of these two young evangelists is doubly commendable considering the fierce

and violent opposition The Salvation Army had encountered from the Messagians in Basingstoke during 1880-82 and in Whitchurch in 1881. No opposition to its presence in Tadley is recorded, which is surprising bearing in mind that the 1891 census records six public houses within the parish and four others close by!

In October 1898, after nine months of holding meetings in the open-air, the Corps finally had a village barracks; a small iron building which held about 50 people. From comments reported in the 1898 August edition of *The War Cry* (see above) this hall was deemed too small from the outset. “Too small, Captain!” ... “no scarcity



The laying of the two foundation stones at the Salvation Army Hall, 31 July 1909.

of wood round here. Soon knock out the end that's fast and extend to fit the people." Indeed it was enlarged at a later date. This building was moved (post 1909) to the rear of the newly built brick hall on Briar Way/Mulfords Hill (see the photograph below) where it was used for many years for social functions. Who gave the land on which the original barracks was built is not known, but it is generally believed that it was located at the eastern end of what is now Briar Way, which locals had previously referred to as an extension of Broadhalfpenny Lane.

There is no record of the Tadley officers, Green, Clifton or Hodgman, in the 1901 census, so we do not know where they, or the previous officers, lodged. However, reference to Salvation Officers, not by name, does appear in the 1909 Land Valuation book (no. 320). They occupied a cottage owned by Henry Pearce at Mulfords Hill

which was two dwellings away from Noah Blake's cottage, probably in what is now Blake's Lane. Almost certainly this is the same cottage in Blakes Lane which remained the officers' quarters until the 1980s, undergoing much needed improvements in 1955. The officers' accommodation is now in Mount Pleasant.

The absence of names in the 1909 document might be attributed to the frequency with which officers moved around the country. On average they would stay a maximum of a year before being appointed to a new post. The officers' roll for Tadley records 86 senior officers in its 111 year history. This reflected what William Booth particularly liked about the Wesleyan travelling evangelism; it offered renewed enthusiasm, with each new challenge to win over souls for Christ.

By 1907 there had become a need for a more permanent structure in

which to hold their meetings and so plans for a new hall were begun. This was formally opened on Wednesday 29 September 1909 by Commissioner William Eadie, The Salvation Army's new Chief Secretary, at an outdoor ceremony which attracted nearly 400 people. *The War Cry* correspondent described the hall as having a 'substantial and superior appearance', and Commissioner Oppe agreed it was an 'ornament to the village'!

It was a pity that the hall was not completed in 1908 when General Booth honoured Tadley with a brief



Marriage photograph of William and Catherine Booth (née Mumford), 16 June 1855. During their 35 years of marriage they had eight children: Bramwell 'Willie' b1856, Ballington b1857, Catherine 'Katie' b1858, Emma b1860, Herbert b1862, Marian 'Marie' b1864, Eveline/Evangeline 'Eva' b1865 and Lucy b1868.

Photograph courtesy of The Salvation Army Heritage Centre



The Salvation Army Hall, prior to the addition of the extensions added in 1955 and 1978. At the back of the hall can be seen the original 'tin barracks'. Photograph by Terry Hunt, Basingstoke.

visit on his 5th, and final, Great Motor Campaign. On Monday 20 July he travelled from Reading via Tadley, en route to a meeting at the Basingstoke Drill Hall, Sarum Hill. The *Hants and Berks Gazette* reported that 'he halted at Tadley and spoke to a considerable number of people by the wayside'. It is believed this was on the site of what is now Lloyds Bank. The motorcade went onto London, to culminate at the Crystal Palace five days later where the General, together with Salvationists from Great Britain and all parts of the world, celebrated the 43rd anniversary of the founding of The Salvation Army.

100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, January – June 1908

Date	Page	Village	Topic (articles marked [C] have been copied and archived by TADS for reference; copies are also held in Tadley Library)
1 February	6	Baughurst	Interesting wedding in the parish church, between Mr Arthur Veale and Miss Mary Littlejohns of Browns Farm. [C]
8 February	5	Pamber	Funeral of Mrs Elliott of Pamber Farm, following her not unexpected death. [C]
15 February	5	Silchester	Military manoeuvres by schoolboys caused considerable interest for onlookers. [C]
22 February	5	Pamber Heath	Christopher William Chapman, labourer, fined 6/- at Divisional Petty Sessions for riding an unlighted bicycle. [C]
22 February	5	Pamber Heath	William Grainger was fined 10/6d under Poaching Prevention Act for having nets and a ferret in his possession. [C]
29 February	6	Tadley	St Saviour's vestry absorbed into church; new vestry and classroom built for Sunday School. [C]
7 March	7	Tadley	Grand entertainment held in church room in aid of fund for enlarging St Saviour's Church. [C]
14 March	6	Baughurst	Funeral of Mrs Phoebe Appleton of Heath End; passed away on Friday, in her 100th year. [C]
21 March	8	Tadley	Death of Revd C N Oliver, aged 75, former Rector of Tadley. [C]
21 March	8	Tadley	Mr Wiggett kindly instructed a class of boys at Silchester in shooting with miniature War Office rifles. [C]
4 April	5	Aldermaston	About 100 men of the Second West Yorkshire Regiment spent two days at Aldermaston. [C]
18 April	5	Baughurst	Medals and shields given by the County Council were distributed to scholars for regular attendance (names). [C]
18 April	5	Baughurst	Quarterly meeting of the Parish Council held in schoolroom on Tuesday. Letter box for Haughurst Hill requested. [C]
18 April	6	Mortimer West End	Robert Telford, a wire fencer, was summoned for not causing son James to attend school regularly. [C]
2 May	5	Basingstoke	Great snowstorm. Unprecedented April scene. Business at a standstill. [C]
2 May	8	Tadley	Distressing fatality, magistrate's son (14), whirled to his death by drive shaft of generator. [C]
9 May	6	Woolhampton	Wedding between David Weston of The Lodge, Wolverton Park and Elizabeth Malt of Long Parish. [C]
30 May	8	Silchester	Excavation work of the ancient and renowned Roman city recommenced for the summer season. [C]
6 June	8	Tadley	Mrs Beach presented the bar, shields and certificates awarded by Education Committee at Council School. [C]
20 June	3	Little London	Cricket matches, Little London v Haughurst Hill, Beaurepaire Park v Silchester, Baughurst v Sherborne St John. [C]

100 years ago – national and international, January – June 1908

Date	Topic
13 January	Frenchman Henri Farman made first circular flight in a heavier than air craft.
30 January	Mohandas Gandhi, leader of Indians in Transvaal, was released from prison in South Africa after a secret deal with General Smuts.
1 February	In Lisbon the Portuguese King Carlos 1 and Crown Prince Luiz were assassinated.
12 March	The liner Mauritania set a new record for an eastbound crossing of the Atlantic: 5 days and 5 minutes.
16 March	In London the Freedom of the City was conferred on 87 year old Florence Nightingale.
12 April	Herbert Henry Asquith appointed new Prime Minister following the resignation of Henry Campbell-Bannerman due to ill health. He made David Lloyd George Chancellor of the Exchequer and Winston Churchill joined the Cabinet as President of the Board of Trade.
7 May	The Budget gave a pension of 5/- a week to single OAPs and 7/6 for married couples.
21 May	The liner Lusitania set a new record for a westbound crossing of the Atlantic: 4 days 20 hours and 12 minutes.
9 June	King Edward VII and Czar Nicholas II had a meeting on board the Royal Yacht off Reval on the Baltic Sea.
11 June	Rotherhithe Tunnel under the Thames opened.
Among those born were: Sir Vivian Ernest Fuchs, British geologist and explorer (11 Feb); Bette Davis, US Actress (5 Apr); James Stewart, US Actor (20 May); Ian Fleming, British Author (28 May). Among those who died were: Rev Benjamin Waugh, founder of the NSPCC (12 Mar); Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Liberal Prime Minister 1905-1908 (22 Apr).	

100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, July – December 1908

Date	Page	Village	Topic (articles marked [C] have been copied and archived by TADS for reference; copies are also held in Tadley Library)
4 July	8	Tadley	The sum of £1/3/6 collected by scholars at Council school for British and Foreign Sailors' Society. [C]
11 July	8	Silchester	Parties from Reading arrived in three large brakes for summer forest walks. [C]
1 August	5	Silchester	Successful Hospital Parade collected £17/8/10 (names). [C]
1 August	5	Ramsdell	Ramsdale & Ewhurst Cottage Garden Society held 25th exhibition at Holly Bush Farm. [C]
1 August	6	Little London	Open air service in park adjacent to Plough Inn by Mr Whymus of Church Army Mission. [C]
15 August	8	Baughurst	Baughurst & Tadley Garden Society held their flower and sports show at Hawley Park. [C]
22 August	8	Tadley	Death of Mrs Roller, aged 45, wife of George T Roller. [C]
5 September	8	Silchester	Welcome improvement in the postal arrangements. Morning letters arrived 7.35 am. [C]
12 September	5	Silchester	Expert condemned church bells and belfry, deemed to be unsafe to ring. [C]
12 September	5	Silchester	Miss Alice Barker married Police Constable Frank Mills of F Division, South Kensington Metropolitan Police. [C]
19 September	5	Ramsdell	Double wedding of Misses Annie Mary Kent and Florence Emma Kent. [C]
26 September	6	Baughurst	Harvest Supper given by Mr Singleton of Baughurst House for employees at George and Dragon. [C]
26 September	6	Ewhurst	Meeting of the Duke of Wellington's employees held with object of forming annual outing club (names). [C]
3 October	6	Baughurst	Change of tenant after 70 years of George and Dragon from Mr W C Ford to Mr Bolton of Ashmore Green. [C]
3 October	8	Pamber	Death of Ada Fisher, aged 8, who died of diptheria while hop picking at Binstead Wick. [C]
17 October	6	Tadley	Harvest Festival at St Saviour's Church, collection to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution £1/1/9. [C]
7 November	5	Tadley	Sudden death of Mrs Harriet Rampton. Inquest held at New Inn. [C]
7 November	5	Pamber	Wedding of Miss Annie F Baker of Latchmore Farm to Mr William Stanley of Pamber End at Primitive Methodist Chapel. [C]
7 November	6	Pamber	Arson attack at the Old House at Home by labourer John Paice who had been ejected the same evening. [C]
14 November	8	Baughurst	Due to kindness of Mr F Stokes of Inhurst House the Reading Room opened for winter months. [C]
28 November	8	Baughurst	Independent Order of Rechabites set up Juvenile Tent 'Honour Bright' followed by lantern entertainment. [C]
12 December	7	Pamber Heath	Lecture on poverty and unemployment illustrated by lantern slides in Mission Room by Conservative Association. [C]

100 years ago – national and international, July – December 1908

Date	Topic
27 July	4th Olympic Games opened in London.
18 August	73 miners killed in underground explosion in Lancashire.
11 September	TUC conference in Nottingham said motor cars should have a fixed maximum speed of 15 mph.
16 September	In US Buick & Oldsmobile firms merged to form General Motors.
1 October	In UK Penny Post to US started and in US 2 cents postage to UK.
6 October	Austria annexed Herzegovina & Bosnia causing much concern throughout Europe.
24 October	Suffragette leaders Emmeline Pankhurst and daughter Christabel imprisoned for conduct likely to cause breach of the peace.
14 Nov	In Switzerland, Professor Albert Einstein presented his 'quantum' theory of light.
23 Nov	Field Marshall Earl Roberts warned the Lords that Germany was capable of invading the UK.
28 Dec	Messina, Sicily wrecked by a violent earthquake and massive tidal wave. 75,000 feared dead.
Among those born were: Lyndon Baines Johnson, US President 1963-1968 (27 Aug). Among those who died were: Joel Chandler Harris, author of the Brer Rabbit stories (3 July).	

100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, January – June 1909

Date	Page	Village	Topic (articles marked [C] have been copied and archived by TADS for reference; copies are also held in Tadley Library)
2 January	5	Silchester	Fall of snow very heavy on Tuesday, Christmas treat abandoned until better weather. [C]
2 January	8	Silchester	Christmas Day passed with a few straggling carol singers and the Tadley Band. [C]
9 January	5	Silchester	Church bells not rung on New Year's Eve, but hand bells were rung on the village green. [C]
9 January	5	Tadley	Dr and Mrs Phillips provided a large Christmas tree with about 500 presents, games, toys. [C]
9 January	5	Wolhampton	Mr and Miss Walker of Wolverton Park gave a servants' ball on Tuesday last. [C]
16 January	5	Pamber Heath	Mrs Oppé gave two annual treats in the schoolroom on Friday at 4pm for scholars, mothers and teachers and 5pm on Saturday for Sunday School scholars. [C]
16 January	5	Silchester	Four men are still working on the excavations of the Roman remains. [C]
23 January	5	Tadley	Wedding of George Henry Stacey and Martha Louisa Smith took place in the parish church on Saturday last. [C]
30 January	5	Pamber Heath	John Simpson, Albert Saunders & Alfred Charles Chandler of Tadley opted for trial by jury following theft of ferrets and a reaphook owned by Arthur Rampton of Tadley.
6 February	6	Pamber Heath	Farewell gathering and presentation to Miss Hall, headmistress of Pamber School. [C]
6 February	6	Silchester	Pony's leg broken after falling while driving Mr Goddard's trap past Mulford's Cottage on Little London Road. Pony was shot, but Mr Goddard escaped injury.
13 March	6	Tadley	Letter from James Thatcher regarding all business of Parish Council should be reported in Hants & Berks Gazette. [C]
20 March	8	Pamber Heath	Death of Mr Thomas George Houghton, respected landlord of College Arms Inn, on 13 March. Funeral at Old Priory burial ground (mourner's names). [C]
27 March	5	Tadley	Sudden death of George Rampton aged 84 formed the subject of a Coroner's Inquest on Wednesday. He was found after dinner in a shed at Skate's Farm. [C]
27 March	7	Tadley	Letters from James Thatcher, D West and George Smith protesting against the conveyance of Heath End children by van to Tadley School. [C]
3 April	5	Little London	Little London & Bramley Rat & Sparrow Club held annual supper at Plough Inn on Saturday. Season's working produced 3,959 sparrow heads and 342 rat tails. [C]
17 April	6	Tadley	Easter entertainments at Tadley amusingly announced by village crier dressed in traditional helmet and red coat, and ringing his bell. [C]
29 May	8	Tadley	Empire Day kept for the first time in Tadley owing to energy and enthusiasm displayed by Mrs Ward. Forty foot flagstaff with a truck at the top erected in front of school.
5 June	6	Woolhampton	Excitement caused on Monday evening by balloon flown by Hon C S Rolls travelling from Whitchurch, eventually coming down at back of Wolverton Farm. [C]
5 June	6	Aldermaston	Young couple marrying in parish church were unable to produce a wedding ring for the bride. Revd F Horwood kindly took off his own ring and loaned it to them. [C]
26 June	8	Silchester	Accident on Monday highlighted the dangers of youthful cyclists riding beside carts and wagons. Sidney Ham had hand crushed and his thumb was amputated in Reading hospital.

100 years ago – national and international, January – June 1909

Date	Topic
23 January	A new direct 7000 mile telegraph link between London and India, was hailed as a great achievement.
16 February	In Durham a terrible colliery accident occurred in which 168 men and boys were killed.
24 February	In Brighton colour films were screened in public for the first time.
5 March	In London Selfridges store opened in Oxford Street.
12 March	New Naval Bill reflected British alarm at size of German Navy.
28 March	The Balkan crisis. The great Powers agreed a formula for Serbia to renounce claims on Bosnia and Herzegovina.
6 April	North Pole conquered by US Commander Robert Peary.
22 April	In London a Bill to abolish censorship of plays was introduced in the Commons.
26 June	In London King Edward VII opened the Victoria and Albert Museum.
29 June	In London 120 suffragettes were arrested outside the Houses of Parliament and 10 Downing Street.
Among those born were: Ethel Merman, entertainer (16 Jan); James Mason, actor (15 May); Benny Goodman, jazz musician (30 May). Among those who died were: Algernon Charles Swinborne, poet. (10 April); George Meredith, British writer (18 May).	