

# Tadley and District History Society projectnews

issue  
15

FREE

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

## Issue fifteen

Autumn/Winter 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](mailto:tadshistory@googlemail.com).

### About TADS

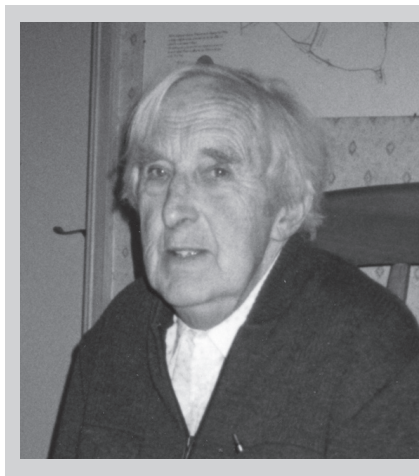
Tadley and District History Society (TADS) was founded in 1984 for people with an interest in local social history, and in the broader scope of history and natural history. Monthly evening talks are held on the third Wednesday of each month, except August, at 8.00pm in St Paul's Church Hall, The Green,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

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

'Walking for Health', the organisation set up by a doctor from Sonning, now regularly drags over 30,000 people off their settees to experience a great way of feeling young and healthy. If you are not already one of the 30,000 who walk regularly, TADS hopes that the two walks featured in this edition of projectnews will encourage you to put your best foot forward and stride out round and about Tadley. Walks 3 & 7 are part of the set of 8 walks that were originally created by two TADS members in 1994, in part to make people more aware of the history of the area. Six have now been updated and re-issued via projectnews. By the end of 2010 we hope to have the full set re-printed and on sale in a new 'user friendly' format.

Looking ahead once again, this time to the Spring/Summer 2010 edition of projectnews, when we will be featuring photos of Tadley – then and now. TADS already holds a varied and interesting collection of local photographs, but we always welcome any additional local photographs that you may wish to make available to us. Contact can be made via the PO Box, telephone or email (see the About projectnews box on the left-hand side of this page).

Our existing archive of photos can be viewed at [www.photosoftadley.co.uk](http://www.photosoftadley.co.uk)



## George Stanley

(24.06.1923–20.01.2009)

George and his wife Iris joined TADS at its start in 1984 and had been elected Honorary Members. George supported Iris in her role as Family History researcher for TADS and he continued to attend meetings until 2008.

George was born and brought up in the village of Pamber End. He was the youngest of eleven children, and received a country upbringing among farm workers, gardeners and woodsmen.

The Second World War saw him serving in the Army, including the D-Day landings, which remained vivid in his memory, but which he preferred not to talk about, due to the inherent sadness that he still felt. He met Iris, a local Tadley girl in 1951, and they married in 1953, remaining in Tadley for the rest of their married life. George was a carpenter by trade and worked for local firms, including Kimbers, and Mongers the builders, for whom he was proud to help with their undertaking duties which they carried out in addition to building work in those days. In later years he was part of the maintenance staff for the AWRE houses in and around Tadley and Baughurst, making many friends along the way. In the years closer to his retirement he worked 'behind the wire' at the AWRE site itself. He enjoyed a happy retirement, taking holidays on Hayling Island, making homemade wine and overwintering tortoises for those who needed such a service!

He leaves his wife Iris, a daughter, and five grandchildren. The funeral service at Tadley Common Methodist Church took place as planned on Monday 2 February 2009, but the burial at Tadley New Cemetery had to be delayed by two days, when, because of the snow, the mechanical (grave) digger could not negotiate the hill to St Peter's Church. This was not quite as long as for John Mulford's burial, which was delayed by six weeks in January 1814 because of the frozen ground.



## D-Day+3

The following description of his landing on Gold Beach during Operation Overlord was provided by George Stanley. It was first published in *AWRE News* in 1984 and subsequently made available to TADS for publication.



George Stanley, driver in the RASC 1942-47

I was a driver in the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) with a company of three-ton and five-ton lorries. A few weeks before the Normandy Campaign we had a course of instruction on waterproofing vehicle engines for landing into the sea from landing barges. We then had to waterproof our own vehicle engines, when it was emphasised that if we did a poor job then we were likely to drown complete with vehicle – an exaggerated instruction! (Today in 1984 we use waterproof mastic of various kinds and I am convinced that what we used for that campaign was the infant stage of today's much improved types). It has taken me a long time to decide to write down my experiences, knowing full well that many of my comrades suffered much more than we did in the RASC. As I write now, memories come flooding back. My thoughts are that I came back but many didn't. Being emotional as I am, truly this is not easy to write.

As we embarked from Albert Docks we were each given a letter from General Montgomery which began: 'You are about to embark upon the great crusade of the war. The eyes of the world are upon you', (I can't remember the rest of the letter and unfortunately some years ago whilst out walking in Wasing Woods with my wife and then baby daughter Carol, my personal wallet

dropped from the pocket of my jacket which I was carrying. We searched but never found it).

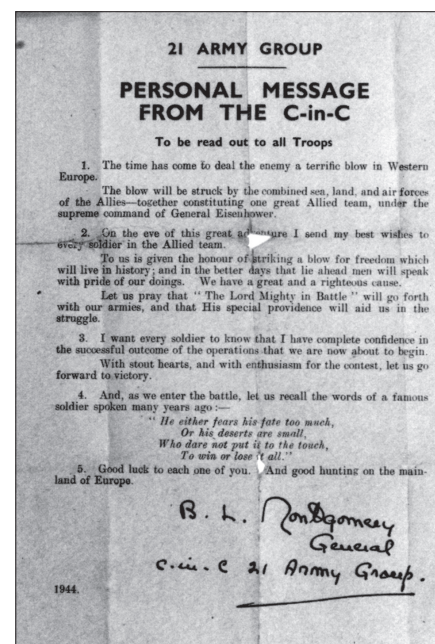
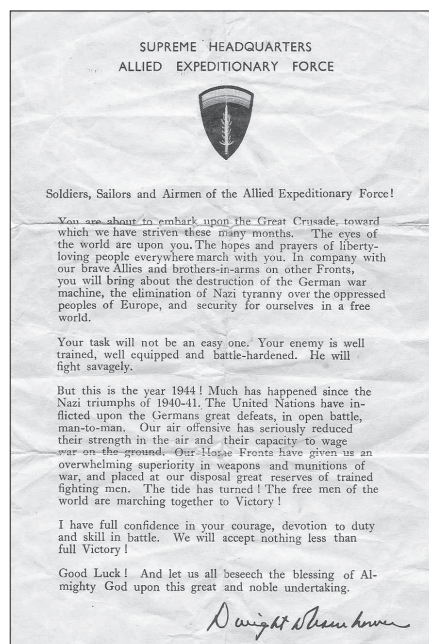
We embarked on 4 June 1944 on the converted merchant ship SS Fort Reliance. (How sad it was some years later to read that she had been broken up). I remember as we pulled out of the docks women and girls were waving and crying. The ships, cranes and trains were sounding their whistles in salute. Being young as we were, this was a wonderful send-off, giving us a feeling of great importance. The moment of test though was the Normandy beach-head. We actually landed D+3, having been anchored offshore. The two warships Rodney and Nelson were pounding inland over the top of the landing force.

From Fort Reliance we were craned on to landing barges. I think it was 'Gold Beach' we landed on, near Arromanches. We were taken up the beach as far as the barges could go. Then from the barge ramp we drove into the water, with clutch in, full

throttle, steadying our vehicle by handbrake, hitting the water and saying a prayer (as I did), water coming into the cab, hoping we would make it to the shore (which some didn't). A shroud of mist over the coastline gave cover for the landing force. I still ask whether this was the hand of God. Once clear of the water we found that the sand was very firm and soon we were on land. My particular load was 25 pounder shells and detonators. I suppose everyone had their own thoughts. My own were: If I'm hit, I won't know anything about it. It was every man for himself, but once on land the duty of dispatch riders (DR's) was to marshall those vehicles under his charge. As I look back now, at the age of 61, I realise that they did a wonderful job.

To give full details from then on would be a lot of reading. Perhaps one thing of particular interest was our temporary rations for 48 hours which included a little thing called a 'Tommy Cooker'. This was a small metal frame to contain a solid compound which was lit and lasted long enough to boil a mess-tin of water. Small sachets of tea then gave us our 'cup of comfort'. The food pack contained hard biscuits, vitamin chocolate, and squares of oatmeal which

...continued on page 7



Copies of the two letters compiled to boost the moral of the troops prior to D-Day, in June 1944. On the left is the one from General Eisenhower, Supreme Commander Allied Forces. Each soldier was given a personal copy to carry with him on the day. In the text George refers to his own copy as being lost, so we can assume it was this letter and not the one on the right, from Commander in Chief, General Montgomery which was read out to the troops. George also quotes Eisenhower's letter but mistakenly attributes it to Montgomery.

# Tadley Tracks, Tadley Facts

## 3: St Peter's and Wyford

**Distance** 5.3 kilometres (3.3 miles); shorter walk; 7.3 kilometres (4.3 miles), longer walk.

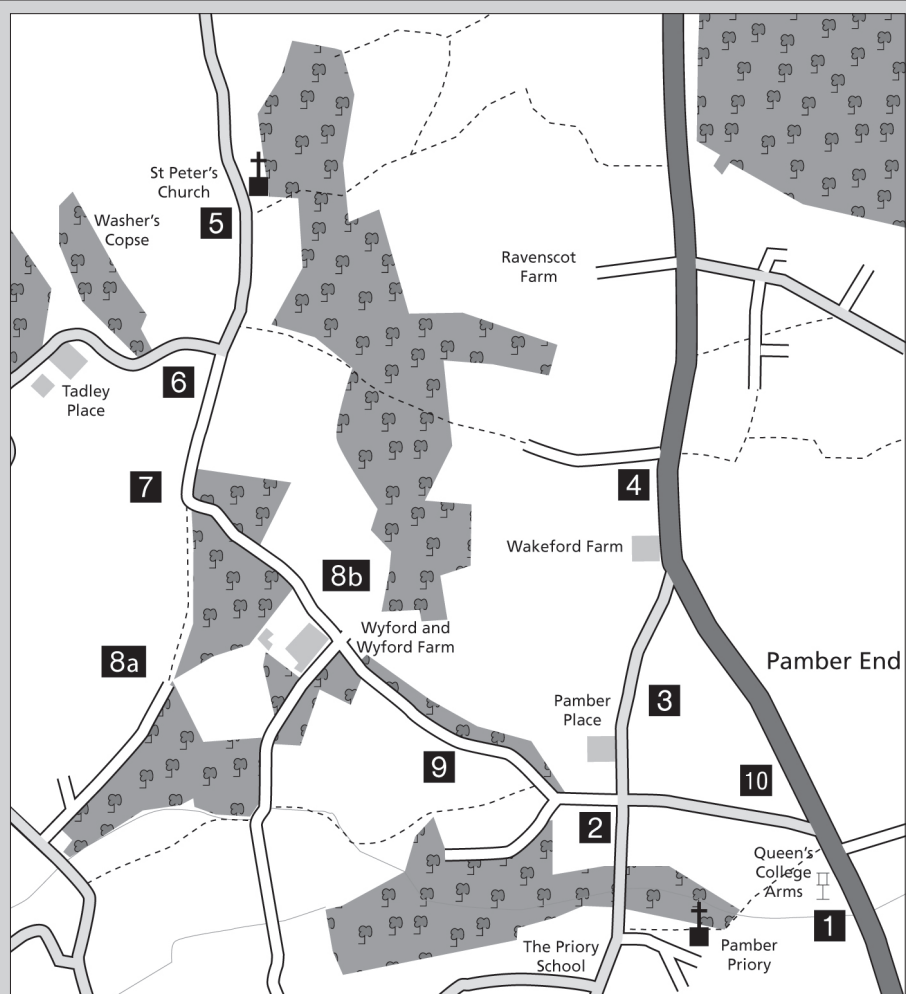
**Time** about 1.8 or 2.2 hours.

**Start** *The Queen's College Arms* public house (607 606).

The walk passes through pleasant woodland and includes the sight of some attractive old buildings. Section 6 can be very muddy.

**Plants and wildlife** Throughout the walk a good variety of trees may be seen, including some splendid oaks. However the stately elms which used to line the track in Section 3 of the walk died from Dutch Elm disease and were all felled in the mid seventies. Deer are particularly numerous in the fields and woods around Wyeford. In section 8a geese and a lapwing were sighted near some water in the distance. One or two buzzards are often seen flying in this area and Red Kites may appear in this region now.

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- 1 From **The Queen's College Arms** walk northwards for about 120 metres (130 yards) along the main road to the first footpath (footpath marker) on the left. Walk along the footpath (Pamber No 5) across a field towards some trees. At the corner of the field bear left and cross a footbridge over a stream (Church Gully). Turn right onto another path (Sherborne No 13). **Pamber Priory** can be seen through the trees on the left.
- 2 Stay on the path as it approaches the driveway that leads to the Priory. Turn right onto the driveway. At the end of the driveway turn right onto a metalled lane (Pamber Road). Follow the lane to a crossroads.
- 3 Walk straight ahead and after 80 metres (100 yards), pass **Pamber Place**. After a further 360 metres (400 yards) the lane joins the A340 Basingstoke to Tadley road.
- 4 Walk along the left-hand pavement of the A340 and after 225 metres (250 yards) turn left onto a farm track (footpath marker) which is immediately before the 'Pamber End' sign. Follow the track uphill (Pamber No 6). After 450 metres (500 yards) it enters a small wood (Walkner's Firs) and in another 270 metres (300 yards) emerges from it (the path is now Tadley No 25), and leads ahead across an open field, with a copse to the right at first, to reach Church Road.

- 5 Turn right onto Church Road and after 270 metres (300 yards) reach **St Peter's Church**.
- 6 Leaving the Church on your left hand, walk southwards along the road. After 315 metres (350 yards) the metalled road turns sharply to the right. Walk straight ahead down a grassy track between banks and hedges. Through the gaps in the right hand vegetation there is a nice view, across a field, of Tadley Place (see Walk 2).
- 7 After about 315 metres (350 yards) the track curves to the left to a white metal gate through which the track proceeds. To your right is a gate and stile leading into an adjacent field. At this point you must decide between the longer or the shorter versions of the walk.
- 8a If you choose the longer route, cross the stile into the field (onto Pamber No 3) and walk down its left hand edge, bordered by woodland and a deep ditch, (there may be alpacas in a field on the right). After about 630 metres (700 yards), pass through double gates onto a track, passing a motley group of buildings to reach Witch Lane, a metalled road. Turn left onto Witch Lane and after 450 metres (500 yards) cross over a stile which is in the left-hand hedge, just beyond a gravelled track on the same side. Walk ahead (Sherborne No 45) keeping to the left-hand field boundary. At the end of the field, cross a footbridge on the left and follow the path (now Pamber No 1) left and then right over another plank bridge and stile. Cross

another field, again keeping close to the left-hand edge until the path cuts the corner of the field to reach a white metal gate. Passing through the gate, turn left onto a grassy track (Pamber No 2). After 540 metres (600 yards) (if you keep an eye open for deer hereabouts you can hardly fail to see some), the track comes to a junction with **Wyeford** house to the left and Wyeford Farm ahead of you. Turn right at the junction (Pamber No 4). Now read on from section 9.

- 8b If you choose the shorter route follow the track through the white gate and walk ahead (Pamber No 4). After 360 metres (400 yards) Wyeford cottage and **Wyeford** house and Farm come into view.
- 9 Walk ahead past the farm and through an ornamental gateway (the stone lions on the gateposts bear an Irish coat of arms and have no local significance) onto a fine driveway (still Pamber No 4), lined with trees.
- 10 Follow the drive to its junction, at a crossroads, with a metalled road. Walk straight ahead along another metalled road for 145 metres (160 yards) to join the A340 Basingstoke to Tadley road. Turn right and walk for 55 metres (60 yards) to reach **The Queen's College Arms**.





**Pamber Place (593 597)** Formerly known as Wakeford Farm, which dates from the seventeenth century, it was built on the site of an earlier cottage erected in about 1100. It is believed that it belonged to Pamber Priory, together with two other cottages which were built at about the same time on the sites of Wyeford and Tadley Place. The property comprises a two-storey house, together with a group of barns and outbuildings. The house is partly timber-framed with brick infilling and weather boarding with a tiled roof. It had one gabled wing and a main hall with a large oak staircase when it was originally built in 1600. A second symmetrical gabled wing was added in 1665. No further major alterations were made until the turn of this century when it was enlarged by the addition of rooms at the back and a covered walk was added by Major General Sir Wyndham Knight between the wars. Known owners have included: in 1665, a London merchant wishing to escape from the Plague; in 1800, Jenny Wakeford; in 1911, Mrs Neagle (margarine heiress from the Van Den Bergh family) who was responsible for the Edwardian alterations; in 1923, Major General Sir Wyndham Knight who was related to Jane Austen; in 1982, Mrs Hungerford, passing to Priscilla and Roderick Hungerford.



**Pamber Priory (609 582)** Originally called Sherbourne or West Sherbourne Priory, Pamber Priory was built by Henry de Port, son of Hugh de Port and consecrated in 1110 AD by William Gifford, Bishop of Winchester. It was a Benedictine Priory, a dependency or cell of the Abbey of St Vigor of C  rissey (Bayeux) near the home of the De Ports. Such foundations which often linked their recent conquest of England with the Duchy of Normandy were encouraged by the Norman kings. It suffered a lot during the Black Death; in 1350 only the Prior and seven monks remained. Henry V closed the priory in 1415 and the farm became part of Wyeford

estate in the hands of the De la More family. In 1446, a century before the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VI granted it to his new college at Eton. The Prior and monks were expelled, the relics carried off, and prayers for the founder were dropped. In 1461 Edward IV granted the Priory to St Julian Hospital, Southampton (and thus indirectly to Queen's College Oxford who owned St Julian Hospital). Since the Priory had previously been granted by Henry VI to Eton College, strong influence was needed for Queen's College to retain it. They turned the fine Norman choir - all that is left of the chapel - into a parish church for the scattered forest people of Pamber. In 1475 an Act of Parliament ordered the College 'to find one honest priest' who should daily say matins and masses. In 1564 the inhabitants of Pamber brought a Bill in Chancery against the Provost of Queen's, it being decided that the Priory was not a parish church and that the College must maintain and repair the fabric. Priory Church is all that remains to remind us of the past.

**The Queen's College Arms (612 583)** An eighteenth century public house (for a period called The College Arms) situated on the Aldermaston Road (A340) at Pamber End, so called because it was, and still is, at the centre of land held locally by Queen's College Oxford. Census returns show that in 1841 the publican was John Chesterman, followed in 1851 by William, his son, who remained for at least ten years. During that time as landlord he was also listed as a grocer, but it is not known if this was at the Queens College Arms. However, in the 1960s, there was a small general store at the rear. As with many old public houses it was often used for inquests, public sales and auctions, e.g. the sale of Ravenscourt Farm in 1887 and 1888. The sign in its original position on the roadside of the front wall, and which formerly had a circular seat around it, is a protected monument.



**St Peter's Church (597 600)** A Grade I listed building. In the Domesday book (1086) Tadley Church is probably one of two churches included under Overton. It could be assumed that a settlement and therefore a church existed at an earlier date in view of the documented references to owners of land at Tadley from 909 AD. The next specific reference to a church is in 1286 when Andrew Hotot is recorded as owning the Manor and Church at Tadley. Only the nave would appear to date from this period. The crude flint and mortar walls, over two feet thick, are now covered with roughcast. The east chancel and west tower extensions are both of brick. The greater part of the church seems to have been rebuilt, or undergone refurbishment, in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth

centuries. This is also when there was recorded village activity in the vicinity of Tadley Place. When, in 1634, Henry Ludlow, is reported in State Papers as having pulled down the church house. "...the rent thereof went towards the repairing of the Parish Church". Further restoration was undertaken in 1877, about the time that Tadley had its first resident rector, Edmund Saulez. There was no prior organ at St Peters until 1970. Prior to this a choir and later musicians led the congregation from the gallery at the west end. The churchwardens' accounts for 1765-1891 record the purchase/donation of various instruments: in 1796-97 a bassoon, 1802 a hoboy (hautboy or hoboe, later oboe), 1804 a clarinet, 1808 a flute and another bassoon in 1810. The bell frames were replaced by new ones in 1956 and the bells are now only tolled, not rung, to avoid damage to the tower. In the spring of 1998 the original, but rotten, floor joists were replaced and new floor boards laid. Before this could be undertaken an archaeological survey was carried out to ensure there had been no burials.

As a result of resettlement, Tadley village developed around Back Lane (now Winston Avenue) and The Green in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

St Peter's became isolated from its congregation and in 1888 a new church, St Saviour's, was built by The Green now superseded by St Paul's, built in 1966.

**Wyeford house and cottage (599 588)** A Grade II listed house, with sympathetic early twentieth century additions, containing a finely-carved oak staircase, oak floors and some original fenestration. The main part of Wyeford dates from the early seventeenth century and is described as 'an interesting Jacobean manor of great charm and character'. The imposing house is set in a large rose garden, surrounded by a hedge, and a substantial rectangular moat of ancient origin. The property also includes a Grade II listed granary, Grade II listed cottage (made from a seventeenth century barn) and an old ice house. There is also an outer moat and a number of very old listed fishponds. The land comprises 167 acres (68 ha) of pasture land, of which 52 acres (21 ha) are woodland. The property is an ancient site, said to have been a King John hunting lodge. Originally called the Manor of Tadley, the name changed to Withford and then Wyford. The name is derived from the Anglo Saxon 'Withig Forda' meaning willow ford. By 1305 it belonged to the de la More family, passing down that family for nearly two hundred years until, in 1496, Nicholas de la More died leaving two infant daughters, of whom the elder, Joan, married William Ludlow, of Hill Deverill in Wiltshire. It remained in the Ludlow family until Edmund Ludlow conveyed the manor to Joseph Blagrove in 1641. The later history of the house is somewhat uncertain, but by the end of the seventeenth century it belonged to the Oakley Hall estate where it remained until 1924. In the middle years of the twentieth century it was owned by a variety of people, including Mrs (Constance) Elspeth Fox-Pitt, eventually being purchased by the Vickers family in 1962 who remain the owners.

# Tadley Tracks, Tadley Facts

## 7: Wasing Forest and the Kennet

**Distance** 11.4 kilometres (7.1 miles).

**Time** about 3.5 hours, without excursions suggested in the text.

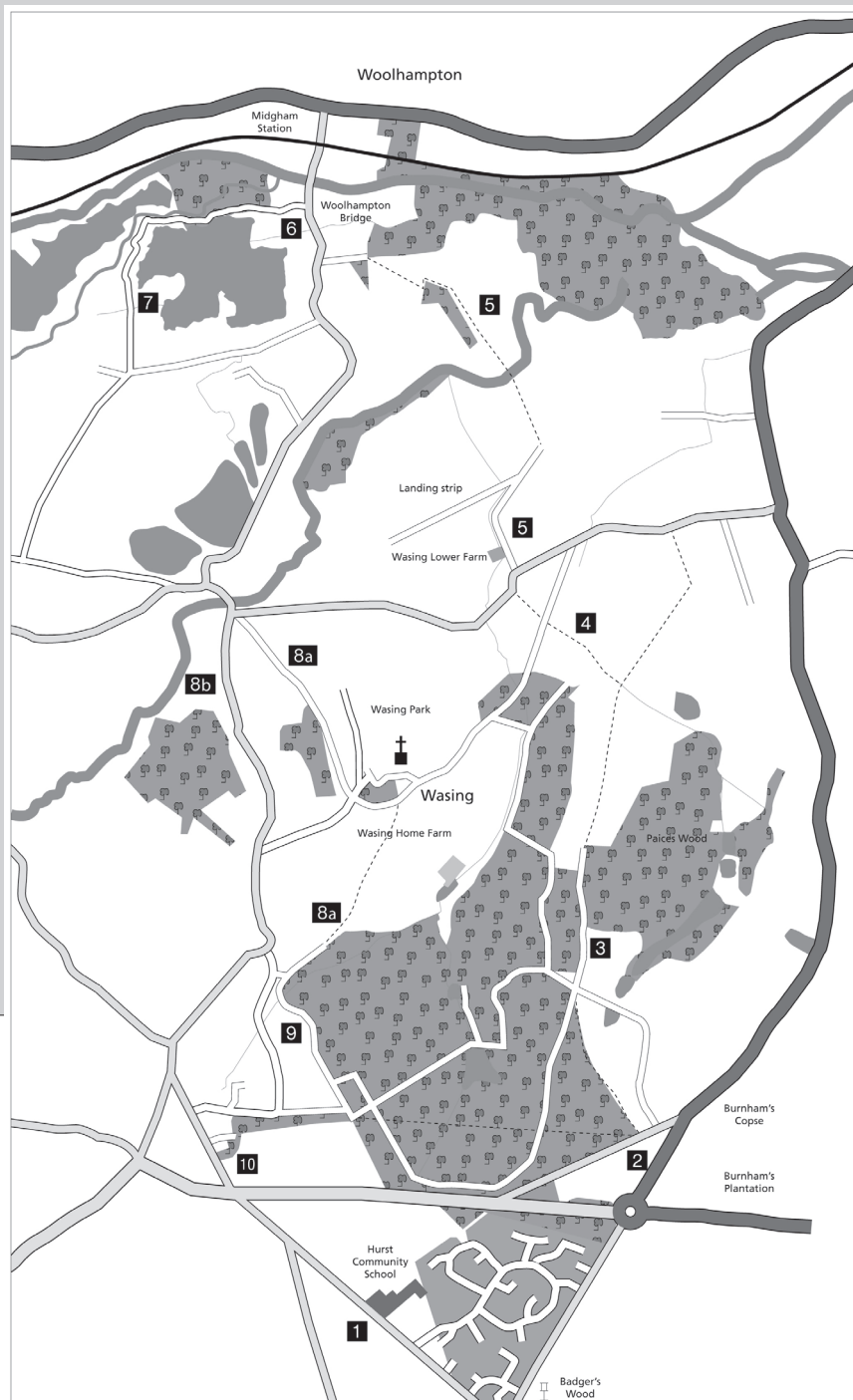
**Start** By *The Badgers Wood* public house (580 619).

This is one of the longer walks. In fact we broke our rule that this series of walks should all start in Tadley, to include this one. It begins in Baughurst which at least is in Hampshire (just). Note that the footpath near the beginning of section 2 can be very muddy despite otherwise dry conditions.

**Plants and wildlife** We suggest you should take your wild flower, tree and bird reference books on this walk. There is a clear distinction between the vegetation of Wasing Woods and that of the Kennet Valley. In the woods, wood anemone and bluebell are found. Near the water are meadow sweet and members of the carrot and borage families. Note the variety of woodland and waterside trees.

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- 1 Walk 630 metres (690 yards) north west along the Brimpton road to the Hurst Community College. Pass the college gates on your right. Walk a few metres further along the road towards Brimpton, then turn right onto an unmetalled footpath (Baughurst No 1) which runs along the north-western boundary of the college grounds. As a matter of interest the college's playing fields, which are to your left, are in Berkshire – the county boundary lies close to the path and parallel to it. A Neolithic axe was found in the field in 1959. The path continues past the college and past the back gardens of some houses before turning right to meet a sidewalk (in Long Grove). Walk a few metres along the sidewalk before turning left onto the next junction of the path. The hummocks to your left are old burial mounds (**Barrows or Tumuli**, now much eroded by generations of local children). The path runs behind more Long Grove houses. After 140 metres (150 yards) there is a wooden post with a yellow mark in front of you. Turn left onto a wide track (Wasing No 1) and in a few metres meet the Tadley – Kingsclere (B3051) road at a junction.
- 2 Walk ahead down the road opposite, which leads to Aldermaston. After walking 640 metres (700 yards) along this straight, tree-bordered road, turn left at the edge of the wooded area onto the footpath to Wasing (Aldermaston No 9). Follow the path through a copse and then across old gravel workings with water meadow and trees to your left and a ditch and bank to the right. Parts of the



path are sandy and very soft under foot where trees have been uprooted. The route gradually works round to the right and after about 595 metres (650 yards) meets a broad gravel track, at an angle. Continue diagonally across this track and enter the continuation path through a kissing gate on the further side. Again a footpath marker indicates the direction (at the time of writing).

- 3 The path is quite enclosed by Wasing Wood on the left and by vegetation on the right that soon reveals a large pond that was once gravel workings. On the right a track follows the edge of the pond where there is an information board about 'Ponds and Biodiversity'. On the main path, after passing through or by a metal barrier across the track there is woodland on each side of the path. In the Spring of the year this path is lined with bluebells, wood
- anemones and the occasional primrose. After a few hundred metres the path passes over the crest of a ridge and leads downhill, leaving the woods behind and giving fine views across the Kennet Valley to the heights behind Beenham and Woolhampton. Deer can often be seen in the fields which lie on either side. After about 455 metres (500 yards) you pass a Dutch barn on the right and 185 metres (200 yards) beyond that the path bears to the left towards the boundary of **Wasing Park**.
- 4 At the point where the path turns left towards **Wasing Park** you leave the registered right of way and are on a 'permitted path'. Access to a permitted path is at the discretion of the landowner. The path enters the Park through a gateway with a stile (quite a high one). There may be cattle grazing on the Park.



Walk ahead and after a few hundred metres cross a metalled drive. Continue to the further side, leaving the cricket field to your right.

- 5 Leave the Park by the gateway near the cricket field, turn right on to the public road and in a few metres turn left onto the gravel track (Wasing No. 6) next to Lower Farm. After about 275 metres (300 yards) the track turns sharply right, near Wasing Airfield. Follow the track for a further 275 metres (300 yards) between hedges (the track crosses the parish boundary and becomes Aldermaston No 10), then turn left onto another track (still Aldermaston No 10) and cross the field to reach 'Mars Bar' bridge (original author's reference), over the River Enborne. Cross the bridge and continue ahead (the path is now Woolhampton No 9), making for the end of an avenue of poplars. Turn right and then immediately left keeping to the public footpath with the field boundary on your left. Stay on the footpath bearing left across a footbridge and walk to the field gateway, where there is a footpath marker. Pass through onto a gravelled track which leads to a metalled road.
- 6 Turn right onto the road and walk towards Woolhampton. After 230 metres (250 yards) there is another gravel track to your left. This is the next section of the walk but you may wish to visit the 'Row Barge' which is a few metres further on, or walk past it to see the Kennet and the **Kennet Navigation**, just beyond, and perhaps extend your walk by a stroll along the towpath.
- 7 Walk westwards along the gravel track (Woolhampton No 8). Soon there is a

public footpath on the left (Brimpton No 4). Follow this footpath around the edge of the lake which will be on your right. Near the south west corner of the lake continue to follow the footpath turning right and then immediately left. Walk towards Brimpton Church which is prominent on the hill ahead. After about a kilometre (half a mile) turn left onto another track (Brimpton No 3) which runs almost east-west. Follow this track, passing through or by a metal gateway, until it meets the Brimpton-Aldermaston road perhaps a hundred metres from a road junction. Walk ahead to turn right at the junction and cross Shalford Bridge, over the River Enborne. There are now two alternative routes that could be followed.

- 8a Scenic route to Wasing Church and along the edge of Wasing Wood (1.7 km). Proceed as follows: Turn left towards Aldermaston and after a few metres turn right, to pass through a gateway onto a metalled driveway (Wasing No 4). The drive leads uphill through Wasing Park. Near the top of the hill farm buildings come into view. Follow the driveway round to the left, reaching the farm, and pass through another gateway (with a cattle grid). You will now see Wasing Church and Wasing Place ahead of you and to the left. Turn right through the kissing gate onto the footpath (Wasing No 5) and walk across the field through another kissing gate. Cross a track and continue along the footpath. The fields on the left drop down towards the Wasing Wood which eventually extends up to the path providing fine views. A few metres before a gate that leads to a gravel track turn left onto the forest track at the start of stage 9.

- 8b Shorter walk along Back Lane (1.3 km – beware traffic on blind bends). Walk southwards, uphill, passing Shalford farm on your right. After about a kilometre (half a mile), at the crest of the hill, the road turns sharply to the right. The buildings of a farm are conspicuous ahead and to the right. A gravel track leads almost straight ahead at the bend. Follow the track for about a hundred metres and, just before a cottage, turn left to pass through a gateway. In a few metres turn right onto a forest track (a left turn here would take you to Wasing Church).
- 9 This track runs along the western edge of Wasing Wood (along side another path – Brimpton No 12). After about 500 m (quarter of a mile) bear right onto a narrow path (footpath marker – Wasing No 2) to pass a cottage on your right. Perhaps about fifty metres past the cottage the path opens out and there is another dirt path on the right (Brimpton No 14). Walk ahead to join a gravel road with dwellings on the right hand side.
- 10 After a few hundred metres, just before the boundary hedge of the first house you come to on the left hand side, turn left onto an earth path (Brimpton No 15). After 90 metres (100 yards) pass through a gap and continue with a field on your left, until you reach a stile at a crossroads. Cross the stile and take the road opposite, which leads to Baughurst. After about 550 metres (600 yards) you may notice on the left hand, another large tumulus, covered with trees. Just beyond you will cross the county boundary from Berkshire into Hampshire, and continuing along the road to The Badger's Wood regain the starting point.

**Barrows or Tumuli** Ancient burial sites dating from the Bronze Age. Five 'round' or 'bell' barrows, dating from the Early to Middle Bronze Age (2000 - 1500 BC), are to be found in the area. Four are in the field(s) on the north side of the Hurst Community College (573 625, 577 626 and 578 627), while a fifth outlying barrow is further north on the road to Brimpton (569 629). The barrows are described in the Hampshire Field Club Proceedings (Vol. 14 1938-40 p.31) as follows: "Among the group known as Baughurst Barrows, nearly all of which are in Berkshire, is one on the Berks-Hants border, and this appears to be the Imma's Barrow of the Saxon Land Charter." The South of England, especially the downland and other high places, has scattered upon it thousands of these small hillocks. It was only in the eighteenth century that the true nature of these tombs was realised and then nearly all of them were inexpertly excavated by treasure hunters and many valuable relics were lost.

**Kennet Navigation** The River Kennet is the parent water of the Kennet Navigation. Through almost all of the eighteenth century Newbury was linked with the Thames by the Navigation which consisted of a number of 'cuts' or channels which by-passed the meanderings of the river. Just to the west of the road bridge near the 'Row Barge' is the entrance, via a recently restored lock to the cut between Woolhampton and Thatcham. In the late eighteenth century the Navigation was extended westwards until in 1810 the Kennet and Avon canal was completed. It's

a nice walk along the towpath to Bath, if you have a week to spare.

**Wasing Church (576 642)** St Nicholas Church, Wasing, dates from the 15th century but was largely rebuilt in 1761, of roughcast stucco, with stone dressings. The weatherboarded bell tower has a pyramidal roof. There are two bells, one is dated 1664, the other is believed to have been cast about 700 years ago. The windows of the nave have transparent panes surrounding pictorial panels. Some of the panels are dated, e.g. 1629 and 1649. In common with 90 other churches in the area it has a fine Jacobean pulpit. Inside the main entrance, on the western wall, there are two panels - one dated 1787 and lists the Parish charities, the other gives a list of the incumbents since the church's foundation.



**Wasing Place and Wasing Park (577 643)** Wasing is a very small parish, only 600 acres in extent and it has no village so it is no surprise that its population is small. However, it has not always been so lightly populated. In the parish there are five barrows listed as ancient monuments and flint implements and other prehistoric relics have been found

here. Referred to in the eleventh century as Wasince and, at later times, Wasesing or Wasynge, from the time of Edward the Confessor the manor passed through various hands including the Forsters of Aldermaston, who held it from 1543 to 1620. It was then in the family Verney until 1730. John Mount of Tower Hill, London, bought the estate in 1760 and had the present mansion designed by John Hobcraft between 1770-3. There is now nothing above ground of the original manor house which was reputed to be a short distance away. Hobcraft's classic pedimented eighteenth century mansion was destroyed by fire on 2 February 1945 and reconstructed in 1955. During World War II, Wasing Place housed the accounts staff of the Great Western Railway (GWR) evacuated from Paddington. It is not clear whether the GWR staff were still using the house at the time of the fire, but it is said that the alarm was raised by a charwoman early that morning. Fire tenders raced from Reading and five other stations, Maidenhead and Didcot being the furthest away. Water had to be pumped by relays of engines from lakes about a half a mile (quarter of a mile) away. Estate workers saved what they could of the family treasures. Sir William Mount was living at Wasing Farm at this time, having been invalided out of the Royal Armoured Corps. The house was rebuilt soon afterwards. Wasing Place is still the seat of the Mount family. Ferdinand (William Robert), who does not use his title, is the grandson of Sir William. He is listed in Debrett's as a journalist and author.

when soaked gave porridge. I think we ate them solid!

Once our unit had been established and ammunition and supply depots had been set up, forward areas (meaning fighting forces) had to be supplied. I remember going into Bayeux, which was not badly damaged, and finding the reception of the people almost

hostile. Thinking of the battle for Caen again brings memories flooding back. I believe this was not taken until July. I can remember waiting in convoy, loaded with ammunition.

The Falaise Gap is a memory I will never forget, especially being my 21st birthday on 24 June 24 1944. Not a very happy Coming of Age. I can remember

wondering whether this birthday would be my last. Looking back though, those in actual combat were going through far worse experiences. The memory of those who died, and of how they died still lingers, and is remembered fully at Armistice Services each year.

Below is the full text of the two messages referred to in George Stanley's article.

**Supreme Headquarters  
Allied Expeditionary Force**

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

*Dwight D Eisenhower*

**21 ARMY GROUP  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
FROM THE C-IN-C  
To be read out to all Troops**

1. The time has come to deal the enemy a terrific blow in Western Europe.

The blow will be struck by the combined sea, land and air forces of the Allies – together constituting one great Allied team, under the supreme command of General Eisenhower.

2. On the eve of this great adventure I send my best wishes to every soldier in the Allied team.

To us is given the honour of striking a blow for freedom which will live in history; and in the better days that lie ahead men will speak with pride of our doings. We have a great and a righteous cause.

Let us pray that "The Lord Mighty in Battle" will go forth with our armies, and that His special providence will aid us in the struggle.

3. I want every soldier to know that I have complete confidence in the successful outcome of the operations that we are now about to begin.

With stout hearts, and with enthusiasm for the contest, let us go forward to victory.

4. And, as we enter the battle, let us recall the words of a famous soldier spoken many years ago: -

"He either fears his fate too much,  
Or his deserts are small,  
Who dare not put it to the touch,  
To win or lose it all"

5. Good luck to each one of you. And good hunting on the main-land of Europe.

*B. L. Montgomery, General, C-in-C 21 Army Group, 1944.*

## 100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, July – December 1909

| Date         | Page | Village       | Topic   |
|--------------|------|---------------|---|
| 3 July       | 6    | Aldermaston   | Campanology. A peal of 'Double Norwich Court Bob Major' consisting of 5,152 changes was rung on the parish church bells in 2 hours 47 minutes. C  |
| 10 July      | 6    | Baughurst     | At Hants Assizes Walter Hearn aged 24, gardener, pleaded guilty to burglary at Newbies and stealing bottles of port, whisky and beer, value 7s 2d. Bound over. C  |
| 17 July      | 7    | Charter Alley | Annual summer gathering of Primitive Methodist Circuit Demonstration held in grounds lent by Mr John Stanley. C   |
| 17 July      | 8    | Tadley        | John Saunders of Tadley was summoned for riding while asleep when in charge of a horse and wagon at Wargrave. Fined 10/- with 5s 6d costs C   |
| 14 August    | 6    | Silchester    | Generous gift of woodcarving given to Parish by Colonel & Mrs Sealey placed in the Chapel of the Parish Church. C   |
| 28 August    | 7    | Tadley        | Inquest held at the Fox & Hounds by the coroner on Harry Monger of Tadley who died of lockjaw following a fall from his bicycle. C  |
| 4 September  | 8    | Baughurst     | Local success. Mr Horace J Smith successfully passed the Oxford Senior examination. C   |
| 11 September | 6    | Pamber        | Farewell and presentation to Captain Ayrton when a good number of church workers assembled in the Mission Church. C   |
| 11 September | 6    | Silchester    | Parties of hop pickers have left the district for hop picking this week. C  |
| 11 September | 6    | Silchester    | A serious accident was averted when a little girl, Winnie Goddard ran across the road in front of Miss Cockerton's motor near the post office. C  |
| 25 September | 8    | Tadley        | A property known as 'Barn Heath' was submitted to public auction by Messrs Heelas. Bids started at £1,400 and continued to £1,625 and at this point, the reserve not being reached, the property was withdrawn. C |
| 16 October   | 6    | Ramsdale      | While ferreting on Lower Farm, Mr Charles Kent discovered a pair of young pigeons in a rabbit's burrow.   |
| 23 October   | 5    | Pamber Heath  | Church Dedication Festival took place on Sunday and Monday last to mark the change in use of the church that will now be called St Luke's.  |
| 30 October   | 5    | Baughurst     | Through the kindness of Mr Stokes of Inhurst House the Reading Room was opened on Monday evening for the winter months C  |
| 6 November   | 5    | Pamber        | Quoit Club of Pamber End held their first annual supper at the College Arms. C  |
| 6 November   | 6    | Baughurst     | A collection was made by several scholars last week for Dr Barnardo's Homes. C  |
| 6 November   | 8    | Silchester    | Meeting of National Service League held in Reading Room which was decorated with flags of the Empire and patriotic mottoes. C   |
| 20 November  | 8    | Baughurst     | Marriage of Lieutenant Stokes RN, of Inhurst House and Miss Margaret Rose Strange took place on the 16th at St Mary's Church, Aldermaston. Very many guests and gifts. C  |
| 27 November  | 6    | Ramsdale      | Leaving presentation to Rev C E and Mrs Durham at the village schoolroom. C   |
| 25 December  | 5    | Baughurst     | During the past week the Rector has distributed 21 Clothing Club and 38 Coal Club tickets.  |

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

## 100 years ago – national and international, July – December 1909

| Date   | Topic  |
|--|--|
| 15 July  | In Paris Dr Alexis Carrel demonstrated the organ transplants he has carried out on animals.                                  |
| 25 July  | Louis Bleriot made the first successful flight across the English Channel (Calais to Dover) in 43 mins.                      |
| 2 August   | King Edward VII warmly welcomed the Tsar and Empress of Russia at Spithead.  |
| 30 August  | In Mexico terrible floods were reported to have killed 1400 people.  |
| 28 September   | The House of Commons confirmed that several of the imprisoned suffragettes had been force fed.                               |
| 14 November  | President Taft established a naval station at Pearl Harbour to defend US from Japanese attack.                               |
| 3 December   | King Edward VII dissolved Parliament.  |
| 10 December  | Prime Minister Asquith put Irish home rule and abolition of the House of Lords' veto at the centre of his election campaign. |
| Among those born were: Francis Bacon, British painter (28 October); Katherine Hepburn, US Actress (8 November); Joseph McCarty, US Politician (14 November). |  |

Among those who died were: Prince Hirobumi Ito, Japanese statesman, age 72 (26 October); and Leopold II, Belgian King, age 79 (17 December).