



Tadley and District History Society projectnews

FREE

issue
16

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

Issue sixteen

Spring/Summer 2010

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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.

Editorial

In our *Walk through Tadley – part 1*, we are printing just a few of the many old views of Tadley that you have been kind enough to allow us to scan for inclusion in the website www.photosoftadley.com. They will remind some of you, and enlighten others, of the time when Tadley was just a quiet, traffic free village!

The equivalent modern views can be seen on the TADS website and in Tadley Library, where there will be a display, 'Then and Now – Dix Hill to New Road', from 1 – 15 July.

Walk 6 from *Tadley Tracks, Tadley Facts* is a loose insert in this issue of projectnews.

A historic walk through Tadley

Before entering modern Tadley from the south, along the A340 Basingstoke to Aldermaston road, you pass through the rural landscape which surrounds the villages along the way. Within this area, from the 10th century AD, was the place known as Taddanleage, the Anglo Saxon word from which we derive Tadley. The ensuing years saw this settlement move gradually northward, so as we reach Dix Hill so we reach the Tadley of the 17th century onwards.

Prior to the 18th century the upkeep of this road would have been the responsibility of the parish: ditches cleaned, hedges cut back and occasionally gravel or soil added to the surface to absorb the mud which was created. Following the opening of the River Kennet Navigation in 1723, there was a considerable increase in traffic, transporting goods to and from Basingstoke and the canal, and so the Aldermaston to Basingstoke Turnpike Trust was formed and tolls were levied for its upkeep: a farthing a head for cattle, 6d for a carriage and horse, but local carts and churchgoers went free.

It ceased to be profitable with the coming of the railways in the 1860s and as a consequence the condition of the Aldermaston to Basingstoke Turnpike would no doubt have deteriorated. By 1888 responsibility for the upkeep of main roads passed to the newly created County Councils. 1894 saw the Rural District Council taking responsibility, but in 1930 power was once again back with the County Council! As the photographs show, in the early half of the 20th century the A340 was still a quiet village road following the same route and with the same gravel and stone surface which probably survived from the Turnpike design. In 1950, however, everything was to change with the coming of the 'atom centre'. A huge increase in traffic necessitated changes to improve its quality and safety.

Part 1 Dix Hill to New Road

This section of our journey through Tadley has seen minimal changes over the years, despite the increase in population and substantial increase in traffic. The Parish Council minute book for the 1950s records a plan to straighten the 'Chapel Corner' bends and to facilitate this Plum Tree Cottage, north of the chapel (see photo 4), was compulsorily purchased. However, it was not demolished until much later, in 1982/3, by which time the plan had been abandoned. And so it remains probably one of the most dangerous parts of the journey. A 30mph speed limit was imposed instead and the creation of a pavement has helped to keep pedestrians safe. A traffic mirror was suggested to improve safety at the southern entrance to The Green, but it was instead preferred to make it one way.

The most major road change was the realignment of New Road in the 1980s, to exit onto a new roundabout at the junction of Rowan Road with Tadley Hill. The footpath to the bus stop and memorial garden marks the original route of New Road as seen in photo 8.

We rest here on the journey, to resume it in projectnews 17, to be published in November 2010.

A historic walk through Tadley

Part 1: Dix Hill to New Road



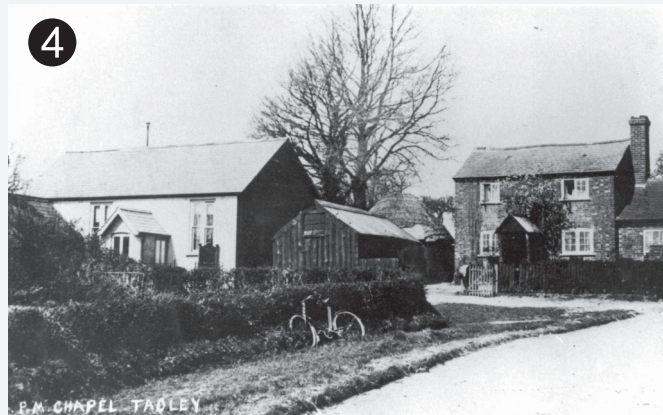
Approaching Tadley from the south. A pre-1930 view of the still unsurfaced road at Dix Hill. 'The Fighting Cocks' is top left of the picture.



'The Fighting Cocks', at the top of Dix Hill c1924, looking north. This Edwardian building replaced the earlier thatched public house which was destroyed by fire in 1903.



3 A pre-1930 view looking north along what is now Main Road, just south of The Methodist Church. The verge has now been replaced with a pavement. The houses on the left were built in 1926.



The Primitive Methodist Chapel (left), built 1859, to the north side of the more modern Methodist Church (1931), Main Road. Since 1986 it has been a private dwelling.



The numbers indicate the location from which we believe each photograph was taken.



A view south of the original junction of New Road (on the right) with Tadley Hill, now the Memorial Garden. Elmhurst, the house which stood on the site of the swimming pool, is in the background.



Tadley Hill looking north to its junction with Rowan Road (on the right). The name 'Trunk Pond' was derived from the nearby pond and fallen tree trunk. The junction is now reconfigured to include a roundabout.



Another photograph of Tadley Hill, c1925, looking south towards the old Tadley Post Office, now a private dwelling. The northern access to The Green is at the bottom right.



Looking north at the junction of Main Road and Tadley Hill, c1925. On the left is the old Tadley Post Office which closed in 1995. The cottages in middle & background have now been demolished.

100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, January – June 1910

Date	Page	Village	Topic
1 January	5	Silchester	Wedding of Miss Marion Coleman – dressed in a purple costume and cream beaver hat trimmed with gold – to Mr Henry Murrey of Aberdeenshire. (C).
1 January	6	Silchester	A sailor with a little girl, walking from Bramley to Pamber Heath found floods at the withey bed in Silchester and had to wade through twice, the bridge being 10–12” under water (C).
8 January	8	Pamber Heath	Good use made of the Pamber Heath Rifle Range, situated in the White House grounds, by the Rifle Club which is backed by influential people of the neighbourhood. (C)
22 January	5	Tadley	Entertainment in the Church Room included comic songs, a sketch, waxworks, Pierrot party, and a nigger troupe. Profit of £3.4s.3d. (C)
29 January	6	Ewhurst	Duke and Duchess of Wellington provided entertainment and tea for over 200 employees of Ewhurst and Wolverton Estates. (C)
19 February	7	Silchester	Golden Wedding of Mr & Mrs James Goddard. Of the 13 children born to them 6 are still living and 7 lie in the peaceful churchyard. (C)
19 February	7	Pamber Heath	The new organ in St Luke's Church was used for the first time at one of the special Lent services arranged for Thursday evenings. (C)
12 March	8	Pamber Heath	Quote from Monk Sherborne and Pamber magazine regarding the new American organ now in use in St Luke's Church.
12 March	8	Little London	Farewell gathering at the Plough Inn for young Mr Bert Thomas before he set sail for Canada on <i>The Empress of Ireland</i> . (C)
9 April	5	Little London	At the annual supper of the Plough Inn Rat and Sparrow Club it was stated that 2,039 birds and 477 rats had been caught, showing a decrease in the number of heads and increase of tails. (C)
23 April	6	Tadley	First meeting of the new Parish Council appointed two allotment wardens for Tadley and re-appointed the haywarden. A precept was signed for £12. Letter from Postmaster-General granted the extension of delivery of letters on Sundays. (C)
30 April	5	Silchester	Parish Council meeting decided to repair the footbridge near the withy bed and to prosecute all out-parishioners cutting or taking wood from the Common. (C)
7 May	8	Silchester	Death and funeral of Mr William Knight, 86 years, a very old inhabitant of Silchester who left 10 children, 40 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren. (C) (List of mourners).
14 May	7	Tadley	The King passed away. The school flag flown at half-mast and church bell tolled out the news. (C)
28 May	7	Tadley	A most impressive memorial service was held at the Parish Church to pay last respects to the late King. There was a large congregation present. (C)
4 June	8	Tadley	At a meeting of the Tadley Parish Council in the Council School it was proposed that a letter be sent to the Postmaster, Basingstoke about the unfair distribution of pillar boxes in Tadley. (C)
4 June	8	Silchester	An entertainment was given in the Impstone Reading Room to celebrate the closing of the club for the first season since the Misses Cockerton bought the property. (C)
11 June	8	Silchester	King George V's birthday notified by flying the new flag at the school. (C)
18 June	7	Wolverton	The cottage of Widow Cooper was struck by lightning, passing through the cottage, knocking a clock of the mantelpiece and making a hole through the newspaper she was reading. (C)

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, January – June 1910

Date	Topic
18 January	In London, Halley's Comet was first observed.
1 February	In UK, the first labour exchanges were opened.
8 March	In UK the government needed to borrow £29 milion to make up lost budget revenue.
10 March	In China slavery was abolished.
27 March	In Italy Mount Etna erupted causing widespread destruction
6 May	King Edward VII died of pneumonia aged 69 years.
31 May	The Republic of South Africa was established with Dominion status, but independent of Britain
1 June	Scott's second polar expedition left for Antarctica.
28 June	In Germany the zeppelin 'Deutschland' was wrecked in a gale.
Among those born were: Jean Anouilh, French playwright (13 June).	
Among those who died were: Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain), US novelist and wit, aged 74.	