



# Tadley and District History Society projectnews

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

## Issue seventeen

Autumn/Winter 2010

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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.

## Editorial

It is with regret that this issue of projectnews will be the last for the foreseeable future. In recent years a number of other projects, which have been running alongside projectnews, now require more of the group's attention.

The first projectnews was published in December 2002 with two articles: the promotion of the borough's Heritage Open Days and Jean Pocock's memories of Tadley. Sadly, Jean has since died, but the photos and information relating to the Lowe family that she gave TADS have been used many times since. We hope you have enjoyed some, if not all, of the articles published over the years.

As with Part 1 of *A historic walk through Tadley*, the equivalent modern views of the photographs in Part 2 can be seen on the TADS website and in Tadley Library from 5-14 January 2011.

## A historic walk through Tadley

Devoid of the ribbon of housing now lining the A340, the photographs on pages 2 and 3 show a continuation of the quiet, rural gravel road. However, the arrival of motorised vehicles soon led to a need for smoother roads with a less dusty surface. In 1926 the A340 was 'metalled' from Park Prewitt Hospital to the county boundary.

Probably little was to change along the route in the ensuing 25 years. The movement of wartime traffic to and from the new Aldermaston Airfield (1941) undoubtedly affected those who lived at the top of Mulfords Hill, but the changes to the road's character came later, with the establishment of AWRE in 1951. This led to concerns about the increased volume of traffic and in 1956 a 30 mph speed limit was imposed. In the same year a street lighting scheme was formalised, followed by the erection of more street furniture. The A340 had become a major highway.

### Part 2: New Road to The Falcon

As we progress, Tadley Hill becomes Mulfords Hill, from the Bishopswood stream northwards. While there is an absence of road names on many early photographs, that of Mulfords Hill appears frequently. It could be taken as an indication of a long used name, perhaps where John Mulford (1720–1814) lived in his later years?

It was after World War II when most of the road names we are now familiar with were adopted. Some commemorate wartime personalities: Back Lane became Winston Avenue and East Street became Franklin Avenue. Others followed the post-war building programme, and subsequently the AWRE housing estates. Beyond the stream, on our right is Stephens Road, named after Mr John Stephens – a minister (1762–1765) of the Old Tadley Meeting House, now the United Reformed Church. Past the Salvation Army Hall (view 2) and the cottage (view 2) is Millers Road, named after Walter Miller, headmaster of Tadley Board School c1920–1940. This housing development was built by local company, Blake's, and at the top of the hill to the right (north of view 3) is Blake's Lane to where, in 1906, Noah Blake relocated his building business from Basingstoke.

From 1951 AWRE generated an overwhelming increase, not only in the volume of traffic but in Tadley's population. Mulfords Hill reflected this with a new shopping parade, built on the open space adjacent to 'The Fox and Hounds', and an 85 feet extension to Blake's original parlour shop (view 4), to cope with the demand of shoppers. The redundant gravel pit on the corner of Franklin Avenue was filled in c1959 and formed the site of the new Lloyds Bank.

From here the name changes to Aldermaston Road. The common land and pine trees which characterised north Tadley vanished in 1941 beneath wartime Aldermaston Airfield, to be replaced ten years later by 'The Atom Centre'.

# A historic walk through Tadley

## Part 2: New Road to The Falcon



Travelling north up Mulford's Hill. A view taken at the junction of what is now Briar Way (right). Opposite is now the Esso garage. Although no longer clearly visible, the cottage on the left still stands.



A pre 1938 view looking south, back toward New Road. The Salvation Army Hall, built in 1909, is on the left with some of Tadley's earliest council houses opposite.

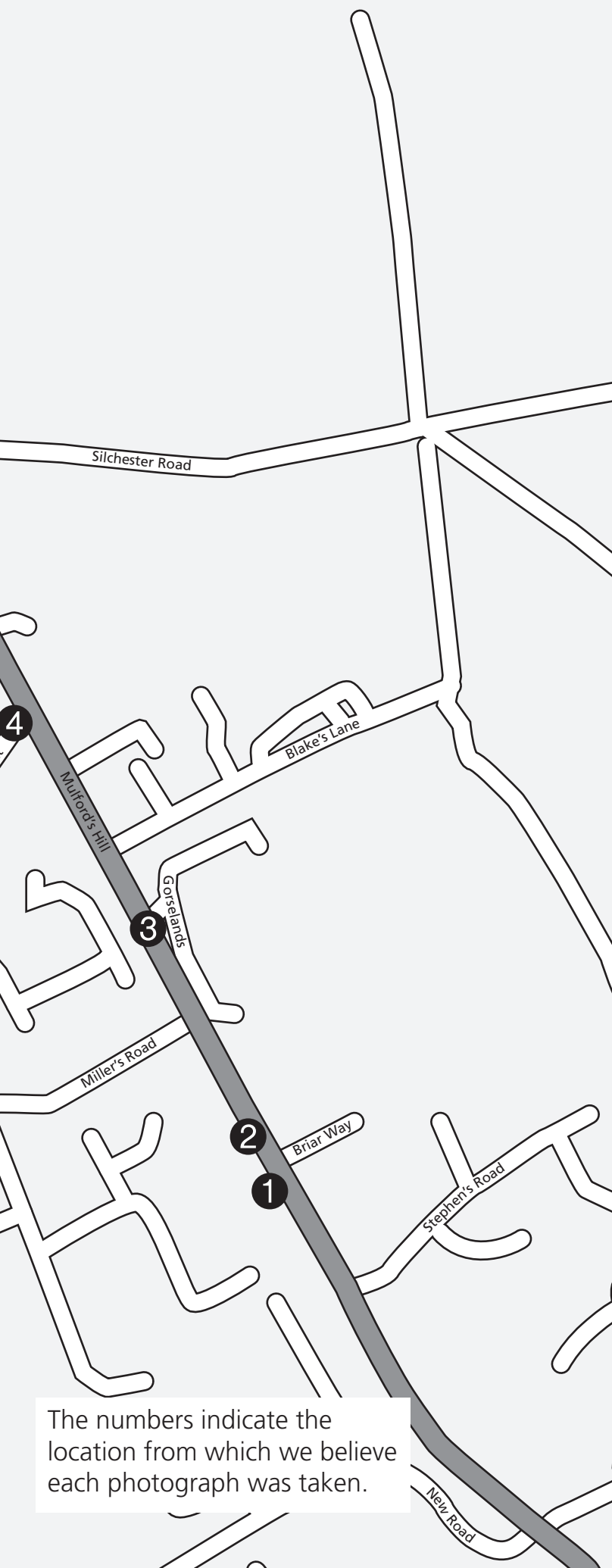


Looking south again. On the left is the edge of Tadley Common with possibly Rowan Farm in the distance. A photograph highlighting how open the area still was at the time; Gorselands is now on the left.



A 1980s view of what is now the Sainsbury's site, showing Blake's original parlour shop with the many extensions made by J S Whatmore during the 1950s. It became Budgens in 1977.





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



8  
A pre 1926 view of The Falcon, then known locally as The Furzebush. The sign, at that time, depicted a falcon (family crest of the Congreve family, Aldermaston Court) sat atop a furze/gorse bush. The Padworth road bears to the right.



7  
Peg's Café was on the east side of Aldermaston Road, where the Falcon Fields estate now is. The café was opened by Denis Brant in 1956 and was later taken over by his sister, Peggy Wyles. It closed in 1984.



6  
The Midland Bank (now HSBC) Portakabin, located at the corner of Franklin Avenue, with Lloyds Bank beyond. There from June 1964 to March 1975, after which the bank relocated to its present site. The Portakabin then became Council offices. It was demolished in 1996.



5  
Another inter war view looking south down Mulford's Hill with Blake's parlour shop on the left (see photo 4 for details) and The Fox and Hounds public house on the right. All the buildings on the left have since been demolished with the Library taking some of the space.

## 100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, July – December 1910

Date	Page	Village	Topic
2 July	6	Tadley	Albert Jacob George, aged 14 years, was charged with setting fire to the house of his employer in Tadley. (C)
16 July	6	Ewhurst	A shocking accident occurred last week at Povey's Farm when farmer Mr Ford was gored in the jaw by a young bull.
16 July	6	Silchester	72 Schoolchildren with adults enjoyed their summer outing to Bournemouth by train last Saturday including a splendid view of the airships.
16 July	6	Pamber	At the meeting of the Parish Council the Chairman was requested by the Council to call a further meeting to test the parishioners feeling to the proposed sale of the parish pound.
23 July	5	Silchester	A fine picnic was generously provided by Mr W Benham for some 50 infants who did not go to the seaside with the older children. (C)
23 July	7	Tadley	At a meeting of the Tadley Parish Council in the Council School, Tadley Hill, it was decided to inspect the encroachments on the Common. (C)
6 August	5	Pamber Heath	Miss Cockerton generously presented to St Luke's Church a massive revolving brass Bible rest for the pulpit. (C)
1 October	8	Silchester	Considerable discussion took place at the Parish Council Meeting regarding 29 acres of land offered by the Duke of Wellington for allotments at £1 an acre. 14 shillings per acre was offered for this very poor land, but not accepted. (C)
15 October	5	Basingstoke.	Opening ceremony of the Electric Theatre at the bottom of Wote Street. Premises previously served as a swimming bath but had for a long time been in a state of desuetude, transformed by Messrs Goodall & Son, builders. (C)
22 October	6	Tadley	Parish Council Meeting requesting Hants Education Committee to discontinue the school van conveying children to and from Heath End as there are so few children using it. (C)
29 October	7	Mortimer West End	An oak lych gate in grateful remembrance of the good works of Revd Adolphus Leighton White and his wife was dedicated on Sunday. The oak was grown on Mr Benyon's estate and the gate erected by Mr E Merrick. (C)
29 October	7	Pamber	A penalty of 10s was imposed on E H Rose, a travelling grinder, for thrashing and loudly using obscene language to his pony whilst driving at a tremendous pace along the road from Silchester to Tadley. (C)
19 November	6	Baughurst	A very satisfactory report has been received on the essays written by several of the scholars of this school on the lecture 'Alcohol and the Blood' recently given by Mr A Jolliffe of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Band of Hope Union. (C)
26 November	5	Silchester	Messrs Musselwhite and Sapp of Basingstoke have the work of rebuilding the church tower, the old one having been pulled down.
31 December	3	Silchester	Amid depressing and gloomy weather Miss Evelyn Agatha Langshaw married Mr John Bartlet Goodrich of the Royal North-West Canadian Mounted Police. Among the many presents was a lion skin from Mr Arthur Langshaw, shot by himself. (C)

## 100 years ago – national and international, July – December 1910

Date	Topic
1 July	South Africa became a Dominion of the British Empire.
31 July	Police launched a hunt for Dr Crippen who was wanted for murder. Arrested at sea, he was the first criminal suspect to be caught by the use of radio. He was convicted of murder on 22 October and hanged on 23 November 1910.
27 August	In US the inventor Thomas Edison demonstrated the first talking motion pictures.
14 September	In Germany the airship Zeppelin was destroyed by fire.
23 October	In UK the White Star liner 'Olympic', the biggest ship afloat, was launched.
18 November	In London 119 suffragettes were arrested after an attack on the House of Commons.
20 December	In UK the general election resulted in a dead heat with the Liberals and Tories winning 272 seats each. Asquith continued as Prime Minister with the reluctant backing of 42 Labour MPs and 84 Irish Nationalists.

Among those born were: William Schuman, US composer (4 August) and Dame Alicia Markova (b Lilian Alicia Marks), British Ballerina (1 December).

Among those who died were: Charles Stewart Rolls, British Aviator and motorist, (12 July); Florence Nightingale, British nursing pioneer, age 91 (13 August); William Holman Hunt, British artist (7 September); Jean Henri Dunant, Swiss philanthropist, founder of the Red Cross, age 82 (30 October) and Count Leo Tolstoy, Russian writer, (21 November).

Popular hits of the day: 'Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life' and 'Chinatown, my Chinatown'.