

# Tadley and District History Society projectnews

issue  
2

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

April 2003

## Contents

Community Centre  
photographs 1

Tadley Tracks, Tadley Facts 2-3

100 Years Ago 4

## About us

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

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

TADS's projectnews is published three times a year by Tadley and District History Society. If you would like to receive regular copies, please contact Alan Cooke, Distribution Officer, at Tadley and District History Society, PO Box 7264, Tadley RG26 3FA, United Kingdom; telephone: 0118 981 4006; web: [www.tadleyhistory.com](http://www.tadleyhistory.com)

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

Copy date for the next issue of projectnews is 18 June 2003.

Happy New Year and welcome to issue two of projectnews. We are pleased to report that the item on Florence Davidson in issue one prompted a reader to send us copies of two articles attributed to her on the history of Silchester. One is from about 1910; the other, dated 1914, is considerably longer and deals with the history in two parts: pre- and post-1800.

Our main feature this issue is an update to the first of six walks Roger Searing and Pat Minter included in their 1982 book *Tadley Tracks, Tadley Facts*. Long out of print, it was an excellent combination of exercise and local history. With the good weather on its way there is no excuse for not getting the walking boots out and discovering Tadley's historic past!

## Community Centre photographs

On Saturday 30 November 2002, four enlarged, early photographs of Tadley were presented to the Tadley Community Centre in celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee, by Tadley & District History Society (TADS).



Photo: Tadley Roundabout website

The presentation was made by Bob Brown, Chairman of the TADS to Cllr Terry Faulkner, Vice-Chairman of Tadley Community Centre Committee, who was representing Chairman Sheila Darley.

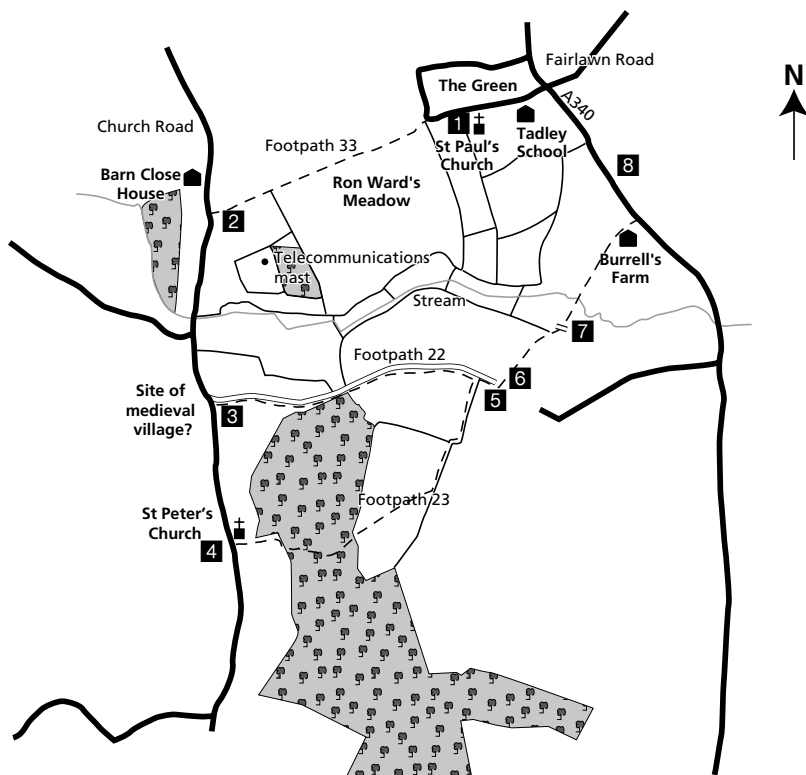
The photos are representative of old Tadley and have enlarged extremely well due to the high quality of the original postcards. The photos, which are also in the TADS publication *Around Tadley – people and places* are:

- George West's broomyard, Mulfords Hill (approximately where Gorselands is today); 1910.
- Furzebush Corner, now known as Falcon Corner, with 'The Falcon' public house in the centre; pre-1926.
- Bowman's Brook, looking up Pamber Heath Road and showing the ford and West Street off to the left; pre-1928.
- Mulfords Hill looking south with 'The Fox and Hounds' sign visible on the right and now demolished houses on the left where Budgens is now.

Amongst those invited were Don Allen, County Councillor, members of Tadley Town Council and representatives of the Community Centre Committee. During the event Bob Brown was pleased to accept, on behalf of TADS, the 'commission' to organise the collection of items for the, as yet, unfilled time capsule located in the floor of the Community Centre main entrance.

Above Cllr Terry Faulkner (right) accepts one of the photos, on behalf of the Community Centre, from Bob Brown. Right Alan Cooke, TADS Project Group member, fixes one of the photos to the wall of the Community Centre.





## Tadley Tracks, Tadley Facts

### 1: Tadley's Churches

**Distance** 2 Miles (3.25 km)

**Time** about 45 minutes

**Start** St Paul's Church (SU603609).  
Parking is available in the lay-by opposite the church.

A short pleasant walk starting at the heart of Old Tadley (The Green), passing through the Church Road Conservation Area and by several old and new Tadley Churches. Other than more housing, little has changed along the walk's route since Pat Minter and Roger Searing included it in their book *Tadley Tracks, Tadley Facts* (1982). However, the state of the signs and stiles has deteriorated and TADS is trying to ensure that they get repaired. Although a relatively gentle walk, we recommend that old clothes and wet weather gear be worn as it can get muddy underfoot!

**Plants and wildlife** Depending upon the season and on hedging activities, these may be seen: the wild cherry, May trees (Ne'er cast a clout 'till May be out'), the guelder rose, the alder and the elder. Primroses are fewer than twenty years ago, but Solomon's seal and the wood anemone are still flourishing. In the copse reached soon after St Peter's Church are examples of the sweet chestnut. These trees used to be cut down frequently while still young to provide material for cleft fencing, fence stakes and bean poles. The present growth suggests that the demand has decreased but they are cut down now when more mature, for logs. Notice the pale yellow flowers of this chestnut which do not appear until July or even August, giving little time for the chestnuts to develop. The Romans, who introduced them to the area, must have been disappointed in the result.

**Ron Ward's Meadow** (601 608) Ron Ward owned a 25 acre (10 ha) ancient south-facing hay meadow near **The Green**. He kept it in its natural state for over 35 years: no pesticides, insecticides, weedkillers or fertilisers were used in it. He resisted the temptation to sell the land for development during the building boom of the 1970s and 1980s. There are at least 5 species of orchid, 24 grasses, 15 forms of sedge, 10 types of rushes and 180 species of flowering plants, including 22 species of dandelion. In November 1991, shortly before he died (December 1991) he bequeathed the meadow to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. It is now one of the richest hay meadows in Hampshire. Ron was granted permission to be buried in a corner of the meadow.

- 1** From **St Paul's Church** walk westwards with The Green on your right. After about 100 yards the road turns to the right. Walk ahead onto a gravel road (*Tadley Footpath 33*), and soon pass through a barrier onto a path between a hedge and fence. On your left is **Ron Ward's Meadow**. The path runs along the crest of a ridge with good views to the south over Basingstoke and beyond. Follow the path over the hill crest and down through a peaceful half-wooded valley onto Church Road. Look right and you see the old rectory **Barn Close House**.
- 2** Turn left onto Church Road. Walk downhill past the junction with Church Brook on the right, then start uphill towards **St Peter's Church** which is near the top of the rise.
- 3** A shorter walk can be had by turning left onto *Tadley Footpath 22* which is on your left just before the first house. This leads through a copse, across a stile and along the left-hand edge of a field to reach a stile at its far end, on your left. If you have followed this route go straight to paragraph five.
- 4** Walk uphill to pass **St Peter's Church**. Immediately beyond the church turn left onto *Tadley Footpath 23*, passing through a gap or gateway into a field. Follow the track, keeping the field boundary to your left and at the field corner enter a copse. Follow the path through the copse. At the bottom the main track swings right; bear left where after a short distance a rickety stile leads into a field. Follow the path across the field to a gate on the opposite side. At the gate (do not

pass through) bear left and follow the right-hand boundary, a hedge, to a broken stile at the field corner. Cross the stile, and again follow the right-hand boundary to the corner of the next field.

- 5** Immediately ahead is a gap in the hedge fence and to your right a field gate. This is the junction of *Tadley Footpaths 22 and 23*. *Footpath 22* leads away to the left to reach Church Road below **St Peter's Church**.
- 6** Pass through the gap and after a few yards cross a barrier (should be a stile). The space between was part of the old road which connected Skates Lane with Church Road and onto Axmansford and Baughurst.
- 7** Turn to your right and follow the right-hand hedge until you encounter a stile which leads on to a footpath which runs between hedge and fence. After about 150 yards cross a stream by a footbridge then go left and up the slope to a stile on a field boundary. Walk straight ahead uphill and at the far side pass through a gateway and turn right onto a gravelled lane. After another 100 yards you reach Main Road. Just before the junction with Main Road, on the right-hand side is **Burrell's Farm**.
- 8** Turn left and walk up Main Road. On your left is the **Methodist Church** and on the right is the United Reformed Church. At the crossroads at the top of the hill, turn left onto the road leading to **The Green**, passing **Tadley School** on your left. After 200 yards you reach **St Paul's Church**.

**The Green** It was here that May Day was celebrated for many years in the traditional way. Also every 22 July the Tadley Revel was held, until 1822 when 'only three booths were erected and the only visiting entertainment was a troupe of tumblers'. Owing to lack of interest, Tadley Revel was held no more, until it was revived in 1965, unfortunately to suffer a further demise for a similar reason in 1985.

Opposite the school, on the other side of the Green, are six purpose-built flats for the elderly: Mothe's House. When William Mothe of Sherborne died in 1738, he made provision in his will for 'three tenements under one roof for the poor, rent free'. This has now been replaced by the flats, on the same site, jointly managed by Mothe's Charity and Tadley Green Housing Association.



**Tadley Main Road Methodist Church** (606 608) was opened on 21 November 1931 and replaced the adjacent Primitive Methodist Chapel. Now a private house, the Primitive Methodist Chapel served the community for over 70 years. It was built as a place of worship in 1859 on land bought from James Pearce, a shoemaker, for £1 and the cost of building was £123 17s 3d (£123.86p).

When the congregation moved to the new building in 1931, the original Chapel remained in use by the Guides and as the headquarters and practice-room of the Tadley Bands.

The 'new' Methodist Church has continued to flourish and in 1993, with a growth in numbers, particularly for the Sunday School and Youth Work, a programme of improvements began. Internal changes saw the pews removed and the pulpit moved so that the congregation now faces the other way.



**Burrell's Farm (Grants Farm)** (605 606) A cottage in Main Road. It is a Grade II listed building with two storeys, irregular fenestration and a central brick chimney. The structure has a timber box frame with brick infill and a Norfolk reed scalloped ridge thatched roof. It has a single storey south end extension with tiled roof. The cottage, reputed to be over 600 years old, is considered by some to be the oldest in Tadley. It is often referred to as 'Grants Farm' due to its long association (over 70 years) with the Grant family.



**Tadley School** (603 609) Originally known as Tadley Board School, it was opened in 1876 at a cost of £1,340.0.0 and accommodated 222 pupils. It was soon reported that the walls had settled out of true, and that 'the walls of the school seem hardly strong enough to support the roof'. It was not long before it had to be 'commodiously enlarged' by the addition of the large classroom on the east side (still extant). In 1921 the School Board gave up trying to repair the bell turret, and declared that the large bell was too dangerous to be rung. The turret was subsequently dismantled. It remained Tadley's only school until the 1950s when The Hurst and Burnham Copse Schools were established.

The school was provided with mains water in 1943 although a well was still in use for the schoolhouse. In 1950 the school was finally wired for electricity, and mains water was connected to the toilets. The schoolhouse was now to have an indoor lavatory. In 1954, the school had a new modern toilet block (but still no main drainage), and also became a Primary school.

In 1978 a major refit occurred with the construction of a new school hall and kitchens. In 1992 the temporary classrooms became too dilapidated for use, and were replaced by the four-classroom Allen Wing.

In 1999 the school's name officially changed to Tadley Community Primary School.

**Site of medieval village** Although the exact location is unknown, it is believed that there was a village near **St Peter's Church** which flourished until the 17th century. At that time, 12 cottages were pulled down by the heartless Henry Ludlow and the villagers scattered. They resettled on the fringe of Pamber Forest and became, in the main, independent. Records confirm this; Tadley was unique in having no tied cottages.



**St Peter's Church** (597 600) A Grade I listed building. The first reference to a church at Tadley is in 1286 when Andrew Hotot is recorded as owning the Manor and Church. 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.

As a result of resettlement (see **Site of medieval village**), 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.

**St Paul's Church** (603 609) Tadley's 'new' Anglican church with seating for 300 replaced the earlier St Saviour's Church and was built in its grounds. Revd Kenneth Davis, rector at the time (1961-75), played a major part in the project. The foundation stone was laid on 22 May 1965 and was consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester on 2 April 1966. It is constructed of laminated timber portal frames, supporting a close-boarded roof, covered with hand-made Bambino tiles. The outside walls are faced with local hand-made bricks. The special features of the design are the great west window of plain glass, and the apsidal east end with its central shaped altar of Portland stone.



The modern rectory, behind the church, replaced the rambling old building which stood in what is now Rectory Close. The first rectory (**Barn Close**) was in Church Road. This is where Revd Saulez, the first vicar of Tadley (1878-83), lived. Barn Close House (above) is now quite a substantial sized property but in 1878 it was described as 'a very poor place'.

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## 100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, Dec 1902–Mar 1903

Date	Page	Village	Topic
6 December	6	Silchester	<b>Talk</b> about Silchester Common by G F North, Duke of Wellington's agent (Lord of the Manor). [C]
13 December	6	Baughurst	<b>Baughurst Church</b> New outside lamp was erected and lit on Sunday. [C]
13 December	6	Pamber	<b>Death</b> of Mr Charles Chapple, age 62, landlord of 'The Plough'. [C]
20 December	3	Ramsdell	<b>Pig Club</b> Supper held in the schoolroom. [C]
20 December	3	Tadley	Lecture on 'Alcohol and the Blood' to upper school. Proficiency certificates given to 29 pupils. [C]
27 December	8	Tadley	<b>Postal service</b> Improvement (by half hour) to Tadley's postal delivery and collection.
3 January	6	Tadley	<b>Tadley School</b> Salary increase for the two teachers (from £160 to £165 per annum) – Miss Kimber (the new mistress) was to be paid 4/- per week.
3 January	8	Silchester	<b>Silchester Church</b> Sunday School Christmas magic lantern entertainment. [C]
3 January	8	Silchester	<b>Primitive Methodist Chapel</b> Band of Hope tea. [C]
10 January	6	Baughurst	<b>Police changes</b> PC Fell superannuated. PC Gregory transferred from Headley to Baughurst.
10 January	8	Tadley	<b>Inquiry at The Malt House Inn</b> by coroner on body of James Clarke, nephew of Ann Bowman. [C]
17 January	6	Baughurst	<b>Tabernacle Sunday School annual tea and treat</b> Book prizes for attendance awarded to Margaret Smith, Florence Butler, Albert Hedges, Frederick Hedges, Robert, Richard and Joseph Smith.
24 January	6	Baughurst	<b>Church Sunday School annual tea</b> Attendance prizes for Ellis Jones, Dorothy Allen, Herbert James, Evelyn Allen, Carrie Webb, Edward Shrive and Mabel Appleby.
24 January	8	Silchester	Marriage of Minnie Goddard and James Fisher – write-up includes guests and presents given. [C]
31 January	6	Tadley	<b>Tadley School</b> Rose Stacey's (new monitoress) application to be a pupil teacher considered. Builder's cheque for the school enlargement approved (see page 3).
7 February	7	Tadley	<b>St Saviour's Church Room</b> Ronald Vernon's original Dioramic Exhibition of Canada held. [C]
21 February	5	Mortimer	<b>Inquest at The Turner's Arms</b> Frederick Taylor (53) who died from a fall into a local gravel pit. [C]
21 February	6	Silchester	Death and funeral of Mrs E Stacey, age 36. She leaves husband and family of seven little ones. [C]
21 February	6	Charter Alley	<b>Primitive Methodist Church</b> Band of Hope meeting with recitations, duets and a gramophone which amused the children. [C]
21 February	6	Little London	<b>The Slate Club</b> Twenty seven members inducted. [C]
21 February	7	Tadley	<b>Dancing Class</b> 'Long Night Dance' held in the Church Room; 60–70 present. [C]
21 February	7	Baughurst	<b>The Tabernacle</b> magic lantern entertainment: Mission work in West Africa by Mr F W Webber. [C]
28 February	8	Ramsdell	<b>Ramsdell School</b> Medical Officer of Health closed school on account of an epidemic of mumps.
14 March	7	Tadley	<b>Primitive Methodist Chapel</b> An evening of song with Miss E Cripps at the harmonium. [C]
14 March	7	Tadley	<b>Sympson's Charity</b> Annual Parish Meeting accounts were produced and passed.
14 March	7	Tadley	Death and funeral of Mrs Langley of Kiln House Tadley.
21 March	5	Basingstoke	<b>Basingstoke Station</b> Work begins on new railway station; completion expected in Spring 1905.
28 March	4	Baughurst	<b>For sale</b> 3 strong store pigs – apply A Bowman, Baughurst.
28 March	7	Tadley	<b>Tadley School</b> Epidemic of sore throats.

## 100 years ago – national and international, Dec 1902–Mar 1903

Date	Topic
10 December	First Aswan Dam on the Nile completed.
1 January	The proclamation of Edward VII as Emperor of India took place in Delhi.
19 January	In Paris a new bicycle race announced to be known as the 'Tour de France'.
19 January	Marconi transmitted first transatlantic radio message.
22 January	United States and Columbia sign treaty to build Panama Canal.
6 February	Board of Trade announced the appointment of a Royal Commission to report on ways of improving the capital's rail and tramway facilities and how road and pedestrian traffic should be organised to ease increasing traffic congestion.
26 February	In London the Commons debate a call to restrict immigration into the UK.
3 March	Commander Robert Scott, Lt Ernest Shackleton and Dr Edward Wilson achieved an Antarctic record by travelling further towards the South Pole than anyone else.
25 March	Westminster Cathedral opened.
In 1903 car speed was set at 20mph, Emmeline Pankhurst started the Suffragette Movement and The Daily Mirror was founded. Literary works published during the year included Samuel Butler's <i>The Way of the Flesh</i> , Henry James' <i>The Ambassadors</i> , Jack London's <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , and George Bernard Shaw's <i>Man and Superman</i> . In March Drumcree won the Grand National at Aintree.	

Articles marked [C] have been copied and archived by TADS for reference.