

Tadley and District History Society projectnews

issue
3

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

Issue three

July 2003

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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. These 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.tadshistory.com

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

Copy date for the next issue of projectnews is 15 October 2003.

To ensure you do not miss each new issue of projectnews, we have decided to use a variety of pastel shades of paper so summer comes in cool blue.

Our new enterprise is proving a success with congratulatory communications from near and far. Tadley man Dave Aldworth, who now lives in the United States, receives his copies via the internet and has emailed us to say how much he enjoys the '100 Years Ago' item.

As a result of a letter sent by TADS pointing out the poor state of repair of the fences and stiles along the route of Walk 1 (see issue 2), Michael John, Rights of Way Officer for Basingstoke, has informed us that the problem stiles have now been repaired. This, together with the work done by the owners of *Burrells Farm* has improved the route immensely. Thank you on behalf of all walkers.

First Responders

Following the success of TADS publications *Around Tadley – fact and fable*, published in 1999, and *Around Tadley – people and places* in 2001, we were pleased to be able to donate £1000 to Tadley First Responders at the society's May meeting.

The cheque was presented by Bob Brown, chairman, and accepted by five representatives of the First Responders who gave a short presentation in which they highlighted some of the aspects of the scheme.

Hampshire Ambulance's Responder Scheme is made up of groups of volunteers who have been trained to attend emergency calls received by the Communications Centre and to provide first aid until an emergency ambulance arrives. Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust believes that there has been a significant improvement in the survival rate of patients since the scheme was introduced. Tadley First Responders is a registered charity; no expenses are claimed by volunteers. Donations are vital to its survival.

Members were shown the contents of the large first aid kit they carry, much of which constantly requires replenishing and updating. Defibrillator pads, used once, cost £25 a pair; oxygen masks, used once, cost £12.50 each and replacement regulators for oxygen cylinders, cost £100. In addition, jackets for new members cost £60 (winter) and £25 (summer) and a new radio to provide improved communication will cost £500. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in being part of the scheme or would like to make a donation, however small, contact Nicola Cliffe, Tadley group co-ordinator (tel: 0118 982 0508, e-mail: enquiries@tadleyfirstresponder.info).



Members of Tadley First Responders at this year's Tadley Treacle Fair, June 2003.

Photo: Tadley First Responders

The Sport of Kings...

John Wells (1833-1873) was a champion jockey who rode winners in eight classic races, including three Derbys. Towards the end of his life he lived in Hawley House (now Hawley Farm), Tadley. A picture of 'Blue Gown', John's last Derby winner, was said to have hung in the dining room at Hawley House. The current location of this painting is unknown.

John Wells was born on Christmas Day 1833 in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire. He was apprenticed to Flintoff's stable at Hednesfield where he was nicknamed 'Tiny'. Later, when he became one of the tallest jockeys to have ridden, he was known as 'Brusher' Wells.

In 1848, John had his first success when he won the Birmingham



John Wells

Stakes on *Ribaldry* at Walsall. He became champion jockey in 1853 and again in 1854 when he won the 1000 Guineas on *Virago*. Success continued with a win in the St Leger on *Saucebox*, a horse trained by Thomas Parr of Wantage. John won 20 races in 1857 on Parr's remarkable horse *Fisherman*.

John's association with the baronet Sir Joseph Henry Hawley (1814-75) began in 1858. It is reputed that Hawley House, now known as Hawley Farm, in Tadley, was named after Sir Joseph. The house is a large Grade II listed detached building in its own grounds on the corner of Church Road and New Road and is believed to have belonged to Sir

Joseph in the mid 1800s.

John's first successes on Sir Joseph's horses were the 2000 Guineas (1858) on *Fitz-Roland* and two Derbys on *Beadsman* (1858) and *Musjid* (1859). All of the horses were trained by George Manning at Cannons Heath, Kingsclere (OS map reference: SU503556).

In 1863, George Manning died and in July of that year John Porter, a friend of John's, was employed by Sir Joseph as trainer at Cannons Heath. The stable became very successful, even though it was small and in 1867 Sir Joseph owned three top-class two year-olds; *Blue Gown*, *Rosicrucian* and *Green Sleeve*. *Blue Gown* was a bay stallion sired by *Beadsman* out of *Bas Bleu*. The horse won at the Ascot Spring meeting and the Fern Hill Stakes at a later Ascot Meeting.

trickery in the weighing room. The disqualification cost Sir Joseph £4,000 and John did not ride for the furious owner until October of that year when he won on *Xi* at Newmarket. *Blue Gown* won the Clearwell Stakes at that meeting.

The incident at Doncaster was not typical of John, who was absolutely honest and, usually, reliable. John compensated for the lapse at Doncaster when he chose to ride *Blue Gown* in the 1868 Derby in preference to Sir Joseph's other runners, *Rosicrucian* and *Green Sleeve*. The choice was surprising, because *Blue Gown* had failed to beat these horses in previous trials and he would be up against another top-class horse, *Lady Elizabeth*, who had beaten him at Bath the previous year. However, John knew from Doncaster that *Blue Gown* was



Park House and Racing Stables

John rode *Blue Gown* as favourite in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster. The horse won, but unfortunately, they were disqualified because John had used

sturdy enough to carry his weight and that the horse had not suffered from a fever caught by the other horses when they were transferred to new premises at Park House

Stables in Kingsclere. The horse was also very popular with the public. At two furlongs out from the finish, *Blue Gown* and *King Alfred* drew ahead of the field and it looked as though *King Alfred* would win.

previous year aged 38. Both Mary and John were buried at St Mary's Church, Kingsclere.

Following the success in the 1868 Derby, *Blue Gown* went on to win the Ascot Gold Cup and the

sold again and ran a few races in England to include a win in a £50 handicap at Newmarket. He was then sent to Austria where he became the top sire in Austria-Hungary. On his return to England in 1878 he stood at Cobham Stud till 1881. He was eventually shipped to the United States, but sadly, he failed to survive the voyage.

Sources

Kingsclere, John Porter, Chatto and Windus, 1896

Biographical Encyclopedia of British Flat Racing, Roger Mortimer, Richard Onslow, Peter Willett, Macdonald and James, 1978, ISBN 0 354 08536 0.

Around Tadley Fact and Fable, Tadley and District History Society, April 2000, ISBN 0 9537043 0 0.

1871 census H0107/2062 folio 479 page 16.
Newbury Weekly News 28 May 1868.



John Wells on Blue Gown

However, John rode *Blue Gown* with great resolve and his faith in the horse was rewarded when they won by half a length. The favourite, *Lady Elizabeth* did not show. As a reward Sir Joseph gave John the whole of the £6,800 stake money. He was also reputed to have given Hawley House to John. John was recorded as living there in 1868 and 1871, with his wife Mary Ann (Jane) Taylor. Mary was the daughter of the trainer Thomas Taylor.

Although John enjoyed life, he was careful with the money he earned. He invested in a steel-pen factory at Birmingham and made generous provision for his parents. He was eccentric in his manner of dress.

When he won the St Leger on Sir Joseph's *Pedro Gomez* in 1869, John was having increasing difficulty maintaining the required Jockeys weight and this undermined his health. He was only 39 when he died in 1873. His wife had died the

Fitzwilliam Stakes at Doncaster. At the end of his third season in training he was sold for £5000 to a French Syndicate. He did not succeed in France, so he was

The author would like to thank Alison Vezey of Epsom Downs Racecourse for supplying Biographical Information about *Blue Gown* (letter dated 28 March 2001).



Hawley House in the early 1900s

100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, April–July 1903

Date	Page	Village	Topic
4 April	8	Silchester	Parish meeting wind up of Coronation Committee – £11 surplus.
11 April	5	Ramsdell	Ramsdale school drainage problem.
18 April	7	Tadley	Shocking Occurrence at Tadley husband murderously attacks his wife [C].
18 April	8	Aldermaston	Fire among rods stored at wharf engines from Englefield House and Strange's Brewery attended [C].
25 April	2	Baughurst	AGM of Tadley, Baughurst and Ewhurst Unionist Association [C].
25 April	8	Baughurst	Liberal Party meeting address by G Judd Liberal candidate West Hants Division.
2 May	4	Pamber	For Sale nine strong store pigs, nine weeks old – F Hunt Pamber Green.
2 May	6	Pamber	Death of oldest inhabitant, Mrs Ann Chapple, widow of the late John Chapple [C].
2 May	8	Tadley	Concert in Church Mission Hall special praise to Idenden family as amateur instrumentalists [C].
9 May	4	Baughurst	For sale butter churn – makes 3 lbs £1 – A H Bowman Upper Farm Baughurst.
16 May	6	Silchester	An Artist's Tenancy Debt £6 rent – Basingstoke County Court [C].
16 May	7	Baughurst	Death of oldest inhabitant Mrs Charlotte Hawkins, age 97.
16 May	7	Baughurst	Hospital Sunday Parade £20 1s 8d to Royal Berkshire Hospital [C].
30 May	3	Silchester	Cricket match Silchester v Padworth (players names included).
30 May	3	Mortimer	Cricket match Mortimer West End v Bucklebury Fireside (players names included).
30 May	5	Tadley	Tadley Hospital Parade notice of public meeting in 'The Iron Room'.
6 June	7	Baughurst	Primitive Methodists held their annual camp meeting service.
13 June	1	Silchester	Notice Messrs J Goddard, undertakers of Silchester have now obtained a single horse hearse [C].
13 June	2	Silchester	Silchester Excavations details of last year's work – expenditure £500 [C].
13 June	7	Silchester	Encroachments on Silchester Common Judgement for Lord of Manor [C].
20 June	7	Charter Alley	Sunday School Anniversary at Primitive Methodist Church.
20 June	6	Baughurst	Choir treat to perform at Winchester Church Festival.
20 June	6	Baughurst	Parish Council quarterly meeting in schoolroom – request gravel-pit extension.
20 June	8	Aldermaston	Masonic Lodge election of Brother W G Crombie as their Worshipful Master.
4 July	7	Tadley	Hospital Parade headed by Tadley, Baughurst and Salvation Army bands [C].
7 July	7	Tadley	The Fighting Cocks destroyed by fire Landlord (Thomas Benham) injured [C].
5 July	5	Kingsclere	John Porter, racehorse trainer, erected a stone in Kingsclere Churchyard in memory of his wife.
18 July	8	Aldermaston	Reading Natural History Society spent the afternoon in the grounds of Aldermaston Court.
25 July	4	Tadley	Notice Stanley Villa now sold!

100 years ago – national and international, April–July 1903

Date	Topic
1 May	Edward VII visits France.
20 May	Opening of Kew Bridge over the Thames.
23 May	In America first successful transcontinental car journey made, San Francisco to New York in 52 days.
6 June	A fire at Eton College caused the death of two boys.
10 June	In Serbia Army officers kill King Alexander and Queen Draga.
16 June	The Ford Motor Company is formed.
Literary works published during the year include: J M Barrie's play <i>The Admirable Crichton</i> , Erskine Childers' novel <i>The Riddle of the Sands</i> and Bertrand Russell's 'Principia Mathematica'.	
Among those born at this time were Benjamin Spock (2 May) writer on the care of babies; Bob Hope (29 May) film star/comedian; Aram Ilich Khatchaturian (6 June) composer; George Orwell (born Eric Blair) (25 June) author and an unorthodox socialist; Amy Johnson (1 July) aviator; Alec Douglas-Home (2 July) prime minister 1963-1964.	
Among those who died were the artist Paul Gauguin (8 May); the artist James McNeill Whistler (17 Jul) aged 69 and Pope Leo XIII (20 July) aged 97 who was elected Pope in 1878.	
In sport on 11 June Harry Vardon won the Open Golf Championship for the fourth time.	
<i>Waltzing Matilda</i> was a popular song of the time.	

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