

Tadley and District History Society projectnews issue 6

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

Issue six

July 2004

Contents

Putting the capsule 'to bed' 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. 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

Contact details

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 next issue

20 October 2004.

In anticipation of hot, sunny days to come we print, in this issue, a cool walk in the shade of Pamber Forest. Another of the *Tadley Tracks – Tadley Facts* walks (No 4). This one gives the walker an opportunity to see how the current management policies are aimed at returning parts of the forest to a coppice cycle so that wildlife can recover and, perhaps in the future, extinct species be reintroduced. Warden Graham Dennis told us that the coppice restoration was going well; 25 of the 35 hectare target had now been achieved (1 hectare = 2.471 acres).

The sale of the 2004 TADS calendar was an enormous success; the demand far outweighed the number we printed. As a result we have been able to make donations to two local charities: the Tadley branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and St Michael's Hospice. Plans for the 2005 calendar are already underway so put a note on November to buy your new TADS calendar and support a local charity.

The National Heritage Open Weekend 2004 is the 10-13 September. Once again local churches will be opening their doors. In addition this year, St Paul's and St Luke's will also be open. Information can be found in local libraries, the Willis Museum, or via the national website: www.heritageopendays.org.

Putting the capsule 'to bed'



Posing for a local newspaper photograph are Rosie Cooper and Christopher Hallett with (back l to r) Peggy Anscombe, Adrian Noad (Chair of TCC committee) and Carol Stevens.

A year – 2003 – in the life of Tadley people was preserved in time for 50 years on Saturday 20 March 2004. The long awaited time capsule was lowered into the floor at Tadley Community Centre during a ceremony attended by about 70 people. The lead capsule was made and donated by Philip Cooper of Tadley, and its contents were assembled by a small team of TADS members under the guidance of

Carol Stevens and Peggy Anscombe. Team members were Rosemary Bond, Jim Coles, Alan Cooke and Derek Ward assisted by David Leeks, outgoing Chair of Tadley Town Council.

The capsule's contents included 150 photographs, the history of Tadley in the books *Around Tadley – fact & fable* and *Around Tadley – people and places*, local school prospectuses, churches newsletters, fixture lists and membership cards from local sports clubs and societies etc. An account of a week's school life, written by ten year old Christopher Hallett and thirteen year old Ellie Bradley, was also included, together with memories of life in Tadley today compared with half a century ago, written by Evelyn Woodall.

The County Conservator advised on the packaging to be used to ensure the items survived. A list of the contents is in the capsule, also copies are at the Community Centre, Town Council offices and TADS archives.

Tadley Tracks, Tadley Facts

4: Pamber Forest & Old Tadley

Distance 2.5 Miles (4 km)

Time about 1.5 hours

Start By *The Fighting Cocks* public house (607 606).

A short walk, through Pamber Forest and Old Tadley. Please keep dogs on leads at all times, leave wild flowers for others to enjoy and take all your litter home with you.

Pamber Forest was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 1980. The forest is managed by Hampshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, who have leased it from its owner, Englefield Estate (Benyon Trust). Designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the 1950s, the forest consists mainly of oak with an understorey of hazel coppice. The structure of the woodland varies from dry open heathland through dense hazel and chestnut stands, to rich stream valleys lined with alders and willows.

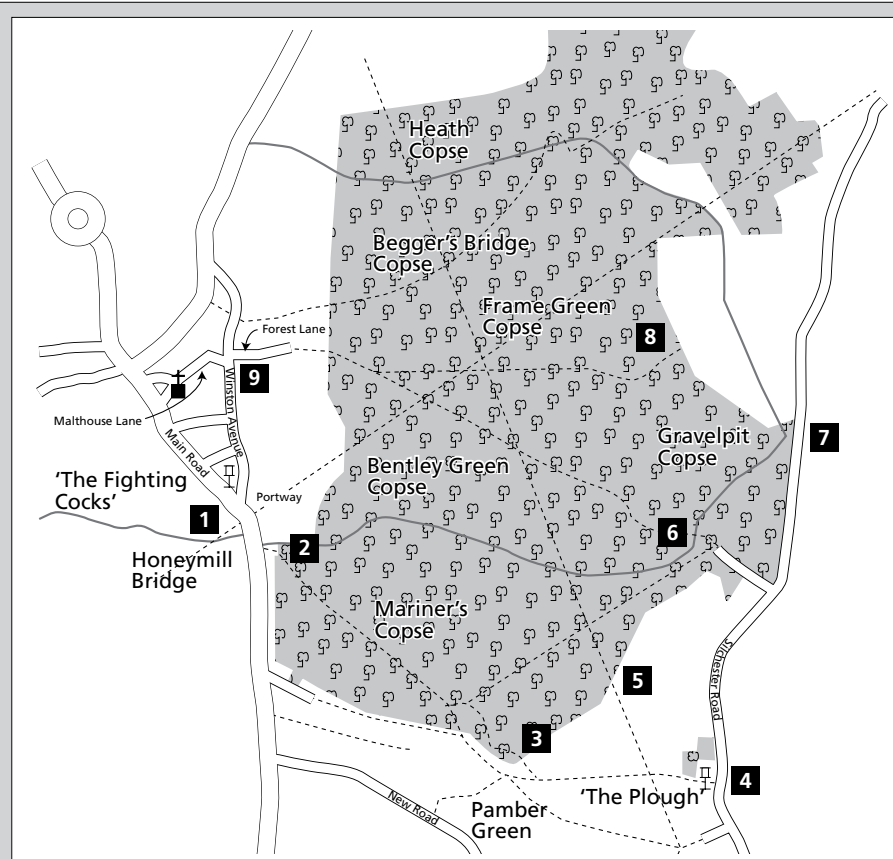
This variety of structure is linked both with past woodland management and the local topography and soil types: Bagshot Sands, Reading Beds and Plateau Gravels.

The cessation of coppicing in the 1960s had a detrimental effect on plants and wildlife. The current coppice restoration favours those species that adapt to its ever changing conditions. After cutting, light and sun stimulates the wild flowers: violets, lesser celandine and bugle. As the coppice regrows wood spurge, marsh thistle and bramble take over and the brimstone and peacock butterflies appear. The re-grown dense coppice attracts nesting birds, particularly warblers and nightingales. And so the cycle continues: by cutting each year a continuous supply of suitable habitat is provided for a wide range of wildlife.

Unfortunately, to prevent too much damage to the vulnerable coppice it is sometimes necessary to reduce the numbers of roe and fallow deer by culling.

Plants and wildlife Pamber Forest is rich in so called ancient woodland species. These include the wild service tree along the ridge edges. On the woodland floor can be found, amongst others, wild daffodil, primrose, yellow archangel and soloman's seal. Pamber is especially good for butterflies: the white admiral and purple hairstreak which make the most of the wide sunlit rides and the purple emperor which lives high up in the tree canopy. The forest also supports an abundance of other wildlife – 19 species of dragonflies, moths, bees and wasps – with many species considered national rarities.

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Tadley and District Society 1994.
First published 1982; revised 2004.
For more in-depth information see
Around Tadley – fact and fable.



- 1 Walk downhill from **The Fighting Cocks** and over Honey Mill Bridge. (As you pass it, note the unmatted track on your left – this is the line of **Portway**, the Roman road from Silchester to Salisbury.) *Do not follow this track.* Just beyond the bridge, turn left at a footpath marker and pass through a vehicle barrier into **Pamber Forest** and onto a footpath.
- 2 After 100 metres bear right at a fork in the path and keep straight on. When later, the path bears left, ignore the right turn. Later still, it bears left again when it meets a path from the right. About 50 metres from this junction, turn right along a path which soon emerges from the forest and its route is seen clearly across the open field, running up the rise.
- 3 Follow the route as it angles left up the rise, passing across a larger path and under the overhead wires. From the crest of the rise you can see two buildings, which the way heads towards, a house on the left and **The Plough** on the right. Turn right at the fence and pass between two fences to find yourself at the front door of *The Plough*.
- 4 Keeping *The Plough* on your right, walk down the road for 100 metres and turn right onto a gravelled track. Go through the vehicle barrier ahead and follow the path through the field as it bears to the right, crosses a smaller path, passes under the overhead wires twice and then runs directly into Pamber Forest.
- 5 Immediately through the barrier turn right onto a path which runs just inside the boundary of the forest. After 100 metres cross a stream via a plank and continue on for another 200 metres to cross the stream again where it forks. The path bears right over the stream and then winds around for 150 metres until it meets a ditch where it abruptly turns left to meet a larger path.
- 6 Turn right on this path (fence on your left) which after a short while bears left with a path off on the right. Take the right hand path. This crosses another path after about 30 metres. Continue on your original path which passes through some open forest on your right for about 100 metres and then in 150 metres meets a metalled road at a pumping station.
- 7 Cross the front of the pumping station to find a path running off to the left on its other side. In 60 metres cross a bridge over a stream. Turn left immediately off the bridge to go through the gap in a fence to re-enter Pamber Forest. Walk straight ahead for 50 metres to go through a gate and 10 metres past the gate take the path to the right. This path runs along for about 450 metres with a small bank on the right to meet a major path where there is a covered wood pile.
- 8 Turn left on the major path and in about 300 metres meet a cattle gate. Go through the gate and walk straight on for 800 metres until you meet a vehicle barrier at the edge of the forest. Pass through the barrier and continue on with paddocks on your right and then houses on both left and right until you come to a metalled road (Forest Lane). Follow the lane for 100 yards until it meets Winston Avenue.
- 9 Cross Winston Avenue into **Malthouse Lane** directly opposite. Walk up the lane past **Cons and Crooked Cottages**. Keep left at the junction outside the **United Reformed Church**, turn left at Main Road and walk down the hill back to *The Fighting Cocks*.

Pamber Forest (616 618) A 478 acre (193 ha) area of ancient semi-natural woodland, The forest is a remnant of the once extensive Royal Forest of Windsor, dating back at least to Norman times. At that time it was a royal hunting ground with sport provided by wolves, wild boars, wild cats, foxes and hares. Although the Norman kings frequently enjoyed hunting in the forest, they soon began to give away pieces of land, including parts of Pamber Forest, and by the time of Henry VIII, it was no longer continuous from Silchester to Windsor and the King only hunted in it whilst a guest of Sir William Sandys at The Wyne. In 1535 Henry VIII granted the governorship of Pamber Forest to Sir William Paulet (afterwards the Marquis of Winchester), but by 1610 the forest was no longer part of a great royal hunting ground, James I having sold it to John Waller. It was sold again soon afterwards to The Lord Winchester. The ownership of Pamber Forest thereby became part of the Englefield Estate, which passed to the Benyon family in 1745 on the marriage of Richard Benyon to Mary, widow Powlett Wrigte, and descendant of The Lord Winchester.

Gradually a partnership developed between the forest's owners and those who sought a livelihood from it. Increasingly the forest became a major source of materials for local woodland crafts (e.g. besoms and rakes). A cycle of woodland management (coppicing) developed, with the owners, Englefield Estate, auctioning off areas of woodland to wood-dealers. Cutting of the woodland would be carried out during the winter, finishing by late March to allow sufficient time for the stripping and carting of the wood before mid-May when pheasant rearing began and the woodland had to be left undisturbed till the autumn and winter, when the cycle would begin again. This pattern of woodland management survived until the first half of the twentieth century when the woodland trades began to decline and by the early 1960s no coppice was being cut in the forest at all.



Plough, The (622 548) This public house was frequently used by locals working in Pamber Forest. One landlord kept pigs for a time in a part of the bar and another ran a shop from the premises. In 1851 Daniel Holloway was listed in the census as a 'publican and brickburner'. Evidence of a brick kiln and brick field north east of The Plough was discovered in 1926. Fragments of Roman bricks and tiles were found over a wide area; the inscriptions on them indicated considerable building activity at Calleva Atrebatum in 54-68AD.



United Reformed Church (604 608) A Grade II listed building within the Conservation Area and known as The Old Meeting. The United Reformed Church (URC) was formed in 1972 with the merger of the Congregational Church in England and Wales with the Presbyterian Church of England, forming the third largest Free Church in Britain. The Congregational (Independent) Church in Tadley dates back to the Puritan Ejection of 1662. Churchgoers held their early meetings in a house known as Gardiner's. When the room there became too small to accommodate the congregation they decided to build a place of worship in what was then known as Doe's Lane (now Malthouse Lane). This was built in 1718-19. The first Dissenting Minister to live in Tadley was a Thomas Ovey who is known to have resided here prior to 1697. A dissenters Meeting House certificate, dated 4 October 1718, lists him as the pastor, but it was Joseph Tate who took pastoral responsibility during the building of the new church and up until about 1724. By 1828 during the ministry of Mr George Jennings, the Meeting House was enlarged to accommodate an additional 100 'hearers'. Also a new school room was built but by 1862 was too small for the numbers attending. This is believed to have been a British School. Further restoration occurred in the early 1960s with a service of re-dedication on 2 June 1962.

Fighting Cocks, The [607 606] Public house on Dix Hill, at the southern end of Tadley. The name comes from the old sport of cock or bantam fighting. At one time the pub was well known for Saturday night fighting. This included the distinctive shin, or leg, kicking that the local lads used against outsiders. In some areas shin kicking was an organised, competitive and very bruising game using specially studded boots and not just a casual fight. Part or all of the original thatched building was burnt down on 1 July 1903 and was rebuilt in the present style. A 1924 photograph shows it little different from what it looks like today.

Portway (636 623) The Roman road between Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) and Old Sarum passes through Pamber Forest. It does not follow the line of any major path in the forest and therefore is not easily located – it crosses the long north-south path through the middle of the forest and the A340 road just north of Honey Mill Bridge and passes to the south of St Peter's Church.

Malthouse Lane (607 609) Once part of the commercial centre of Old Tadley, it is now a narrow quiet lane. It lies within the Conservation Area which was designated in February 1981. Near its junction with Main Road it was formerly known as Does Lane. The only census entry for a person called Doe is in 1851 and 1861: George Doe, born at Padworth in 1784, was an agricultural worker and pauper lodging with an Ann Spencer. The only reference to 'Doe Lane' is in the 1891 census. Over half the listed buildings in this Conservation Area are to be found in Malthouse Lane.

On the right as you walk up Malthouse Lane is **Chine Cottage**. A semi-detached cottage (with Rose Cottage), both properties are Grade II listed buildings. Chine is the older of the two.

On the left hand side, further along the lane, is **Crooked Cottage** (606 609) A Grade II listed thatched cottage built in the early 1600s. In 1838 it was owned by George Tull and occupied by George Monger and comprised a house, garden, orchard and meadow of 1 acre, 1 rood, 23 poles. At one time it was a general stores and bakery owned by Henry Pearce. It was known as 'The Shop' throughout its later trading time, the dates of which are unclear. By 1891 Henry Pearce had sold the property to Mr and Mrs E. West, both Salvation Army officers. Mrs West continued to run the shop until 1937-38.



Further along on the right hand side is **Cons Cottage** (606 609), also a Grade II listed building believed to have been built in 1628. In 1838 it was two cottages occupied by James Rampton and William Saunders, and owned by David Benham who also owned Chine Cottage.



At the fork of the Lane, opposite the United Reformed Church, is **The Old Malthouse**, a brick house which throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries was occupied by the same family and run as a beer house and general store.

100 years ago – Hants and Berks Gazette, Apr–Jul 1904

Date	Page	Village	Topic
9 April	6	Tadley	Cricket match at 'The Fox & Hounds'. Married v Singles, followed by a 'nice spread'.
9 April	8	Mortimer West End	Death and funeral of Mr Matthew Ford, senior partner of George Ford & Sons, farmer, timber and underwood merchants. He was also well known as a valuer and measuring surveyor. [C]
9 April	8	Tadley	Sparrow Club supporters and members annual dinner at 'The Old Malt House'. Report showed 1,170 birds had been caught. Club funds are in a flourishing condition.
9 April	8	Silchester	New burial ground at the churchyard to be consecrated by the Bishop of Southampton. [C]
9 April	8	Baughurst	Inquest at 'The New Inn' on the body of Nellie Maria Kernutt, age 6, daughter of Isaac Kernutt. [C]
30 April	7	Baughurst	Advance notice of Hospital Sunday Parade on 8 May.
7 May	4	Baughurst	Auction sale of picturesque thatched cottage known as 'Browning Hill Cottage'.
21 May	6	Baughurst	Presentation to the Rector and his wife on their leaving by Mr Stokes of Inhurst House.
28 May	6	Baughurst	Primitive Methodist Church Camp Meeting in Mr Bowman's field.
28 May	6	Tadley	Congregational Sunday School anniversary followed in evening by a service of song entitled 'Blind Betty's Text'. Attendance well above 400. [C]
28 May	6	Tadley	Court Pride of Tadley (Foresters') fete and dinner at 'The Fox and Hounds'.
28 May	7	Silchester	Arson to a barn by Henry Waite, property of trustees of Hyde's Charity. [C]
4 June	7	Silchester	Fire at Shepherds Barn (Hyde's Charity) – case dismissed.
18 June	6	Baughurst	Primitive Methodist Chapel anniversary services throughout the day conducted by Mr J Pike of Thatcham. Collections amounted to £1.13s.11/2d.
25 June	7	Baughurst	Death and funeral of Mrs Leavey (75), wife of George Leavey, late of Baughurst. Funeral conducted by vicar, Revd Durham.
2 July	6	Baughurst	Parish Council quarterly meeting. Mr Kimbrey of Footpaths Committee authorised to see Mr Bowman re barbed wire obstruction through 'Bolts' from Baughurst Road to Violet Lane. [C]
2 July	6	Baughurst	Induction of Revd W S Steggall – late curate at Fleet. [C]
2 July	6	Tadley	Tadley and District Hospital Parade with Tadley, Baughurst & Silchester Salvation brass bands. [C]
16 July	6	Pamber	Garden boundary dispute – William Broadhurst v Esan Wigley on Pamber Road.
16 July	8	Silchester	Funeral of Mr Charles Clift (31) – the second funeral in new graveyard.
16 July	8	Silchester	Cottage fire – owned by Mrs Bowman occupied by her nephew.
23 July	5	Charter Alley	Primitive Methodist Chapel anniversary – 500 sat down for tea!!
30 July	8	Silchester	Childrens' outing arranged by Mrs Thatcher, headmistress, to Portsmouth and Southsea by train from Bramley station. [C]
30 July	8	Pamber	Flower Service at Priory Church with a contingent from Little London Sunday School – flowers sent to Basingstoke Cottage Hospital. [C]
30 July	8	Tadley	Annual Tadley Revel was held on Monday last. Included cricket match on Recreation Ground, followed by 'a capital spread' at 'The Fighting Cocks'.

100 years ago – national and international, Apr–Jul 1904

Date	Topic
8 April	Entente Cordiale signed by Britain and France
9 April	Large brass foundry in Birmingham destroyed by fire, putting 300-400 men out of work.
21 April	Bank rate lowered to 3%.
4 May	US Army engineers begin work on Panama Canal.
4 May	Charles Rolls and Henry Royce agree to make cars.
24 May	Inaugural celebration of Empire Day in London and the Colonies as a permanent memorial to Queen Victoria.
23 June	In United States, President Roosevelt nominated for another term.
25 June	The inauguration of the International Congress of the Salvation Army.
21 July	Trans-Siberian Railway completed.
28 July	The Russian Interior Minister, the ruthless Vyacheslav Plehve, assassinated.
Among those who died were: Antonin Dvorak, composer (1 May) and Anton Checkov, playwright (15 July).	
In sport Mr Rothchild's horse <i>St Amant</i> won the Derby and on 1 July the 3rd Olympic Games opened in St Louis, US.	
Song hits included <i>Give My Regards To Broadway</i> .	

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