TADLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Tadley Town Council came into existence on the 19 May 1987, using powers under the 1972 Local Government Act to make the change from a Parish Council.

Prior to the formation of Urban, Rural and Parish Councils in 1894 local affairs were the responsibility of the parish vestry, an ecclesiastical organisation whose origins were in the 16th and 17th century when it assumed many of the functions of the Manor Court, e.g. responsibility for the poor, highways and for appointing a constable.
As the name suggests, vestry meetings were usually held in the church vestry and comprised; the minister, church warden and leading parishioners.

The first Tadley Parish Council meeting was held on 26 March 1895 in the 'Iron Room' adjacent to the new St Saviours church (built 1880) on The Green. So few were the matters for discussion that meetings were held just twice yearly. In 1900 meetings transferred to Tadley School and in World War II to the home of councillor Frank Gray at The Hawthorns on Main Road.

With the opening of AWRE in 1950 came the need for the Council to have a presence in the expanding village and it established an office in Franklin Avenue where it remains today.

WORKINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Tadley is divided into four Wards: North, South, East and West with four seats in each Ward, giving a total of 16 councillors. At the AGM in May a Chairman and Vice-Chairman are selected. All 16 Town Councillors meet at Full Council meetings to ratify decisions made at the various delegated committees. The Town is also served by a Town Clerk and a Streetcare Operative. All Town Councillors are also trustees of the ancient Turbary Common, known locally as simply 'The Common', which provides space for recreation and wildlife.

The Town Council provides a variety of services for the benefit of the people of Tadley.

- Maintenance of the Town burial ground at St Peter's Church and the cemetery opposite.
- Litter picking and emptying of public litter bins.
- Maintenance of three play areas.
- Maintenance of open spaces at The Green and Giles Road/West Street.
- Maintenance of the Skateboard Park, Zip Line, Adult Fitness Trail, Multi-use Games area and outdoor gym equipment.

TADLEY & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Tadley and District History Society (TADS) held its inaugural meeting on 21 November 1984 in St Paul's Church Hall, Tadley. This meeting was arranged as a result of the considerable interest shown in old photographs of local people and places and in illustrations borrowed from AWRE Aldermaston (Atomic Weapons Research Establishment) showing the history of Aldermaston Village, the Estate and the Airfield, which were displayed at the St Paul's Church Summer Fete in June 1984.

The first speaker to the Society was Arthur Attwood, Basingstoke journalist and historian, who gave a talk on 30 January 1985 entitled 'The History of Basingstoke'.
Over the years TADS has compiled an archive of material relating to the town which its members can access and use.

PROGRAMME TADS organise monthly evening talks on the second Monday of each month (except August).Talks begin at 8:00 p.m and are held at Heath End Hall, Baughurst RG26 5LU. See posters and website for the annual programme www.tadshistory.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS The current annual subscription to the society is £20.00. Visitors are welcome at speaker meetings (£3.00 per meeting).

NEWS AND INFORMATION TADS members receive a monthly electronic newsletter; copies of back issues may be accessed on the TADS website.

WEBSITE TADS website contains a wealth of local material, both current and historical, as well as on-going research material and past newsletters. Please refer to it for news and information on TADS activities:

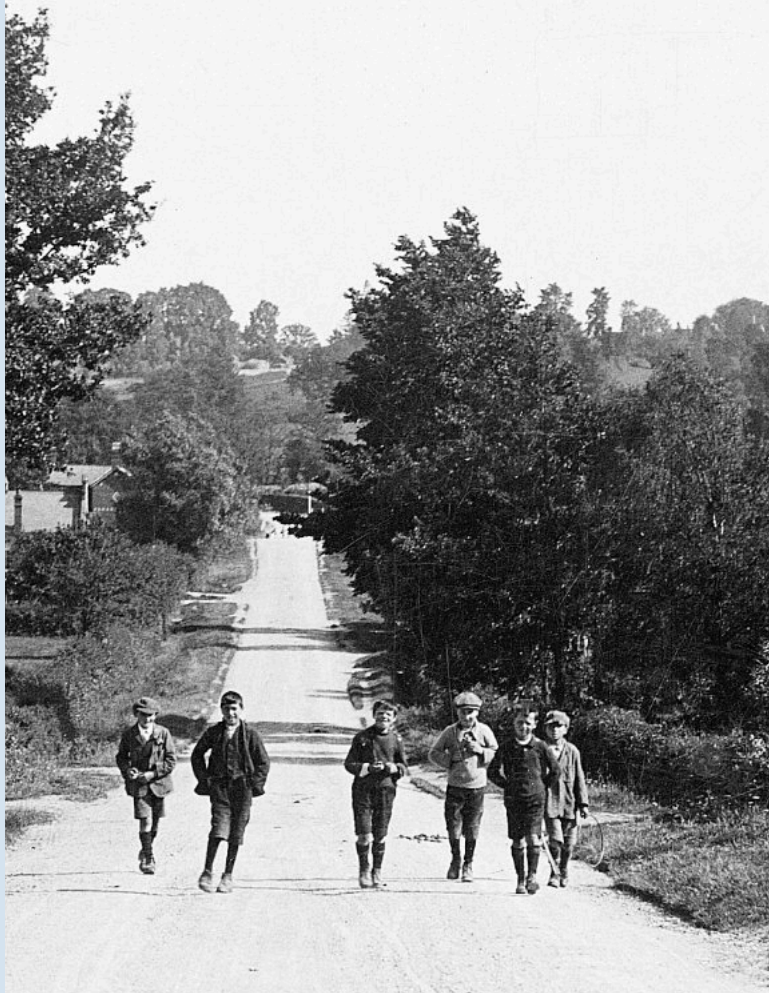
www.tadshistory.com

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS As well as the monthly programme of speaker meetings, TADS also has an active programme of research activities, co-ordinated by the Project Group. Members are welcome to join the group.

PUBLICATIONS TADS has published several books and pamphlets on Tadley and the surrounding area. Details of those still in print, together with prices and where they may be obtained, are listed on the TADS website. Copies of out of print publications may be loaned from Tadley Library.

Tadley and District History Society gratefully acknowledge a donation from **Helping Hands in Tadley** Community Shop towards the cost of producing this leaflet.

HISTORIC TADLEY



AN ILLUSTRATED LEAFLET PRODUCED BY TADLEY AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

History of Tadley

People have lived in the area for millennia. There are tumuli (ancient burial mounds) to the north-west of the parish which may date back to the Bronze Age. Iron Age people occupied the historic site of Silchester before the Romans. The Romans (BC 43 to 409 AD) built a major town, Calleva Atrebatum, on the Iron Age site and their road from Calleva to Old Sarum (Salisbury), known as the Portway, cuts across the south of Tadley. There have not been any other Roman sites yet found in Tadley.



DIX HILL, LOOKING NORTH TOWARDS THE FIGHTING COCKS PUBLIC HOUSE

From the 10th century the area may have been known as Taddanleage, the Anglo Saxon word from which we derive Tadley. There is written evidence from a very early date that a large part of the parish of Tadley was included in the Manor of Overton and there are very frequent references to Tadley in the court rolls and other documents relating to Overton. Tadley is not named in the Domesday Book, but there is reference to a daughter church of Overton. This church may well have been a predecessor of St Peter's Church **[A]**. This church is close to the Roman Portway road and would have had the medieval village clustered around it. Hatch Cottage (1496-1528) just below the church is the only remaining medieval building in the immediate area, and we do have written evidence of houses being demolished by Henry Ludlow of nearby Tadley Place **[B]** in about 1630. Wyeford House at the southern end of the parish was the original Manor of Tadley and has a long history and strong associations with Tadley Place through the families who owned the properties.

There is no doubt that at some time the centre of the village of Tadley moved from the St Peter's area to the Tadley Conservation Area centred on Winston Avenue (formerly Back Lane) which has buildings dating from the 17th and 18th



TADLEY POST OFFFICE AT THE CORNER OF MAIN AND FAIRLAWN ROADS

centuries. This was 'Tadley Village' for some 250 years. The village gradually expanded to the north with properties large and small built along the main road (A340) and on the open common land at the top of Mulfords Hill (e.g. Tadley Court **[G]**). The development of another church and a school around The Green **[C]** was all part of this movement. Tadley was a village of about 1,200 people with many relying on the woodland trades for employment. It was noted for the production of 'Besoms' (birch brooms), hurdles, hoops and rakes. Some men were itinerant tree fellers working in the local forest and moving around to where work was available.



AIRCRAFT AT ALDERMASTON AIRFIELD PRIOR TO D-DAY (1944)

This long stability was disrupted by World War II when in 1941 the upper part of the Aldermaston Estate was selected for the building of a RAF bomber airfield which opened in July 1942. The airfield was taken over by the USAAF in August 1942 and played a prominent part in the invasion of Europe in 1944. The northern area of Tadley, known as Newtown Common (now centred around Franklin Avenue), became the support area for the American troops and airmen and was covered in buildings. As well as the main airfield and buildings, which was to the north of the A340, another hangar was built south of the A340 and was used by Vickers Supermarine for the assembly of Spitfire aircraft.

Following the end of the war in 1945, operations from the airfield continued at a low level until in 1950 it was selected as the site for the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE) which designed and built Britain's Atomic Weapons. Not only was the old airfield crowded with buildings for the scientists and engineers, but hundreds of new houses were built in Tadley to house workers and their families. Shops and new churches were also built to cater for their needs. Tadley changed for ever. AWRE came to national prominence during the 1960s through the Aldermaston marchers who were opposed to nuclear weapons. The role of AWRE has changed over the years and its name has changed to the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), but it still has a great influence on the Tadley area.



BUDGENS STORES, FORERUNNER OF SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET

Tadley has continued to grow with the building of new facilities, some of them replacing temporary accommodations in old wartime buildings. For example, Tadley Town Council's offices, the Scouts' Den and the library. The town now has two major supermarkets, whilst all three banks have gone. Tadley is unusual in that while the main concentration of shops is located at the top of Mulfords Hill, others are still in small parades at a distance. Nearly every available space has been used for new housing and the population is now more than ten times that at the start of World War II.

HISTORIC TADLEY

A: ST PETER'S CHURCH



St Peter's Church, Church Road [Grade I listed]. In the Domesday book (1086) Tadley Church is probably one of two churches included under Overton. The next specific reference to a church is in 1286 when Andrew Hotot is recorded as owning the Manor and Church at Tadley. Only the nave would appear to date from this period. The crude flint and mortar walls, over two feet thick, are now covered with roughcast. The east chancel and west tower extensions are both of brick; dated 1685 by the master bricklayer's mark. The remainder of the church is a mix of periods and styles, mainly 17th century with further restoration following the appointment of Tadley's first resident rector, Edmund Saulez, in 1878. As a result of resettlement, St Peter's gradually became isolated from its congregation and in 1888 a new church, St Saviour's **[C]**, was built on the The Green, to serve the growing population in what is now the Tadley Conservation Area.

B: TADLEY PLACE





222 pupils. 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 it was subsequently dismantled. Otherwise, much of the original building is still in use today. Prior to the 1930s it had a long history as a difficult school due to its remote location and scattered population which resulted in pupils' frequent absences. It remained Tadley's only school until the 1950s when The Hurst and Burnham Copse Schools were established

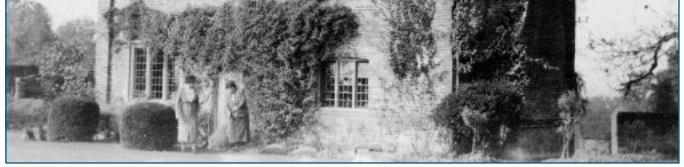
St Saviour's Church. A mission church to seat 130 people,



refusing to conform to the Act of Uniformity; consent to the entire content of the book of Common Prayer. As a result many began to preach to small Nonconformist groups, Tadley being one. Initially these prayer meetings took place in a cottage in Church Road but by 1718 a Meeting House had been built in Doe's Lane, now part of Malthouse Lane. By 1828 the Meeting House had been enlarged to accommodate an additional 100 'hearers' (probably the extension to the rear). The annex to the right was the first British School in Tadley, established circa 1842. The adjacent churchyard, one of two in the town, is where generations of Tadley families are buried.

F: WAR MEMORIAL





Tadley Place, Church Road [Grade II listed]. The remnant of this Tudor building is sited close to the Portway, the Roman road from Silchester (Calleva Atrebatum) to Old Sarum (Sorviodunum). What, if anything, existed on the site prior to the building known as Tadley Place is not clearly documented. Typical of its period are the stone-mullioned lattice windows and inside, a large 16th century stone chimney place with doric pilasters and mouldings indicate the house's former splendour. The manor of Wyeford and land at Tadley came into the Ludlow family upon the marriage of William Ludlow to Joan, daughter of Nicholas More of Wyeford, in 1496 and at some point thereafter Tadley Place was built. After the death of the tyrannical Henry Ludlow in 1639, his son conveyed the manor of Wyeford with Tadley to Joseph Blagrave of Reading. Tadley Place fell into disrepair over the ensuing years. During the 19th century it was a working farm. It has since been sympathetically restored and its history documented.

C: THE GREEN



Formerly called Mothe's Meadow. This three acre site was given to the residents of Tadley for recreational use as a result of the Enclosure Act 1851. It was here that May Day was celebrated for many years in the traditional way. Every 22 July the Tadley Revel was held here until 1822 when 'only three booths were erected and the only visiting entertainment was a troupe of tumblers'. It was revived in 1965, unfortunately to suffer a further demise in 1985.

Tadley Community Primary School. Originally known as Tadley Board School, it opened in 1876 and accommodated

built by Revd Charles N Oliver at his own expense. It stood where 1 Rectory Close is now. The church and recreational room, built of pine and corrugated iron, were dedicated to St Saviour at Christmas 1888. The recreational room, known locally as the Iron Room, was often used by Tadley School for cookery lessons and carrying out medical examinations. They were both demolished in 1966 following the erection of St Paul's Church.

St Paul's Church. Tadley's 'new' Anglican church with seating for 300 replaced St Saviour's Church. The foundation stone was laid on 22 May 1965 and 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 bamboo tiles. The special features of the design are the great west window of plain glass, the apsidal east end with its altar of Portland stone and an unusual stained glass panel behind the altar – a memorial to past parishioners. The bell, donated by John Stacey, was cast from the old four clock bells that previously hung in the Basingstoke Town Hall.

D: BURRELLS FARM



Burrells Farm, 45 Main Road (Opposite Knapp Lane), [Grade II listed]. A timber-framed open hall (farm) house comprised of three bays. The queen strut roof implies a build date after 1450 and the curved braces and floor joists, up to six inches wide, imply a pre-1550 date (1450-1550). A ground floor ceiling and back-to-back chimney were added in the early 17th century. It retains its original charm, with features like the bread oven and salt box still in situ.

E: OLD MEETING HOUSE

Old Meeting House, Malthouse Lane [Grade II listed]. Also known as the United Reformed Church (1972). Following the restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660 many Church of England clergy were ejected from their living for



In 1929 a war memorial was erected and dedicated to the 30 men who lost their lives in World War I. It was originally erected on a piece of land on the southern corner of New Road, donated by the Chetwynd Christie family of Elmhurst House. Following World War II the names of the 6 men who died for their country were added.In 1963, for safety reasons, the memorial was moved to stand behind the Memorial Hall on The Green. In 1986 it was relocated to St Paul's Church. The New Road junction was re-configured in 1981 and the original site of the memorial was lost beneath the new roundabout. A memorial garden was created nearby to commemorate its original location.

G: THE WILDERNESS



The Wilderness, Tadley Common. Now known as Tadley Court, The Wilderness was probably named due to its isolated position on Tadley Common. It now better befits its original name, well hidden by mature trees as it now is. It is believed to have been designed by architect Mervyn Macartney who was known for his Arts & Crafts designs. The house has been known as 'Tadley Court' since the late 1920s. When it was put up for public auction in 1920 it was described as 'an exceptionally attractive Gentleman's Country Residence surrounded on all sides by the picturesque and famous Tadley Common'. The first recorded (1891) occupants were George Roller, his wife Mary and their two children. George's distinguished career included service in the Boer War and World War I. He was also a well known artist/illustrator for Burberry's. Between 1903 and 1917 John Philips, obstetric physician to Queen Mary was the occupant. It is now a school for learners with moderate to severe learning difficulties.