

NEWSLETTER

Updating Hampshire's History

No. 18

Autumn 2021

VICTORIA
COUNTY
HISTORY



Hampshire

VCH Summer Outing to Sherfield on Loddon



The Group with Ducks

Sixteen of the **VCH Hants** group met in person on 30 June for the first time since March 2020 for an informative and enjoyable visit to Sherfield on Loddon. We have been transcribing Sherfield wills and inventories, using images supplied by Hampshire Record Office, in our weekly Wills Group Zoom sessions. The visit enabled us to explore the many places we have read about.



St Leonard's Church



Sherfield Court

We visited St Leonard's Church where we admired, among other things, the 16C and 17C brasses honouring Stephen Hadnall, Privy Councillor to Mary I, and his daughter Mary Palmes, with her 11 children also depicted. Next to the church we saw the exterior of Sherfield Court and a moated medieval site. A tour of the exterior of Sherfield School, built as a private house in the mid-19C followed. We then drove through Wildmoor, stopping at Lance Levy Farm, which, from our will transcriptions, was home to Hadnall, and viewed another, adjacent medieval moat. Returning to the village, we passed other farms and sites, such as Marshall's Farm, relevant to our work on Sherfield.



Sherfield School



Court Farm



Winton Cottage

After lunch we walked around the village. Alongside the old turnpike Reading Road, we saw the village school, built with the bequest of James Christmas, who has also appeared in our probate documents. At the Horse Pond, where horse-drawn vehicles used to be driven through the water, the ducks decided to join us. Across the village green we viewed the Plymouth Brethren Chapel, now a private house and one of four nonconformist chapels in Sherfield during the 19C.

We finished the day with a closer look at two notable buildings, early 19C Court Farm and the timber framed Winton Cottage, originally two dwellings, dating from the mid-16C.

Lesley Mason and Jean Morrin

NOTABLE LOCAL PERSONALITIES

Molly Gourlay of Kempshott House



© NPG 83616

Henry Gourlay, a wealthy shipbuilder from Dundee, bought Kempshott House near Dummer before the First World War, moving south with his wife and daughter Molly. Molly was to become a famous lady golfer, winning the French and Belgian titles, the English championship in 1926 and 1929 and the US Curtis Cup in 1932.

During the war Kempshott House was used to house German prisoners of war who worked on local farms and the Park was sold to Basingstoke Golf Club in 1927. Whether or not Molly was instrumental in this sale, she was present at the Club's opening and made the first drive on a wet and windy day.

Molly had an equally distinguished military career during the Second World War and was awarded an OBE for her work in NW Europe after D Day. Brought up at Kempshott in the 1910s, Molly Gourlay was famous enough to appear on the cigarette cards of her time!

Sue Lane



Isabella Raynbird

When she died, Isabella Raynbird was praised as someone who "took a keen interest in everything for the good of the parish in which she lived, and, always ready to help any in need, she was greatly beloved by all" (*Hampshire Chronicle*, 4 April 1925). Born in Mapledurwell, her father was a prosperous farmer and for many years she was 'housekeeper' to Samuel Sparshatt, who farmed in the parish of Weston Patrick. Following his death in 1884 Isabella inherited not only his farming responsibilities but also his public service roles of churchwarden and parish overseer, which she retained until her death. In 1890, Isabella married widower Hugh Raynbird, Lord Bolton of Hackwood Park's steward and head of an auctioneering firm. Moving to Old Basing, from 1898 to 1922 she served as one of the parish's two female poor law guardians, at a time when most were male. Her particular interests included the welfare and education of workhouse children and staffing matters. Throughout, she demonstrated competence, sensitivity and political acumen. The latter was also evident in her support for women's suffrage and in 1910 she accepted the chairmanship/presidency of the Basingstoke and District Women's Suffrage Society. Some of Isabella's intellectual interests, shared with her husband, were pursued through membership of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society. Her life exemplified the increasing self-confidence of women as the 19C gave way to the 20C.



Roger Ottewill

John Arlott

John Arlott, OBE, (1914-1991) was a radio broadcasting "immortal". He was BBC radio's voice of English cricket for over a generation, retiring in 1980. With his poetic phraseology and Hampshire 'burr' he became noted for his "wonderful gift for evoking cricketing moments" and set the tone for the 'Test Match Special', still listened to today.

He was born in 1914 at Cemetery Lodge, Chapel Hill, Basingstoke, the son of cemetery registrar William John Arlott. He attended Fairfields Primary School before winning a scholarship to Queen Mary's Grammar School. Arlott eventually left the school of his own accord.

After leaving school, following a brief stint at the town hall where he learned to type, he spent four years working at the Park Prewett Mental Hospital in Basingstoke as a records clerk (1930-34). This was followed by twelve years

as a policeman (1934-1946) in the Southampton County Borough Police Force (later the Hampshire Constabulary). He progressed to the rank of sergeant while stationed at Southampton and enjoyed the opportunity to watch Hampshire play at the County Ground while on duty there.

After making a radio address on VE Day, he attracted the attention of the BBC, and subsequently joined as the Overseas Literary Producer the following year.

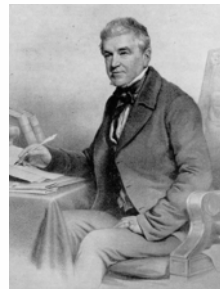
He was asked to commentate on the warm-up games of India's cricket tour of England in 1946 and from then until he retired at the end of the 1980 season, Arlott covered every single home Test match. He went on only two overseas England tours, to South Africa in 1948/9 and Australia in 1954/5. He later lived in Alresford and died on Alderney.

He has a street near his birthplace named after him.

Andrew Howard

William Lutley Sclater

In the early years of the workhouse system, from 1834, the treatment received was entirely dependent upon who was in charge in your area. A few new unions/workhouses were very bad, most just tried to do their best. In Basingstoke, an early union and workhouse, we were lucky with the appointment of the chairman of the Board of Guardians, W L Sclater, Oxford graduate, landowner and magistrate, of Hoddington House, Upton Grey. He was a decent, humane man, who detested the new system to the extent of writing (and self-publishing) a letter to the Poor Law Commission in 1836 identifying all the problems, and which is extensively quoted in today's studies. He stated that the workhouse should be "a place of refuge, not of humiliation and punishment", and that the practice of selling paupers' cottages over their heads was "execrable". Struggling with the strictly imposed rules of the system, he:



- Refused to allow habitual runaway boys to be beaten and resisted punishing adults who absconded in union clothing (technically theft)
- Forbade corporal punishment, firing officers who did it
- Insisted on a proper, respectful funeral for paupers, with a good coffin and a hearse
- Ensured that children and elderly were exercised regularly outside the workhouse buildings, and that additional rations were provided whenever possible

He remained chairman for 40 years, attracting like-minded people to the board throughout, and still took a keen interest in the evolving system until his death in 1885, aged 96.

Barbara Large

Stephen Hadnall ... and relatives

Stephen Hadnall was born in Shropshire probably in the 1520s. Little is known about his early career, but he came to prominence at the court of Mary Tudor. In 1553 he is recorded as a Groom of the Privy Chamber to Mary. He seems to have remained in service throughout her reign, receiving from the Queen grants of land and properties in Hertfordshire, Essex, and Shropshire, including tithes and manorial rights from the dissolved priory of Much Wenlock. He also gained at least one wardship, an arrangement that could be lucrative.

After selling some of his land following Mary's death, he is recorded buying the Lance Levy estate from the More family in 1578 and settling in Sherfield on Loddon. On the same day in 1579 at Sherfield, his two daughters were married, Mary, the elder, to Francis Palmes and Anne to Hampden Paulett. Stephen's will records gifts of furniture for his daughters, including a "greate chaire of crymsen velvett beinge at Lanc Lovy," and gifts of money for servants at Lance Levy. Stephen died in 1590 at his Sherfield home and has a memorial brass in St Leonard's Church.

Francis Palmes, Stephen Hadnall's son in law, who was also born in Shropshire, came from a family known for their Catholic sympathies. Palmes inherited land in Yorkshire and Rutland as well as Shropshire. He also held a number of offices during his lifetime, including Sheriff of Hampshire. As sheriff, he met Elizabeth I at Silchester in 1600 and escorted her to Basingstoke, where he was knighted.

Lesley Mason

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM: The Willis Museum and Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Basingstoke, the Hampshire Record Office, Winchester, and

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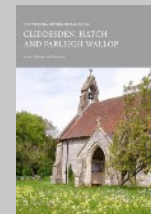
Mapledurwell



Steventon



Medieval Basingstoke



Cliddesden, Hatch and Farleigh Wallop