

# DIAPER NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2016 NO 36



Well we had a bit of a quiet spell but now things are getting busy again. We have done the annual accounts and the association is in good order thanks to book sales and donations so we can still send out free newsletters and maintain the website.

Remember we are keen for members to contribute on our social media face book site [www.facebook.com/DiaperHeritage](http://www.facebook.com/DiaperHeritage), we also have a special members area [[www.facebook.com/groups/806100282747943](http://www.facebook.com/groups/806100282747943)].

### TOM DIAPERS LOG

We can confirm that Bloomsbury Publishers who now hold the re-issue rights for *Tom Diapers Log* will be producing a new edition for release later this year. Our thanks to Tom Cunliffe for helping us make this connection and for writing a new introduction to the book. There is also an additional introduction giving information on Itchen Ferry and the Diaper Heritage Association. Many thanks must also go to Martin Black who has provided exhaustive end-notes on all the various yachts and boats mentioned in the text. Beken of Cowes has also given permission for images to be used and this has been 'topped up' by family images from DHA. The costs for the re-issue are all being met by Bloomsbury but they will be donating 5% of any sales to the association towards our work. As soon as we have information on ordering copies we will let your know. We are also in talks with Bloomsbury about organising a local launch of the book and an events programme, so that should be fun.

### Research Request

We have had a request from a Mrs Beryl Varilone who has been investigating the history of the Cricketer's Arms Inn, Portsmouth Road, Woolston. One of the owners was a John Bell who also owned the Itchen Brewery. Mrs Varilone is keen to hear from anyone with any information on the Inn and the Bell family. Tel 023 80 441 883 Or write to 91 Newtown Road, Woolston, Southampton SO19 9HX

### Ada Greenwood



Recently your editor had the pleasure of meeting a longstanding resident of Woolston, Mrs Ada Greenwood, who shared some of her many memories of growing up around Itchen Ferry. She had particularly vivid memories of the bombing in 1940 and remembered that in the 1930s zeppelins had been seen going up the river Itchen, presumably taking photographs which would come in handy for the bombing raids that were to follow.

Her mother's family were originally from Chiswick and moved down to Woolston to work at Thornycrofts. Her paternal grandparents, The Phillips, ran a grocers and butchers shop on the corner of Church Road and Swift Road. Ada attended Ludlow School and had perfect recall of her teachers including Miss Quale the headmistress who lived in College Road, Miss Kitchen from Swift Road, Miss Fudge from Oak Road, Miss Carter, Miss Dilly and Miss Cross from Radstock Road and Mrs



Ada age 4

Hadow from Weston Lane. Life was very hard growing up in the depression when many children did not even own a pair of shoes to go to school in. There was a shortage of food and little money, with queues three deep going from the Labour Exchange, in the colonnade, down to the Floating Bridge. 'Job Sharing' is not a modern invention and many of the men would work 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off alternating with another worker. Having no money did not let you off paying the rates and you could expect the police at the door ready to take the man of the house off to prison for a week for leaving the rates unpaid. When this happened at Ada's house they were lucky that her grandfather managed to beg for an hour's respite during which time he went and pawned his best suit and boots to pay the bill. Clothes were worn till well after children had grown out of them, new clothes were rare and generally it was cut-downs from the adults. Education was a way out of poverty and Ada's two brothers passed their exams and went to Itchen and King Edwards and later her sister went to Girl's Grammar but it was expensive to send children to these schools, which meant some could not take up places. Ada remembered that her mother often only had 3d left in her purse to buy 2d worth of cuttings from the butcher and a 1d for pot herbs, which was the name for carrots, onions and swede. She felt sure her mother often went hungry to make sure the children were fed.



Up until 1933 the family lived on Sea Road, in one of only 2 bay windowed houses on the road, and then moved up to the flats on the green which were in the house of Col Grimston [who was connected to the Royal South Hants hospital which still has a ward named after him], they later moved to Manor Road and then Ludlow Road. Landmarks Ada can recall include Russels Bakery, Carters Farm on Peartree Green, the allotments behind Sea Road, including pigstys, Miss Wells Sweet Shop, the parsonage by the Railway. The Miss Stones who were church workers had looked after Ada's mother Margaret after she lost her mother at age 14. The Parsonage was later taken on by the Bertrams who had a private school there.

Ada can also remember visiting her great grandmother Annie who was forced to take up residence in the St Mary's workhouse after she was widowed in 1921. Her Aunt Dorothy was married to Jim Lilley the stonemason whose yard was near to the cemetery, and Ada's family sheltered there during the worst of the war time bombing. Ada's brother, Fred, served in Italy but was captured and sent as POW to Leipzig in Germany and not released till two and a half years later by the Red Army. Her brother Tom was in a reserved occupation having been a draftsman at Supermarine. Ada started work at Frasers the Drapers in Southampton, where customers could buy goods using clothing cheques; she started there just before the war when she was 14 and left at 19 to join the AST in Hamble where her job was issuing parts for spitfires. She remembers she and the other young women wearing turbans which concealed their curlers which made sure their hair would look its best for dances at Peartree Hall.



Ada lost her father in 1946 and her mother took in lodgers to help make ends meet, usually sailors linked to Thorneycrofts. It was through this that Ada met the man who was to become her husband, Ernest, who was a chief electrical officer down from Lancaster. He had joined the navy in 1937 and had taken part in D Day landing with the Americans on Omaha beach. He himself was a widower with 2 children, and he and Ada went on to have three children of their own after they married in 1947. Ada herself worked at Petters for a number of years, and the family lived at Weston until Ada was widowed in 1981, in 1986 she

moved back to Woolston.



One interesting piece of memorabilia was a letter sent to Ada's mother in 1947 by the then Princess Elizabeth at the time of her wedding when she sent food parcels to all widows.

Ada was born in 1922 and will be 94 this year!

## Geneology Update

We are still getting new information to add into the family tree, along with a few new photos that are being added. Julie is still working through the 1911 census and is about Half way through checking the records, trying to make sure that any census records for people in our family tree have all been added to our records, so that we keep as full a record as possible of each individual. Please if you have information that you would like us to include along with any pictures you would like to share. Please contact Julie on her email address below.

## Email Addresses

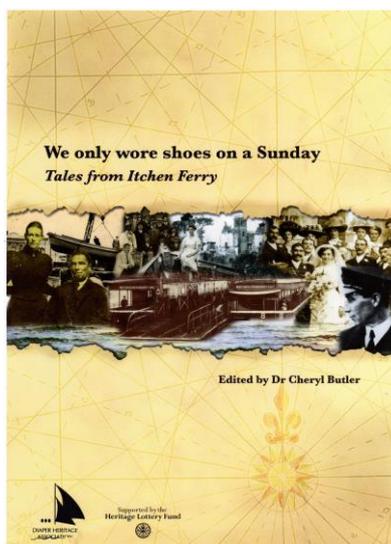
Please remember that if you have an email address to let us know so we can send your newsletters via email, which helps us save on the cost of postage, and the amount of paper we use. Also don't forget to let us know if you change your email address so that we can keep our records up to date.

## Postal Addresses

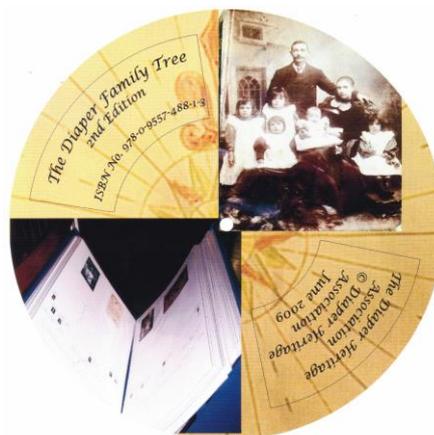
For those of you that we still send the newsletter to by post, please remember that if you move home and wish to continue receiving our newsletter to let us know if you have a change of address or contact details.

## Publications

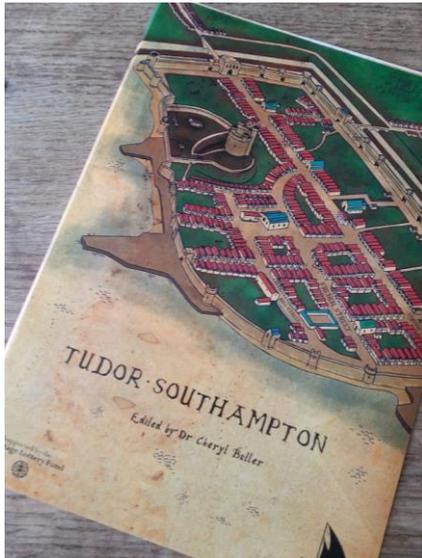
We still have the following available to purchase:



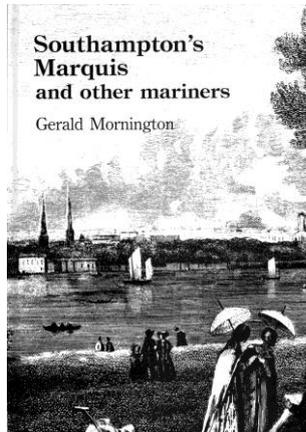
Book - We Only Wore Shoes on a Sunday – £5.00 plus £2.50 post & packing.



DVD rom - The Diaper Family tree - £14.99 plus £2.50 post & packing. We now only have 10 copies of the dvd rom left.



Book - Tudor Southampton: Rioters, Revellers & Reformers - £5.00 plus £2.50 post and packing.



Book – Southampton's Marquis and other mariners by Gerald Mornington - £3.00 plus £2.50 post & packing.

If you wish to purchase any of the above, please send your requests along with your payment (cheques made payable to Diaper Heritage Association) to Julie. See below for details. If you live locally you can always call Julie and arrange to collect direct from her.

### **Contents**

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