

Diaper Newsletter No 20 Summer 2009



Website

We have been experiencing some problems with the DHA website with some sections not being available, our service providers are looking at the situation to try and sort out the problem. If anyone using the website experiences any problems please can you let us know, so that we can bring it to the attention of our service providers. We are also awaiting the loading up of the new oral history section with excerpts from several of our interviews. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Peartree Church Hall

The exhibition panels from the exhibition held in the maritime museum have now been installed in the Peartree Church Hall, they were donated by the Association to the Church following the exhibition ending.

Oral History

The Southampton City Council oral history unit have finally finished loading all the oral history interviews from the Diaper project into the archives. It has taken much longer than envisaged due to major changes and re-organisation within the heritage unit. Now the hard drive has been returned to us we will finally be able to run copies of interviews off for participants.

With Regret



We are sad to report the death of Andrew Lawrence Diaper. Andrew was a stalwart of the Diaper Project taking part in the oral history project and supporting the schools education programme. He also managed to secure the Red Funnel sponsorship of the heritage trail leaflet we produced. Those who visited the exhibition would have seen part of Andrew's filmed interview which was shown in the exhibition. We have passed condolences onto his immediate family. We are pleased that we managed to capture so many of Andrew's memories that have been saved for future generations in the oral history archives.

Geoff Turtle

We are pleased to say that Geoff has returned home after a lengthy stay in hospital, where he is being nursed by Angie. Thanks to everyone for understanding as we have had to juggle the secretarial work usually done by Angie. Thanks also go to Julie for stepping into the breach, as far as we know we have responded to all correspondence received, although it may have taken a little longer than usual.

Angie has sent us the following message:-

"I am sorry that I have not been able to be fully involved with the Association so far this year, and it will take a few months more for my husband to recover. He was taken ill on Christmas Eve, with what, we thought was the flu, well, it turned out that he had contracted legionnaires and had multiple organ failure, he was in a coma for two weeks and it was touch and go, the consultants gave him a few days to live, we gathered the family two of his sons flew overnight on New Years Eve from Canada. And we spent the next few days by his bedside, but the weekend turned into two weeks and he was still with us and fighting, thankfully on the third week and after a tracheotomy he was pulling

through and now after four weeks in the hospital he is now home and making a slow recovery. The consultants say it will take up to nine months for him to get back to his normal self, so please be patient and I will be back soon, and thanks for all your good wishes." P.S. Happy New Year I can say it now.

New family tree & reports

The family tree stands at 9,725 individuals

Total number of Marriages 2,971

The earliest individual is John Dyaper – born about 1500

The total number of different surnames is 1,735

The actual number of people linked to John Dyaper (b. abt. 1500) is 7,447

The total number of people we would still like to link up is 2,278

We are very close to achieving 10,000 entries and Julie is just working on the index so we will be in production shortly. Please contact Julie if you would like a copy of the new disk.

Local History Fair

The Association were represented at the first local history fair organised by the Bitterne Local History Society. The day was very successful and we were glad to see so many Association members at the event. Member Lesley Burke came to the fair and afterwards sent us some more photos for the archive including this one which shows Alfred Diaper being presented to George VI during a visit the King was making to Southampton during the Second World War. (You can pick Alfred out just about by the king's left shoulder – the family features are very clear!)



The National Maritime Museum

The NMM have been sent a digital copy of 'Tom Diaper's Log' as they are considering whether they would like to republish the volume. Fingers crossed its third time lucky and that we manage to get a reprint done this time.

Houses of old Itchen – Mayfield

In 1854 Robert Wright acquired part of the Weston Grove estate and within two years a large house was built there which he called Mayfield. Wright and his family moved there from another large house at Oak Bank close to the Itchen Ferry; presumably they moved to Mayfield to get away from the very busy port and to sell the valuable site at Oak Bank for development. Robert Wright died in 1857 but his widow and son Robert J Wright continued there. In 1889 the estate was sold to Lord Radstock who lived there with his children, Elizabeth, John and Granville Waldegrave. In 1937 the estate was sold to Southampton Corporation but with the express wish that it should not be built on and the 30 acres were opened as a public recreation ground with extensive gardens. The house was used in the Second World War and afterwards for homeless families and in 1936 was used to house Basque refugee children. The house was demolished in 1956 but the stable block, hayloft and clock still remain at one entrance to the park.

Events at the Hampshire Record Office, Sussex St, Winchester

Lunch & learn sessions in how to decipher old writing in documents, bring along old documents you have been having difficulty with, upcoming dates Friday 1st May and 5th June 1-2pm.

Free Lunchtime lecture 1.15-145pm 30 April, 'treasures from Hampshire's rich archival heritage'

Family History for beginners, evenings on 22 April, 20 May and 24 June £7 per session, need to book 01962 846154

Uncover your Family History 30 April 9.30-11.30 £10pp 01962 873603

Hampshire Family History Festival 5 Oct-28 Nov 2009 including family history fair at Winchester Discovery Centre Sat 17 October

Early Diapers

You might remember that the earliest Diaper in Southampton records to date was John Dypere carter who flourished in the 1420s and 1430s, we then leap forward a century before we can firmly identify another Diaper. Well we recently had an email from Winifred Harwood who is working her way through the Southampton Brokage Books, medieval records kept by the Bargate Broker which record all traders passing through the town gate. Winifred was browsing through the 1460s books and there is another John Dypere. I say another as looking at the dates and the break in references it is probable that we are looking at the son of the first carter. Well I can tell you that on Tuesday 26th April 1463 he travelled to Amersham with woad, on Saturday 14th May he was off to London also with woad and a week later was back in London with a load of alum. The first JD's main route was to Winchester so John junior was going farther afield. Winifred has promised to keep us up to date on other sightings as she goes further through the records. The findings are part of the University of Winchester's 'Overland Trade Project' and if you would like to know more follow the link <http://www.winchester.ac.uk/overland>

Hampshire Archives Trust

Hampshire Archives and Local Studies have been awarded a Heritage Lottery grant to develop a new community archives project for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight. Living Links

is a 3 year funded programme aiming to provide support and advice to communities interested in collecting and recording their local heritage. The DHA completed a survey last summer about our organisation and this is now collated and a result should be available on the website: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archive/living-links/>. There are going to be several Living Links initiatives planned for 2009 and these will also be highlighted on the website.

Snippets

The Itchen Urban District was formed from the parishes of St Mary Extra and Hound or Sholing in 1898 and it was absorbed into Southampton in 1920. The Southampton Record Office holds the minutes of the Urban District Council which cover topics ranging from allotments, cemeteries, drainage, the horse and stable committee minutes and the profiteering committee. There are several byelaws on topics such as dairies, cowsheds and milkshops and one dated 1913 on Pear Tree Green. The rate books and cemetery papers might hold information for local historians along with licence registers. St Mary extra parish council was treated as a separate parish in the eighteenth century and became a civil parish in 1894, until it was absorbed into the Urban District in 1898.

The Merrie Feast

The opening event of the Chandlers Ford Festival will take place at Thornden School, (Chandlers Ford, Southampton) playing fields on **Sunday 7th June** from 11am – 4pm. Building on the success of previous years it will feature a free fun day, bringing the history of Chandler's Ford to life. Throughout the day Civil War living history displays will take place, while traditional craftsmen lead demonstrations with the extremely popular willow craft workshops. There will be many diversionary activities for families throughout the day. Will we draw on community groups such as the Thornden Community Wind Band, Fryern Junior School Choir, Sherborne House Ukulele Orchestra, The Rotary Club, Hiltingbury Community Association plus many more. Local produce will also be available throughout the day.

The Association have been asked if we would like to have a stand, so if there are any volunteers who could help out please let us know as soon as possible.

Contacts

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