

### **The Badsey Society through to the finals of a national archaeology award**

The members of a local society have great cause to celebrate. The Badsey Society has just found out that it is through to the finals of a national archaeology award.

Maureen Spinks, the Project Manager, was contacted by the Director of the Council for British Archaeology to say that the Society was one of just four organisations in the country to go through to the finals. The official announcement of the outcome of the short-listing process with the names of the finalists and details of their projects will be published in the forthcoming issue of the CBA's 'British Archaeology' magazine which appears on 8th February. Maureen said, "This is wonderful news. More than two dozen people have worked on the project and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved."

From 2005-2007, the Badsey Society was involved in a project looking at the development of the parish since the time of Enclosure at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Copies of the Enclosure maps were made for display in the village. In addition, using the services of the Worcestershire Historic Environment & Archaeological Service and the Worcestershire County Council GIS Team, the maps were digitised and placed on the internet as part of the countywide Tithe & Inclosure Map Project. It is now possible, through a geographical information system, to view the historical maps in comparison with the modern-day Ordnance Survey maps. This brings a very 21<sup>st</sup> century perspective to the maps, something that the Enclosure Commissioners and map-makers of 200 years ago could not have begun to dream about.

Maureen, together with Richard Phillips, the Website Editor, are off to Olympia in May for the presentations, where they will discover if the Badsey Society is the overall winner who receives a cheque for £1000. The presentations will be made at the "Discover Archaeology LIVE" show which is part of the "Who do You think You Are? LIVE" event being held at Olympia in London over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May. The presentations will be made on the morning of Friday 2nd May and all the finalists will have an opportunity to talk about their project.

It is the first year that the Marsh Archaeology Award for Community Archaeology has been presented. It is administered by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) on behalf of the Marsh Christian Trust. The Trust was established in 1981 by Brian Marsh and has two main areas of work; grant-making and the Marsh Awards. The Awards seek to recognise unsung heroes who aim to improve the world we live in, who do it out of love, not for money.

A good number of very high quality nominations for the inaugural Award were received, which reflected very well on the current state of community archaeology across the UK, said Dr Mike Heyworth, Director of the CBA. The entrants were initially judged by Dr Heyworth and by the CBA's Hon Secretary, Dr Richard Hall, and the CBA's Head of Education & Outreach, Don Henson. The four short-listed entries have now been forwarded to Brian Marsh OBE, Chairman of the Marsh Christian Trust, who will decide on the winner.

Victoria Bryant, the Manager of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record, said: "The members of The Badsey Society undertook an impressive amount of work to a very high standard but also managed to convey their enthusiasm to the local community. This ability to convey the value of their research was reflected in the high attendance at their very sociable public events and the fact that these events were attended by a very wide range of local people of different ages and situations." She felt that the Society had made a significant contribution to the archaeological knowledge and understanding of the Badsey and Aldington area and their work had helped develop understanding of the effects of inclosure and subsequent landscape changes more generally in the county. Robin Whittaker, Archives Manager of Worcestershire Record Office and Mrs Chris Nelson of Blackminster Middle School and Mrs Elizabeth Spencer of Badsey First School also wrote testimonials to the CBA in support of the work of the Badsey Society.

Useful websites: [www.badsey.net](http://www.badsey.net); [www.worcestershiremaps.org.uk](http://www.worcestershiremaps.org.uk)  
[www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk](http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk)  
[www.marshchristiantrust.org](http://www.marshchristiantrust.org)

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