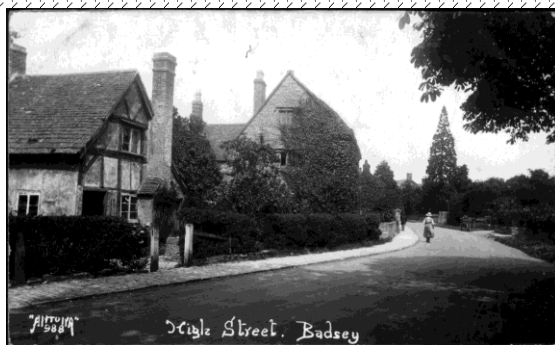


## HIGH STREET

The High Street has always been the centre of Badsey where originally all the housing was concentrated. It is shown on the Badsey Enclosure Map of 1812 but is not included in the Award Schedules. It is assumed that the road was not specifically mentioned as it was in an area comprising all old enclosures; the new enclosures were designed within the existing framework.



Early 20<sup>th</sup> century postcard of the High Street showing from left to right: an old cottage, since demolished, on the site of "The Rock" (No 38), Malvern House, and the Wellingtonia tree which once stood outside The Pool House.

The High Street still retains a number of the old pre-Enclosure houses. Little changed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, though a few houses were built at the turn of the century with the market gardening boom. It was not until the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that a number of new houses were built: Cedar Court and Poplar Court and a few other houses. The Vicarage was rebuilt in the 1970s.

## End of the Project

The Badsey Society's project comes to an end in December so this is the final project newsletter that you will receive. If you haven't already done so, please pop into The Spar to get a copy of "The Market Gardener". The following is an extract from Will Dallimore's introductory speech which gives you a bit of the background as to how the film came to be made: "This is in fact the Society's third film. The first two were made under the leadership of the late Tony Jerram. For those who didn't know Tony, he was the Society's first Chairman some ten years ago. His military background gave him a straight back, a balanced eye and a confident voice, all good attributes for the presenter, writer, director and narrator of our first two films. It was Tony who coined the phrase, "The Last Market Gardener", which was taken as the title for the whole of the Society's two-year project funded by a heritage lottery grant. You will notice that we have rather optimistically dropped the word "last" from the title of our movie. The reason for this should become apparent if you watch the film."

If you have enjoyed reading these newsletters and would like to keep up-to-date with what is happening, why not join The Badsey Society? It costs only £2 per person to join. Please give money to Maureen Spinks, The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EW.

**A big thank you to the Parish Newsletter distributors for delivering The Badsey Society's Project Newsletter every quarter. Your contribution has been much appreciated.**

## The Badsey Society Committee

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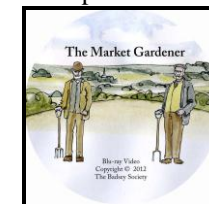


# THE BADSEY SOCIETY



## THE LAST MARKET GARDENER NEWSLETTER 10 – OCTOBER 2012

Our project is drawing to a close and what a busy month it has been! We began October with a spectacular launch of "The Market Gardener" at The Regal Cinema. Over 150 people were present in the wonderful art-deco surroundings of the newly-restored cinema to see Will Dallimore's film. A repeat showing was shown at The Wheatsheaf on 12<sup>th</sup> October. It is still possible to get a copy of the DVD; available in The Spar.



Meanwhile, over at Badsey First School, the pupils had fun at their Harvest Festival when they received a surprise visit from Gus the Asparagus Man who had come to officially "open" the mural which they had been working on in the summer. As some of you may know, Gus, in his other life, is also Austin Agg of Badsey. It is thus appropriate in this, our final Newsletter, to feature not one but two market gardening families, and to include the Agg family as well as the previously-advertised Ballard family.



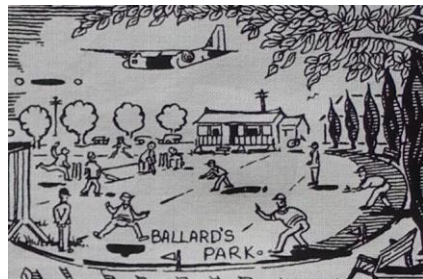
## THE FINAL EVENT OF THE LAST MARKET GARDENER PROJECT A HISTORY OF BADSEY IN 100 OBJECTS AND LAUNCH OF A NEW ARCHIVE & MUSEUM WEBSITE



Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
7.30 pm  
Badsey First School

## THE BALLARD FAMILY

In 1911, there were five Ballard market gardening families living in the village. Charles Ballard (1829-1914) and his wife, Ellen, lived at the house now known as The Dovecote, Aldington. All four of their surviving six sons lived in Badsey and were market gardeners. Charles had been an agricultural worker and had become a market gardener by 1881; by 1911, now in his eighties, he had retired. He died in 1914.



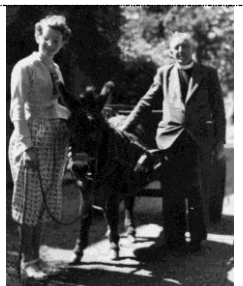
Michael Barnard's sketch of Ballard's Park, named after the Ballard family.

Ballard's Park, home to Badsey Recreation Club, is named after Charles Ballard's eldest surviving son, Alfred (1865-1939), and his only son, Alfred William (1889-1970). Alfred Senior began life as an agricultural labourer but, by 1902, business was profitable and he was able to buy just over 4 acres of land at Badsey Field. Very soon, he built a house (present-day No 29 Badsey Fields Lane), Desmond House, where he remained for the rest of his life. He later acquired further land at Badsey Field. Many years later, in 1961, the land became the home to Badsey Cricket Club when they began renting 3 acres of land from Alfred William Ballard. In 1968, the Club purchased the adjoining 9 acres from Mr Ballard and his two market gardening tenants were paid compensation to surrender their tenancies. A W Ballard died in 1970 and later that year the club purchased the original 3-acre field from his family at a cost of £850. About that time, the name of the club was changed from Badsey Cricket Club to Badsey Recreation Club in order to reflect the wider range of sporting activities then envisaged.

William Henry Ballard (1872-1924), the second surviving son, was a market gardener all his life. He also bought land at Badsey Field, on which he built a house (present-day No 15 Badsey Fields Lane) and where he remained for the rest of his life. Edwin Ballard (1877-1962), known as Ted, the youngest surviving son, lived on Old Post Office Lane, in an extension to a house which had been owned a hundred years earlier by his great-grandparents, William and Elizabeth Ballard; but this appears to have been a mere coincidence, as the house had passed out of Ballard hands in the first part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Ted was organist at Bengeworth Church and became a professional bee-keeper. He later had a house built at Aldington which he called Beeholme.

Charles Ballard (1874-1953), the third surviving son, began his working life as an agricultural labourer but had become a market gardener by 1901. He lived in a number of different houses in the village, but in 1911 he was living on Willersey Road.

Who remembers Charlie Ballard's donkey, Simon? Charlie kept him in Sladdens' orchard but, following Charlie's death in 1953 and the sale of the orchard at about the same time, Simon went to live at the Vicarage. Here you can see Simon "working" at the church fete, with Reverend Chapman and his daughter, Angela. Simon was kept busy pulling the cart for rides. The Chapmans had him shod as he was working on the drive, not in the field; Angela Holdsworth (née Chapman) still has one of his shoes.



## THE AGG FAMILY

You will have read on the front page of this Newsletter about Gus the Asparagus Man officially opening the mural at Badsey First School. Gus told the children of his asparagus family's history. Well, when Gus is not being an asparagus spear, he is also known as Austin Agg, the descendant of one of the market gardening families, his great-grandfather, Decimus Agg (1839-1924), being the first to take up market gardening. Austin himself still works on the land at Bretforton. Here you can read a little bit about the Agg family history.



In 1911, there were four Agg market gardening families living in Badsey. The patriarch of the family was 71-year-old Decimus Agg (1839-1924). Decimus was born at Stanton, but then moved with his family to Childswickham. He began his working life as an agricultural labourer. Decimus married Mary Foster in 1864 and they had five sons: Decimus (c1865-1954), James Foster (1867-1867), William (1869-1916), Joseph Foster (1871-1953) and George Albert (1875). They moved to Wickhamford in the 1870s and thence to Badsey in the late 1880s. By the time of the 1891 census, Decimus had become a market gardener working on his own account. In 1911, they were living in a new terraced house, 8 Bullybrook Terrace (present-day No 48 Willersey Road), just three doors away from their son, Joseph, at No 11. The Valuation Office Survey for 1912 reveals that Decimus occupied 2½ acres of land at Bully Brook and Hurst Way.

Three of Decimus' surviving sons lived in Badsey at the time of the 1911 census, whilst the youngest, George, lived at Wickhamford. Decimus Agg (c1865-1954), the eldest son, began his working life as a groom but had become a market gardener by 1891. He did, however, see active service in the Grenadier Guards and fought at the battle of Omdurman which took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1898 in the Sudan. Decimus married Alice Banning in 1891 and had five sons and five daughters; they lived at No 3 Sands Lane. According to the Valuation Office Survey for 1912, Decimus occupied just over 3 acres of land at Pear Tree Corner. Alice Agg died in 1915 when her youngest child was only one year old; this was James Edward (1913-2004), the father of Austin Agg. Decimus continued to live at the house on Sands Lane until his death at the age of 88.

William Agg (1869-1916) began his working life as an agricultural labourer but was a market gardener by 1911. In 1911, he and his wife Sarah were living with Sarah's brother, John Sears, who had bought Hopyard Villas in 1908. William had no children and died in 1916.

Joseph Foster Agg (1871-1953) was a market gardener, as well as being very involved with St James' Church where he was Parish Clerk, choirmaster and organist. He lived with his wife and children in one of the new houses on Willersey Road, in 1911. The Valuation Office Survey for 1912 reveals that Joseph occupied 4½ acres of land at Bully Brook and Hurst Way and, along with several others, nearly 29 acres at Murcott Allotments. Joseph emigrated with his family to Canada in 1913. He joined the Canadian Regiment during the First World War and returned to Badsey on fleeting visits. Reports appeared in some of the Parish Magazines of the time. Joseph died at Whitby, Ontario, in 1953.