

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help of all sorts is required! Just because you don't feel you have the talent to be an amateur historian, other skills are also useful. For example, folding newsletters, sticking on labels, acting as barman at special events, washing up – all those practical things that all take time!

However, if you are keen to get involved in the historical aspect of the project, we would love to hear from you. In particular, help is required to transcribe the old records (no former experience required, training will be given). And, of course, we want as many people as possible to start recording their house history.

If you feel you can help in any way, please complete the form below.

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**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISHES OF BADSEY AND ALDINGTON SINCE 1807**

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

TELEPHONE: ..... E-MAIL: .....

PLEASE TICK ANY WHICH APPLY	Tick
I wish to help with the project in any capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>
I wish to help with transcribing of the records	<input type="checkbox"/>
I wish to help with the following (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have old documents/deeds relating to my house	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have photographs/film of the following houses	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please do not enclose any documents or photos at this stage; just simply give a brief description of what you have so that we can contact you at a future date.

Please return to: Maureen Spinks, The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EW, or hand the slip to any Committee member (Terry Sparrow, Will Dallimore, Richard Phillips, Tony Jerram, Neil Thould, Ian Gibson).



**THE BADSEY  
SOCIETY**



## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISHES OF BADSEY AND ALDINGTON SINCE 1807

### NEWSLETTER 1 – JANUARY 2005

Have you ever wondered what Badsey and Aldington were like in days gone by?

What was it like to live in the villages 50, 100, 200 years ago?

What sort of houses were here?

Who lived in your house or owned or farmed the land on which your house is now built?

How have the villages developed in the last 200 years?

If you are curious to know the answers to these questions then please read on. An exciting new village project is about to start!

The Badsey Society is grateful for a grant received from Local Heritage Initiative in order to fund the project. The Local Heritage Initiative is a national grant scheme that helps local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) provides the grant but the scheme is a partnership, administered by the Countryside Agency with additional funding from Nationwide Building Society.



Local Heritage *initiative*



## DETAILS OF THE PROJECT

The project is called “The Development of the Parishes of Badsey and Aldington since 1807” and will look at the way the villages have grown over the last 200 years. We shall use as our starting point the Enclosure maps for Badsey and Aldington. The problem is, though, that the original maps are large and unwieldy and inaccessible to most of us. The Badsey map is in the library of Christ Church, Oxford (the Patrons of the parish), whilst the Aldington map is in the Worcestershire Record Office. To make them more accessible, we are paying for a professional company to copy the maps. There will then be two ways in which you can view the maps:

- Framed and mounted actual size photographic prints of the maps will be on public display in the village (locations to be confirmed)
- Via an internet connection on a computer (and ultimately on CD)

These maps show who the landowners were in Badsey and Aldington 200 years ago, and every house and field is plotted. Working forward from there to the present day, the aim is that by the end of the project you will be able to click on the part of the map where your house is located and track changes in land use and ownership during the course of two centuries.

- Why 1807? Because that is the date of the “enclosure” of Aldington (the date for Badsey was five years later, in 1812).
- What does “enclosure” mean? Before the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the open-field system of farming was used, with each landowner having a number of long strips scattered over each field. With the improved methods of farming discovered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, strip farming became impractical, so enclosures (literally fencing off the land) were carried out. A survey of the village was made and commissioners were sent to re-allot the land, including ploughland, meadow and common to individuals in separate compact pieces.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2005, 7.30 pm, Badsey Remembrance Hall – The Badsey Society Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by Terry Sparrow on Enclosure Maps as a general introduction to the project
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005, 7.30 pm, Badsey First School – Launch of “The Development of the Parishes of Badsey and Aldington since 1807” (see invitation enclosed). Victoria Bryant of Worcestershire Historic Environment & Archaeological Service will talk about the project and there will be the official unveiling of the framed Badsey and Aldington Enclosure Maps.
- Summer 2005 – Village Walk following the route of the 1901 Census enumerator

## HOW THE PROJECT WILL BE RUN

### (A) THE ENCLOSURE MAPS

We shall pay a professional company to scan the maps. HEDS (Higher Education Digitisation Service, based at the University of Hertfordshire) has been commissioned to undertake the work. This will involve the maps being taken to a laboratory to be scanned at a very high resolution. Two framed and mounted photographic prints of the maps will be produced for public display. We will then make a computer record listing each field, its owner, its tenant and how the land was used. The computer mapping is being done by Worcestershire Historic Environment & Archaeological Service (WHEAS) who will digitise these documents on to a 3D Geographical Information System (GIS). GIS allows a “virtual fly-through” of the landscape in 3D, thus bringing the past vividly back to life. Once the 19<sup>th</sup> century maps are on the GIS system, instant comparisons can be made with modern mapping.

### (B) THE WEBSITES

The project will appear on two websites, the Worcestershire County Council website and the Badsey website ([www.badsey.net](http://www.badsey.net)). Using the enclosure maps (Aldington 1807, Badsey 1812) as a starting point, links will take searchers to a number of places: to the modern Ordnance Survey maps; to written descriptions of the buildings; photographs of buildings and information about the people who lived there in the past. For example, this will mean that by clicking on an image of a barn on the Enclosure map on the Worcestershire site, you could find a photograph of the barn on the Badsey website.

### (C) THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH

History is not just about things that happened hundreds of years ago. History is happening now. By undertaking this in-depth study of the parishes up to the present day, we hope that we will encourage you to find out more about your home, street and village. By the end of the project, whether you live in a Tudor mansion, an Edwardian villa, a 20<sup>th</sup> century council house or a 1970s semi, you will be able to see the changing use of the land on which your house stands. In the case of houses built before 1901, you could find out who lived in your house in previous centuries.

In order to do this, we need your help. Please complete the form overleaf if you are able to assist.

- Can you help with transcribing the records (no previous experience is necessary and you do not have to be a computer user)?
- Have you got any of the following?
  - (a) Old deeds relating to your house
  - (b) Old photographs showing the changing pattern of the village (these do not necessarily need to be very old; perhaps a photo taken in 1990 before you had an extension added)

A newsletter will be issued quarterly informing you how the project is progressing.