

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Following the last Newsletter, we had an excellent response for help with transcribing the old documents. This task will be completed within the next few months. However, it's not too late to become involved in the project. 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!

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	
I wish to help with the following (please specify)	
I have old documents/deeds relating to my house	
I have photographs/film of the following houses	

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).

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.



**THE BADSEY SOCIETY**



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

**NEWSLETTER 2 – APRIL 2005**

The Badsey Society's latest project is launched! For a full report of the proceedings (with pictures), please see over.

You may recall that in our first newsletter, we asked if you had 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 kind of houses were here?

Well, now, thanks to a grant from Local Heritage Initiative, The Badsey Society is pleased to bring to your village copies of the earliest known maps, which were drawn some 200 years ago. Very shortly you will be able to see the Badsey Enclosure map in the church and the Aldington Enclosure map in the Remembrance Hall. You will see what enormous changes there have been in the parishes in the last 200 years. In 1801, the population of Badsey was 284, with the housing concentrated in the High Street and Old Post Office Lane. By 2001, the population had risen nine-fold to 2531. In Aldington, there has been less widespread development, but even so, in 200 years the population has risen from 83 to 232.

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*



## THE SCANNING OF THE MAPS

Having gained the grant, our first task was to obtain permission to take copies of the earliest maps of the two parishes. The first known map of Aldington dates back to 1807 when a map was drawn up after a private Act of Parliament was passed to enclose the lands in the parish. Five years later, in 1812, a similar Enclosure Act was passed for Badsey. The original maps have been well preserved but are large and unwieldy and inaccessible to many. 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. Having gained the necessary permissions, we then paid for a professional company, HEDS (Higher Education Digitisation Services), to scan the maps. This took place at the end of January when the maps and the accompanying Award Schedules were taken to a laboratory at the University of Central England in Birmingham to be scanned. HEDS then prepared computer images of the maps and schedules, which will be used by Worcestershire Historic Environment & Archaeological Service to digitise the maps.

## THE TRANSCRIPTION

Following an appeal for volunteers in the last Newsletter, we are delighted that 18 people have volunteered to assist in the transcription of the 200-year-old Award Schedules which accompany the maps. The Schedules list in detail every single landowner in Badsey and Aldington, together with the amount of land they owned. You may have seen some of the volunteers in "The Journal" recently sporting their Local Heritage Initiative T-shirts!

## THE LAUNCH

The launch of the project took place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at Badsey First School. Talks were given by Maureen Spinks, Secretary of The Badsey Society, and by Victoria Bryant and Maggi Noke of Worcestershire Historic Environment & Archaeological Service.



At the end of the programme, framed full-size photographic prints of the maps were unveiled. The new vicar of Badsey with Aldington, the Reverend Richard Court, unveiled the Badsey map. Richard said that as someone who had been in post for only three weeks, he was honoured to be asked to unveil a copy of a 200-year-old map. The

map will in due course be on public display in the church. There will be a slight delay whilst all the necessary formalities are sorted.

The Aldington map was unveiled by Robin Whittaker, Archives Manager for Worcestershire Record Office. In his speech, Robin said that he was delighted to be asked by The Badsey Society (a society which he knew from experience to be very active and innovative) to unveil the map. It was the first time he had been asked to unveil anything and he would attempt to do it with as much dignity as possible). Robin then, as keeper of the original Aldington map, formally handed the framed copy over to Yvette Jackson, Vice-Chair of Badsey Remembrance Hall Committee. Yvette, in her speech of acceptance, said that she was delighted to have been invited to the launch to accept the map on behalf of the Remembrance Hall where it will be located. She reminded people that an important anniversary for the Remembrance Hall is coming up next year – 50 years since its opening - and that history is not just about buildings that have been around for hundreds of years, but also about events that have happened in living memory.



We are pleased that there are two places within the community where you will be able to view the maps. As there is no public hall in Aldington itself, it is fitting that the Aldington map should be on display in the Remembrance Hall, as the Hall stands on land which originally belonged to Aldington.

If you would like to read more about the project and see further photos of the launch, visit the Badsey website at [www.badsey.net](http://www.badsey.net).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2005, 2 pm, Badsey First School – “The Development of Badsey and Aldington since 1807” exhibition at the school Summer Fete
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2005, 2 pm, Badsey Recreation Ground – “The Development of Badsey and Aldington since 1807” exhibition stand at Badsey Flower Show
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2005 – Village Walk in Aldington following the route of the 1901 Census enumerator