

attached which had to be continuously pulled to rattle against the smaller pieces, just the sort of job enjoyed by noisy boys. The radish-minding was an all-day job so of course we had to take along all our cooking pots and pans and any grub that we could scrounge. Food never tasted better."

The Wheatleys owned the land for the next 22 years, when it was sold by Lucy Kate Wheatley (Horace's widow) on 30th March 1954 as a compulsory purchase to Evesham Rural District Council for £665. The ancient ridge and furrows and gnarled fruit trees disappeared to be replaced by a housing estate.

Fifty houses and flats were built on the plot and the occupants began moving in between July 1955 and August 1956. The first houses to be let out were the ones by the stream. Mike and Joyce Hewlett were among the next, moving in to No 2 in the September. The road was still unfinished and they had to walk along it in their Wellingtons! By the summer of 1956, with all the houses occupied, there was the sum total of two cars on the site – now most houses have a car. Mike has been a valuable member of the transcription team over the past year, providing numerous stories about places in the village.

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HOUSE MEMORIES AND ROAD CO-ORDINATORS

If you would like to volunteer as a Road Co-Ordinator, please complete your name and address below and you will be sent more information about what is involved.

Do you have a memory of a particular house in Badsey or Aldington? It may be the house in which you live now or where you grew up as a child, or perhaps your grandparents or aunt's house. If so, please write to us and your memory will be placed on the Badsey website (write on a separate sheet if necessary).

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MEMORIES OF A HOUSE IN BADSEY OR ALDINGTON

NAME OR NUMBER OF HOUSE AND ROAD:

MY NAME AND ADDRESS:.....

.....

TELEPHONE: E-MAIL:

I would like to volunteer as a Road Co-Ordinator. YES/NO

Please return to Maureen Spinks, The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey.



THE BADSEY SOCIETY



**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISHES OF BADSEY AND ALDINGTON SINCE 1807
NEWSLETTER 5 – JANUARY 2006**

Congratulations to the residents of Green Leys! Green Leys is 50 years old and a fifth of the residents have lived in the road for the whole of its history. Read more overleaf.

During 2005, a team of volunteer transcribers was busy poring over old documents trying to work out who owned the land at the beginning of the 19th century. The fruits of their labour will be going public on the Badsey website some time in 2006.

We are now about to enter the second phase of the project. In order to make the study more meaningful, we need to work forward to the present day and to establish how land ownership has changed over the past two centuries. This is where we need your help. Later this month, you will be receiving a house questionnaire through your door which we hope you will find the time to complete and return to your area co-ordinator. We urgently need more Road Co-Ordinators for Badsey (we have sufficient for Aldington), so if you feel you can help, please contact the address on the back page). In the meantime, if you feel moved to write about any house in the village about which you have memories, please fill in the form overleaf.

History is happening now and it is important to remember that very recent memories are as important as the ones of longer ago. Picture the scene a hundred years from now, when your great-great-grandchild might be poring over the 2001 census. He or she, perhaps living the other side of the world, might discover that Great-Great-Granddad lived in some place called Green Leys, Badsey. Wouldn't it be marvellous if there was also a more detailed description of the place so that a picture could begin to be built of the kind of place where his illustrious forebears lived! So start writing now! Today's memories are tomorrow's history.

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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 BADSEY SOCIETY GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

On Saturday 12th November, 18 people took advantage of an amazing free offer (thanks to the grant received from Local Heritage Initiative) of learning how to interpret old deeds. We were fortunate to be able to employ the services of two experts in the field: Nat Alcock, author of "Old Title Deeds", and Robin Whittaker, Archives Manager of Worcestershire Record Office. We gathered at the Remembrance Hall at 10 am and had a brief introduction from Nat about the different types of old deeds. Then it was down to work. We split up into groups and were given a bundle of old documents to interpret. It was illuminating to piece together the story from previous centuries. After a break for a ploughman's lunch and to look at the exhibits, it was then back to work, finishing off with a question and answer session. We now hope to put this new-found expertise into practice by studying further deeds of houses in the village.



Robin Whittaker with Will Dallimore and Richard Phillips



Lizzie Noyes and Jackie Knight get advice from Nat Alcock



Robin and Jane Neill of Aldington try to interpret the deeds of Sherwood Cottage, Village Street



Terry Sparrow and Trevor Hockenhull; in the background Chris Winton, Neil Thould and Margaret Crawford

CORRECTION – In the October Newsletter, Mike Lovatt said that he believed his house, Elm Cottage, was so-called because of the elm beams. However, Mick Taylor, who grew up in Aldington, says it is more likely that it was named Elm Cottage because of the row of five elm trees that were on the opposite side of the road.

HAPPY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY TO GREEN LEYS



These residents of Green Leys have something to smile about. Not only is their road 50 years old, but they have all lived here for 50 years and have each celebrated at least 50 years of marriage. Many congratulations to Mike & Joyce Hewlett (No 2), Lionel & Rene Guise (No 5), Bernard & Joan Hewlett (No 8), Len & Pat Lord (No 20), Des & Iris Syril (No 22), Roy & Mary Page (No 28), Glan & Muriel Williams (No 37), outside No 22 - John & Margaret Collett, Chris & Bet Hall and Helen Stanton are not pictured.. Visiting granddaughter, Brittany Page, sports a Local Heritage Initiative T-shirt along with granddad Roy.

Green Leys is 50 years old, but the land on which it stands obviously has a much longer history. The first we know about it is in 1812, at the time of the Badsey Enclosure Act, when the land was owned by the Lord of the Manor, Edward Wilson. It was called Hop Yard, so presumably hops were grown there. In July 1866, Edward Wilson's son, also Edward, sold the land at an auction at The Northwick Arms Hotel, Evesham. It is not known who bought the land, but by the early 20th century it was owned by Harry Jinks, who then passed it on to his sons. In 1932, Harry and Frederick Jinks sold the land to Horace Wheatley, the butcher, who lived at The Poplars, High Street. Ted Wheatley (1921-1996), the youngest of Horace Wheatley's large family, has written this:

"Our favourite job was radish-minding which meant keeping the birds off and making as much noise as we possibly could. The ground where we did this was known as Jinks' Ground and is now a housing estate, Green Leys. A little foot-bridge made of railway sleepers ran over the water and we used to lie across it and reach down to rinse our hands. Very near to the bridge was a deep hole dug out by my brother Fred from which he used to get water for his greenhouse. In order to scare the birds, we used a primitive but effective implement consisting of a lot of pieces of metal hung up on a rack with a piece of metal behind. The larger piece of metal had a piece of string