



## TOWERING CLOCK APPEAL REACHED

What a generous lot the people of Badsey and Aldington are! In only five weeks nearly all of the estimated cost of the clockface repairs have been donated reports John Waters. Thank you so much. From the comments that we have received, it is clear that the clock means so much to the villagers and its chimes are part of the joy and fabric of village living.

Our history guru, Terry Sparrow, has unearthed a news item from the *Evesham Journal* of 21st August 1869 which reports that the old wooden clock face of Badsey's clock had been replaced by a copper one. It is probable that this clockface was retained when the clock mechanism was replaced in 1903 so that the one that we are to restore is actually 151 years old!



## BEAUTIFUL BADSEY AND ALDINGTON

Do you take local photos like this? Then why not send them to us for our back page feature **Photo Finish**. Together with a few lines about the subject and you.



Do you have an interesting or unusual hobby, collection or talent? Then let the rest of the village know about it. Who knows, there may be others who share your passion. Coming soon an Aldington readers interest in whalebone arches!

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DELIVERERS WANTED FOR THE COMMUNITY NEWS



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**2021: THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER**

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## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Wednesday 10th February 2021** at 7.30pm via Zoom. If you would like to be involved in the meeting you will need to contact the parish clerk before midday on Friday 5th February.

### Neighbourhood Watch.

It is with regret that the Parish Council has decided to postpone the launch of a parish Neighbourhood Watch Scheme at this time. Thank you to all of those residents who have expressed an interest or are already actively running a scheme in their part of the parish.

### Badsey PC-Land Update.

The Parish Council has now had the findings of the recent Magnetic and Geophysical Survey on the land at Willersey Road in preparation for the eventual burial ground and allotments for the parish. We are pleased to report that there were no significant findings on any part

of the land. There was evidence of ridge and furrow as would be expected and a modern footpath. At one corner there are a small amount of unidentified markings but due to their depth, they are unlikely to be of any consideration. The PC now hopes to be able to move forward in the planning of the project and has had discussions with local contractors to the area about getting the works underway.

### Allotments.

Badsey PC will be asking for interest in allotment plots at its land in Bowers Hill from (hopefully) March of this year in preparation for the 2022 season. If you may be interested, please look out for further information via Community News, our Facebook page and website.

### Clerk's contact details:

Andrea Evans (Mrs),  
Ty Gwyn, Church Street, Offenham WR11 8RW.  
Tel: (01386) 760332  
Email: badseypc@yahoo.co.uk

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## THE NIGHT SKY IN WINTER

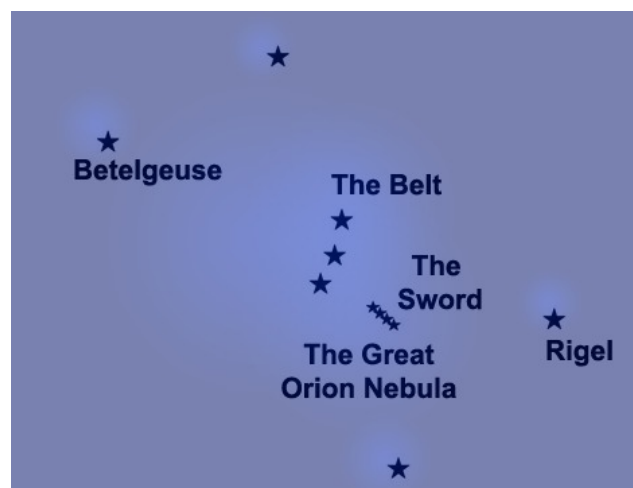
From Badsey's very own astronomer, *Stargazer*.

Although quite a dismal year for most of us, 2020 had a couple of newsworthy astronomical events. June and July brought us Comet Neowise, a quite unexpected and spectacular object in the northern sky. In December we also witnessed the Great Conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn where the two planets moved so close together in the early evening sky that some questioned if they could have been the Star of Bethlehem.

One of my favourite constellations that can be seen at this time of year is Orion which dominates the southern night sky. It rises in the east at about sunset and roughly follows the path followed by the sun during that day. At around nine o'clock in the evening it dominates the southern night sky. There are seven main stars in the constellation, the brightest two being Betelgeuse at the top left and Rigel at the bottom right.

Betelgeuse, pronounced Beetlejuice by the late Sir Patrick Moore, is visible as a large red star, and, at about 550 light years away, is one of our close neighbours in the Milky Way. It is in fact a star that is close to the end of its life having used up most of the fuel in its core. This has caused it to expand to a gigantic size and it is expected to explode as a supernova in the near future. However, there is no need to worry about this because it is so far away, and in astronomical terms the near future is the next hundred thousand years or so. There was great excitement in Astronomy circles last year when Betelgeuse became visibly much dimmer. After much speculation, observations from the Hubble Telescope have explained this dimming as being caused by the star ejecting gas that formed a dark cloud between us and the star. This cloud of dust gradually dispersed, and by April last year Betelgeuse was back to its former glory.

Rigel, at the bottom right of Orion, appears as a bright white star with a slight blue tint. It is a class of star known as a Blue Giant and is also a star near to the end of its life. It will also explode one day as a supernova and leave



behind either a Neutron Star or a Black Hole. It is about 860 light years away with a mass about twenty times that of our sun. It is also much hotter than our sun giving off a great deal of ultra violet light as well as X rays. It would not be at all pleasant being on a planet anywhere near to one of these stars large hot stars.

There are three stars almost in a straight line across the middle of Orion known as the belt, and just below the belt is a fuzzy patch that is known as the sword. This fuzzy patch is the real gem in Orion as it is a very large cloud of dust and gas, known as a nebula. This is the Great Orion Nebula, also known by its name in the catalogue prepared by Charles Messier in 1781, as M42.

This nebula is a cloud of dust that is pulled together by very weak gravity and acts as a stellar nursery where new stars in several stages of formation have been found. The cloud is illuminated from the inside by these new stars, and it is this which gives it its glowing appearance. Through even a small telescope pink and red colours can be seen. Under investigation this shows that hydrogen is present, the element that is used by all stars as their basic fuel, and this is why new stars are forming in this region of space. To the naked eye, this is a simply spectacular and colourful sight.

## WE ARE ALL ON A JOURNEY

### A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM CURATE, TIMOTHY HUPFIELD

February brings the beginning of Lent. It's a season to prepare for Easter, by reflecting on Jesus' time in the wilderness, and by reflecting on his life and also on how our own journey of life is going. As Lent begins this year, that idea of journeys will be both literal and metaphorical for me—it will mark the time when I will stop being curate here in the benefice of the East Vale and Avon villages. As Lent begins, I will move north to begin new adventures as vicar of St Martin's church, Low Marple, just outside Stockport.

These two types of journey coming together, the journey of faith, and the physical journey of moving house, have made me think that perhaps they're not too different from each other as might appear at first glance. Lent is a time to, amongst other things, look back at 'where we've each come from' in faith. Whether joyful places in life or ones of wilderness, they all add their contribution to where we each find ourselves now.

Reflecting on wilderness might not feel particularly difficult for many of us this year, with a global pandemic, and lockdowns and social distancing having dominated the last twelve months. But along with all the pain and difficulty there have been moments of growth, and joy, and hope. Just a few words, like 'care', 'keyworker', and 'heroes' will highlight some of these things, that we have 'picked up' on the way – like new insights about who the keyworkers are in society, and how we can care for one another. It's a bit like the tradition of pilgrims collecting something, often a shell, as a reminder of their pilgrimage journey.



The same applies to my journey to a new church. While it will be a time full of goodbyes, and I will leave an empty house behind me when I go, I will also be taking part of this benefice with me. I wouldn't be going to be a vicar up north without the years I spent here, 'picking things up'. The things I have done, and the relationships I have formed, have helped shape who I am, and will shape the ministry I offer up in Low Marple.

In the wilderness, some familiar landmarks to orientate ourselves and work out the way forward are essential. Perhaps, in a wilderness, questions are more appropriate than answers, so I'll finish with a few... Could this February be an opportunity to reflect anew on where we have each 'come from'? In our life journey so far, what people and experiences have shaped who we are now? What are we, metaphorically, carrying? And where will we take it next?

#### CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

A morning prayer service via Zoom will be set up each Sunday at 9:30 am. If you wish to join a link is available from the vicar. Online services of Holy Communion will continue as normal, and sermons will be published on the website ([www.eastvaleavon.com](http://www.eastvaleavon.com)).

Services at Badsey will only continue if strict adherence to social distancing rules and 'no mingling' are observed. All other churches in the Benefice will remain closed until further notice, a decision made by each of the Parochial Church Council's

Everyone in the Government's 'vulnerable' category is urged to seriously think about staying away from church until infection rates decline and the vaccines become more widely available.

#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals:

29th December 2020

Gordon John Lashford (aged 90)

21st January 2021

Richard Albert Arthur Plant (93)

## FAMILY HISTORY TIPS

### From the Badsey Society



*This month we continue with our series of how to trace your family history. Written by Maureen Spinks*

### Lesson 2 – Civil Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Civil Registration of births, marriages and deaths started on 1st July 1837 in England and Wales. Quarterly indexes in huge, leather-bound volumes were maintained by the General Register Office. Nowadays, these indexes are available on the web. An extensive but not yet fully complete set of transcriptions of the GRO indexes is available from the FreeBMD website, <https://www.freebmd.org.uk>. You can also search on subscription websites such as Ancestry or Findmypast. FreeBMD is a quick way to search for someone, but does not give the same amount of information as the subscription websites, so I shall concentrate on Ancestry.

Begin by building a document trail. At every stage, check you are dealing with the right person, and not with someone who has the same name as your ancestor. As stressed in our first lesson, start with what you know and work backwards. Decide which information you are sure about and which may have been misreported or misremembered. Let's say your starting point is your grandfather's birth and let's take the case study of Edwin William Greenwood. Despite taking out a month's subscription to Ancestry, his grandson, Stephen, began to think his grandfather had not been born! Stephen, born in 1970, knew that his grandfather had died when he was a baby. It helped that it was not too common a name, so we were quickly able to find by going into the Deaths section that Edwin died in the October quarter of 1972 in the Acle district of Norfolk. His date of birth was given as 26th September 1896 but Stephen had been unable to find his birth.

Common pitfalls are where your ancestor appears to have changed his name between birth and death. Typically, someone may have been registered as "John Paul" for example, but died as "Paul John". In this case, however, Edwin's birth had been registered as "Edward William", but he then went on to marry and die as "Edwin William". I found him by the simple solution of removing

"Edwin William" from the forename filter and adding 1896 in the year of birth field. By purchasing a copy of the birth certificate\*, Stephen found out date of birth, address, parents' names (including mother's maiden name) and father's occupation.

The next step was to find out when Edward/Edwin's parents married. We knew from the birth certificate that they were called William Greenwood and Norah (née Fleet) and that they lived at Walpole near Lowestoft. In the Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915, by entering William Greenwood and a location of Walpole (as it was possible they might have married in the vicinity), this threw up a number of people with that name who married in Suffolk; checking under "View Record" we could see that one married Norah Fleet. The marriage certificate gave ages at the time of marriage, occupation and father's name. We were thus back a further generation, so now Stephen could keep going back looking for their births. Make sure you allow a bit of room for error when calculating years of birth because it was not unusual for one or both parties to doctor their ages a little. If you are lucky, there will only be one person of each name born in the right time period, leaving you confident that you have found the right ones. With luck and sound technique, you might keep this pattern up for several generations.

There are never any guarantees in genealogical research, and often all sorts of complications emerge that force you to turn detective. What if the name you are looking for is John Jones? When you search the indexes, you are likely to come up with many options, so you will have to choose between them. Sometimes you will have to order more than one certificate before you find the right one. You might even find that there were two people called John Jones born at the same time in the same place, with parents of similar names. The census, which we will come to next month, will help you to find your correct ancestor.

\* Ordering certificates (current cost £11) – ensure you go to the official website, <https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>. Only order through this website, as there are many other websites offering a certificate service but will charge you far more for the privilege.

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## BADSEY'S OLD VICARAGE

December's Photo Competition featured this building, here Terry Sparrow tells us of it's history.

The old Badsey vicarage, (pictured right), dated back to 1856. There are no records to show when a vicarage, or parsonage house as it was often called, was first established here, but it seems that until the late 18th century it was a rather unimposing building. This all changed with the appointment of a new vicar in 1785. Writing retrospectively in 1801, the Reverend George Drummond said, 'On taking possession .... in 1785 I found the parsonage at Badsey little better than a cottage and in a wretched repair, that after a great part had fallen in I was induced to pull it down and build a new stone house .... and it is now a neat and commodious dwelling.'

However it would seem that the new dwelling was not particularly well built and in 1853, shortly after the arrival of the Reverend Thomas Hunt, the diocesan architect reported, '.... the whole structure is far gone in a state of dilapidation.' So a scheme was put in hand for major renovation, as well as extension, and within three years the work had been completed at a cost of £896. But a big problem remained -- inadequate foundations.



In 1897 came a report saying, 'only two or three rooms not badly disfigured by serious cracks,' and 'ceilings require to be re-plastered.'

Underpinning of walls was suggested, but there is no record of this taking place and it seems that the building gradually deteriorated until its eventual demolition in 1971, when its site, together with the large garden, provided space for a new housing estate, named Allsebrook Gardens after a previous vicar. Earlier the same year the Reverend Peter Braby and his family moved into the new vicarage next door.

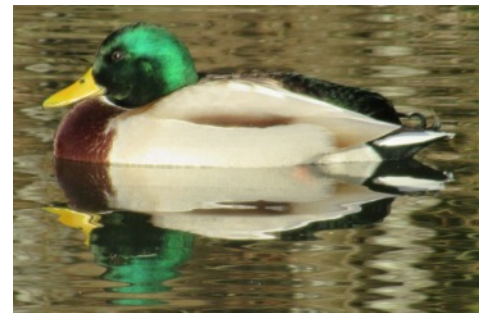
## Jane Neill's Countryside Calendar

In February, we feel the harsh bite of Winter frosts and even snow but on those milder, brighter days when the sun shines look up into the tree tops to see the beauty of the bark and bare branches in their varied hues of silver, yellow, orange or red. You may also spot the pale moon against the clear blue sky. The early bulbs begin to rise and bloom. Snowdrops and crocuses herald the first sign of Springs' awakening.

You will occasionally hear the buzz of a solitary queen bumblebee tempted out on a warmer day to feed on the nectar of Winter flowering shrubs in the gardens. I have seen large numbers of honey bees occasionally too.

Throughout Winter birds flock together in large numbers for safety and a better chance of finding food. Listen to the constant contact calls. The blue and great tits are the loudest foraging amongst the ivy and along the branches flying from tree to tree. A splash of colour is provided by

the spotted woodpecker, goldfinches, long-tailed tits and the male mallard. When the rooks stand by their nests in the tree tops you know Spring is just around the corner.



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**THE ROUND OF GRAS SEEMS AN UNUSUAL NAME FOR A PUB. IS THERE A STORY BEHIND IT?**

*Asked a reader in our last publication. Here is the answer to your question from our local history man, Terry Sparrow.*



The Round of Gras, almost certainly the only public house in England with that name, was until 1968 known as the Royal Oak and had been for more than a century, although I do not know which year the pub was first opened. When the Coventry surveyor Edward Phillips drew up the Badsey Enclosure map in 1812 the land on which the Round of Gras now stands was part of an old enclosure owned by Elizabeth Ballard, but without any buildings on it. So no pub then, but by 1841 there almost certainly was one, as the Census of Population for that year, the earliest one to give individual names and occupations, lists 35 year-old Richard Ingles, a publican. Although his address at the time was not given, the 1851 census places him at the Royal Oak.

So how did the Royal Oak become the Round of Gras? Gras is the local name for asparagus, for many years one of the chief crops of market gardening in the Vale of Evesham, probably reaching its peak during the 1930s. A Ministry of Agriculture bulletin of 1932 recorded 142 acres of asparagus in Badsey alone. The acreage declined rapidly during the second world war, when planting of new beds was not allowed unless specifically authorised, and continued to do so afterwards, so that by the 1960s comparatively little was left. Someone suggested that the memory of this once important crop could be preserved in the name of a public house and it seemed that the Royal Oak, the headquarters of the Vale of Evesham Asparagus Growers Association, was an obvious choice. The Royal Oak logo disappeared and in its place came the Round of Gras (bundle of asparagus)

*The photos above show the original name sign on the left, and the current name sign on the right.*

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

The new M.U. banner was dedicated by Reverend Philip Morton during a service in Badsey church on 6th December 2020 writes Sandra Sparrow. The design of the banner (pictured below) shows the magnolia tree in the churchyard through a small window at the back of the church. We decided to have a new lighter banner as the original one was heavy and had become difficult for anyone to carry. The original banner was given many years ago in memory of Mrs. Frances Holding the first enrolling member when the Badsey branch of the M.U. was formed in 1922. The new banner was made by the Badsey Womens Institute embroidery group.



The February meeting of Badsey WI will take place on Wed, 10th at 7pm using Zoom. The talk, entitled *From Farm to Factory*, will be given by Mr James Goodman.

This promises to be a very interesting look at how Tesco makes sure that all their fabrics for clothes etc. are responsibly sourced. Representatives visit farms and factories to check on conditions and ensure there is no exploitation of workers. Please contact the secretary, Alex Owen on 830083 if you would like to join us.



For the latest information contact club secretary Barbara Bennett on 01386 831002

## Priest in Charge:

### **Rev. Fr. Philip Morton**

The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EJ  
Tel. 832599 Email: [revphilipmorton@gmail.com](mailto:revphilipmorton@gmail.com)

My Surgery is held on alternate Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 8pm at The Vicarage. I use this time to meet and get to know the people who have a desire to book a baptism or wedding at any of the wonderful churches in the Benefice.

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**Our Church Website:** [www.eastvaleavon.com](http://www.eastvaleavon.com)

## The Vicar's Day Off is Friday

### **Churchwardens:**

Mrs. Elizabeth Bolland Tel. 830638  
Email: [lizral.bolland@btinternet.com](mailto:lizral.bolland@btinternet.com)

Mr. Chris Smith Tel. 830217  
Email: [smithvce@msn.com](mailto:smithvce@msn.com)

### **Readers:**

Mrs. S. Cole Tel. 831260  
Mrs. Margaret Pye Tel. 833537

Mr. Alan & Mrs. Joyce Bache Tel. 839464

### **Curate:**

Reverend Timothy Hupfield Tel. 01386 769432

Email: [timothyhupfield@cantab.net](mailto:timothyhupfield@cantab.net)

Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Farmer Tel. 40401

Safeguarding Advocate: Elizabeth Spencer Tel. 01789 720078

### **Useful Contacts**

Badsey Remembrance Hall Sue Brooks 641234

Badsey Community & Sports Club Sue Evans 830867

Badsey Church Bell Ringers Tom Sandham 834070

Badsey Church Flower Guild Hazel Stewart 832007

### **Organisations, Institutes and Societies**

The Badsey Society Shirley Tutton 831539

Women's Institute Lorraine Goodman 832653

Mothers' Union Sandra Sparrow 833368

### **Youth Organisations**

1st Badsey Scout Group Nichol Brown 882350

1st Badsey Guides Mandy Young 423215

Cafe Freedom Tracy Hemming 830200

Messy Church Penny Christison 830367

### **Over 60s Friendship Groups**

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Sundowners Val Davies 833423

### **Sports and Entertainment**

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Air Rifle Club Ashley Green 832296

Archery Club Ian Trout 831509

Badsey Cricket Club David Powell 833122

Badsey TaeKwonDo Marie Hall 0748 478 5882

Model Engineering Club Roger Cull 831933

Round of Gras Cricket Club Andrew Ogg 0779 216 2577

Evesham & Badsey Hockey Club Andy Osborne 0797 068 1505

## **CORRECTION AND APOLOGY**

In a previous edition we credited Badsey Parish Council with organising the village carnival, when for the past three years it has been run solely by the Badsey Carnival Committee.

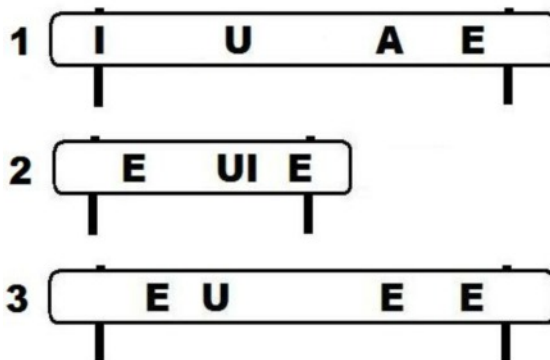
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## **THE WORD ON THE STREET** **Missing Consonants Competition**



Here are 3 roadname signs from the parish of Badsey and Aldington. They have had their consonants removed. Can you work them out from just the remaining vowels?

Email your answer to the Editor, no prize, just a name check of the selected winner next month with the answer.

Last month's photo of a sign board was located on the side of an old barn in School Lane. The barn was demolished and new houses built in the 1970s.

Articles for publication in

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Please contact The Editor  
(Will Dallimore)

on the following email address:

[editorbadseycommnews@gmail.com](mailto:editorbadseycommnews@gmail.com)

Handwritten articles are also accepted.  
Please post them through the door of  
30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey

Deadline for email or handwritten articles  
is the 10th of each month

# Photo Finish

Your Photographs  
Your Stories

This month we have photos from two of our many readers. The marvellous atmospheric photo of Aldington ford is by Graham Corbett, a native of Badsey, who now lives at Offenham.

The photo of the steam locomotive, Raveningham Hall, is by Jeff Nice of Badsey. He has also added a brief history of its life, ending up on the Severn Valley Railway.

In the coming months could your photo and it's story appear here? Please send photos and stories to the Editor (details inside back page).



Neil Corbett, Graham's brother, wrote about his childhood fishing and playing by Badsey Brook ([www.badseysociety.uk/village-life](http://www.badseysociety.uk/village-life)) here is an extract:-

*The ford at the bottom of Mill Lane was as far as we ever ventured with a fishing rod, after that it was only minnows, although I often fancied that there might be some bigger fish up towards the Offenham end, but if you were venturing that far, you might as well go on up to the Fish and Anchor where there is proper fishing to be got.*

*The Mill Lane ford was a popular spot for just mucking about. It was nice place to paddle and we could make little toy rafts or play Pooh Sticks and it was a very short walk home for the boys who lived round the back of Horsebridge Avenue.*



Steam locomotive GWR 6960 was designed by Frederick W Hawksworth and built in 1944 at Swindon Works. Its wheel layout is 4-6-0 and weighs about 75 tons. It was named in 1947 after Raveningham Hall, a stately home in Norfolk. Predominately this loco hauled express passenger trains. It was also ideal for hauling freight as well. 6960's first shed was Old Oak Common 1948 to 1953, it's second shed was at

Reading 1953 to 1963 its last shed was Oxford for just a year when in 1964 it was scrapped and went to Barry Island Scrap Yard. It was purchased by David Edleston then sold to Barry Thomas. The current owner is Jeremy Hoskins. It is running at The Severn Valley Railway and will be until the boiler licence runs out in July 2021. There are six examples of this locomotive class left in preservation.

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