



## BADSEY'S 'AIR FORCE'

*With a fortnight to go before the hairdressers re-open Brian Smith looks back at four Badsey barbers of the past.*

During my childhood in Badsey, nobody paid much attention to male grooming. Most men worked in outside occupations and wore caps in the day, so their hair was not often on display. Short back and sides was the order of the day, and boys had the same and were given no say in the matter.

I remember being told about my grandad Charlie Savage having his hair cut in the blacksmith's shop by Dick Caswell the blacksmith. I thought it was a joke, but it was true, and he was far from being his only customer. Dick's son, David, told me that during the war, many of the troops from Dunkirk, who were 'dumped' in Badsey, formed queues outside the forge and Dick cut their hair free of charge. He also told me another story about Walter Tomkins, a Badsey character known as 'Buggins'. He had let his hair grow out of control and asked Dick for a hair cut. This was in the nineteen - fifties, when Davy Crockett was a cult figure. To the amusement of the usual spectators Dick cut his hair in the shape of a Davy Crockett hat, with a tail hanging down his back!

Another part-time barber was Harold 'Nucky' Grinnell, who lived in Synehurst Crescent. I was taken to him by my dad, who often had his hair cut by him. There were no frills there, he operated in his back yard! According to his son Les, he was a dab hand at docking a dog's tail. His full-time job was at the Littleton and Badsey Growers.

Later on, I went to Edgar Salter, who operated in a brick outhouse at his home in Horsebridge Avenue. As far as I was concerned, he did a good job, he was local and he was cheap! He was the manager of the Badsey Juniors team that I played for in the early 60's. He was involved in a famous incident with another team member, Chris (Adgy) Welch. He somehow managed to shave a bald stripe right from Adgy's neck to his crown. Knowing Adgy, he wouldn't have taken it too well, and the air would have been blue! Adgy always wore a woolly hat for months afterwards. Edgar had another side-line, his son Pete told me that he used to 'tidy-up' the dead, and the haircut thing came from that. None of these 'models' ever complained!



The last Badsey barber operated at a higher level than the other three. Arthur Randall lived in a new house a couple of doors away from us on Bretforton Road. It had an integral garage, and this he converted into a hairdressing salon. Unlike the others, he was trained in the art, and was capable of cutting in a number of modern styles. We are now in the sixties and fashions had changed from the post-war days of 'short back and sides'. He was a likeable cockney who never stopped talking as he worked. Like the others, this was a side-line and he had a full-time job as well. Then Arthur emigrated, and we Badsey males were forced to travel elsewhere for a haircut (and to pay the full going rate!)

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## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Parish Council Meeting changes.

From 7th May 2021 the legislation that allows for parish council meetings to be held via Zoom ends. It is likely that there will be an extension to this but at this time, the PC has had to make a decision about future meetings to ensure the continued safety of councillors, parish clerk and members of the public by not meeting face to face in larger numbers than permitted.

Therefore, the Annual Parish and the Annual Parish Council Meeting have been moved forward to **April 21st 2021** and the May meeting from 19th May 2021 to **THURSDAY 6TH MAY 2021**. The June meeting date will be re-assessed when more information becomes available.

### Village Planters.

Over the next few weeks, new wooden planters will be installed and then planted on Birmingham Road, Badsey Road and Bretforton Road, near to the Badsey signs. The current barrels will be relocated to our land on Willersey Road.

### Countryside Action Volunteer Group.

Local villages have successfully set up a Countryside Action Volunteer Group which support and assist Worcestershire County Council in maintaining village footpaths, bridges and stiles. The local groups will receive support and training and tools and materials. If you have some time to spare and an interest in local footpaths, please contact the parish clerk to express an interest. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far.

### 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: [www.badseypc.uk](http://www.badseypc.uk)

### Clerk's contact details:

Andrea Evans (Mrs),  
Ty Gwyn, Church Street, Offenham WR11 8RW.  
Tel: (01386) 760332  
Email: [badseypc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:badseypc@yahoo.co.uk)  
Website: [www.badseypc.uk](http://www.badseypc.uk)

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## THE NIGHT SKY IN SPRING - THE PLOUGH

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

The clocks have now changed and the evenings are longer, so the weather should be much warmer than it has been. The next month or so is ideal for casual observation of the night sky as well as serious astronomy. It is not too cold and the optics on your telescope or binoculars don't tend to get covered in condensation too quickly. This month we will take a look at the northern sky and what is probably the best known constellation, the Plough, also known as the Big Dipper, and Ursa Major (the Great Bear). On a clear night the Plough is always visible in our latitudes and moves around the polar axis with the seasons. Most children from school will recognise the constellation and also know that the end two stars, known as the pointers, point towards the pole star.

At the Polar axis is a not particularly bright or spectacular star known as the Pole Star or Polaris. This star appears to remain stationary in the night sky and all of the other stars move around it. It is not exactly at the celestial pole but it is well within one degree of angle. As such it is good enough to use as a point in the sky to align the tracking of a telescope.

Through a small telescope it clear that Polaris is not a single star at all, but a binary system with a small partner star that orbits the main star every 30 years. This was discovered by William Herschel in 1779. Much larger telescopes have recently discovered that there is also a third much smaller star very close to Polaris, so when you look at the Pole Star you are actually looking at three stars that are gravitationally locked together in orbits around each other and must have formed together at about the same time.

The pole star is part of Ursa Minor, a very faint constellation that appears to have a similar layout to the Plough. It is very faint and you will need to give your eyes time to become accustomed to the dark; even then

and it is only visible if the sky is very dark and there is little light pollution. We are quite lucky here in Badsey that it can be quite clear on some evenings when there is no moon.

The Plough as a constellation is large and easily recognised consisting of seven main stars, Dubhe and Merak making up the two pointer stars. The second star along the "Handle" is known as Mizar, and if you look carefully it is quite clearly a double star and has a close neighbour known as Alcor. These two stars are an optical double with one being further away than the other. Although they do not orbit each other, they appear to have the same motion so that they must be connected through gravity.

Through a telescope it can be seen that Mizar is in itself a binary star with a small companion. With a much larger telescope two other companion stars have also been discovered making four stars in total. If there are planets around Mizar what would a morning look like with four suns in the sky? In 2009 it was discovered that Alcor is also a binary star with a small red dwarf companion.

This northern sky has a great deal to see and wonder at and this time of the year the plough is ideally placed for viewing in the early evening.



## IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS

### AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM REVD. RALPH BOLLAND



Palm Sunday procession in Badsey with two donkeys in 2003.

Royalty, politicians, top NHS surgeons through to the millions of ordinary people worldwide, the coronavirus is no respecter of persons. In lockdown we have been living in a very unusual and dark time, the like we have never seen before. But in the midst of the darkness there are so many stories of the acts of people and organisations that are bringing light into so many seemingly dark situations. We are so thankful to all those who have often put their own lives at risk in order to attend to the needs of others.

Easter time is when we celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday, which are symbolic of darkness and light. The darkness was the Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ when the earth was plunged into total blackness between midday and three o'clock in the afternoon, created the despair of his disciples, who had looked forward to great times with their leader. Then came that first Easter Day with all the joy, amazement and light as Jesus Christ rose from the dead and defied all those who had put him to death. In the time that he had been with them, Jesus had told the disciples so often that these happenings would take place, and that they were not to be afraid. He gave them the message to go back to Galilee where "we will meet again", and that is what happened. This time last year in her message, Her Majesty the Queen encouraged us with those very words, "We will meet again".

#### CHURCH SERVICES AT BADSEY FOR APRIL 2021

Thursday 1st April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7pm	<b>Eucharist</b> <b><i>Philip Morton</i></b>
Friday 2nd April <i>Good Friday</i>	12noon	<b>Meditation</b> <b><i>Ministry Team</i></b>
Sunday 4th April <i>Easter Sunday</i>	11am	<b>Eucharist</b> <b><i>Philip Morton</i></b>
Sunday 11th April	11am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <b><i>Philip Morton</i></b>
Sunday 18th April	11am	<b>Eucharist</b> <b><i>Philip Morton</i></b>
Sunday 25th April	11am	<b>Eucharist</b> <b><i>Philip Morton</i></b>

Above services subject to change due to Covid-19. Up-to-date info available on noticeboard in Church Porch and Churchyard Notice Boards. 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)).

#### BAGS MORE FUN



We are repeating our offer of **FREE** goody bags for children. The bags contain relevant crafts, colouring pictures, puzzles, etc..

We need to know between the 24th April and the 12th May the number and ages of your children and a delivery address. Bags will be delivered on 23rd May.

Please contact [pennyanne68@gmail.com](mailto:pennyanne68@gmail.com)

or Sue Jinks, Lisa Farmer or Angela Gray

#### BENEFICE GERMAN PARTNERSHIP

*Alex Christison writes:* We have held a Zoom meeting with our friends in Germany and reluctantly they have decided to cancel their visit to us in August as to the uncertainty of travel restrictions and flights. We are looking to rebook dates for a visit from them in 2022.

It is intended to hold a service on Sunday 22nd August at Badsey in which we will include a contribution from Germany. We will also pre-record and send them an item for their service on the same day in Germany.



## PHOTOGRAPHERS REQUIRED FOR 2021 SURVEY OF THE BADSEY, ALDINGTON & WICKHAMFORD

Would you like to play a part in an important photographic survey of the village? The Badsey Society is calling for photographers to take photos of houses in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford. The photos are to be taken in May of this year and a Zoom meeting will be held in April to explain what is required.

There are now some 1200 houses in Badsey, twice the number that were here in the 1960s. The first comprehensive survey of the village took place in 1968 when the foresighted Archives Manager of Worcestershire Record Office realised that many areas of the county were going through a period of great development. He was keen to capture images of villages as they were then and dispatched a team of photographers to Badsey.

The Small Pits, Big Ideas project will return in spring **2022** to unearth more about Badsey's past through a series of small archaeological digs ('test pits'). We want the whole community to feel they can safely get involved, so have decided to postpone by a year to brighter days.

### Uncovering history beneath our feet

Together, we'll dig twenty 1 metre square test pits across Badsey to discover more about the village's origins and development over time. Badsey will be one of six settlements excavated as part of this county wide project, which is researching the pattern of medieval rural settlements across Worcestershire.



In May 2008, a team of 24 photographers from the Badsey Society repeated this exercise. But much has changed since then – 15% of Badsey houses have been built within the last decade.

### Sound interesting?

All ages welcome and no experience or knowledge of archaeology is needed! If you're interested in taking part, please let us know so we can keep you up to date - get in touch with Ian Gibson by email or phone [iangibsonart@btinternet](mailto:iangibsonart@btinternet) / 834468

**Small Pits, Big Ideas** is being run by Worcs. Archaeological Society in partnership with Worcs. Archive & Archaeology Service and support from the Badsey Society.

The photos of the village to be taken in 2021, together with the 1968 and 2008 photos, will form part of an important historic photographic archive showing how Badsey and Aldington have changed over a period of time and will be of great interest to historians of the future.

If you would like to take part in this major survey, please email contact Maureen Spinks at [history@badsey.net](mailto:history@badsey.net) or phone 831154.

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## BADSEY'S SOILS, STONES, AND BRICKS

*Alan Eames digs deeper into Badsey's foundations*

Last time we described that sticky clay which is making it so muddy and irritating to go on our Covid walks around the area. The clay is used to make bricks but more of that next time because I should say something about the bands of limestone that occur in these clay deposits.

You may have noticed that a few of the older houses in Badsey are not built of that lovely golden Cotswold stone but are built of a rather flat grey stone; this is 'The Blue Lias', and it is found in layers - ('Lias' means layers, an old quarryman's term) in that sticky clay. The older part of Badsey church has this stone and the Manor and some other old houses along the High Street. Other examples are the wonderful Tithe Barn at Middle Littleton, and the Catholic Church in Evesham,.

The stone is used in villages right up into Warwickshire and into Gloucestershire and beyond, where outcrops come to the surface. Some of the layers - and there are lots of them deep down - are thick and worth quarrying. There was a big quarry near Temple Grafton, at Wilmcote, and I imagine there would have been a few small quarries nearer here years ago. I think one was on the top of Cleeve Prior Hill overlooking the Vale. There is a Quarry Lane in



Cleeve Prior which gives a clue. Thinner layers round Badsey would not have been worth quarrying but because they were thin and flat could have been used for flagstones in the houses. I was told once the stone should be laid in walls the same way up as was found, and Bengeworth Church stone was the wrong way up causing more erosion, but have no idea if that's true! It's a good stone and very attractive but not so hard wearing as Cotswold Limestone which is formed in quite a different way. We shall save that for later.

**Next time:** We will learn about the bricks made from the local clay.

## Jane Neill's Countryside Calendar

April sees the wakening of nature from its Winter slumbers. The days bring welcome warmth but still reminds us that Summer is yet to come with sudden cool and rain. 'Oak before ash, we're in for a splash, ash before oak we're in for a soak' as the saying goes. The horse chestnut 'candles' are lit as they burst into bloom; the may blossom forms white cascades in the hedgerows. The woods fill with rich blue carpets of bluebells. The roadsides are lined with frothy cowparsley, jack-by-the-hedge and red campion.

Bees feast on the nectar. Orange tip, brimstone, little blues, small tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies give us momentary pleasure as they fly by or settle to catch the warmth of the sun with open wings. My pond fills with baby waterboatmen. The nesting season is in full swing for the local birds with fledglings beginning to leave the nests by April's close stealing a march on the new arrivals from foreign lands. The first sighting of swallows, house martins and swifts brings special joy and promise of long, warm days to come. The cuckoo and willow warbler add their voices to the cacophony of rich sounds. The skylark ascending stops us in our tracks with its melodious, thrilling song.



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## POPULAR CHOICE FOR AWARD

When Mary Dore opened her front door one afternoon, she was surprised to see her son, Martin, there clutching a trophy and various members of her family assembled in the road at a social distance. Martin was there to present his mother with the Tony Jerram award which is given annually by The Badsey Society to someone who has contributed greatly to the community of Badsey or Aldington.

Tony Jerram, who died in 2008, was the first Chairman of The Badsey Society. The award is normally presented at the Society's AGM by Tony's widow, Mrs Barbara Jerram, but, with COVID-19 restrictions in place, this was not possible.

Mary, who was nominated by several Society members, was chosen as this year's worthy recipient for her lifetime achievement in raising money for many organisations in the village.

Mary was closely involved with the fund raising for major church restoration in the 1980s and during the latter part of this period she served as Chairman of the committee where her hard work was an inspiration to all. For many years till 2005 she ran charity bingos in the Remembrance Hall - the Christmas ones were legendary for the quality of the prizes awarded. More recently she ran the Over 60s' Friendship Club, continuing until stopped by the current restrictions on socialising. Mary has also been a great 'street party' organiser in Seward Road whenever there has been a National celebration. As well as helping out with older people and entertaining the cricket club in years gone by, Mary has arranged carnivals, bonfire nights, Jubilee 1977 and many other things too numerous to mention.



In the words of one person who nominated her, 'Mary has a great personality and a big heart, she is a true village character. Her laughter is infectious and, as her husband, Gus, always said, Mary is like a helicopter you'll hear her before you see her. The kindness and help she has shown to friends,

neighbours and many in the village is heartwarming. She well deserves to have the award after many years of service to the village.'

Mary replied, 'I would like to thank everyone who voted for me and for all the kind words that have been posted. It was a complete surprise to me. Thank you all very much.'

## St James Flower Guild



Ladies and gent, no rota as yet for this year. We will be putting some flowers in Church at Easter, it's hard to believe it's a year since we decorated the church for the last time before lockdown and Julie Gardner started putting a flower arrangement in the porch, I know she's looking forward to arranging the first one after Lent.

Julie has gradually been doing more things for me with church flowers, allowing me to semi-retire after 55 years arranging flowers for the church. I look forward to taking my turn and will still be around to help when I can. Julie has agreed to take it over with a good team to support her. Thank you to all the Guild for the help over the years, I'm very proud of what you achieve and all the help you've given me for weddings, flower festivals and support for the weekly rota. Stay safe and I hope it won't be too long before we can all do the church flowers together again. *Hazel Stewart 01386 832007*



Members of Badsey WI met using Zoom in February and enjoyed an informative talk by Mr James Goodman, a Sourcing Director employed by

Tesco. James explained the process by which efforts are made, in many different countries, to ensure that all fabrics used in Tesco garments are responsibly sourced. In addition to that many issues, including political instability, have to be taken into account in ensuring uninterrupted supply of goods.

The talk in April will be by Mr Duncan Combs entitled Climbers and Wall Shrubs. Please contact the secretary, Alex Owen on 830083 if you would like to join us.

## Priest in Charge:

### **Revd. Fr. Philip Morton**

The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EJ  
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## The Vicar's Day Off is Friday

### **Churchwardens:**

Mrs. Elizabeth Bolland Tel. 830638  
Email: lizral.bolland@btinternet.com

Mr. Chris Smith Tel. 830217  
Email: smithvce@msn.com

### **Readers:**

Mrs. S. Cole Tel. 831260  
Mrs. Margaret Pye Tel. 833537  
Mr. Alan & Mrs. Joyce Bache Tel. 839464

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**

Mary Dore's Friendship Club	Mary Dore	830879
Sundowners	Val Davies	833423

### **Sports and Entertainment**

Badsey Film Club	Clive Richards	832685
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

## **WHERE? WHAT? WHEN? COMPETITION**



Can you identify **where** photo 1 is, **what** is photo 2, and **when** is the date partly shown in photo 3.

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

Last month's winners were Elizabeth and Ralph Bolland. The answers were:- 1. PEAR TREE LANE 2. STONE PIPPIN ORCHARD 3. PITWELL LANE

## **I Didn't Know That!**

Littleton and Badsey railway station, axed by Dr. Beeching in the 1960s, is immortalised in the lyrics of the Flanders and Swann song *The Slow Train*.

Articles for publication in **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Please contact The Editor (Will Dallimore) on the following email address:

**editorbadseycommnews@gmail.com**

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# Photo Finish

Your Photographs  
Your Stories

This month we have two photos from John Dallimore. The first is Badsey Manor House and the second a photo of a flooded orchard in Brewers Lane.

The present Manor House, also known as Seyne House, here with a Tudor look, is the latest building to be built on this centuries old site. Earlier buildings dating back to the 12th century were used by Evesham Abbey as a retreat and hospital for sick monks. Throughout it's life it has appeared in many guises and uses. Apart from the traditional home of the local squire it has been a boys school, and a camp for German prisoners-of-war in 1917. It also appeared as a location for a 1928 silent film, before becoming a dairy, and latterly split into two dwellings.

Our second photo was taken in Brewers Lane. It features an orchard usually housing sheep. The land is known as 'ridge and furrow' and it is the furrow that is holding the flood water. It was the ploughing of this land, prior to it becoming an orchard, with oxen or horses that created the ridges and furrows. With the single sided ploughs and the large turning circles of the oxen teams ridges and furrows were formed. Modern tractors with double sided ploughs have over the years re-dressed the balance and flattened out these ridges. However, as can be seen on the Recreation Ground, these ridges and furrows can slowly return if they are left alone.



## BADSEY CRICKET CLUB APPEAL

Dave Powell of Badsey Cricket Club is appealing for new adult players for the coming season. He has also announced that the Club is hopefully going to run, in association with Worcestershire CCC, All Stars Cricket training sessions during the summer for the young people of the area. For further details contact Dave on 0777 321 7013.

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