



## AULD LANG SYNE TO ANOTHER FRIENDSHIP GROUP CORONATION STREET OVER SIXTIES FRIENDSHIP CLUB CLOSES

Following the closure of Mary Dore's Friendship Club earlier in the year, the Coronation Street Friendship Club has followed suit. Formed thirty seven years ago it got its name not from the TV soap but from their first meeting place which was the Coronation Street Club in Evesham.

The club was started to give the over sixties a means of escaping from their homes once a week. Transport was provided which took them initially to the Coronation Street Club, then to Badsey Royal British Legion, and finally to Badsey Community and Sports Centre.

Pat and Roy Gibson organised a tea-party to thank Jean Dyke, Mary Callaghan and the many other helpers and drivers who had contributed over the years in making the club a success. The entertainment for the afternoon was provided by Graham Corbett and Will Dallimore.

Covid-19 played a big part in the closure of these clubs together with the ageing of the organisers. One bright light for Badsey's over sixties is that they are welcome at Honeybourne's Wednesday Club who meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Honeybourne's new Village Hall.



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## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Parish Council Meeting.

The next one is on **Wednesday 15th December** at 7.30pm at Badsey Remembrance Hall.

### Christmas Community Carols

Once again all of the villagers are being invited to the Parish Council's Christmas Carol Evening outside the Wheatsheaf Inn at 6.30pm on Friday 10th December. Attractions include local and school choirs, the Freedom group, Santa Claus, side-stalls, food and drink, and communal carol singing.

### Pear Tree Fields Consecration Service

The new Burial Ground at Pear Tree Corner should by now have been consecrated at an open-air service scheduled for Tuesday 23rd November. Details of this service will appear in the January edition of the Community News.

### Clerks' contact details:

Andrea Evans (Mrs),  
Ty Gwyn, Church Street, Offenham WR11 8RW.  
Mobile: 0759 1533 557  
Email: badseypc@yahoo.co.uk  
Website: www.badseypc.uk

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## WHAT TO BUY AN ASTRONOMER FOR CHRISTMAS

*From Badsey's very own astronomer, Stargazer*

A slightly different Stargazer for this month. With the festive season just around the corner, here are a few thoughts on what to buy a budding astronomer for Christmas.

### 1) A Planisphere

This simple device is completely invaluable to the budding and serious star gazer. The Planisphere consists of two thin plastic discs that rotate about a common axis. The rear disc has a map of the night sky printed on it with a calendar printed around the outer edge. The top disc has a clear section representing the visible night sky and the time printed around its rim. The action of aligning the date with the time will give you a map of that night's sky and you can see how the heavens will change hour by hour and night by night. This tool will not only help you plan your evening's viewing of the night sky but also help you identify the major stars and constellations.

### 2) Almanacs

Night Sky Almanacs are published by Collins and Philips in association with the Royal Observatory in Greenwich and these complement the function of the Planisphere. Not only do they describe the changing night sky month by month but they also point out objects of interest, the phases of the moon and the best times to see the planets. Almanacs can be purchased on line but also from discount High Street book shops.

### 3) Red Torch

It takes our eyes nearly twenty minutes to become fully accustomed to the darkness, and before we can fully appreciate the magnificence of the night sky. Switching on a white light even for only a few moments will be enough to destroy our night vision and we have to wait again to see properly. Fortunately our eyes do not react in the same way

to red light, and we can use this to help us consult Almanacs and Planispheres as well as find parts of our astronomical equipment. Red torches are an invaluable piece of equipment for any astronomer.

### 4) Hat, Socks and Gloves

It is cold at night at present and you can get very cold standing still for long period of time. Thermal hats, socks and gloves, although not always fashionable, make the long evenings tolerable. These are as essential as any other piece of astronomical equipment.

### 5) A Telescope

You can spend very large amounts of money on a telescope or even a good pair of binoculars. Different telescopes will have advantages and disadvantages depending on the area of astronomy that you may take an interest in. I recommend that you start with a relatively low cost telescope and build your interest and trade up to a better instrument as your expertise develops. Do not worry too much about the magnification of the telescope, as the magnification is often limited by the atmosphere. A magnification of only 20 or 50 will give a clearer and more pleasing image than a greater magnification of say 100 or 200.

Have a good Christmas and let us hope for clear crisp evenings during the festive season.



## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE REV'D FR. PHILIP MORTON

If you are anything like me, then it may feel like the past year has flown past in the blink of an eye, and here we are once again getting ready for Christmas. But that's no bad thing, as Christmas is one of my favourite times of year! It has not been an easy year for many reasons, but hopefully this Christmas things will be starting to look a bit more like normal!

In a similar way to past years, each of the churches in the Benefice will be having a number of different services over the Christmas period, from the traditional Carols by Candlelight, to crib services especially for children and families. So please do keep an eye open for details of the services near you. One way of checking service details is to look on the 'A Church Near You' website, simply go to [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com). There really is something for everyone as we celebrate one of the most important festivals of the Christian year, the arrival of Christ as our Saviour.

So, whatever you end up doing this Christmas - whether going away, staying at home or visiting family and friends - I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

## WHAT IS THE LARGE PICTURE THAT HANGS IN THE CHURCH AND DEPICTS A STORY FROM THE BIBLE?

*This question was put to the History Man, here is his answer*

The painting (see below) that hangs on the north wall of Badsey Church is entitled 'The Raising of the Widow's Son' and is the artist's interpretation of a scene depicted in St. Luke's Gospel chapter 7 verses 12 to 15.

The painting is the work of Otto Venius, also known as Otto Van Veen, a Dutchman who lived from 1556 to 1634. It has been in the church since 1885, the year of the restoration and enlargement of the building, and was the gift of a Mr. Bloxham, almost certainly a relative of the Reverend Charles Bloxham, who was assistant curate here from 1820 to 1839.

The register shows that Charles and his wife Mary had 5 sons and 3 daughters baptised at Badsey during the period from 1820 to 1833 and it is possible that one of these was the donor of the painting.

## CHURCH SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE - DECEMBER 2021

<b>Sun 5th Dec</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	South Littleton
	9.30am	Morning Praise	Offenham
	10.30am	Cafe Church	Middle Littleton VH
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Badsey
	6.30pm	Evensong	Cleeve Prior
<b>Sun 12th Dec</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Bretforton
	9.30am	Morning Praise	South Littleton
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Cleeve Prior
	4.30pm	Christingle	Badsey
	4.30pm	Christingle/Tree of Light	Offenham
	4.30pm	Evensong	North & M. Littleton
<b>Sat 18th Dec</b>	4.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	Badsey
<b>Sun 19th Dec</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Badsey
	4.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	North & M. Littleton
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	Cleeve Prior
	7.00pm	Carols with Silver Band	Bretforton
<b>Fri 24th Dec</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	3.00pm	Carol Service	South Littleton
	4.00pm	Crib Service	Bretforton
	4.30pm	Carol and Crib	Offenham
	11.00pm	Midnight Mass	Cleeve Prior
	11.00pm	Midnight Mass	Badsey
<b>Sat 25th Dec</b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	9.30am	Christmas Communion	South Littleton
	9.30am	Christmas Communion	North & M. Littleton
	10.00am	Communion by Ext.	Bretforton
	10.30am	Christmas Family Service	Cleeve Prior



EXTRA COPIES OF THE CURRENT COMMUNITY NEWS CAN GENERALLY BE FOUND IN THE CHURCH PORCH



## FAMILY HISTORY TIPS

### From the Badsey Society



*This month we continue our series on how to trace your family history with the second of two articles from Shirley Tutton.*

### Lesson 11 - Old Photographs (Part 2)

The burning question with every photograph is do you have a name for anyone in it? If so, is it someone listed on the Badsey Society website? If not, search on Ancestry or Findmypast or another genealogy website to see if that returns any results. If not, Google them. You never know what you might find.

If you have one name for a wedding party, the layout can help you work out who's who, and help you draw a family tree if you don't have one already. The standard arrangements for wedding photos mean that the happy couple are usually in the centre of the picture surrounded by their bridesmaids and the best man, with the bride's family on the left and the groom's on the right.



This was the starting point for a photo (see below left) which came into the possession of the Badsey Society recently. We knew it was a member of the Bell family of Aldington, as it came from Peggy Wheatley (nee Bell). But who? The setting was identified as Aldington Manor, where Peggy's grandfather had been bailiff, and the ladies' outfits and hats placed the wedding in the 1920s. The sombre suits indicated that the family could be in mourning, as we have family photos from the same period with beautiful wedding dresses. I began to construct a family tree with the help of Ancestry and Maureen Spinks, and over a couple of days the mystery began to unravel.

We decided that this was the wedding of 23-year-old Eva May Bell (1899-1973) of Aldington and 31-year-old Frederick George Birch (1892-1973) of Hampton which took place on 29th September 1923 at St James' Church, Badsey. Eva was born at Aldington, the eldest of five children of Henry William Bell and his wife, Martha Irene (née Harris). Her father had died six months before the wedding. Frederick, the second of five surviving children of Henry and Louisa Birch, was born at Hampton. The happy couple are pictured centre. To the bride's left are her brother, Ralph Bell, who gave her away, and seated are her surviving sister, Maud, and her widowed mother. To the groom's right, it is assumed that those pictured are his parents, his brother William, and one of his sisters, either Katherine or Nellie, as they were both unmarried at the time.

In conclusion then, as the dark days of winter approach, two things to keep you busy – Firstly, talk to your older relatives and get as much information as you can to write on the back of any photographs they might have. Secondly, start cataloguing those photos languishing under the spare bed. Your family history depends on it (and it's fun)!

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## READERS STORY OF THE MONTH

### THE LAST COBBLER

Another short story from Linda Core's (pictured right) memories of her childhood from her forthcoming book 'Tales from the Tall Thin House'.

Albert was a highly respected cobbler who plied his trade in a large shed at the back of his terraced house. I loved fetching and carrying neighbours footwear, entranced to watch his expertise on the lathe, my nostrils absorbing the pungent smell of the leather, whilst hugging Panda, his small black and white terrier, who kept him company. Albert's other great love was a large allotment on the outskirts of town where he cultivated prize winning crops of asparagus and strawberries.

During the summer months this took up most of the daylight hours which meant Albert would work on his lathe late into the night, much to the exasperation of the neighbours trying to get their children to sleep.

Disaster struck when Fanny, his wife of thirty odd years, passed away, but undaunted, he was soon befriended by an unattached spinster who attended his chapel. Albert's sister, on hearing of this liaison, was most disapproving, exclaiming to her cronies, "Why our Bert had to get entangled with that 'DAZ OOMAN' I don't know. She came from 'IPSWICH!' Where's that, is it abroad?"



The couple were married and enjoyed many happy years together. After his death neighbours were shocked to learn his savings amounted to eight thousand pounds, a sizeable sum for the 1950s.

## Jane Neill's Countryside Calendar

December has the shortest days and casts the longest shadows. It is a month of contrasts from heavy rains to frost, ice and snow. Mild days or bitter cold days with clear blue skies. The Christmas season is a time to decorate our houses with holly, ivy and mistletoe; for wildlife the berries are essential for survival. The deciduous trees bare of their leaves allowing us to see squirrels and woodpeckers foraging in the woods, while in the hedgerows, clothed in bright red berries, many birds seek shelter. Birds such as starlings fly in fast moving flocks, blink and you miss them! There is safety in numbers as predators feel the pinch of winter too. In the harshest weather the birds come to the gardens to feed. The grey wagtail winters along the brook. Seabirds come far inland to shelter

on the rivers so it is not unusual to spot cormorants and black-headed gulls. Watch out for lapwings with their distinctive rounded wings passing by. Roe deer venture out into the fields on cold frosty mornings where crows, rooks and jackdaws gather in huge numbers too. Listening to the crows do they sound like Daleks to you too!



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## Badsey Film Club



Luvvies, here are our films for December

Saturday 4th November **Nomadland**

Friday 17th November **Farmageddon**

Doors Open 7.30pm Film Starts at 8pm

Back Room of the Wheatsheaf Inn, Badsey

New members are always welcome, for further details contact Clive Richards on 832685.



We have been pleased with the response to the two meetings that we've managed to hold and hope this pattern continues as we were unsure how many of our members would be happy to come along due to the uncertainty of how safe they would feel due to the pandemic.

By the time that you're reading this we will have held our AGM and Xmas get together as we don't meet in December. We're hoping that maybe we will have seen some prospective new members at that meeting, as we said in the October newsletter we would love to attract some new members, we have some interesting speakers, not always garden related so please come along and see if you'd like to join us. You can visit as a guest, no pressure to join. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month in Wickhamford Memorial Hall, doors open about 7pm and the evening starts at 7.30, it is usually finished at about 9pm. Guests admission is £3.00 this includes a biscuit and tea/coffee.

Merry Christmas to all and maybe we'll see you in the New Year.

For more information call Barbara on 831002.

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## St James Flower Guild

Thank you ladies and gent for the flowers in church during the last year.



Any queries regarding church flowers please contact Julie Gardner on 832007.

## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Our speaker in October was the Aldington Poet, Brian Smith, who read out some of his poems which were enjoyed by everyone.

Our next meeting is in church on Tuesday December 14th at 2.30pm. This will be our annual Carols and Readings. Visitors are always welcome.

If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union then please contact Sandra Sparrow on 833368.

## the WI

INSPIRING WOMEN

In October Badsey WI held its first face to face AGM in two years. We were delighted to be joined by Sue White, Worcestershire's County Chairman, acting as our adviser. Lorraine Goodman was re-elected unopposed as President and members exhibited some of the items they had stitched, knitted and painted during the lockdowns.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our November meeting with local farming hero, Joan Bomford.

Our meeting on Wednesday 8th December at Badsey Remembrance Hall, at 7pm will be a Christmas bring and share meal with entertainment from Charlie Marshall.

if you are interested in joining Badsey WI please contact the secretary, Alex Owen, on 830083.

## Priest in Charge:

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

The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EJ  
Tel. 832599 Email: 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.

We do not have an Administrator at the moment so until a new one is appointed can all enquires be made to the Vicar (details above).

**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

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	Julie Gardner	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	Adam Johnson	07510042307
1st Badsey Guides	Mandy Young	423215
Cafe Freedom	Tracy Hemming	830200
Messy Church	Penny Christison	830367

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

Sundowners	Val Davies	833423
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### **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

## **A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO OUR READERS**

The Editor has received many plaudits over the last 12 months regarding the 'colourful' Community News. But it's success is not down to one person, it is a team effort. We must not forget our many contributors whose articles fill the pages, or the twenty three deliverers who brave the wind and rain every month. Or the advertisers who pay towards the cost of the printing and the Parochial Church Council who make up the short-fall.

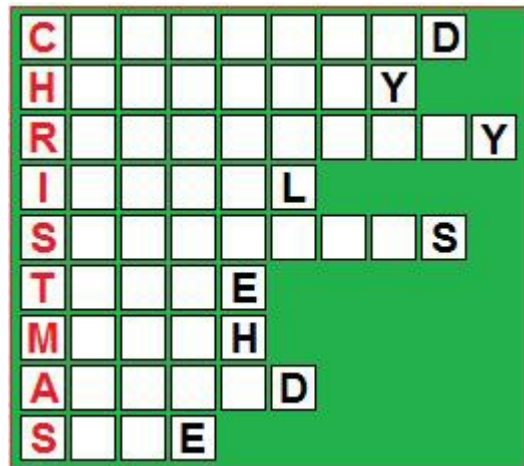


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## **CHRISTMAS CAROL COMPETITION**



The nine words above are all from one popular Christmas carol. Discover the carol, fill in the empty words boxes and send your answer to the Editor, details below. (Do not cut out the grid, send your answers on a separate piece of paper, or via email.)

Last month the stone work of art was in the garden of Oakleigh Cottage in Old Post Office Lane, Badsey. The correct answer was received from Valerie Magan and Joyce Hemming.

Articles for publication in **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

**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

## Out and About

### BINGO ...

Cricket has been played on and off in Badsey for many years but it was in 1948 that it was first played at the Recreation Ground on matting. In 1960 the club members bought an RAF wooden hut from Gloucestershire and re-built it as their clubhouse at what was to become Ballards Park, their present home. Plans are in place to replace this ageing building in the coming months as part of the Badsey Community and Sports Centre expansion scheme. The Bingo evening on Saturday 4th December is the cricket clubs main fund-raising event which help's the club offer young (and not so young) cricketers the opportunity to play competitive cricket in the village.

### ... AND HOUSEY HOUSEY

Earlier this year members of the Badsey Society took part in a photographic survey of the parish. This echoed similar surveys taken in the 1960s and in 2008. All of the photos from these surveys have been gathered together and will form part of an exhibition at Badsey Church on Friday 3rd December at 7.30pm. Maureen Spinks will give a talk on the various changes to the buildings and village over the past fifty years. If you wish to know more about your own house then why not come along, the evening also promises mince pies and hot drinks.



### BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS, ITS BACK!

After a long two years without a physical show, the Badsey Flower Show is back with a bang for 2022. Last year's show turned out to be slightly different than what we're used to – it took place both around the village and online. However, this year we are back at the Recreation Ground for what we hope will be the best year yet! We are back with everything from flowers to dancing to dogs, and hope you all enjoy what we are putting in place for the show this year. If you're a keen photographer, artist, or gardener, why not enter one of our many categories – but all will be revealed soon.

So, join us on Saturday 23rd July 2022, to welcome the Badsey Flower Show back for a year never to be forgotten!

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