

Forthcoming Events

- **Saturday 17th June 2006** – Exhibition at Badsey First School Summer Fete
- **Saturday 22nd July 2006** – Exhibition at Badsey Flower Show
- **Friday 4th August 2006** – Badsey Village Walk

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First the Books – now the DVDs!

We are delighted to inform you of the publication shortly of not one, but two DVDs, which may be of interest to Badsey Society members.

The first one was produced by Evesham Moviemakers Club and is a 75-minute recording of the Aldington Village Walk which took place last summer. The second has been produced by Will Dallimore and is a 20-minute recording of asparagus growing in the village. It is narrated by Tony Jerram and stars George Keen, Ron Heeks, Terry Sparrow, David Field and David Caswell.

If you would like to reserve a copy of either of these DVDs, please complete the slip below and send the appropriate money (**cheques payable to The Badsey Society**) to Will Dallimore or Mike Lovatt (or give to another Committee member who will forward). **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PLACE YOUR ORDER BY 30th APRIL AS WE SHALL ONLY PRODUCE THE NUMBER OF DVDs REQUIRED.** The DVDs will be hand-delivered to residents of Badsey and Aldington in May. For those living outside the parishes, postage and packing of 75p for each DVD is payable.

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RETURN TO WILL DALLIMORE OR MIKE LOVATT BY 30th APRIL 2006

Please reserve the following DVDs for me:	No of copies
ALDINGTON WALK DVD, 75 minutes, price £10 each (plus 75p postage & packing if outside Badsey and Aldington)	
ASPARAGUS-GROWING DVD, 20 minutes, price £6 each (plus 75p postage & packing if outside Badsey and Aldington)	

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Please return to: Will Dallimore, 30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey, WR11 7XD or Mike Lovatt, Elm Cottage, Main Street, Aldington, WR11 7XB.



THE BADSEY SOCIETY



**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISHES OF BADSEY AND ALDINGTON SINCE 1807
NEWSLETTER 6 – APRIL 2006**

We are now in the second year of the project to discover our village's development over the past 200 years. In previous newsletters we have featured houses and land owned by some of the major landowners in the parish, such as Edward Wilson, Lord of the Manor of Badsey, and the Reverend Thomas Williams. Now it is the turn of some of the lesser landowners. Please see inside for the story of two Williams: William Bingley and William Bishop.

For those of you who came with us on a stroll round Aldington last summer, following the route of the 1901 Census Enumerator, you will be interested to know that it is now possible to relive the walk, thanks to a documentary film made by Evesham Moviemakers Club. Badsey Society member Graham Corbett, who is Chairman of the Evesham Club, has been responsible for the production of the DVD. Please see the back of this leaflet for details of how to order by 30th April.

For the past two years, Will Dallimore, Tony Jerram and Terry Sparrow from the Badsey Society Committee, have been working with local Market Gardeners on a DVD about asparagus-growing in the area. Two hundred years ago, no asparagus was grown in Badsey. The situation had changed enormously by the first half of the 20th century, when the Vale of Evesham was responsible for 97% of the asparagus grown in Worcestershire. Now the asparagus has almost gone, and we felt it important to capture the dying days of this high intensity crop before it is too late. Please see the back of this leaflet for details of how to order a copy.

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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 LITTLE COTTAGE”,
HIGH STREET, OWNED BY
WILLIAM BINGLEY IN 1812***

Malcolm and Judith Wilson, the current owners, have owned “The Little Cottage” since 1981, but the house has a history stretching back several centuries.



Barn conversions are a common feature of the 21st century, but here is a prime example of what is believed to be a barn conversion of some 200 years ago. “The Little Cottage”, which stands in Badsey High Street almost opposite the church, is thought to have been a stone barn dating back to the 16th century. The brick façade was probably added on around 1800 when it was converted into a house. Refurbishment work in 1993 revealed that, in times gone by, there had been a large opening at the front of the house which had been bricked over and a smaller door with window above created, and the upper floors and chimney and fireplaces were installed. The surviving staircase, rear door, kitchen and bathroom beams all seem to date from around 1600 or earlier.

So who was the perpetrator of the conversion? The building was certainly being used as residential accommodation by 1812 as, at the time of the Badsey Enclosure Act, William Bingley owned the cottage and garden comprising 19 perches (just under an eighth of an acre). William and his wife, Mary, and family, had moved to Badsey in the early years of the 19th century. The barn may well have been sold to them by Joseph Jones who owned the land to the north, south and west, and William then set about making it into a family home.

After the deaths of William and Mary Bingley in 1834 and 1848 respectively, it is not known who inherited the property. We do know for certain that the property was owned by Lizzie Heritage of Bengeworth in 1899. In 1901, by which time she was living in Hampshire, she sold the house to William Mustoe and it remained in the Mustoe family for nearly 60 years, firstly owned by William (although he chose to live in a newly-built house, “Church View”, next-door), then by his daughter, Patsy Morris. Patsy, having trained as a Pupil Teacher at Badsey School, ultimately went on to become Head Teacher of the Infant Department in the 1920s. She was a popular Head Teacher, beloved by all her pupils, many remembering fondly their visits to her pretty little cottage. It was Patsy Morris who actually gave the cottage the name of “The Little Cottage”.

By the time the Wilsons bought the property, it was in need of major refurbishment and modernisation. There was still an open well beneath the main staircase which was capped in 1981. The cottage has been lovingly restored and is an attractive feature of this part of the High Street.

***“THE BLACKSMITH’S SHOP”,
CHAPEL STREET, OWNED BY
WILLIAM BISHOP IN 1812***

The familiar figure of David Caswell standing outside the blacksmith’s shop is a commonplace scene for today’s residents of Badsey, but it has not always been a blacksmith’s shop and has not always been owned by the Caswells.



Next time you go past the blacksmith’s shop in Badsey, take a close look at the red-brick wall to the right of the forge entrance. Can you see “WB 1830” carved faintly into the brick? This was inscribed here by William Bishop, who owned the cottage at that time; it was the date when he built an extension to his workshop.

Back in the 19th century, the workshop was not used as a blacksmith’s forge. William Bishop was a shoemaker by profession and it was for this trade that the workshop would have been used. William had owned the cottage since at least 1812, the date of the Badsey Enclosure Act. He was described as owning 1 rood 1 perch of land (almost a third of an acre), which is the same amount of land attached to the cottage today.

In 1812, William was in his early thirties, still unmarried. Within a few years he had married Hannah and they had three children: William Henry (1817), Ann Mary (1820) and Christiana (1822). By the time of the 1841 census, William’s profession was listed as farmer whilst the 1851 census described him as “Proprietor House and Land”. William died in 1856 and the property passed to his son, William Henry. William Bishop Junior and family remained there until the 1870s; William was described as a farmer of 4 acres.

It was on 14th February 1909 that the Caswell family began their long association with the property. Frank Caswell, a young man in his mid-twenties moved from Bretforton to start a blacksmith’s business in Badsey. “The barn”, as it was described, had been converted into a blacksmith’s shop about two years previously, but was not in use. Initially, Frank Caswell just rented the property, but then he had the opportunity to buy it for £400 from, guess who? – a family by the name of Bishop. Presumably the Bishops did not sell the property when they left the village in the 1870s but let it out to tenants. William Henry Bishop had two sons born in the 1850s, and it was possibly the death of one of these sons which triggered the sale in the 1920s.

David Caswell, the grandson of Frank, takes pride in the fact that the Caswells are the oldest same-name people living in the same property in Badsey (if anyone feels their family can beat that record, please let us know!).