



The archaeology bug has arrived in Badsey! Who is not just a little intrigued about the objects from earlier times which lie tantalisingly hidden from view just a few centimetres below our feet? Badsey is

steeped in history as people have been living here for thousands of years. There have been several discoveries here in the last century so there must still be plenty more to find.

Our dig is part of a countywide project being run by the Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service, sponsored by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The result will give an indication of centuries of population changes around the county, something which is almost impossible to find from written records. It will be an opportunity to find out more about the lives of past village residents. The findings will go into the Worcestershire archaeological records and there is always the chance of discovering some really unusual artefacts with a story to tell.

volunteers to do the digging. The depth could be up to a metre and as some of the people who kindly offered their gardens do not feel able to do the excavation themselves, we still need more volunteers not only for the digging but washing the finds when they are taken to the Scout Hut in Sands Lane for cleaning and identifying.

Earlier in May the 20 gardens will be visited by members of the archaeological team to discuss the precise locations of the pits in time for the dig start on May 21st. Any necessary turf removal will need to be done during the week before so that it does not hold up the actual dig over the weekend. Some canny gardeners have already set aside part of their vegetable plots so that there won't be any turf to shift. The Archaeology Service is going to provide most of the equipment we will need. The work will start at 10am and finish at 4.30pm on both days. Although volunteers can opt for one day or a part of it, doing the whole weekend would be preferred. Suitable clothing is required and there is a lot of kneeling involved so garden kneelers will be very useful.

After the long delay local residents are still keen to help by supplying the gardens we need. The total of 20 has already been achieved but we would like a few more in reserve in case some have to drop out at short notice. At time of writing there are none in Synehurst or Green Leys, which could be promising sites close to the centre of Badsey. Each one metre square pit will require at least two

volunteers to do the digging. The depth could be up to a metre and as some of the people who kindly offered their gardens do not feel able to do the excavation themselves, we still need more volunteers not only for the digging but washing the finds when they are taken to the Scout Hut in Sands Lane for cleaning and identifying.

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## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Parish Council Meeting.

The next one is on **Wednesday 16th March** at 7.30pm at Badsey Remembrance Hall (see the Parish Council's Facebook page for confirmation or change of venue).

### Stop Messing About!

Dog-owners who do not clear-up after their dogs on the Recreation Ground are in danger of spoiling it for everyone, as the Parish Council could make the area a dog-free zone.

### Parish Councillor Vacancy

As there was only one application for the vacancy on the Parish Council the new member will be co-opted on without any need for an election.

### Clerks's 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

## SHARPEN UP THE SWORD OF ORION

*From Badsey's very own astronomer, Stargazer*

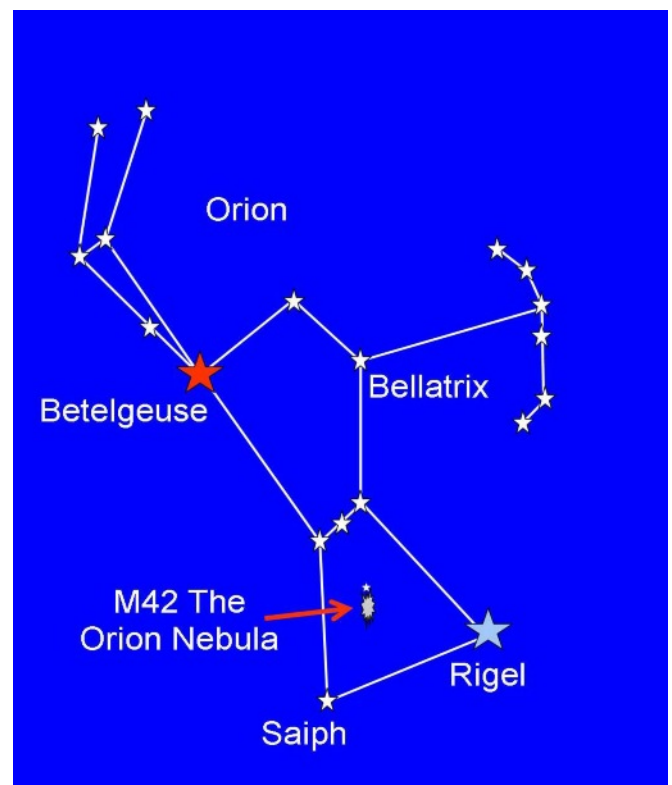
The winter's night sky gives both time for observations and some of the most interesting objects in the night sky. This month's object is a nebula that can be seen with the naked eye and is an even better sight with binoculars or even a small telescope.

The constellation of Orion is visible at present from sunset until just before sunrise, and has dominated the southern night sky since last autumn. This entire region of the night sky forms a large complex of interesting objects known as the Orion Molecular Cloud Complex. This consists of two wonderful loops of expanding gas formed by the destruction of stars in the distant past, and at least five areas of nebulosity.

In the centre of the constellation, just below the three stars that make up "the belt", there is what appears to be a small group of stars and an indistinct grey fuzzy patch. This area is known as the Sword of Orion, or more accurately as the Orion Nebula or M42, and is quite a wonderful sight through even a small telescope. It is one of the few nebulae that are directly visible to the naked eye.

This is the birth place of stars as gravity pulls together this great cloud of gas and dust, and it is in part the light of these newly born stars that illuminates this cloud from its inner depths. The brightest stars within the nebula are thought to be only 300,000 years old, and the youngest may only be 10,000 years old. This Nebula is 1,340 light years away, which is nearly twice the distance of the brighter stars in Orion, so it only appears to be in the constellation from the point of view of our planet. The cloud is some twelve light years across so is enormous in size; as a reference the closest star to the earth is Proxima Centauri, which is only four light years away. There are in fact thirty three stars within

twelve light years of the earth, so this cloud is vast. It is difficult to see colour in most nebulous objects because their light level is so low that the eye usually sees only something that is grey and cloud like, hence their name. You usually need to take long exposure photographs of these objects to fully appreciate their full beauty. However, through a telescope colour can be seen within the Orion nebula - both a reddish pink colour and areas of what could be green. Astronomers use the colour of objects to analyse their chemical composition and the reddish colour of the Orion Nebula comes from hydrogen gas and the green from oxygen. The temperature in the central region of the cloud is close to 10,000 degrees Kelvin and is turbulent with wind speeds of 22,000 miles per hour. However, the pressure of the gas in the cloud is very low, and any future space craft could probably fly through the region without noticing the surrounding magnificence.



## Snippets



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Offenham Church will be holding a 'service for everyone' at 2.30pm on Friday 4th March to observe World Day of Prayer 2022.

### MESSY CHURCH

The next meeting of the Messy Church will be at the Fleece Inn, Bretforton on Sunday 6th March. For further details contact Penny Christison by email on pennyanne68@gmail.com.

### FAST FOOD FOR LENT

The Mothers' Union are holding a Lent Lunch at Badsey Church at noon on Tuesday 15th March. Home-made soup and bread rolls will be available for a £3 donation.


### BELLISSIMO

Neighbouring residents to the church are reminded that the Vale of Evesham Bell Ringers will be visiting Badsey Church on Tuesday 29th March to ring a full peal on the bells. This will be starting at approximately 9.30am, and if they are successful should finish in just under three hours duration.

### BRASS BAND BOOKED

Avonbank Band will be giving a Spring concert in Badsey Church on Friday 29th April. Further details next month.

**LET'S ASK THE HISTORY MAN**



Is asparagus still grown in Badsey?

The answer from the History Man next month.

**ST. JAMES CHURCH, BADSEY**  
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## 'LENT' or 'lent' to us

*A message from the Revd. Ralph Bolland*



From Wednesday, March 2nd to Thursday, April 14th is the 'Season of Lent' as celebrated in the Christian Church worldwide.

Looking in the dictionary we find the word 'lent' is also the past tense of the verb to 'lend'. Thinking about this, it occurred to me that the word 'lent' could also be used in this context with reference to this period in the Christian Church.

God 'lent' Jesus Christ to us here on earth for a period of time, with special emphasis on the forty days leading up to His death on the cross.

All that God is, was embodied in His Son, who lived amongst people like us, and shared that reality so that we could know Him as Lord and Saviour.

As we enjoy our chocolate eggs and hot cross buns, let us think about the real meaning of Easter and realise what it can mean to each one of us in our present day situations.



### BIRD BOXES IN CHURCHYARD

At the end of last year Alex Christison along with brothers John and Will Dallimore fitted three wooden bird boxes in Badsey churchyard. The boxes had been donated by the RSPB.

### CHURCH SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE - MARCH 2022

<b>Wed 2nd</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7.00pm	Holy Communion	South Littleton
<b>Sun 6th</b> <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	South Littleton
	9.30am	Morning Praise	Offenham
	9.30am	Church Cafe	Littleton V.H.
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Badsey
<b>Sun 13th</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	6.30pm	Evensong	Cleeve Prior
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Bretforton
	9.30am	Morning Praise	Badsey
	9.30am	Morning Praise	South Littleton
	11.00am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Cleeve Prior
<b>Sun 20th</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	4.30pm	Evensong	N & M. Littleton
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Badsey
	9.30am	Morning Praise	South Littleton
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Cleeve Prior
<b>Sun 27th</b> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	11.00am	Holy Communion	Offenham
	11.00am	Matins	Cleeve Prior
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Bretforton
	6.30pm	Evensong	Badsey

## A BADSEY MAN FROM LONDON

### The memoirs of Roy Page

*This month we continue our series on the memoirs of Roy Page. Ninety year-old Roy came to Badsey from London at the age of seventeen—and never went back.*

*Roy was born in Willesden, North London in 1931 to Reginald and Doris Page. He was the eldest of five children, Roy, Edith, Jean, Eddie and Richard.*



### EVACUATION MEMORIES DURING WWII - Part 2

There was a cinema in Caerau called *The Cosy* and on Saturday mornings they showed cowboy serials and cartoons for the kids. It was called the *Penny Crush* because there was always a big queue to get in and it cost 1d. downstairs, or 2d. upstairs. I was given 2d. to go with so I stopped and bought, either a big washed carrot from the greengrocers for 1d., or 2 potato fritters from the fish and chip shop.

We came home from Wales when the bombing got easier, but in 1944 when the V1's started Eddie and I were evacuated to a farm near Chevithorne, a village close to Tiverton in Devon. It was August and the weather was very good, so we thought we were in for a good time, down on the farm, but it was not to be! The Delling family consisted of mother and father and two daughters. Mr Delling, a farm labourer, was a very quiet and gentle man, however, Mrs. Delling was a tall, big, hard woman, who soon let us know that we were not there on holiday!

Down the lane a short way from where we lived, was an Irish family called Kelly, there were two daughters, Margaret and Kathleen. Margaret was about 15 and had red hair and freckles and was a great tomboy, Kathleen was totally different, very quiet with black hair and she talked with a lovely Irish tongue, she was 12, we got on very well so we used

to sneak off for walks down the lane or hide in the Dutch barn amongst the hay and the straw. When Eddie and I went to their house Mrs. Kelly would give us a bowl of mutton or rabbit stew, which was always bubbling away on the black range. I was quite upset when they moved away just after Christmas 1944.

It wasn't long after we got home from Devon in March 1945 that they war ended - a very emotional time, with the celebrations in the streets seeming to go on forever. The Victory Parade through the centre of London was something I was not going to miss, so I got to Hyde Park. the evening before, along with millions of others! I spent the whole of that night walking around, marvelling at all the lights as there was never a light showing during the war!

The Parade was due to start at about 10am, but I fainted, due to no sleep or food I suppose, and was carried to the front of the crowd. Just a few feet away from me I saw people of whom I had only seen photos of in the newspapers, or heard on the radio. People like King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother as she later became. Sir Winston Churchill, Field Marshall Montgomery and the two young Princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret There were dozens of other notable people, tons of military hardware such as tanks, lorries and thousands of troops from all over the world and bands playing and people cheering, it was a most amazing sight to see.

I left school in 1945 at the age of fourteen and went to work as an apprentice mechanic at Albion Lorries. My first job was in the tool store, where I would spend most of the day fetching spanners for the twenty five mechanics who worked there. After several other similar jobs, as well as being a baker's van boy, at the age of seventeen I was offered a job plum picking, and this took me to a place I would stay at for the next seventy years.

**Next Month: Roy arrives in Badsey**  
*Abridged for the Community News by the Editor*

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## Brian Smith's Church Fonts



Brian Smith continues his look at the fonts in our local churches.

### **Weston Subedge** - St. John the Baptist and St. Lawrence.

The font pedestal is nicely carved and is from the 13th Century. A very plain, square bowl sits upon it, this being modern and of little interest. On top of this 'marriage' sits a very unusual cover. This is in the shape of a pyramid, consisting of a wooden frame, in-filled with glass.

### **Ashton-under-Hill** - Church of St. Barbara.

The font stands in the North aisle, having been moved there in 1993. Information at the church places it in the 15th century, other opinions being that it belongs to the 14th century. It is octagonal and is of an unusual design, having stone leaves 'growing' from the bottom of the bowl. The quatrefoil panels are decorated with flowers, and as a whole the font is very ornate, and pleasing on the eye. The conical cover dates from the early 19th century. A note in the church suggests that the very ornate carvings, combined with evidence of weathering, may indicate that it was brought from a higher status church at some time. In any event, it is an exceptional piece, and well worth a look.

### **Bretforton** - Church of St. Leonard.

There is general agreement that the font is Norman, the church guide says it is probably 12th century, though so plain in style that the date is difficult to fix. The basin is probably set on a later plain column. The cover, which is very suited to the attractive rusticity of the font has the date 1721 roughly carved upon it. The photograph below shows the font beautifully decorated for Harvest Festival. One of my favourites.



Badsey members thoroughly enjoyed the talk by past-president Jane Neill at our fully-masked and ventilated meeting on 12th January.

The reinstated annual post-Christmas lunch at the Fleece was enjoyed by all who attended (with many thanks to the Fleece for the excellent food and service), as was the visit for some members to the Pantomime at Birmingham. Members are now looking forward to a trip on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway in May, with further trips, including a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum, in the pipeline.

On 9th February we welcomed Mary Pawsey from Pershore. With the help of her model assistant, Florence, she was able to explain the construction of bras to us and gave us a humorous insight into why so many women find it so difficult to find a bra that fits.

Our next meeting will take place on 9th March, when we will be visited by auctioneer Nicholas Granger, talking about his life as an auctioneer. We are hoping that a member will be able to produce a lost Rembrandt from their attic with which to stun both him and us!

The meeting will take place at Badsey Remembrance Hall, starting at 7.15pm. If you are not already a member but would like to join us please contact the secretary, Alex Owen, on 01386 830083.

## Badsey Flower Show

Peak planting season has arrived, so why not enter your gorgeous gardening gems? This year's Badsey Flower Show is hosting a variety of gardening categories to enter your finest flowers and gardening spaces. So if you have green fingers, why not use them to bag yourself a prize? Plant your seeds, cut your lawn, polish your gnomes and make your garden a winner at this year's Badsey Flower Show, which is taking place on Saturday 23rd July 2022. Also if you think you can help on the day of the Flower Show please do not hesitate to get in touch. We need help with the car parking, assisting the judges, running the raffle and tombola and all of the jobs big and small that helps to make the Flower Show such a special day.

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## Badsey Film Club



Luvvies, here are our films for March 2022.

Saturday 5th March	<b>Cruella</b>
Saturday 19th March	<b>The Talented Mr. Ripley</b>
Saturday 2nd April	<b>The Dig</b>

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 all always looking to encourage new members to come and join us, we have some very interesting speakers, not always garden orientated, but always enjoyed. We also have two garden visits a year, where it is nice to wander around and see the very different perspectives of other people's gardens. We also have two shows one which is the Spring Show in March and a Summer Show which is held in August, it always astounds us to what our members manage to find, even when the weather has been against them, the main thing though is that's the enjoyment and fun it brings, and there are cups to win!! With the new allotments at Pear Tree Corner we were wondering if there are people that are new to gardening and would like to join us to increase their knowledge and maybe pick up some tips, we have a very diverse membership with some of our more senior members having been involved in the local market gardening business and have a wealth of knowledge to pass on.

Our members come from around the local area, Wickhamford, Badsey, Aston Somerville, Broadway and Evesham.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the every month with the exception of December, it is held in Wickhamford Memorial Hall, doors open at 7pm with the meeting starting at 7.30pm, speaker starts at approx. 7.40 and usually speaks for about an hour, this is followed by refreshments. It costs £5.00 membership a year, with a monthly cost of £2.50, visitors who want to see what we're about, the cost is £3.00. So please come and see if it's something that you would like to join, we're a very friendly bunch and always have a good time.

This month's talk is on Herbaceous borders by the ex. Pershore Horticultural College Duncan Coombs who's a regular contributor at our meetings and always get a positive feedback with his extensive knowledge.

For more information call Barbara on 831002.

## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Our January meeting was our AGM where the eight strong committee all agreed to stand again. After the business was over we enjoyed a cup of tea, biscuits and a chat.

March will be a busy month. Our meeting on Tuesday March 8th will be our annual lunch at Hillers at 12.30pm.

We will be holding our Lent Lunches in some of the local churches in the benefice on consecutive Tuesday's during March:- Badsey(15th), Bretforton(22nd), and Offenham(29th) all at noon. We ask for a donation of at least £3 and we provide home-made soup and rolls. All money raised will go to providing holidays for deserving families in the Diocese of Worcester.

On Friday March 25th we will be holding our Deanery Festival in Badsey Church at 2.30pm

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

## St James Flower Guild

Thank you for your flowers in church throughout February. In March, with the start of Lent, there will be no flowers in church. The next time will be the 3rd Sunday in April when we all get together to decorate the church for Easter on Saturday 16 April.

Any queries regarding church flowers please contact Julie Gardner 832007

## badsey and aldington computer group

Losing anything valuable is always distressing, and this is also the case with the files and photos on your computer or tablet. So on Monday 7th March the Badsey and Aldington Computer Group session will give advice and demonstrations on the various ways of protecting your files by backing-up your computer.

If you need help of advice with using your computer, why not drop in to one of the computer group sessions run on a Monday morning at 10.30 in the back room of the Wheatsheaf. Sessions are very informal, and usually consist of a short presentation and then time to chat about individual issues over as much coffee as is necessary. There is no charge and no need to sign up or make any form of commitment, just drop in when you want. Future sessions:- 7th March, 21st March and 7th April.

## 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 MBE Tel. 830638  
Email: lizral.bolland@btinternet.com

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

### **Readers:**

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 Richard Lewis-Skeath  
07747802555

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 Katie Richards  
Cafe Freedom Tracy Hemming 830200  
Messy Church Penny Christison 830367

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

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

## **A NOTE TO OUR READERS**

With Covid restrictions being relaxed most events advertised in the issue should take place. However, if in doubt, or to check if there are still restrictions in place, please contact the relevant organizations.



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## **13 - UNLUCKY FOR SOME**

Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of the number 13. The number 13 is also a prime number, a Fibonacci number, and to some an unlucky number. It is probably because it is thought unlucky that the number 13 not used in many modern housing developments.

However, Badsey does have several roads with houses having the number 13. But which are they?

Your task this month is to name all of the streets, roads, avenues etc. in Badsey that contain a property with the number 13.

As a tie-breaker question solve the following:-  
*A pigeon flies from 13 Oak Close in a straight line to 13 Seward Road, it will fly over another dwelling with the number 13, which one?*

### **LAST MONTH'S GREAT OUTDOORS CROSSWORD**

**Across:** 1. PRISON BARS = BIRD-SONG

**Down:** 1. BUZZ STOP = BEEHIVE

2. MISSISSIPPI MUD = RIVER-BED

3. GROWING PANES = GREENHOUSE

The first correct solution was received from Sandra Sparrow.

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

## What Are Our Neighbours Up To Now?



### A WALK AROUND THE PARISH

Evesham Rambling Club has recently created 5 new walks around the Vale. One of these centred on Badsey, and takes in Aldington and Wickhamford. This walk (Evesham Vale Circular Walk 2) can be split up into 4, 6 or 8 mile walks depending on your fitness. Although it officially starts in Evesham, locals can join it at Monks Bridge, Badsey. These walks will all be walked by members of the Evesham Rambling Club during the Evesham Walking Festival which runs from 29th June to the 3rd July. The Badsey walk is on the afternoon of Friday 1st July 2022. Before the walk local historian Terry Sparrow will give the ramblers a short talk on the history of market gardening in Badsey. Villagers can download a map of the walk from the Vale and Spa website, and walk the route at any time.



### FREEDOM DAY CENTRE OPENING

The Freedom Day Centre at Shinehill Lane, South Littleton was officially opened recently by local MP Nigel Huddleston. The building, which was once a chapel, has been totally re-furbished with the help of local trades and businesses who have donated their time and labour to this charitable organisation. The Freedom Day Centre offers education, life-skills and social interaction to it's service users who include adults with learning disabilities. Our photo shows Nigel with Tracey Hemming, Tracey, along with her daughter Rosie, have been instrumental in the running of this organisation since it's beginnings in Badsey.



### HONEYBOURNE WEDNESDAY CLUB

Badsey and nearby residents are being invited by the Honeybourne Wednesday Club to participate in their outings and club meetings. They meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm at Honeybourne Village Hall. Each month there is entertainment/speakers, refreshments and games. The coach trips, which cost only £10, have been planned to visit Brecon, Burnham on Sea and the Black Country Museum to name just a few from the year long programme. For further enquiries phone Mike Neal on 832306.

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