



### ASPARAGUS - A touch of class or simply 'gras'

Asparagus grown in the Vale of Evesham was awarded European (EU) protected food name status in 2016 which put in in the same league as Champagne, and Roquefort cheese. Terry Sparrow explores its history. The asparagus genus consists mainly of several species of indoor pot plants with evergreen fern-like foliage. However, the subject of this article is the one culinary species of the genus, *asparagus officinalis*, once widely grown by Badsey and Aldington market gardeners. A bulletin published in 1932 by the Ministry of Agriculture tells us that asparagus was known to the ancient Greeks and Romans, although its cultivation was not introduced to England until the sixteenth century. It was evidently grown at Evesham as early as 1768, when Arthur Young, secretary of the Board of Agriculture, visited the town. He reported that the area of garden land amounted to between 300 and 400 acres; also that asparagus was carried to Bath and Bristol. A letter in the Morning Chronicle newspaper on 30th of August 1782 from an Evesham correspondent also talks of asparagus going to Bath and Bristol. In 1830 the Royal Horticultural Society awarded a medal to Anthony New for his fine specimens of asparagus exhibited at shows of the Vale of Evesham Society in that and the previous year. But all of these references to Evesham asparagus appear to relate to the town itself and there is no suggestion that the crop was cultivated so long ago in the surrounding villages. However, moving on to 1866, the Hereford Journal carried the following advertisement: 'Asparagus roots, yearling and two years old, at one shilling per hundred. Apply J.Jones, Badsey, Evesham.' So it seems that here we have an indication of asparagus growing in Badsey, probably on a very small scale, as market gardening in the village was then in its infancy. Jones himself was a farmer at the time, being described as such in the 1871 census, although he did become a market gardener a few years later. But as the transition from farming to market gardening in Badsey gradually gained pace during the final quarter of the the nineteenth century, so did asparagus become a major crop here. In due course it even warranted its own show, the first being held on 17th June 1913 in the grounds of Seward House. That show attracted 39 entries spread over four classes and the profit from the event was donated to the fund set up to

provide a recreation ground for the village. During the 1930s, with market gardening still by far the dominant occupation of the Badsey people, it was estimated that asparagus beds covered about 12% of the parish. Following the outbreak of war in 1939 asparagus, with its three-year period from seed to first harvest, was deemed to be a luxury crop which could be managed without and the planting of new beds was not allowed, except under limited circumstances. As the existing beds became uneconomic and were dug up, there was a significant reduction in Badsey's asparagus acreage, which never again reached the peak of the pre-war years. The decline continued rapidly during the postwar years, so that by the mid 1960s the acreage was less than a quarter of the 1930s amount. Nowadays, with the almost total disappearance of the small scale family market gardening businesses in both Badsey and Aldington, the quantity of asparagus grown here is negligible.

**Last month the History Man was asked if asparagus was still grown in Badsey?** The answer is yes, and one of its main growers is Rob Bindoff. Rob, who lives in Horsebridge Avenue, grows one and a half acres of asparagus on his ground in Sands Lane. He will start cutting this traditional crop towards the end of April. Rob will then be selling bundles of asparagus from his brick 'hovel' in Sands Lane throughout the cutting season.



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## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Parish Council Meeting.

The next one is on **Wednesday 20th April** at 7.30pm at Badsey Remembrance Hall (see the Parish Council's Facebook page for confirmation or change of venue).

### On Your Bike!

It was decided to take up West Mercia Police's offer of a 'bike marking' session in the village. Details of when and where this will take place will be published when known.

### Pear Tree Fields First Burial

The first burial at Pear Tree Fields took place on Tuesday 8th March 2022. The new burial ground has replaced the churchyard for interments in Badsey due to it having no more space for graves.

### 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

## IN A SPIN OVER THE WHIRLPOOL GALAXY

*From Badsey's very own astronomer, Stargazer*

The clocks have changed, and the evenings are drawing out and the temperature is getting milder. The next few weeks should be perfect for star gazing before the sun sets far too late in the evening during May and June.

This month's object is only visible with binoculars or a small telescope. First discovered by Charles Messier in 1773, the Whirlpool Galaxy, or M51, can be found close to the Plough. The Plough can be seen high up in the eastern sky just after sunset at this time of the year and the Whirlpool Galaxy can be found not far from the last star in the "handle" which is known as Alkaid.

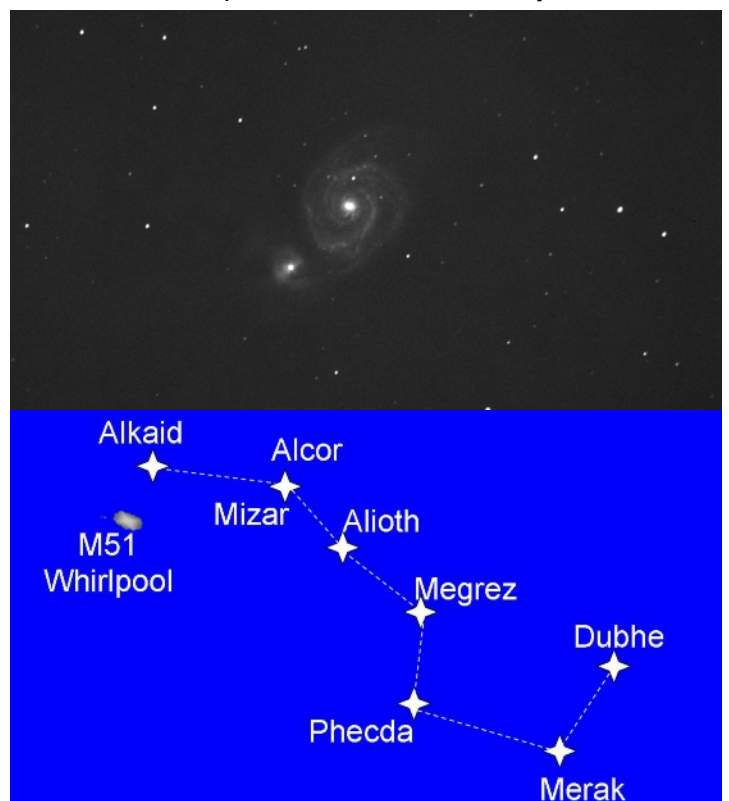
The Whirlpool galaxy is in fact two galaxies that are gravitationally bound with the smaller appearing to be being drawn into the larger. The main galaxy is some 60,000 light years across and contains around 100 billion stars and is under half the size of the Milky Way. The two galaxies are linked by a "bridge" of gas, dust and stars indicating the tidal, gravitational link between the two bodies.

The first person to study these object and make sketches was William Parson, the 3rd Earl of Rosse who used his gigantic telescope known as Leviathan which is situated at Birr Castle in Ireland. When completed in 1845 Leviathan was the largest telescope in the world and has since been restored and is now a much visited tourist attraction. William Parson was the first person to identify that this nebula had the distinctive spiral structure of a galaxy and was probably the first person to recognise that there are two galaxies making up this wondrous object.

The Whirlpool Galaxy and its smaller companion are 31 million light years away from the earth. This means that the light left these objects when the continents on earth were not yet formed, and ice sheets were returning to the planet after a warmer period. There were also many early mammals roaming the planet at this time including early horses and deer. This was long before the earliest ancestors of man had appeared in Africa. This extreme distance does point to the fact that we

could never communicate with this galaxy, because a conversation would take sixty million years between each reply. Also there is no craft that we could imagine outside of science fiction that could physically make the journey. This intriguing place is a little bit of a challenge to see because it is below the level visible to the naked eye. However it is easily visible through a small telescope, and a camera with a long exposure will bring out fascinating details yet, it is so far away that it is forever out of reach. This is one of the easiest spiral galaxies to observe from your back garden and historically was important to astronomers as it showed that the Milky Way was not the only galaxy in the universe. Enjoy the warmer evenings and observing this fascinating object.

The photograph attached is a single exposure taken from a back garden here in Badsey. While it contains less detail that could be gained from a larger telescope and a longer exposure time, it does give a good impression of what can be seen through a small telescope and with the naked eye.



# IMAGINE THERE'S A HEAVEN

An Easter message from the Revd. Fr. Philip Morton

Many years ago, a former bishop of Durham preached a very controversial Easter sermon in the cathedral there, asking the question, "what if the tomb had not been empty on Easter morning?"

The sermon provoked a furious response in the press, with many people accusing the bishop of undermining the Christian faith. In fact, the question was rhetorical. It was meant to get people thinking about the importance of the Resurrection by getting us to reflect on what it really means to us. Although the sermon was misunderstood at the time, I think what the bishop was trying to say bears revisiting. The logic goes something like this: if the tomb was indeed empty on Sunday morning, then Jesus truly rose from the dead. If Jesus truly rose from the dead, then death is not the end, and eternal life in the presence of God is possible. If eternal life with God is possible, then all life has the possibility of being transformed into something wonderful, far beyond what we can imagine

now. This idea is one of the essential truths of the Christian faith. Throughout history, at times of great persecution and violence, Christians have held fast to the idea that beyond the suffering of the cross lies the glory of the Resurrection. In the face of this belief, fear evaporates.



I have been very struck by some of the reports coming out of Ukraine recently, where Christians of various denominations have rediscovered a quiet but determined resolve not to succumb to fear but to face the threat of violence with loving service towards others. This kind of courage comes from a resolute faith in the Resurrection, that whatever we suffer will in the end be transformed by God's love. This Easter, I pray for peace, not only in Ukraine in everywhere in the world where innocent people are subjected to warfare and oppression. I also give thanks for the example of Christians around the world; that in their courage and unwavering faith, the Resurrection is proclaimed and the glory of Christ is made known in the reality of everyday life.

## WANTED: PARISH ADMINISTRATOR (WFH)

Offering £12.50 per hour for 9 hours per week

We are looking for an administrator to assist the Vicar with parish administration, taking bookings for weddings, christenings and funerals and maintaining our parish records. Needs to be able to prioritise own workload, be computer literate (Word, Email, Excel, Dropbox) with access to own computer and can work from home. A mobile phone will be provided for work purposes. Doesn't need to be a churchgoer but some understanding of the structure & aims of the Church of England would be beneficial. For further information, please contact the Vicar, Rev'd Philip Morton: revphilipmorton@gmail.com

## CHURCH SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE - APRIL 2022

|                           |         |                        |                  |
|---------------------------|---------|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Sun 3rd</b>            | 9.30am  | Holy Communion         | South Littleton  |
| <i>Passiontide Begins</i> | 9.30am  | Morning Praise         | Offenham         |
|                           | 10.30am | Church Cafe            | Littleton V.H.   |
|                           | 11.00am | Holy Communion         | Badsey           |
|                           | 6.30pm  | Evensong               | Cleeve Prior     |
| <b>Sun 10th</b>           | 11.00am | Benefice Holy Comm     | Offenham         |
| <i>Palm Sunday</i>        | 4.30pm  | Evensong               | Badsey           |
| <b>Tue 12th</b>           | 7.00pm  | MU Evensong            | Badsey           |
| <b>Fri 15th</b>           | Noon    | Good Friday Reflection | Cleeve Prior     |
| <b>Sun 17th</b>           | 6.30am  | Sunrise Service        | Jetty, Offenham  |
| <i>Easter Sunday</i>      | 9.30am  | Holy Communion         | N & M. Littleton |
|                           | 9.30am  | Holy Communion         | Offenham         |
|                           | 9.30am  | Holy Comm by Ext.      | South Littleton  |
|                           | 11.00am | Holy Communion         | Cleeve Prior     |
|                           | 11.00am | Holy Communion         | Badsey           |
|                           | 11.00am | Holy Comm by Ext.      | Bretforton       |
| <b>Sun 24th</b>           | 9.30am  | Holy Communion         | N & M. Littleton |
|                           | 9.30am  | Morning Praise         | Offenham         |
|                           | 9.30am  | Matins                 | Cleeve Prior     |
|                           | 11.00am | Holy Communion         | Bretforton       |
|                           | 6.30pm  | Evensong               | Badsey           |

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## 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.*

#### PARADISE ON EARTH

It was when I was seventeen and in between jobs that an uncle of mine asked if I would like to have a couple of weeks picking plums for a friend of his called Ted Wheatley. I agreed and duly arrived at Evesham Railway Station on a Saturday in August 1948. Fred's brother Ted was waiting for me at the station in his 1938 Standard 9 – I remember him driving down Bridge Street and over the bridge, the sun shining, and me thinking 'this is a nice place'. We arrived in Badsey at the Poplars farmhouse which was next to Seward House. The house had a barn, stables, pigsties and a slaughter house. Fred was waiting outside in the yard along with granny Wheatley, Enoch, Jim and two or three other members of the family – Fred had 12 brothers and sisters so it was just as well that The Poplars had eight bedrooms. I was taken into the farmhouse through the kitchen and I could not believe my eyes. It was a very large room with a flagstone floor and in the middle was the biggest table I had ever seen – big enough to seat all 15 of the Wheatley family. Hanging from the ceiling were about five or six large hams, a side of bacon was hanging on the back door and on a side table was a large dish of eggs. A few days later I saw Granny making bread and turning a small churn making butter with the milk from a Friesian cow that was kept in the orchard. When Fred gave me a tot or two of home brewed cider a few days later, after living on war rations in London, I knew that this was to me 'paradise on Earth'.



I had to sleep at the Poplars for a few nights because the room at Fred's house in Brewers Lane was not ready. The bedroom, like all the rooms, was big with a double bed, wardrobe and washstand. I remember thinking to myself that after a long day travelling it would be nice to get some sleep but to my shock the mattress was filled with straw. This not only made a crunching sound every time I moved but was quite uncomfortable with bits of straw poking through. It would have been better if I had worn pyjamas but I didn't have any! The next morning Fred came banging on the door saying "Come on its 6 o'clock you can't stop in bed all day there is work to be done". So I dressed and went downstairs for breakfast which turned out to be the best I had ever had. Fred had cut some rashers from the side of bacon and fried them with three or four eggs and some tomatoes. Along with homemade bread and butter it was amazing! After breakfast Fred took me out to the orchard at the back of the house with a ladder, a peck basket and leather belt which was put through the handle of the basket and then fastened around my waist. He took me to a tree full of Pershore Egg plums, showed me what to do and then left me to it. I soon got the hang of things and really enjoyed the sunshine and the company of the other pickers. I earned £10 in the first week which was really good because at that the weekly wage for an agricultural worker was about £4.50. We picked Pershore Egg plums; Victoria's and finished with Damsons in September. By this time I knew this was the life for me and wrote and told my mother that I would not be going back to London, although I found later that market gardening was not all sunshine and big money! I was along at Claybrook, along Bretforton Road, on my own one day when something happened which taught me that there is a right way and a wrong way to pick plums. I was up a ladder with a full basket hanging on my belt when I reached out for a few plums at the end of a branch – a big mistake. I went one way and the ladder went the other. I shot into the middle of the tree and my leg got caught in a fork in the branches. I found myself upside down with my head about one foot from the ground. I had wrenched my ankle and taken the skin from my shin. The basket which was still full of plums was pressed against my face. I shouted for help but of course there was no one else around so I waited for a little while until I got my breath back before I could extricate myself. I decided that that was one lesson learned and I would not be plum picking again unless there was someone else around. Continued next month.

*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.

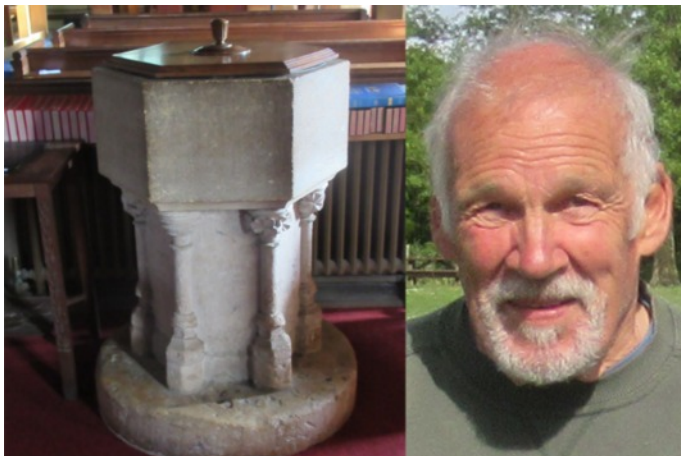
### Badsey - Church of St. James.

This font is a good example of a 'marriage', of which there are other examples in the Vale of Evesham, when fonts are made up with components from different periods. The base and stem are both of the 14th century. The stem is attractively carved with foliage.

The basin was renewed in 1885, when the church underwent a much needed restoration. It is plain, hexagonal, and of a much rougher finish and design than the older parts supporting it. This leaves us wondering what the original bowl looked like. It was not replaced without reason, however. Arthur Savory, Churchwarden and Treasurer of the restoration fund, included this anecdote in his book *Grain and Chaff from an English Manor*.

'Shortly before the church restoration, I had notice to attend an archidiaconal visitation..... Nothing was much said until we reached the 14th century font, showing signs of long use. The Archdeacon motioned to the clerk to lift the oak cover.....disclosing inside the cracked font, a white pudding basin, inside which reposed a species of beetle, known as a *Devil's coach-horse*.' The Archdeacon, peering in and recognising the insect, looked most shocked, and exclaimed with some warmth, 'Dear me! I should scarcely have expected to have found that thing in a font!'

This font, although unremarkable, is of great significance to me. I was baptised over it in 1944!



## The Badsey Society

Award Winning Local History Group



A record number of eight nominations was received for this year's Tony Jerram Award writes *Badsey Society's* chairman Maureen Spinks. At our Committee meeting in January, we decided that this year's recipient should be Anne McCombie of Aldington.

Anne was instrumental in bringing the Knitted Bible exhibition to Badsey in August 2021. She gathered a large band of enthusiastic helpers, thus enabling the event to be very successful, whilst raising between nearly £3,700, divided between Caring Hands in the Vale and an overseas charity. Anne, together with her husband, Graham, has been closely involved with the Freedom Club. In particular, they have taken a lead role in welcoming them to Badsey churchyard on most Wednesday mornings, when weather conditions permit. Here, these adults with learning difficulties are able to undertake small jobs, under supervision, thus giving them a sense of purpose in a friendly environment. The sessions conclude with a cup of tea or coffee. (Photo courtesy of Tony Spinks)



If you would like to join the volunteers who tidy up the church and churchyard then just turn-up at the church at 10am on a Wednesday morning with appropriate footwear.

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## Badsey Film Club



Luvvies, here are our films for April 2022.

Saturday 2nd April  
Saturday 16th April  
Saturday 7th May

**The Dig**  
**Rain Man**  
**Pixie**

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.

## TOWER NEWS

St. James Church Bellingers



*So what's it like to be a Bell Ringer? Sarah Bent asked Richard Skeath-Lewis about his personal experiences.*



I've been ringing for the last 38 years and started back in the early 1980s. I really enjoy the challenge of learning new methods, meeting lots of new people and I enjoy the social side and going to the pub afterwards. I rang at the beginning of February at Evesham Bell Tower to commemorate the Queens 70 years of reign. I've rung many celebratory peals, each lasting around 3 hours. I've enjoyed ringing at 1,900 Towers throughout the world. There are 7,000 worldwide,

so I've still got a few to go! I've rung some bells in the USA, all the bells in Scotland (25), and many in UK, Wales and The Republic of Ireland but I still haven't managed to ring any in Northern Ireland. The most unusual 'tower' was ringing in a garage in Northern Scotland! I've rung the Tenor (8200 cwt) the highest and heaviest bells in the world at Liverpool Cathedral and the Tenor at Exeter Cathedral, the 2nd heaviest at 7,200 cwt. I am pleased to see that more young people are embarking on bell ringing, and I enjoy helping people learn to ring. We recently had 4 new beginners at Badsey, and I can report that 3 out of the 4 remain and have been making excellent progress.

## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

At our February meeting we had an interesting talk on Badsey Market Gardening Heritage given by Terry Sparrow. Our March meeting was our annual lunch which was held at Hillers. We had a lovely meal and enjoyed each others company. Our meeting on Tuesday April 12th is our Holy Week Service and will be in church at 7pm. If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union then please contact Sandra Sparrow on 833368.



## Wickhamford Gardening Club

The February meeting was very well attended, we welcomed back two ex members of the club after a break of several years and one new member, we hope that they enjoy our meetings and encourage some of their friends to join us as well.

We welcomed our speaker Mr Duncan Coombs for the evening who gave us a very interesting illustrated talk on Herbaceous borders.

By the time this report is published we will have held the first of our two shows where the members get to show off their plants and flowers that they have grown, so watch this space for the results and the winner of the cup.

Our speaker for our April meeting is the well known local broadcaster and horticulturist Reg Moule who will be giving us some inspiration for gardening in containers, it promises to be a very interesting meeting with lots of tips and ideas for some beautiful summer containers.

Don't forget everyone you don't have to be a member to enjoy our speakers, you can come along as a guest at a very reasonable cost of £3 which includes a drink and biscuit. The hall opens its doors at 7pm with the meeting starting at 7.30.



At our March meeting members heard auctioneer Nicholas Granger's story of how he moved from Savile Row tailoring to being an auctioneer and some of the situations he has found himself in, in the auction business. Members had great fun producing their own items for valuation although, sadly no-one was able to produce a lost Rembrandt.

April now marks the beginning of the WI Year. Badsey WI belongs to the National Federation of WIs and the Worcestershire Federation of WIs. The National Federation connects members all over England and Wales through its website and the magazine 'WI Life'. It campaigns, alone and

in cooperation with other bodies, on a wide range of issues of interest to women, especially in rural areas. The Worcestershire Federation of WIs arranges many activities on a county wide basis, and Badsey WI members are currently starting to put together our entry for its Annual Craft competition in July. In addition Badsey WI is a member of the Evesham Vale Group. Our next meeting is on April 13th, when the speaker will be Georgie Jacobs 'the Girl with a Guitar'. The meeting is 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.

## 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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## **CAPTION COMPETITION**

What is he thinking? Email your answer to the Editor.



### **LAST MONTH'S UNLUCKY 13 COMPETITION**

Spooky or what! Badsey has 13 roads with houses having the number 13. Are we the most unlucky village in the country?

Correct solutions were received from Tony Wood, Valerie Magan, Sandra Sparrow and Maureen Spinks.

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

**GARDENER'S WORLD COMES TO BADSEY CHURCH**  
(From the Badsey and Aldington Community News May 2013)

Last month Badsey Church had a very special visitor! Carol Kline, filming Gardener's World in Badsey Churchyard. She was there to talk about Celandine, a plant that carpets the Churchyard during the spring. She also visited Bob Brown's, where she explored his extensive collection of this lovely plant. The programme aired on Friday 19th April 2013.



Today celandine can still be found in Badsey churchyard but it is outnumbered by snowdrops, daffodils and primroses and crocuses.

The spot in the churchyard where the filming was done is to the right of the path halfway between the lych gate and the church, beneath a large tree.

Last summer the service users of the Freedom Group scattered wild flower seeds in the same area so this summer we should hopefully see more wild flowers.

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**THE GROUND FORCE TEAM**

Jane Neill's **Nature Notes**

Although he is associated more with the daffodil, did you know that poet William Wordsworth wrote more poetry about the celandine.

As the fieldfares leave our shores I shall be listening for the joyous sound of the herald of Spring, the chiff-chaff's simple song "chiff-chaff". And this month I would also like to share a poem with you that I wrote inspired by a walk in the Cotswolds a few years ago.



*I walked with gentle tread along the margins of the fields.  
The warmth of Spring conquers Winter's long, cold, wet grip and yields.  
Still the trees and hedgerows reluctantly shake off their slumbers  
While snowdrops bloom and bask in glory of untold numbers.*

*Below, the farmer's plough turns the rich, dark soil with gulls in white relief.  
The song of the lark ascending raises the spirits and the belief  
That soon dormant buds of leaves and blossom will burst forth  
Newborn lambs no longer harried by the cold winds from the north.*

*The survivors of those bleak, harsh days of ice, snow and frost  
Prepare to build their nests and breed for all is far from lost.*