



THE BELLES ARE RINGING

Although ladies have been ringing for many years it was only in the 'age of emancipation' that the idea took off writes *Tom Sandham*. The coming of the Women's Institute from Canada, the First World War and the desire for women to be treated equally, all contributed to ladies taking up the hobby.

A photo in the *Ringing World* of 1916 shows a group of lady ringers with the caption 'In many parishes the ladies have come forward to fill the gaps caused by men on war service'. Many women were introduced by husbands, fathers, and brothers but, nonetheless the women were resented in many towers - it cut across all their (male) prejudices. They were expected to wear long skirts and long sleeve blouses with high necks. Imagine ringing a peal of three hours in that getup! Not only that but some dioceses expected them to wear hats as well (which were soon discarded once in the ringing room). Now there are many all lady ringing bands, they even have their own Guild. As a past president of the Guild put it 'many successful lady ringers took their first steps in conducting in an all lady band or just wanted to have a go at something new and non-judgemental. Special mention should be made of two of our own, now retired lady ringers; namely Phylis Brazier (wife of Tony the Tower Captain in the 60's and 70's and Hilary Bolton who was Tower Captain for over 30 years). Many thanks to Janet Stevenson, Guild Archivist, for quotations from her books; *A History of the Ladies Guild of Change Ringers* and *'Millenium to Century'*.



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THE BADSEY & ALDINGTON TRAIL

With the improving weather and the longer evenings comes the chance to go for a stroll around our villages. The keen eyed may have spotted a number of small white plaques that have appeared around the villages with the simple title of The Badsey & Aldington Trail and a square pattern of dots known as a QR code (Quick Response Code). If you point the camera of a smart phone at this code you will be taken to a page of information about where you are standing. Most modern smart phones will recognise QR codes without having to load any extra software. Some older phones may need a free app from either the Apple Store or the Android App Store.

The trail is one of discovery; it is not a specific route to follow but a method of exploring the story of our wonderful villages. The information stations are scattered around the entire parish from Bowers Hill to Blackminster, from Badsey Lane to Cuckoo Bridge. The fun is in the discovery of as many of these stations as possible. We have created the first wave of stations and we now need your help to see the trail grow and develop.

If you would like to create a new station for the trail then please let us know. The creation of the web pages is simplicity in itself. We only need a short description of the place celebrated by the

trail station, between about 100 and 200 words. A photograph would add interest for the reader and possibly a voice recording of someone's memories.

The only difficulty is gaining permission to place one of the plaques. We cannot place a plaque on private property without the permission of the property owner. The plaques also have to be placed on a flat surface.

If you live in one of the many notable houses, or know of a place with a story within the Parish and would like to give permission for a plaque, please contact us.

If you would like to be part of this exciting new village project then please contact:-
Alan Tutton 01386 831539
alantutton@talktalk.net

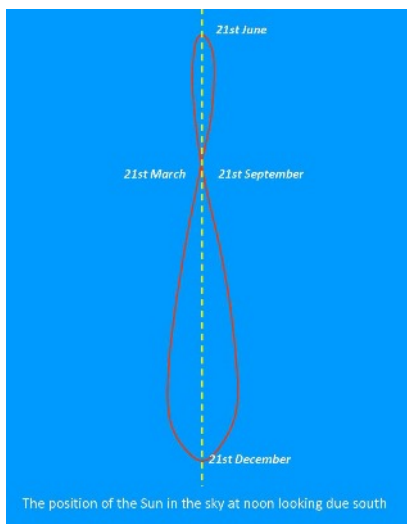


HOW HIGH THE SUN?

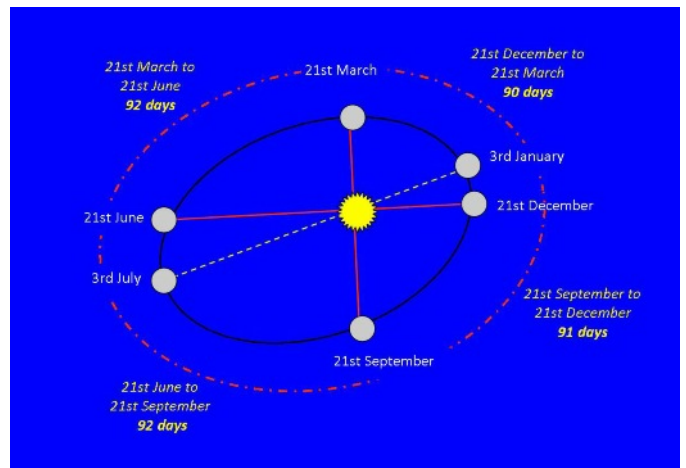
From Badsey's very own astronomer, Stargazer

On the 24th of this month the sun will reach its highest position in the sky and the day will have the longest number of hours of sunlight. Druids and New Age believers will gather to see the sun rise at Stonehenge and from the following day thousands of people will gather at Worthy Farm to see this year's Glastonbury Fair. From this day forward the days will start to get shorter until the middle of December. At the latitudes we live in, this time of year is not necessarily that good for Astronomy. The sun dips below the horizon late in the evening and the twilight glow never really disappears before the sun starts to rise again very early in the morning. The evening glow in the sky from the sun coupled with a full moon can make astronomy very challenging despite the warmer weather.

School children are taught that the shortest day is the 21st December and the longest day is the 21st June; these are the Solstices days. The word, taken from the Latin, means the day the sun stands still, when it has reached its minimum and maximum heights in the sky. The other dates to note are the equinox days when the days and nights are of equal length. These are on the 21st March and the 21st of September. If you look a little more deeply however, these days are not equally spaced as quarter days. Although only a small difference, there are 90 days between 21st December and 21st March, however



between the spring equinox and the summer solstice there are 92 days. These two extra days indicates that the earth has to travel a little further around its orbit to reach the summer solstice. It was Johannes Kepler in 1609 who pointed out that the orbits of the planets are ellipses with the sun at one of the two foci. The earth is a little further from the sun in our summer than it is in the winter. This difference is only



about 5 million km, which is nothing when compared with the mean distance of the earth from the sun of 150 million km. Our seasons do not come from the earth's distance from the sun but from the tilt in the earth's axis.

Although the earth is at its furthest from the sun during our summer the one question that arises is why should the earth reaching its furthest distance from the sun be on a solstice? Well it isn't - the earth is furthest from the sun on 3rd July and closest to the sun on 3rd January.

One further oddity of the earth's orbit is that when clocks became more accurate it became apparent that the exact time of noon according to sun dials changes slightly throughout the year. This effect is caused in part by the elliptical orbit of the earth and partly by the tilt of the earth's axis. The result is that if you were to take a photograph of the position of the sun at noon of each day it appears that the sun scribes out a figure of eight in the sky. This shape is known as an Analemma from the Greek word for a support and the shape does look a little like a sling used to support a broken arm. When it came to setting the time for the entire country, the average or mean of the time that the sun crosses the meridian at Greenwich was taken as the time of noon. Hence Greenwich Mean Time was born.

The study of the earth's orbit helps in our understanding of the motion of the planets and the stars in the heavens and prompted Newton to make his great steps in the understanding of gravity. Small steps in our understanding were first made in the seventeenth century. Over time each step has given us the ability to send craft to the most distant planets and understand the images produced by our greatest telescopes.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was held on April 6th at which the Churchwardens for the next twelve months were chosen. Elizabeth Bolland MBE and Chris Smith were re-elected. It was followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council to receive the reports of activities during the past year, the financial statement and to elect the members of the PCC for the next twelve months.

It was noted that the cost of running the Parish had exceeded the income from collections, donations, recovery of taxes and fees by some £17,000 which had to be covered from the reserves. This is of concern to the PCC who are looking at all possible measures to reduce the deficit.

One factor that will influence this is an increase in Weddings and Funerals taking place in Church now that Covid rules have ended. Another is the changing status of the Churchyard. Since there is no space for any new graves to be dug, the PCC is applying for the necessary permissions to legally close the churchyard. This will mean that the responsibility (and cost) for maintaining the Churchyard passes from the PCC to local authorities who will then organise the care of the grass and the trees.

All new burials will take place in the new Cemetery set up by Badsey Parish Council at Pear Tree Fields. Burial of ashes will still continue at St James Church, as will burials in existing Family graves subject to the rules and regulations.

SPRING CONCERT WITH AVONBANK BAND

Many thanks to all you lovely people who came to the Spring Concert held in St. James Church *writes Yvonne Haynes*. There was a point we thought we may have to cancel due to lack of tickets being sold but on the night you all turned up. It was a lovely evening and I hope you enjoyed the beautiful music played by the band.

A total of £350 was raised which will go towards a Flower Festival in commemoration of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It will be held in August to allow for weddings etc. I hope you will all come and see the beautiful Floral Art our Flower Guild do. I would also like to thank all those who helped on the night and in the preparation for it. Badsey always turns up trumps so thank you all.



Snippets

STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM

On Saturday 25th June between 2.30pm and 4.30pm there will be a strawberries and cream tea available at Manor Orchard, Farm Lane, South Littleton. All proceeds go to St. Michael's Church.

FUSED GLASS EXHIBITION

Wendy Stafford and nine of her students will be showing some of the work that they have achieved while attending fused glass sessions at the Art Pad, Main Street, Offenham on Saturday 25th June and Sunday 26th June from 11am to 4pm. Entry is free, and teas, coffee and homemade cake will be available.

To celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee why not come along on Friday 3rd June and have a go at making some fused glass bunting. The class will be held at the Art Pad, Main Street, Offenham, WR11 8RX 10am – 12 noon. Contact Wendy on 01386 424728 for details.

CHURCH SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE - JUNE 2022

Sun 5th <i>Pentecost / Platinum Jubilee</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	South Littleton
	9.30am	Morning Praise	Offenham
	10.30am	Church Cafe	Littleton V.H.
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Badsey
	6.30pm	Evensong	Cleeve Prior
	7.00pm	Platinum Jubilee Service	Bretforton
Sun 12th <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	11.00am	Benefice Eucharist	Offenham
Sun 19th <i>1st Sunday after Trinity</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Badsey
	9.30am	Morning Praise	South Littleton
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Cleeve Prior
	11.00am	Morning Praise	Offenham
Sun 26th <i>2nd Sunday after Trinity</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	N & M. Littleton
	9.30am	Morning Praise	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.

BADSEY'S BUTCHERS

While I worked for Fred Wheatley I was introduced to one job which was quite a shock and that was pig sticking! A man named Elgar Hartwell ran the butchers shop that was in a thatched cottage opposite The Wheatsheaf (a house called The Rock now stands on the site). Mrs Hartwell used to make faggots and pies for family and friends and one day the landlord from the pub told her that the smell from her cooking was driving all his customers crazy and was there any chance she could make some for him to sell. This was so successful that so began the start of a full time butcher's business. Some years later they moved to a building in the High Street which is now converted into a house called "Greystones".

Elgar became very adept at pig killing and when anyone in the village had one to be turned into bacon etc then it was Elgar who was called to the job. He would kill the pig then take it back to the shop where he cured the sides of bacon and hams.

A pig provided a tremendous amount of food like bacon, ham, sausages, pork meat, brawn, trotters and chitterlings. Even the bladder was blown up for the kids to use as a football. They say the only thing that can't be eaten from a pig is its squeal!

Keeping animals for home consumption was the norm when I came to Badsey in 1948. Goats were tethered along the grass verges and geese, ducks, chickens and rabbits were kept in back gardens. People killed the small animals themselves but relied on people like Elgar to sort out the larger ones.

So along with home grown vegetables food bills were quite small. There were no Supermarkets etc and dining out was only for the well off.

Fred's mother and father, Lucy and Horace Wheatley had a butchers shop down the Bewdley in Evesham before



coming to Badsey and opening a butchers shop in the cottage next to 'Oakley House' in Old Post Office Lane. They then moved to 'The Poplars' (see photo above) when the family got too big, using one of the front rooms as a shop.

Horace delivered meat etc to surrounding villages by horse and cart and was evidently a very astute business man who provided well for his large family. He had land and property in Evesham as well as Badsey. 'The Poplars', St James Close and Green Leys Estates were all built on land he owned. The local council presented Mrs Wheatley with a compulsory purchase order for the Green Leys land (then known as 'Jinkes') in 1953 paying her £665.

Horace Wheatley (right) died in 1934 at the relatively young age of 58. Apparently he was away at a market with Enoch buying cattle when he had a stroke from which he never recovered. His son Ted once told me that his father ate large amounts of meat and at any time of the day. Whenever he came into the house he would put the frying pan on to cook some so this must be assumed that this was his undoing.



Continued next month.
Abridged for the Community News by the Editor

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Down Memory Lane

The Cowslip Meadow by Brian Smith

There was a well kept secret,
That everybody knew.
The meadow, down at Blackminster
Where all the cowslips grew.

Back in the nineteen-fifties,
When children wandered free
We would disappear at dinner time,
And come home late for tea.

When spring had finally arrived,
We would take off for the place
Where cowslips carpeted the ground,
And then begin the race —

To gather great big bunches,
As much as we could carry
To take home to our mothers,
But then we'd stop, and tarry.

Some we'd crush as we rolled around,
Others were trampled by our feet.
We learned to suck the little flowers,
For a taste of nectar, oh! so sweet!



And on the homeward journey,
Some we dropped along the way.
The rest were drooped and wilted
Very much to our dismay.

But our mothers seemed very happy
With those that managed to survive.
And when lovingly put in water
They would magically revive!

One of the many pleasures
Of Badsey childhoods long since past,
Simple, happy pastimes,
Forming memories that last.

TATER TOP TOMS

*The History Man was posed the question :-
'Were tomatoes ever grown commercially in
Badsey as an outdoor crop?'*



The History Man replies:- Yes; the tomato, *solanum lycopersicum*, was widely grown as an outdoor crop by many of Badsey's market gardeners, probably from 1884. The first Badsey Flower Show, held in 1888, had a class for tomatoes, although there was only one entry.

The method of growing the tomatoes was to allow the first side shoot of the plant to develop into a secondary stem, with all other side shoots pinched out at the leaf axils. The two stems were then 'stopped' after the formation of three and two trusses of fruit respectively. The plants were supported by tying to bamboo canes. The fruit was picked

whilst still green and then laid on straw in cold frames to ripen up ready for market. Most of the tomatoes were of the local variety Badsey Potato Leaf, more often known as 'tater top'. Although it had excellent flavour the fruits tended to be of varying shapes and would not have satisfied modern grading requirements.

Outdoor grown tomatoes do not cope well with prolonged wet weather, causing the crop to be ruined by blight, affecting both foliage and fruit. Some control of the disease was possible by spraying the plants with Bordeaux Mixture, a solution of copper sulphate and calcium hydroxide in water.

But, particularly after the second world war, as more and more large greenhouses were built, outdoor tomato growing declined in Badsey and the neighbourhood, so that by about 1960 virtually all production was under glass.

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Badsey Film Club



Luvvies, here are our films for June 2022.

Saturday 4th June **Personal History of David Copperfield**
Saturday 18th June **The Great Gatsby**

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.



Badsey WI had a thoroughly enjoyable sing-along with Georgie Jacobs, 'The Girl with a Guitar' at our April meeting. Georgie is a very experienced singer-song writer who introduced members to her own work as well as taking us through some more well-known material: a highlight was her WI song about the work involved in recruiting new members! At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our May meeting and a presentation by one of our newest members entitled 'There ought to be a Law against that'.

Badsey WI's June meeting will be our Garden Social evening on 8th June at the home of one of our members, with an earlier starting time of 6pm. The next 'ordinary' meeting will be our meeting on 13th July 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.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Our speaker at our meeting in May was Diane Bennett MBE talking about the Caring Hands in the Vale - Lighthouse Project. Members had provided toiletries and cleaning products for which Diane was very grateful.

Our next meeting on June 14th is outdoors in the garden of Chris and Marianne Beddis. If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union then please contact Sandra Sparrow on 833368.

St James Flower Guild

Ladies and gent thank you for the flowers arranged in church during May. Many thanks go to Yvonne and helpers who organised the concert in church with Avonbank Brass Band, and as a result, the donation of £350 towards the flower festival we are organising in August to celebrate the Queens Jubilee

June Rota

1st Sunday Barbara and Julie
2nd Sunday Hazel and Hazel
3rd Sunday Mary and Alan
4th Sunday Annette and Sheila

Any queries regarding church flowers contact Julie Gardner 831573 after 6pm please or 832007

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Saturday 4th June 2022

"BADSEY FEST" FROM 2PM

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5-7PM

"BACK TO THE FUTURE"
9PM TILL LATE

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Priest in Charge:

Revd. Fr. Philip Morton

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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

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 Brooks 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 830043

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

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council can be contacted by emailing badseypc@yahoo.co.uk, or by telephoning 07591533557 (Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 3pm) or by visiting www.badseypc.uk.

Meetings are held on 3rd Wednesday of the month (except in August) at Badsey Remembrance Hall at 7.30pm.

Date of next meetings:

Wednesday 15th June 2022

Wednesday 20th July 2022.

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INSIDE CARTRIDGE WORLD, MERSTOW GRN

OBSERVATION TEST

4 things have been Photoshopped from this photograph, what are they?
Please email answers to the Editor



Last month's caption competition winners were William Boyce ("Look, look, it's the Holy Ghost." "Where? Down here?" "No, up there.") and Louise Bufton ("God is everywhere")

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

The Badsey Society

Award Winning Local History Group



WHO LIVED IN BADSEY, ALDINGTON & WICKHAMFORD A CENTURY AGO?

If your ancestors lived in Badsey, Aldington or Wickhamford a hundred years ago then why not come and join Maureen Spinks and Tom Locke for a gentle stroll around the villages to look at some of the places which featured in the 1921 census. The 1921 census returns for our villages have now been transcribed by members of the Badsey Society and are freely available on their website - badseysociety.uk

Walk 1, Badsey South – Friday 17th June, 7 pm, meet outside The Wheatsheaf

Our first walk of the weekend begins and ends at the pub. From The Wheatsheaf, we will walk past the site of the old Vicarage where Reverend Allsebrook and family lived, then go down Mill Lane to the Silk Mill Cottages. Retracing our steps, we will turn right into School Lane, right again into Willersey Road as far as Sands Lane. Then along Chapel Street, left into Brewers Lane and back along the High Street to The Wheatsheaf. Please join us in the pub for a drink after the walk.

Walk 2, Aldington – Saturday 18th June, 10 am, meet outside Aldington Manor

Our walk begins at Aldington Manor which was then home to the Butler family. We will wander down Mill Lane to look at the site of the old mill, then along Chapel Lane to see which houses existed a hundred years ago. We will then proceed up Main Street as far as Beeholme, before returning to the village centre and a quick look at Village Street.



Walk 3, Badsey North – Saturday 18th June, 2 pm, meet at the Remembrance Hall

The walk begins by walking along the Bretforton Road as far as Birmingham Road. Retracing our footsteps, we then pass through Hither Green (in 1921, the site of some old cottages) and go down the footpath to Old Post Office Lane. Out on the High Street, we walk as far as the junction with Brewers Lane, before turning round and crossing to the other side of the road. We finish by walking up Synehurst past the Council houses which had just been built. In the 1921 census they actually appeared under Aldington rather than Badsey, as the land was not transferred until later in the year.

Walk 4, Wickhamford – Sunday 19th June, 2 pm, meet at Wickhamford Church

Our Sunday afternoon stroll will take us the length of Manor Road, beginning at Wickhamford Manor and ending just past the former Sandys Arms at the new Council homes which, like Badsey, had just been built. On the way, we will pass a number of thatched cottages, but some are not as old as you might think!

All walks are free and open to everyone.



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