

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 22nd July 2006 Badsey Flower Show

*Come and see us at our exhibition stand
1.30 – 4.30 pm*

*View the Enclosure Maps both on computer and actual-size
copy*

Learn more about the street where you live

Friday 4th August 2006 Badsey Village Walk

Meet outside 4 High Street at 7 pm

*The route will take us to selected points of historical interest in
the Old Post Office Lane/Chapel Street/Brewers Lane region of
the village*

*Refreshments at 36 Brewers Lane at the end of the evening
Donations welcome*

Asparagus-Growing DVD

There's still a chance to buy a copy of the asparagus-growing DVD. Copies are on sale in The Spar (price £6) or direct from Will Dallimore, 30 Horsebridge Avenue (tel: 831012).

Maureen Butler, writing in The Vale Magazine, described it as "latest visual delight of the Vale's rich history. Beautifully filmed around the fields of Badsey and Aldington, the DVD captures the old, traditional, method of asparagus growing."



THE BADSEY
SOCIETY



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISHES OF BADSEY AND ALDINGTON SINCE 1807 NEWSLETTER 7 – JULY 2006

Coming shortly to a website near you! After months of work, historical information about every single road in Badsey and Aldington will be appearing on the Badsey website. From 22nd July, the day of the Flower Show, you will be able to view this at www.badsey.net. Come and visit us at our exhibition stand at Badsey Flower Show and see the progress to date. Please be patient if there is nothing up as yet about your road – there will be by the end of the year.

And why not join us on the Badsey Society's Village Walk in August? See back page for details.



We are delighted to announce that the Badsey Enclosure Map has been transferred from its temporary home on an easel in the church to its permanent home on the south wall of the church. When you have a moment, why not pop in to see the map, together with the information display which appears underneath it.

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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*



ON THE TRAIL OF THE MARCHIONESS OF DOWNSHIRE

From the worldwide web, to a Bracknell suburb, to the picturesque village of Ombersley – Maureen Spinks goes searching for an elusive lady.

Right: Easthampstead Park, now part of Bracknell, once the home of the Marchioness



The Marchioness of who? You might well ask. My husband certainly did when I started talking about the Marchioness of Downshire; he said she sounded more like a character out of a P G Wodehouse novel than a real person. But she did really exist and it was because she leased nearly 50 acres of land in Badsey and Aldington from Christ Church at the time of Enclosure that I was keen to find out more about her.

Back in February 2005 when a small group of people started transcribing the Badsey and Aldington Award Schedules, we kept seeing references to “the most Honourable Mary Dowager Marchioness of Downshire”. Did it really say Downshire (the writing was not always easy to read)? Was there such a place? Should it be Devonshire? Rather confusingly, the earlier Aldington Schedules, dated 1808, referred to her as “the most honourable the Marchioness of Downshire and Baroness Sandys”. Ah, now that rings a bell (viz The Sandys Arms at Wickhamford and the memorials in Wickhamford Church). For some time we thought that the Marchioness and the Baroness were two separate people, but after a bit of research, we discovered that they were one and the same person.

So who was the Marchioness? A trawl of the internet confirmed that there was and still is a Marquis and Marchioness of Downshire (our lady was the 2nd, today's is the 9th). She was born Mary Sandys in 1764 at Easthampstead Park, Berkshire, the family seat of her mother's family, the Trumbulls. Mary was just four years old when her father, Martin Sandys, died. Martin was from the prominent Worcestershire Sandys family and had been born at Ombersley (a branch of the family lived at Wickhamford). Mary married Arthur Hill and became the Marchioness of Downshire in 1793 when Arthur succeeded to the title of 2nd Marquis and to the family estates in County Down, Ireland, after the death of his father. In 1797, on the death of her uncle, Edwin Sandys, Mary inherited the Sandys family estates. In 1802, the Barony of Sandys was revived in favour of her when she was created 1st Baroness Sandys of Ombersley. Mary was widowed in 1801, three months before the birth of her last child; her eldest son was only 12 when he became the 3rd Marquis. Mary died in 1836 at her Surrey home, Downshire House, Roehampton.

This is just a brief summary of the Marchioness's life, but it seems there is a bigger tale of love to tell which has been recounted in a now out-of-print book about Ombersley. A fuller account of Mary's life will appear on the Badsey website later in the year.

BLACKMINSTER PUPILS PAVE THE WAY

In March 2006, eight Badsey pupils in Year 8 at Blackminster Middle School took a closer look at Badsey's history via the digitised Enclosure Maps on the internet. Read all about their lessons and find out how, you, too, will be able to discover more about the place where you live.



A new venture for the Badsey Society was our first tentative steps into community education. During the Spring Term, eight 12-year-old pupils from Blackminster Middle School participated in three local history sessions, during which we looked at aspects of Badsey history in more detail.

During the first session, as preparation for a visit to Badsey Manor the following week, the pupils learned about the Wilson family who lived at Badsey Manor for nearly 250 years. Using the Badsey website as their research tool, they completed a worksheet about Edward Wilson (1820-1907). Looking at life through a 12-year-old's eyes was quite revealing: “How gross!” was one comment when it was discovered that Edward not only managed to get through four wives, but the fact that his last wife was 40 years his junior!

The following week, the pupils visited Badsey. We started in the churchyard and looked for Edward Wilson's grave. Next time you're in the churchyard, why not see if you can find it? We then moved inside the church and looked for monumental inscriptions relating to the Wilson family and saw the Enclosure Map, before walking along the High Street to be welcomed by Lizzie Noyes at the Manor House. We are most grateful to Lizzie for taking the time to give us a tour of the building.

The final session was back in school where we looked at the Badsey and Aldington Enclosure Maps on the Worcestershire County Council Tithe and Inclosure Map website. The pupils were able to look at a modern-day Ordnance Survey map of Badsey, locate well-known features, and then look at the underlying layer of the 200-year-old Enclosure Map. They had great fun locating their own house and finding out what was there in the past and who owned the land.

All in all, the sessions were very successful, and we hope to encourage other people to start using the maps on the website. Our plan is to hold a training session in the autumn to demonstrate the best way to use the Enclosure Maps on the computer. Watch this space for more details.