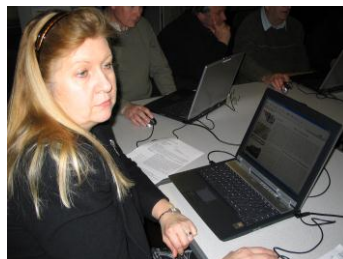


VISIT THE BADSEY WEBSITE

The tables were turned on Badsey's Head Teacher, Elizabeth Spencer, when she became a pupil again at her own school. Elizabeth joined nine others for a computer training session about getting the most out of the Badsey website. If you couldn't make the session and want to find out what you're missing, visit:

www.badsey.net



**THE BADSEY
SOCIETY**



**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISHES OF BADSEY
AND ALDINGTON SINCE 1807
NEWSLETTER 9 – JANUARY 2007**

200

COME TO A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

1807-2007

200 YEARS OF BADSEY'S HISTORY

COME TO A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT

BADSEY FIRST SCHOOL

SATURDAY 10TH MARCH

7.30 pm (doors open 7 pm)

Please reply on the invitation reply slip enclosed

2007 sees the 200th anniversary of the first detailed map of the parish, which coincided with the passing of the Aldington Enclosure Act (the Badsey map appeared a few years later). Come and have a glass of wine and a piece of birthday cake and find out what was happening in our village 200 years ago. There will be a variety of speakers, an exhibition and a chance to view the Badsey website and the Enclosure Maps on the school's laptop computers. All attendees will get a free CD of the Enclosure Maps. The event is taking place on Saturday 10th March at Badsey First School, 7.30 pm (doors open 7 pm). Do come and join us on the evening. Just complete the reply slip on the enclosed invitation and return by 28th February.

Inside this newsletter, as part of our regular features about different areas, we go to the far extremes of the parish. Please see inside for more information about Blackminster and Bowers Hill.

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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*

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This is the penultimate newsletter that you will receive, as The Badsey Society's project to look at the development of Badsey and Aldington since the time of Enclosure comes to an end in April. If you have enjoyed reading these newsletters and would like to keep up-to-date with what is happening, why not join The Badsey Society? It is only £1 per person to join (£2.50 family membership), cheques payable to The Badsey Society:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TEL NO: EMAIL:

Please return to: Terry Sparrow, 36 Brewers Lane, Badsey.



BLACKMINSTER

How many times have you travelled along the Birmingham Road, perhaps to Blackminster Middle School, and had to stop for a passing train? Next time you're stuck in the car at the level crossing, look around you and think about the settlement which grew up here in the latter part of the 19th century



In conducting our survey, we must not forget Blackminster which did not become part of Badsey until 1949. It originally formed part of the parish of Offenham and thus does not feature on the Badsey Enclosure Map. In 1841, a Tithe Map for Offenham was drawn, which shows that there were no houses at all in the area of Offenham which was later to become Badsey. In the early 1850s, the railway was built cutting through the south-east corner of Offenham. Nearly a hundred years later, it was this most south-easterly part, south of the railway line, which became part of Badsey.

By 1851, one house (known today as The Old Farmhouse) had been built on what we now call Birmingham Road, to provide accommodation for the foreman of the nearby stone quarry. The census returns for Offenham reveal that there were different occupants living in the house each decade. The 1851 census shows that the occupier of the new house was 28-year-old Edward Powell, described as "Foreman over Stoneworks". In 1901, Edwin Gould, a farmer and coal merchant, lived there with his wife and nine children, ranging in ages from 16-year-old Frank to 2-month-old Edith. Over a century later, the daughter of baby Edith turned up on the doorstep of the current owners. The daughter, now in her early eighties, lives in Canada, and had come to England for a holiday and was in search of her mother's family roots.

By 1871, a cottage had been built slightly to the north and by 1881, a further house had been built. The opening of Littleton & Badsey Station on 21st April 1884 led to further development at Blackminster. By 1891, a pair of semi-detached houses had been built on Station Road, now known as Victoria Cottage and Corner Cottage. Much of the farming land in this area belonged, at the beginning of the 20th century, to the Ashwins. After this was sold in 1912, a number of bungalows were built in the inter-war period.

By the 1940s, the growing community at Blackminster was keen to become a part of Badsey and petitioned Offenham Parish Council. A parish meeting was called in January 1947 to hear the views of the whole parish. A resolution opposing any proposals to alter the boundaries between Offenham and Badsey on the grounds that no material benefit would be gained by Blackminster and would decrease the rateable value of Offenham was carried by 37 votes to one. Two years later, however, Blackminster officially became a part of Badsey. For more information, read the full newspaper article at www.badsey.net.

BOWERS HILL

One and a half miles south of Badsey centre lies Bowers Hill. A farm was created here in post-Enclosure times – find out more about its history



In the extreme south-east of the parish is Bowers Hill, on the borders with Willersey in Gloucestershire. Archaeological evidence suggests prehistoric and Roman activity in the area, represented by abundant cropmarks. A field containing medieval ridge and furrow also survives to the west of Bowers Hill Farm.

In 1815, at the time of the Badsey Enclosure Award, John Slatter was allotted the land on which Bowers Hill Farm is situated and it was soon after this that a farmhouse and buildings were built. At some point in the 19th century, the farm passed into the ownership of William Collett and then the Tovey family of Church Lench. During this period, the farm was let out to a succession of different tenant farmers. In 1895, the farm was bought by Henry Byrd of Bretforton. It passed by inheritance to his nieces and nephew who, soon after inheriting the farm, sold it to John Idiens & Sons Ltd in 1905. Within a month of buying the farm, the company had borrowed £8,000 for the purpose of enabling them to erect 14 houses on part of the land. In 1911, Idiens entered into a contract with the General Land Drainage Company to provide water for the new houses, but defaulted on the payment and was declared bankrupt. Instead of 14 houses, ten were built: five pairs of semi-detached houses. When John Idiens' mortgagees came to sell Bowers Hill Farm in 1924, these houses, except for number 10, were not part of the sale.

The buyer of the farm in 1924 was Johnson Thorneley. Since that date, the farm has remained in the same family. Johnson Thorneley was as an Architect's Clerk in Helsby, Cheshire. There is no evidence that he ever lived in Badsey, but his elder sister, Margaret, and younger brother, Frederick, had been living in Bengeworth from the end of the 19th century. Margaret had married a Yorkshire-man, Buckley Bent, who had come to the Vale as a Market Gardener. Johnson's younger brother, Frederick, looked after the farm initially but, after his death, Buckley and Margaret Bent moved from The Parks, Aldington, to Bowers Hill Farm. It is Buckley and Margaret Bent's great-grandson, Martin, who still lives at Bowers Hill.

Today, Martin and Sarah Bent, and son, Bertie, welcome guests from all over the world to stay in their guest-house (www.bowershillfarm.com).