



# BADSEY *and* ALDINGTON

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Part of the Benefice of East Vale & Avon Villages

January 2025

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

January...that time of year when we look back on the year just past and when we all regret the excesses of the Christmas season, making resolutions to eat less, drink less and lose weight! I wonder how many of us get to the end of the month without breaking our New Year's Resolutions?

January can be a depressing month; the excitement and stresses of Christmas are over, our rooms look bare once the cards have been taken down, and Christmas trees look forlorn, devoid of all their trimmings. It can be an anticlimax, and the weather is usually pretty miserable too!

But January is also the beginning of something new - a new year, and no one knows what this year will bring. It may be that 2025 holds some important event for us - a big birthday, an anniversary, children taking important exams or applying for university places, a change of house, or job, or career. In the life of our diocese, it will probably mean a new Bishop.

Some people view change with suspicion, but change can be good and positive - it can bring growth and renewal. By making New Year's Resolutions we are hoping to bring about change, but often our good intentions are about making life better for ourselves. Maybe this year we can think about making life better for others, such as sponsoring a child in India, or buying an Oxfam alternative gift like buying a goat, or training a teacher. Perhaps the money you save by keeping your resolutions to eat and/or drink less could be put to such good uses! We can also make a difference to farmers in poor countries by buying fairly traded products, and to our own farmers by buying local.

So once again we go into a new year, not knowing what it will hold for us. One thing of which I am certain is that, whatever lies in store for us in 2025, God will be with us, guiding us, strengthening us, comforting us, and challenging us. We may break the promises we make to ourselves at the beginning of a new year, but God will never break his promise to us: the promise to be with us, always.

I hope that 2025 will be a good and peaceful year for you all. Every blessing to you and those you love.

Susan Renshaw SCP

**Retired Priest**

East Vale & Avon Benefice

### BADSEY BELLRINGERS

Ring Out the Old, Ring In the New!  
We will be ringing this January before each of the scheduled Sunday Services, and every Monday night from 7:30 - 9pm which is our practice night.

We do hope you enjoy our ringing, and if you feel like a new hobby for a new year please contact Tower Captain Tom Sandham on **01386 832007** - we would love some new recruits!

Happy New Year,  
St James Badsey Bellringers

### BADSEY FLOWER SHOW

The Badsey Flower Show will be holding their AGM this month, with a regular committee meeting to follow.



**Date: Monday 27th January 2025**

**Time: 7:30pm**

**Location: Badsey Community & Sports Club**

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# St James Church Badsey

## Churchwardens:

**Mrs. Elizabeth Bolland MBE**

**Mr. Chris Smith**

Tel. 830638 Email: bollandelizabeth22@gmail.com

Tel. 830217 Email: smithvce@msn.com

## Readers:

Mrs. Margaret Pye

Tel. 833537

## Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Lisa Farmer

Tel. 40401

## Administrator

Faith Quinn: eastvaleavon.churches@gmail.com

## The Revd. Joanna Fielding - Priest in Charge of the East Vale and Avon Benefice

(Badsey, Bretforton, Offenham, The Littletons & Cleeve Prior)

Jo can be contacted on 07561823135 (WhatsApp & phone) or 01386 339669, email joanna.fielding@hotmail.com And at The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EJ

Day off is usually Fridays.

**Please contact the Benefice Administrator Faith Quinn**

(details above) for

**all enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals**

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A SPECIAL THANKS

We'd like to thank all those who organised, came, and enjoyed the concert by Avonbank Bands in Badsey Church, which raised £407.26. The programme was wide ranging and enjoyed by all, especially audience participation of The Twelve Days of Christmas!

### SONGS OF PRAISE SERVICE

Join us for our Songs of Praise Service and brighten up your January by singing the hymns that are special to you. Simply fill out the attached form on the penultimate page, cut it out and return it to St James Church, and we might just sing your favourite hymn!

It might be an old hymn that you haven't heard in years, maybe from your childhood, or it might be one from your wedding. Maybe you heard it on the radio, maybe it's a more contemporary worship song, or maybe it's your favourite Christmas carol!

Whatever your favourite hymn might be, vote now and come along on Sunday 19th January at 3pm for a jolly good sing. There will be a warm welcome to you whether you are one of our regular congregation or if you are a complete newcomer.

Whoever you are, we would love you to come and join us in this celebration of church music.

Chris Smith

Churchwarden

### COFFEE MORNING ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be no Thursday Coffee Morning at St James Church on the 2nd January. The next Coffee Morning will be on Thursday 6th February. **We'd also like to thank all those who came to the regular Coffee Morning and made a donation to Caring Hands in the Vale - we were able to send them £45.70!**

## Services this month

Please see the noticeboard in Church Porch for more services within the Benefice. For more information about any of our churches please visit [www.eastvaleavon.com](http://www.eastvaleavon.com). Please do take the opportunity to share

	9.30am Service	11.00am Service	Other Services
<b>5th January</b> Epiphany	Badsey Eucharist	Offenham Eucharist	
<b>12th January</b> Plough Sunday	Bretforton Morning Praise	Cleeve Prior Plough Sunday Eucharist	<b>7pm</b> South Littleton Taize
<b>19th January</b> 2nd After Epiphany	Offenham Morning Praise	South Littleton Eucharist	<b>4-6pm</b> Offenham Messy Church
<b>26th January</b> 3rd After Epiphany	South Littleton Morning Praise	Bretforton Eucharist	

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**EVERY MONDAY TERM TIME**

**8:45am - 11am**

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**TOYS ~ MUSIC ~**

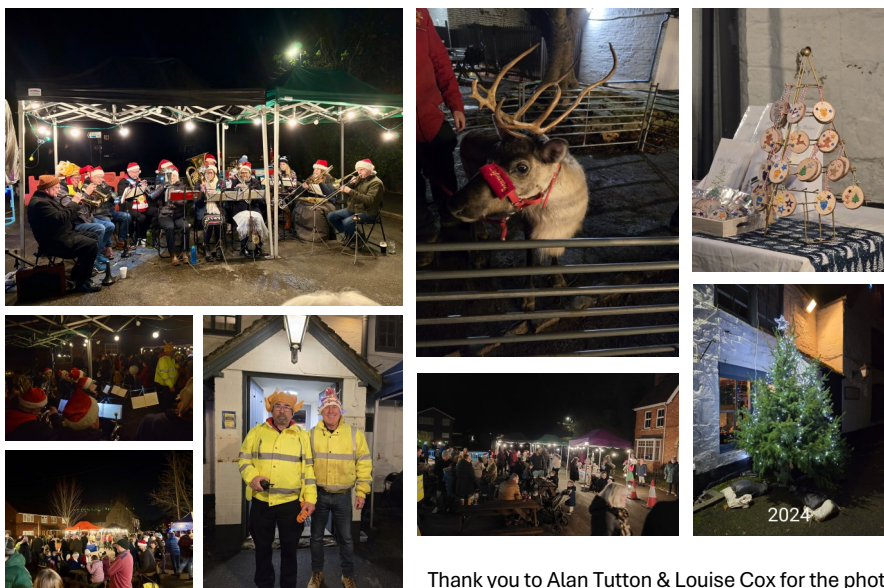
**BABY CHANGING FACILITIES**



## PARISH COUNCIL CHRISTMAS EVENT IS A SPARKLING SUCCESS

The village came alive with Christmas spirit on Friday 13th December as crowds gathered outside The Wheatsheaf for a magical evening organised by the Parish Council. Highlights included real reindeer, a small selection of festive stalls, and a beautiful lantern parade that lit up the streets with glowing, handmade creations. The sounds of a traditional brass band filled the air, delighting visitors with classic carols and festive tunes. There were even mince pies and chocolate selection boxes being handed out to villagers!

Despite the chilly weather, clear skies allowed the festivities to run smoothly. Families and friends enjoyed the chance to come together, with many praising the Parish Council for a “wonderfully festive community event.” With music, lights, and seasonal cheer, the evening was hailed as a resounding success — and many are already looking forward to next year’s celebration.



Thank you to Alan Tutton & Louise Cox for the photos!

Looking to start a new hobby for the new year? Why not gather a team together and start ‘Project Soapbox’? After a hiatus of the event from the 2024 calendar, we’d love to see the event return this year bigger and better than ever! More details to come soon, but to familiarise yourself with rules head on over to [www.badsey-races.com](http://www.badsey-races.com).

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET OUR GERMAN BENEFICE PARTNERS?

For the past 25 years the churches in our Benefice have been in partnership with churches in Germany, in villages near Halberstadt.

This is an early call for you to put the dates in your diary, as we have been invited to visit from 10th to 14th August 2025 and will be looking to book our flights from Birmingham early in the year.

The visit has both secular and religious elements, but the main part is building of friendships. Most of our hosts speak English, so do not be put off if you don’t speak German! You will be responsible for paying for your travel, and your accommodation will be with hosts.

For more information, please visit the Benefice’s website at [www.eastvaleavon.com](http://www.eastvaleavon.com), or contact Alex Christison on [xtison13@gmail.com](mailto:xtison13@gmail.com) or 01386 830367.



**Benefice**

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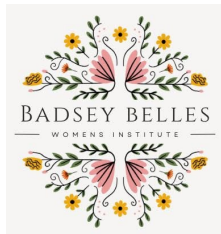
## BADSEY BELLES WI

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Badsey Belles!

The Badsey Belles WI had a wonderful December meeting full of festive fun and good cheer. We made foliage table decorations whilst treating ourselves to homemade mince pies and some mulled cider. As always, we also had a good chat and welcomed some new friends along too.

Now we are looking forward to our January meeting which will be held on Wednesday 8th January where we will be learning all about yoga.

If you would like to find out more about our WI, please contact our secretary, Lucy, on [badseybellessec@wfdwi.org.uk](mailto:badseybellessec@wfdwi.org.uk) or visit us on Facebook or Instagram.



## NEW SEA SHANTIES & FISHERMAN'S SONGS GROUP!

Fancy taking up a new hobby in 2025? Why not join the brand-new singing group forming in Badsey next year!

**Everyone is welcome to be a part of the Sea Shanties & Fisherman's Songs Group, who will meet weekly at Badsey Remembrance Hall at 8:15pm starting from Tuesday 7th January.**

The group is not a choir, and a lack of singing ability is encouraged! Sessions are £3pp, and will include tea and coffee.

To voice your interest, please contact Bob on either 07972 671622 or [robnelson1805@gmail.com](mailto:robnelson1805@gmail.com).

## COMPUTER CLUB

If you feel that you wouldn't know how to start with a computer or are afraid to use it in case you break it, why not come along to one of our computer group sessions?

The Badsey Computer Group aims to give a helping hand to anyone who seeks to gain confidence in using their computer. Sessions are very informal, usually with a short discussion of a chosen topic and then plenty of time to answer individual issues. Sessions take place on alternate Mondays in the back room of The Wheatsheaf starting at 10:30am and lasting about an hour and a half.

Over the next few months we will be looking at spreadsheets, mail merging, browsers and search engines. We will also be looking at the basics depending/following on from questions asked from the group.

During January the sessions are on the following days:

- Monday 6th January
- Monday 20th January
- Monday 3rd February

**Everyone is welcome! For further information, contact Alan Tutton on 01386 831539 or email [alantutton@talktalk.net](mailto:alantutton@talktalk.net).**



## JOIN SUE OWENS FOR YOGA IN 2025!

Come along to Yoga with Sue Owens, starting again for 2025 on **Monday 13th January**.

She will be hosting 45 minute-long yoga sessions every Monday during term time at Badsey First School from 2pm, at a **cost of just £5 per session**.

"Yoga is for everyone; it's not about the perfect pose, it's about you! So come and enjoy a yoga session suitable for all levels, and take some time just for you."

## Advertiser shout out: THE HOLISTIC LADY

We're delighted to welcome a new advertiser for 2025, The Holistic Lady!

Victoria is based in Blackminster and provides just what people need at this time of year - some 'me time'! From reiki and reflexology to hot stone massages and sound therapy, there's never been a better time to start your holistic journey!

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## Jane Neill's Nature Notes...

The most visible birds in the fields and woodlands on a cold, frosty January day are crows - Intelligent birds that were kept as pets for their mimicry skills. There are 133 different crows worldwide, but just eight in Britain. The chough with its distinctive red beak and legs lives on the coast; the hooded crow lives in the North; ravens, the largest crow, often flies overhead, "cronking" as it goes.

Famously kept in the Tower of London to keep the Kingdom safe, the rooks gather in rookeries. They have elongated beaks and a purple sheen to their black feathers. Farmers consider them friends as they feed on leatherjackets and wireworms in the soil. A gathering is called a "parliament", however a carrion crow gathering is called a "murder". In ages past they were seen as harbingers of ill luck.

The old farming saying was "one for the rook, one for the crow, one to rot and one to grow". Jackdaws have grey heads and make a "chack" call. Magpies are black and white, and renowned for hoarding bright objects. The jay is a colourful woodland specialist burying acorns in winter like squirrels. At dusk, I watch the black squadrons fly over to settle in their tree roosts. What a thrilling sight!



## THE HISTORY MAN IS BACK!

Have you missed him? Because we certainly have!

Beloved Badsey resident Terry Sparrow is back with a new 'Ask the History Man' excerpt, which always sheds welcoming light on some interesting village history. His first series of 2025 concerns Absentee Vicars of Badsey with Aldington - here's what he has to say...

### JOHN RAWLINS

Following the death of Reverend Robert Hill in January 1731, there followed a period of 121 years during which Badsey's incumbents did not reside in the parish. This was not an unusual situation at the time. The first of the nonresident group was the Reverend John Rawlins, appointed in 1731 at the age of 24, although he did live nearly in Evesham, so it can be assumed that it was not too difficult for him to minister to his parishioners in Badsey and Aldington, as well as in Wickhamford, where he was appointed at the same time.

Nevertheless, particularly during the later years of his ministry, he employed a succession of assistant curates, most of whom stayed for a very short time, to perform many of the parochial duties.

As was quite common in these days, Rawlins acquired a number of other ecclesiastical appointments which were so far from his home that it was clearly impossible for him to give them proper, if any, care. He was rector of the Cotswold parishes of Hayleton and Yanworth, near Northleach, from 1750 until his death in 1784, and he served two terms (1752-55 and 1769-84) as rector of Leigh, a few miles west of Worcester. Presumably, he paid assistant curates to carry out the duties at these places - no doubt their stipends were very low, with the rector retaining part of the parish income for his own benefit.

As if this was not enough, Rawlins became Headmaster of Prince Henry's Grammar School in Evesham in 1742, but ten years later was found guilty of neglect and forced to resign. He also served as a Justice of the Peace.

John Rawlins died on 3rd November 1784 and was buried at Badsey. Aged 77, he had held office here for 53 years. A monument to his memory may be seen on the North wall of the transept in Badsey Church.

**Terry Sparrow's next column in his Absentee Vicars series will discuss George Drummond.**

If you have a question you would like Badsey's History Man to answer, or a topic you would like him to write about, please let us know by emailing us at [badseycn@gmail.com](mailto:badseycn@gmail.com), and we will pass your request on.



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## BADSEY SOCIETY

### News & Upcoming Events

Our talks in October and November focused on researching family history, beginning with Alan Tutton's accounts of some of the skeletons in his family closet including ancestors who were transported to Tasmania in Victorian times, and the sad story of his great uncle who was tried for murder, sentenced to death, reprieved and then sent to Rampton Hospital as one of its first patients in 1921.

Following on from that, we asked if anyone wanted help solving "brick walls", the genealogical term for dead ends in family trees. On Friday 15th November, four people discovered the answers to their queries. Ivor Martin wanted to find out about his paternal grandparents, but this was difficult because his father was adopted. Maureen Spinks set about trying to find the answers and gave a very informative talk about her research and how she found them. Ivor was delighted with her findings.

Penny Christison's questions related to her Harding ancestors from Sopley in Hampshire. She wanted to know what we could find out about two illegitimate brothers. Shirley Tutton researched them and was able to find out that one became a very successful builder, and the other a successful market gardener.

John and Will Dallimore wanted to find out more about their mother's mother, and how she came to be orphaned. Tom Locke was able to unravel the story of her early life in the Forest of Dean and give them some answers. Finally, Terry Sparrow wanted to fill in some gaps in the records in his family tree. He hadn't been able to find the burial and two marriages of his great grandfather's siblings. Due to the digitisation of many parish records since Terry did his own research, Shirley Tutton was able to find these and go on to find the marriages of two of his grandfather's siblings, and find one missing person from the second marriage, which turned into quite a detective story!

If anyone is interested in getting started on researching their own family tree and has never done it the old fashioned way by visiting a county archive, then our trip to the Hive in January might be of interest. Details about this can be found below.

#### **Tour of The Hive**

We start the New Year with two events in January. On Thursday 16th January, we are visiting the Hive in Worcester for an 'Explore the Past' tour. This is a chance to see behind the scenes and meet some of the staff, as well as seeing some documents and items not usually on display to the public, as well as the Historic Environment Record. The cost is £5 per person, and spaces are limited to 20 people. Please contact Shirley Tutton at [shirleytutton@talktalk.net](mailto:shirleytutton@talktalk.net) or on 07740286941 if you would like to go.

Participants will meet at 10:30am on the ground floor of the Hive, prior to the tour at 11am, which lasts approximately 1 hour 45 minutes. Afterwards, lunch is available in the Hive café, and there is the opportunity to return to the archive for personal research.

#### **Talk with Dr Stephen Roberts**

On Friday 17th January at 7:30pm, Dr Stephen Roberts will be giving a talk at Badsey Community & Sports Club entitled "Evesham Quakers and the Seventeenth Century English Revolution". Dr Roberts is a well-respected authority on 17th century history, both locally and nationally, and this promises to be a really interesting evening.

**The talk is free to members, and £2.50 to non-members.**

**Membership of The Badsey Society costs £5. Please pay via Paypal at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/> subscriptions, or contact the Treasurer, Will Dallimore, on 01386 831012.**

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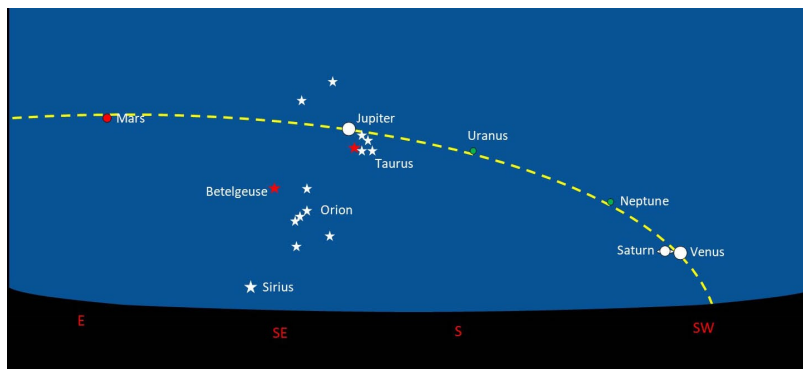
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# THE MAGIC OF MARS

By Stargazer

So far, the autumn and winter seasons have been an excellent time for observing planets. Saturn has been in our skies for many months and can still be seen in the early part of the evening; Jupiter is very bright throughout the night being located just above Orion; Venus is also very bright and is visible during the hours after sunset in the southwest. The sunlight reflected from the dense clouds surrounding the planet make it appear to be the brightest object in the sky and the first object to appear in the twilight around sunset.



On the 15th of January it will move very close to Saturn and will be there for a couple of days. Even Uranus and Neptune are in a good position for viewing during the early part of the evening - although you will need a telescope to see them and the visible results can be quite disappointing as they are so far away, and they only reflect the light from the sun and do not produce light themselves.

The planets travel across our skies on the same plane as the sun and the moon. This plane can be imagined as a curved line across the sky known as the ecliptic, and apart from Mercury and Venus the planets first appear in the east and set in the west. Also, each night they drift in the same plane across the night sky, appearing in a slightly different position each night. The name 'planet' comes from the Greek, meaning 'wanderer'.

The final planet to join the chain of planets across the sky this winter is Mars. During January it rises in the east in the early evening and moves towards the south around midnight. Mars is quite easy to spot because, as its nickname 'the Red Planet' suggests, it is just that red.

January on Mars corresponds with the latter part of the Martian winter, particularly for the northern hemisphere. This seasonal change brings with it a variety of atmospheric phenomena, including dust storms and temperature fluctuations. Average temperatures during this season can plummet to minus 62 degrees Centigrade at the poles, while equatorial regions might see milder conditions.

One of the most fascinating aspects of Mars's climate is its carbon dioxide ice caps. As winter deepens, carbon dioxide freezes out of the atmosphere, forming seasonal polar ice caps that expand significantly. As winter turns to spring, these caps will sublime, releasing carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere, leading to seasonal weather changes that scientists are keen to study.

With a small telescope it is possible to make out these seasonal bright areas at the poles. With the hope of a few clear evenings in January, why not take a few minutes in the early evening to try to spot the planets stretched in a line across our skies.



3pm Sunday

19<sup>th</sup> January 2025

at St James Church

Badsey

Come and sing a selection of favourite hymns,

carols and worship songs

return your voting forms

to St James Badsey church

## SONGS OF PRAISE - Voting Form

Please cut this out with your vote and hand into St. James Church. Alternatively email [badseyen@gmail.com](mailto:badseyen@gmail.com) with the details below and we can forward on your behalf!

	Option 1	Option 2
Name of Hymn or the first line.		
Hymn number and source. (If known)		
Why this hymn is special to you?		
Your name and telephone number.		



## Badsey & Aldington Parish Council

The Parish Council can be contacted by:

Email [badseypc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:badseypc@yahoo.co.uk)  
Phone 07591 533557 (Mon - Thurs 9.30am to 3pm)  
Website [www.badseypc.uk](http://www.badseypc.uk)

**Date of next meeting:**  
**Wednesday 15th January**

*Meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Remembrance Hall.*

*Parishioners are welcome to raise matters that they wish to bring to the attention of the PC at the beginning of the meeting. After that, they can stay to observe the meeting.*

## Useful Contacts

Badsey Remembrance Hall	Marcelle Wilks	01386 833 256
Badsey Community & Sports Club	Sue Brooks	01386 830 867
Badsey Church Bell Ringers	Tom Sandham	01386 834 070
Badsey Church Flower Guild	Julie Gardner	01386 832 007

### Organisations, Institutes and Societies

The Badsey Society	Shirley Tutton	01386 831 539
Women's Institute	Sally Grainger	<a href="mailto:sgrainger@wfedwi.org.uk">sgrainger@wfedwi.org.uk</a>
1st Badsey Scout Group	Adam Johnson	07510 042 307
1st Badsey Guides	Siobhan Guyll	<a href="mailto:siobhan.guyll@gmail.com">siobhan.guyll@gmail.com</a>
Cafe Freedom	Tracy Hemming	01386 830 043
Messy Church	Penny Christison	01386 830 367
Slimming World	Bridget	07534 133 228

### Sports and Entertainment

Badsey Film Club	Alan Tutton	01386 831 539
Badsey Flower Show	Gordon Boon	<a href="mailto:info@badseyflowershow.co.uk">info@badseyflowershow.co.uk</a>
Badsey Rangers FC		07776 423 584
Evesham & District Air Gun League	Ian Davies	01386 450 86
Evesham Archery Club	Ian Trout	01386 831 509
Model Engineering Club	Roger Cull	01386 831 933
Evesham & Badsey Hockey Club	Mark Watts-Jones	07973 963 539
Wickhamford Gardening Club	Barbara Bennett	<a href="mailto:bennett.barbara@sky.com">bennett.barbara@sky.com</a>

**Would you like your organisation's contact information in our Community News? Just get in touch! Email us at [badseycn@gmail.com](mailto:badseycn@gmail.com), or send a direct message to our Facebook page.**

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On behalf of the editorial team, we'd like to thank you for your contributions and making last month's issue a success!

If you'd like to contribute to future issues of the Community News, please either leave handwritten entries at 32 Seward Road, Badsey, or email [badseycn@gmail.com](mailto:badseycn@gmail.com)

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