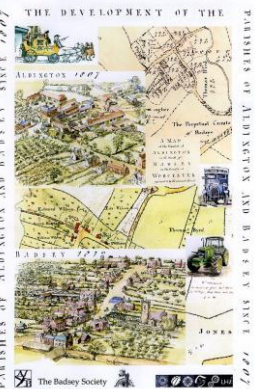


TWO THINGS TO DO: BUY YOUR SOUVENIR TEA TOWEL AND VISIT THE BADSEY WEBSITE (www.badsey.net)



- ❖ As a souvenir of the project, why not buy a tea towel of Badsey and Aldington? Based on the 200-year-old Enclosure Maps and aerial photos of the village, the tea-towel was designed by Ian Gibson. Just £5 only, it is available from The Spar.
- ❖ Have you visited the Badsey website recently? The website is being updated constantly. Look out later in the year for information on the Enclosure Map landowners and some individual house histories. Many thanks to Richard Phillips, Website Editor, who started the website in 2000. The clear layout and design must surely make this one of the best village historical websites in the country.

A big thank you to the Parish Newsletter distributors for delivering The Badsey Society's Project Newsletter every quarter. Your contribution has been much appreciated.

The Badsey Society's project comes to an end in April so this is the final project newsletter that you will receive. 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 costs only £1 per person to join (£2.50 family membership). Please return form to the Treasurer, Terry Sparrow, 36 Brewers Lane, Badsey, or to one of the Committee members.



L-R: Neil Thould, Will Dallimore, Maureen Spinks, Mike Lovatt, Jane Neill, Richard Phillips, Tony Jerram, Ian Gibson, Terry Sparrow

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MEMBERSHIP FORM (please enclose £1 per person or £2.50 family)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TEL NO: EMAIL:



THE BADSEY SOCIETY



**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISHES OF BADSEY AND AULDINGTON SINCE 1807
NEWSLETTER 10 – APRIL 2007**



Look inside to read all about the birthday celebrations held at Badsey First School

Well, we are almost at the end of our project to study the development of Badsey and Aldington since the drawing of the first detailed maps 200 years ago. We hope that you have enjoyed reading these Newsletters and that you have been tempted to look at the Badsey website to find out more about the history of our village.

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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.



200th Birthday Celebrations Badsey First School Saturday 10th March 2007

*Find out how Mike and Bernard
came to cut the cake*



Two hundred years ago, private Enclosure Acts were passed which transformed the landscape in Badsey and Aldington. The poet, John Clare, was no fan of Enclosure. His poetry vividly chronicled a vanished world of cottage, meadow, heath and woodland, already in retreat as Enclosure Acts all over the country apportioned peasant holdings and ancient commons to wealthy landlords:

*Now this sweet vision of my boyish hours,
Free as spring clouds and wild as forest flowers,
Is faded all – a hope that blossomed free,
And hath been once as it no more shall be.
Enclosure came, and trampled on the grave
Of labour's rights, and left the poor a slave.*

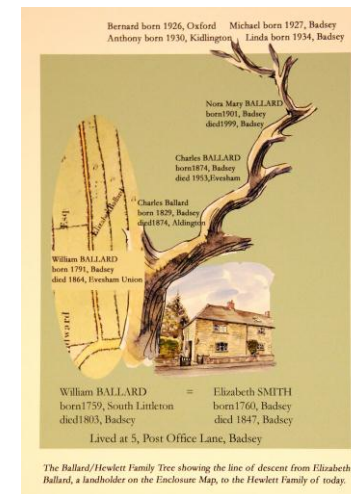
The jury is still out as to whether Enclosure, which marked the change from the old open field system to a more enclosed landscape suiting the agricultural revolution which was taking place, was a good thing or not. But what is certain is that, if it had not been for these Acts, we would not have such detailed maps of Badsey and Aldington. Through a detailed study of the maps, we have been able to chart the development of the parish.

Of all the landowners listed on the maps (around 50 in total), the only known direct descendants still living in Badsey are the Hewlett family. Bernard, Michael, Anthony and Linda Hewlett are the great-great-grandchildren of Elizabeth Ballard who owned a house (the present-day 5 Old Post Office Lane) and land on the corner of Birmingham Road and Bretforton Road, amounting to nearly 8 acres in total. Elizabeth (1760-1847) was the widow of William Ballard. In 1815, when the Enclosure Commissioners made their awards, she was one of 22 people who had to pay money in lieu of tythes, which went towards the enforcing of the Act; Elizabeth had to pay £35 15s 0d, which was a large sum of money in those days. At the time of Enclosure, the main road to Evesham ran outside her house, but this was stopped up by the Commissioners, and a new road built, now named Synehurst.

Two of the Hewletts, brothers Mike and Bernard of Green Leys, were special guests at the celebration on Saturday evening when 120 people turned up at Badsey First School to celebrate the bicentenary of the maps. Mike and Bernard were invited to cut the birthday cake, designed by Ian Gibson, who also produced a family tree to show their descent from Elizabeth Ballard.



Bernard and Mike Hewlett cut a slice through 200 years of history



At the start of the evening, whilst guests mingled with a glass of wine, pianist Linda Core entertained with music from the early 19th century. This included music by Muzio Clementi (1752-1832), the Italian-born composer who ended his days in Evesham. Following an introduction by Badsey Society Chairman, Will Dallimore, there were brief presentations by Committee members, Maureen Spinks, Richard Phillips and Mike Lovatt, and by Victoria Bryant and Maggi Noke from Worcestershire Historic Environment & Archaeological Service. Guests were then free to view the exhibition of house histories, aerial photographs, old deeds and clips from the Society's DVDs. Pupils from Blackminster Middle School and Prince Henry's High School were on hand to offer assistance with the Badsey website.



Ellie Hardwick demonstrates using the Badsey website Presentation to Project Manager, Maureen Spinks, by Lizzie Noyes

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Local Heritage Initiative for the grant received. Although this is officially the end of the project, in many ways it is just the beginning because there is still so much more to find out about Badsey and Aldington's history. In the words of Winston Churchill, "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."