



# BADSEY *and* ALDINGTON

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Part of the Benefice of East Vale & Avon Villages

FEBRUARY 2026

### LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

I am writing this at the beginning of January as we approach what is supposed to be the most depressing day of the year – 19th January. No idea who decided that and why! But the decorations have been put away for the year, and the weather is dreadful, although I would have liked what the rest of the country seems to have at the moment – snow!

So, this time of year can be a bit of an anticlimax after the excitement of Christmas. It is the time when we naturally look back on the year that is past, as well as look forward to whatever the new year has in store for us. We look ahead and wonder what 2026 might hold for us. For those who have lost friends and relatives this past year, let us hope and pray that 2026 will be a better year and that you will cherish the memories you have.

It's a time for those New Year's resolutions again, too! I can't even remember the ones I made last year, let alone whether or not I kept them! Must do better this year! Each year, we make our resolutions with every good intention, but somehow, as the weeks and months go by, they fade into the recesses of our minds. Most of us fail year after year. But the good news about God is that he doesn't mind if we fail. He helps us to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off...and start all over again, as the song says.

Each day we are given a new opportunity to do better than the day before, to be better people and to help to build a better world. Most of us don't have a very wide sphere of influence, but if we all try to make our corner of the world a better place, eventually all the corners will join up to form a big circle! If only we could get that message out right across the nations, what a wonderful world this would be. (I seem to be speaking in song lyrics this month!)

May God be with you all at the beginning of this New Year, and may you know his blessing, his peace and his love in your hearts and homes. Let's hope 2026 is a good year for us as individuals and for the nations worldwide.

With every blessing,

**Susan**

Retired Priest in the Benefice

### STAY ALERT FOR ONLINE SCAMS

Badsey & Aldington Parish Council has shared a warning from the local Neighbourhood Watch about an email scam currently circulating in the area. The message appears to come from someone you know and often starts with "Got a moment by email?", followed by a request to urgently buy gift cards due to a supposed problem with their bank card. These emails are fraudulent and replying risks exposing your card details. If you're unsure about online safety or would like help spotting scams, our Computer Club sessions, detailed later in this newsletter, can offer friendly, practical support.

### BADSEY SOCIETY FILLS THE BENCHES

**FULLY BOOKED: Trip to the Houses of Parliament!**

We are delighted to say that due to popular demand, the Badsey Society trip to the Houses of Parliament is now fully booked - with a waiting list! According to the Badsey Society, a quarter of its membership has signed up for the trip, which is wonderful.

### Keep your eyes peeled for the next trip!

The Badsey Society organises three trips each year. These are open to non-members as well as members, and we try to choose places that appeal to all interests. So, if you would like to know more, keep an eye on the Community News, or contact Shirley Tutton on **07740 286941** or [shirleytutton@talktalk.net](mailto:shirleytutton@talktalk.net).

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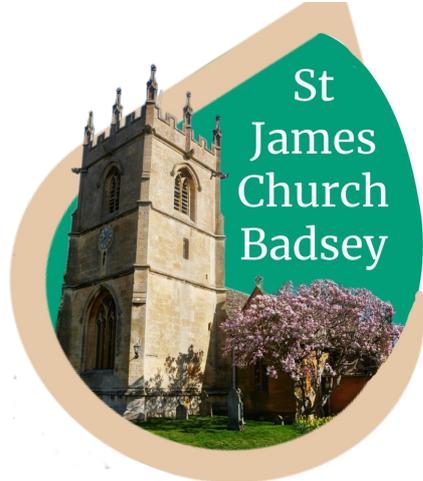
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# St James Church Badsey

## Churchwardens:

**Mrs. Elizabeth Bolland MBE**

Tel. 830638 Email: bollandelizabeth22@gmail.com

**Mr. Chris Smith**

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**



East Vale and Avon Benefice

Services for February 2026			
	9.30am Service	11.00am Service	Other Services
1st February Candlemas	Badsey Eucharist	Bretforton Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist	
8th February 4th After Epiphany	Bretforton Eucharist	South Littleton Eucharist	
15th February Sunday Before Lent	Offenham Morning Praise	Badsey Eucharist Cleeve Prior Morning Praise	7pm Cleeve Prior Taizé
18th February Ash Wednesday			7pm Cleeve Prior Ash Wednesday Eucharist
22nd February 1st Sunday of Lent St Milburgh		Offenham Matronal Benefice Eucharist	

Please note that Messy Church will not be taking place in February. Apologies for any disappointment this may cause.

Do keep an eye out for the March copy, where we will share details of the next scheduled Messy Church date. The Church will look forward to welcoming you then.

## Special Services - December 2025

**Baptisms** Badsey Phoebe Parkes  
Cleeve Prior Matilda Green

## Weddings

**Funerals** Badsey Anthony Hewlett  
*or committal* Offenham Robert Dixon  
*of ashes* Cleeve Prior Tony Farmer

## Regular Events

**First Sunday of the Month Time for Tea 2.30pm to 4.00pm St. Mary & Milburgh Offenham:** Come and join for tea and cakes.

**Mondays in term time 8.45am to 11.00 am Drop In at St. James Church Badsey:** Primarily for adults with pre-school children. Free cuppa toys music and a chance to chat

**Wednesdays 10.00 to 12.00 Gardening Group St. James Badsey:** Join us for churchyard maintenance or just for a chat and a cuppa and a biscuit

**First and Third Wednesdays of the month 10 to 12 Basement Cleeve Village Hall:** Tea and cakes and time to chat all welcome

**First Thursday of each month Coffee Morning St. James Church Badsey:** Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat

**Knit and Nat:** for times and venue, Nina Ward 01386 830399

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## **PUTTING THE HEART INTO OUR COMMUNITY**

February is often thought of as the month of love, traditionally associated with romantic love. But it also provides an opportunity to celebrate all forms of love, kindness, care and connection. Love comes in many forms, and in Badsey it can be seen all year round in the way residents support one another and take part in village life. Whether it's volunteering, joining a local group, attending an event, or simply looking out for your neighbours, getting involved is a wonderful way to show love for your community.

There is always plenty happening locally, so keep an eye on Community News and our Facebook page, Badsey & Aldington Community News, for details of upcoming events and opportunities to take part.

St James Church also plays an important role in village life, offering a welcoming space for all residents and hosting activities, services and groups that bring people together. While part of the wider East Vale & Avon Benefice, many of its events and services take place right here in Badsey and are open to everyone. You can find out more about St James Church and its activities via the benefice website:

<https://eastvaleavon.com/>.

This February, as well as celebrating those closest to you, why not think about what it means to love your community and get involved in the events and groups that make Badsey such a special place to live.

## **THE GERMAN PARTNERSHIP – VISIT FROM GERMANY 2026**

23–27 July 2026 – **Save the dates!** We're on the lookout for friendly hosts to help make the visit extra special.

Our Worcester Diocese has enjoyed a partnership with churches in Magdeburg, Germany, for over 25 years. The link originally began with one district around Magdeburg and gradually grew to include other areas, now forming part of the Evangelical Church in Central Germany (EKM). Our Benefice link started in 1998 with churches in the Halberstadt-Ost district, covering villages such as Wegeleben, Kroppenstadt, Hausneindorf, Emerleben and Schwanebeck.

Over the years, the partnership has grown into a warm and lasting friendship, celebrating milestones such as 20 years in 2018 with a visit to Germany and the planting of a tree, and 25 years in 2023 with a special service at South Littleton Church led by the Archdeacon of Worcester. The aim of the partnership is to promote friendship, shared worship, and understanding between our churches, building links between communities across borders.

Visits take place on a three-year cycle, with host families welcoming guests, daily worship in both English and German, and trips to local sights and attractions, both secular and religious. These visits have provided wonderful opportunities to experience German culture, faith, and village life, as well as to form lasting friendships.

If you would like to get involved, take part in the partnership, or volunteer as a host, please contact Alex Christison at [xtison13@gmail.com](mailto:xtison13@gmail.com).

You can read more about the partnership here: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/ekm-magdeburg-germany.php>

**QUIZ NIGHT!**  
A Fundraiser for Badsey Flower Show!

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### The Badsey Society

#### AGM and Presentation of the Tony Jerram Award

Friday 6 February 2026 at 7.30 p.m.  
Badsey Community Sports & Social Club



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## THE HYADES

There is little doubt that the night sky during the winter is magnificent, and if we are lucky enough to get a clear night, which will undoubtedly be very cold, it can be relatively easy to navigate our way around the starry heavens.

During the early evening in February, Orion can be easily recognised in the southern sky. If you follow a line from the three stars that form the belt of Orion, you will find a red/orange star that is part of a roughly triangular, cheese-shaped wedge pattern of stars. These stars are part of an open cluster of stars known as the Hyades.

Only the brightest stars in the Hyades star cluster are visible to the naked eye, but a pair of binoculars or a small telescope will show many more. There are over 100 stars forming a roughly spherical group or cluster. The members of the Hyades cluster exhibit a diverse array of spectral types, with a predominance of red dwarf stars and several notable giant stars.

The centre of this group is roughly 150 light-years away, and the stars are all roughly the same age. Most of the stars are relatively young, estimated to be around 625 million years old, compared with the 4.5-billion-year age of our Sun. The brightest member of the group, Aldebaran, appears to be part of the cluster but is actually a foreground star, about 50 light-years away, much closer to us than the main cluster members. This red/orange star is an expanding giant nearing the end of its life, and as it expands, it also cools. At present, its radius is about 45 times that of the Sun.

The core of the cluster, where stars are the most densely packed, has a radius of 8.8 light-years, and the cluster's outer radius, where the stars become more influenced by the gravity of the surrounding Milky Way galaxy, is 33 light-years. Examining the chemistry of the stars in the cluster, they appear to contain more heavy elements than the Sun. This is significant because the best model we have for stellar formation is that the very first stars consisted of hydrogen and a little helium. These first stars were large, hot and short-lived, and during their final moments as supernovae, heavier elements were created.

The presence of these elements in the chemistry of later stars indicates that the stars are second or even third-generation stars. The solar system, with its planets and asteroids, exists because of earlier stars that created the very stuff they are made from. As the stars in the Hyades cluster contain a higher percentage of heavy elements than the Sun, it is likely that they were formed (in part) from the ashes of several generations of earlier stars.

It is well worth taking a few moments to enjoy this spectacle of the night sky, even on a cold February evening. It is relatively easy to spot the part of the night sky that contains the Hyades cluster, and a pair of binoculars will show its magnificence.



## 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, and take place on alternate Mondays in the back room of The Wheatsheaf, starting at 10:30 am and lasting about an hour and a half.

The topics we look at come from questions from those attending. During January, we looked at how to get the best from different storage devices such as pen drives and hard drives. During February, we plan to continue answering questions about the basics and how to work safely online.

**We shall meet on:**

- Monday 9th February
- Monday 23rd February
- Monday 9th March

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

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## ASK THE HISTORY MAN: Badsey Shops (Part Two)

In 1897, Elijah Crisp opened a Post Office at the newly-built 28 High Street. Previously, but only from 1891, the Post Office had been at Blenheim Cottage in what is now Old Post Office Lane. It was formerly known as the Old Road and had probably been so described since 1815, when this ceased to be the route from the village to join the Bretforton Road at Hither Green, and a new road was created from the Manor House through Synehurst. The journey from Badsey to Evesham was thus shortened by 420 yards.

Last month's article referred to Jane Jinks' shop, but looking at the 1901 Census of Population, it seems that this venture had by then ceased. Eliza Knight's shop was still open, but it could not have survived for much longer, as she died in 1906. John Poole, at one time landlord of the Royal Oak, was at Laburnam Villa in 1901, where he was in business as a butcher. In 1906, Horace Wheatley used the parish magazine to announce that he had opened a butcher's shop in Badsey. This was at The Poplars, a house demolished many years ago (see photograph on page 88 of A Brief History of Badsey and Aldington, 2nd edition).

Around this time, Mrs Clara Warner opened a general shop in Belmont Terrace. Her husband, Edwin, a Badsey market gardener who was, incidentally, one of the founder members of Badsey Rangers Football Club and its first honorary secretary, was about 18 years her junior. Among the goods stocked by Clara were picture postcards, a large variety of sweets, bananas and other imported fruit and, on Thursdays and Fridays only, fresh tripe. The shop appeared to have closed by 1911.

Other grocer's shops soon appeared - not necessarily all at the same time, as the dates are uncertain - but all before the outbreak of war in 1914. Mrs Sarah Hutchings was in Chapel Street, running her shop from the front room of her house (now no. 15). Then there was Tommy Knight, nicknamed 'Diddymus', in the High Street, where he sold, according to a parish magazine advertisement, 'tobacco and cigarettes of the choicest brands in great variety'. He was followed by Frederick Salter, who had 'a stock of reliable boots and shoes to suit gardeners'.

*To be continued...*

**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.**

## Jane Neill's Nature Notes...

February is the month nature scrapes the barrel for food before Spring replenishes the larder. I have been regularly birdwatching in my garden recently, giving me an insight into the variety of birds and the pecking order as they feed. The water in the pond and birdbath is vital for bathing and drinking, while the vegetation provides shelter from predators and rest between activities.



I've spotted birds I would have missed, such as blackcaps, chaffinches and goldfinches feeding on the seed heads. I have a healthy flock of sparrows, blackbirds, robins, dunnocks, a wren and even a thrush sneaking in. Blue tits, great tits, a coal tit and occasionally a family of long-tailed tits are a joy when they descend on the peanuts.

The mallus tree has borne varying amounts of crab apples across the years, providing valuable nourishment in hard times for fieldfares and blackbirds. This year, the branches are bent and bowed with the greatest crop and covered in wood pigeons! The scourge of farmers and gardeners alike for their greed, I watched in amazement as they swallowed crab apples whole time after time. Then one afternoon at dusk, I spotted a mouse. Now that was a surprise!

## DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY...

CG Dance Club is hosting a Valentine's Day Dance in Badsey on **Saturday 14th February from 8-9.30pm**. Suitable for complete beginners through to experienced dancers, it's a relaxed and friendly evening for anyone who enjoys dancing. Tickets cost £7.50 per person. For more information or to book, contact CG Dance Club on 01386 123 456 or email [info@cgdanceclub.com](mailto:info@cgdanceclub.com). Further details can also be found at [www.cgdanceclub.com/contact.html](http://www.cgdanceclub.com/contact.html).



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## **BADSEY TO FINALLY GET THE SIGNAL?**

An update recently shared by the Badsey & Aldington Parish Council may be of interest to residents. The Council has been working with Atlas, a mobile telecoms mast provider, in response to long standing concerns about poor signal in the village.

The Badsey Club was identified as a suitable site and contact was facilitated with the Club Chair to progress the proposal. Although the process has taken nearly two years, the Parish Council has thanked the Club Chair for their continued efforts. Subject to final arrangements, the mast could be operational by the summer.

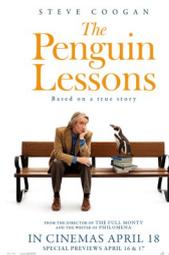
## **GOT A STORY FOR US?**

Whether it's a news update, a funny anecdote or a photo of something happening in the parish, we want to hear about it! If there's something you'd like featured in a future issue, please email us at [badseycn@gmail.com](mailto:badseycn@gmail.com) or message our Facebook Page.

## **BADSEY FILM CLUB**

The date of Badsey's Film Club is changing and moving to the second Saturday of each month. This is because of Peter's highly successful "Small Plates" nights in the restaurant!

Therefore, our next film will be on **Saturday, 14th February**, starting at 8 o'clock in the back room of the Wheatsheaf.



We will be showing:

### **The Penguin Lessons (12)**

A 2024 comedy-drama film starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce, where a disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in a school in a divided Argentina in 1976 finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin.

Date for Your Diary: The following month's film will be 'The Amateur'. It will be shown on **Saturday, 14th March at 8pm**.

An American action thriller that follows a CIA cryptographer, who manages to blackmail his agency into training him to go after a group of terrorists who killed his wife in London.

Everyone is welcome and **entry is free**, but we ask for an annual donation of £5.00 to cover our running costs. For more information, contact Alan Tutton on 01386 831539.



## **A BRUSH WITH CREATIVITY FOR BADSEY BELLES**

Following a lovely and well-attended festive meal at the end of 2025 at the Round of Gras, the Badsey Belles kicked off 2026 with our January meeting, where we heard from local artist Hayley Reynolds about her work, the techniques she uses and her journey to opening her own studio in Blackminster.

Hayley (very cleverly!) painted a beautiful piece whilst speaking to us and offered tips to members who had questions about their own work. It was a really interesting evening, and we are now looking forward to visiting her studio to take part in some of her workshops.

Looking forward, we are finalising our programme for 2026/27, and details will be released soon, so watch this space! **Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 4th February at the Remembrance Hall, when one of our community first responders will be running an important workshop on CPR and using defibrillators.**

All women over 18 are welcome, and tickets for visitors will be £10 (cash paid on the door). If you have been thinking about joining or are looking for a new hobby in 2026, this is a great time to come and see what we are all about!

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



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## **LOOKING AHEAD: SHIRLEY TUTTON ON THE FUTURE OF BADSEY FLOWER SHOW**



Following the retirement of Gordon Boon, Shirley Tutton has been appointed as the new Chair of Badsey Flower Show! We sat down with Shirley to discuss her new role.

### **How did you first end up in Badsey?**

“I’m native to North Yorkshire, and I lived there until university in Guildford where I met Alan, my husband. Alan got a job at Wood Norton in 1983, and that’s when we moved to Badsey. We spent a year doing the house up and had children, but I didn’t know anyone and there wasn’t much to do. Then I did a playgroup leaders course at Evesham College.”

### **Do you feel you found your place here after that?**

“Yes! There was only Mrs Goldstraw’s nursery here then and house numbers were growing, so I started another playgroup and toddler group at the village hall. By this time my daughter was at Badsey School, and I was on the PTA. I also childminded and was a non-teaching school governor. In the early 90s, Headteacher Jerry Hughes asked me if I wanted to start TA work at the school, for children with learning difficulties – and I enjoyed it!”

### **How long were you there for?**

“Until 2012, when my granddaughter was born and my husband wasn’t well – it was like life was telling me to slow down! I took an early retirement, but I was always on the hunt for things to do with the children. I still went into school to read with them until Covid. Helping children was a big part of our lives, and I loved it!”

### **When did you join the Badsey Flower Show?**

“In 2014, Gordon and the committee appealed for helpers, and Alan and I joined in 2015. I took over directing the stallholders from Adrian Barradell and became Secretary in 2021. I like to be busy and organise things, but I get just as much pleasure out of watching other people enjoy themselves.”

### **You clearly like to be busy! How do you spend your downtime?**

“I enjoy listening to music – heavy rock, prog rock, bands like Yes, and I also like Chris Rea. I also love to read; I like everything from historical non-fiction and autobiography to humorous fiction like The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman...and anything by Bob Mortimer!”

### **How would you describe your time on the Flower Show Committee so far?**

“It’s been a real journey, particularly looking after the stallholders – it’s gone from a small handwritten list to quite a large spreadsheet now! And what’s available is more diverse; it’s been amazing to see how it’s evolved! There’re more craftspeople out there now, as it’s become a more fashionable way to shop. When I took over from Ade, he was into ethically produced products, and that’s what’s important to shoppers these days.”

### **Now, as Chair, where do you see the Show going?**

“My main vision is to continue the Show’s success. We have an excellent committee, but we always need new people and helpers – even if it’s an hour or two. I’d also like to develop the Show so it continues entertaining the whole family for the whole afternoon. I’d love to see a wider partnership with village groups and societies, which we’re already starting to achieve. Every person in the village should feel welcome to participate however they want to. The Flower Show is for everyone, so we like to get everyone involved in any way we can. It’s a balance between having exciting things to watch and celebrating the heritage of the area, and I think we’ve done that well previously. Gordon is a hard act to follow, but I hope to keep the momentum going.”

### **Any final remarks?**

“I may be from North Yorkshire, but Badsey is my home now and I wouldn’t be anywhere else. It’s a lovely place to live; it took me a while to become part of the village when I first moved, but I believe the people of Badsey are very friendly helpful, and it’s a true community that lives here.”

### **BE PART OF OUR NEXT FLOWER SHOW!**

*We can’t wait to be back for our 123rd year! If you’d like to be a part of the show this year, as a volunteer, a stallholder or as entertainment, don’t hesitate to get in touch with us!*

For more information, contact us at [info@badseyflowershow.co.uk](mailto:info@badseyflowershow.co.uk) or send a message to our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/Badseyflowershow/](https://www.facebook.com/Badseyflowershow/).

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## 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 18th February**

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  
Badsey Community & Sports Club  
Badsey Church Bell Ringers  
Badsey Church Flower Guild

Marcelle Wilks 07776 300 959  
Sue Brooks 01386 830 867  
Tom Sandham 01386 834 070  
Julie Gardner 01386 832 007

## Organisations, Institutes and Societies

The Badsey Society  
Women's Institute

1st Badsey Scout Group  
1st Badsey Guides

Cafe Freedom  
Messy Church  
Slimming World

Shirley Tutton 01386 831 539  
Lucy Close  
[badseybellessec@wfedwi.org.uk](mailto:badseybellessec@wfedwi.org.uk)  
Adam Johnson 07510 042 307  
Siobhan Guyll  
[badseygirlguides@gmail.com](mailto:badseygirlguides@gmail.com)  
Tracy Hemming 01386 830 043  
Penny Christison 01386 830 367  
Bridget 07534 133 228

## Sports and Entertainment

Badsey Film Club  
Badsey Flower Show

Evesham & District Air Gun League  
Evesham Archery Club  
Model Engineering Club  
Evesham & Badsey Hockey Club  
Badsey Sea Shanty Group

Alan Tutton 01386 831 539  
Rosemary Smith  
[info@badseyflowershow.co.uk](mailto:info@badseyflowershow.co.uk)  
Ian Davies 01386 450 86  
Ian Trout 01386 831 509  
Roger Cull 01386 831 933  
Mark Watts-Jones 07973 963 539  
Bob Smith 01386 830666 or  
07972671622  
Lesley Dingley [ladingley@gmail.com](mailto:ladingley@gmail.com)

## Local West Mercia Police Neighbourhood Officers

[Alexandra.prentice@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:Alexandra.prentice@westmercia.police.uk),  
[ben.trowman@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:ben.trowman@westmercia.police.uk)  
[luke.harris@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:luke.harris@westmercia.police.uk)

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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