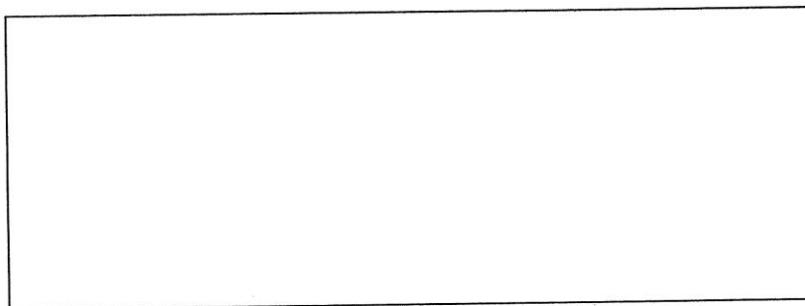


## A Message from the Membership Secretary

May I thank the majority of our members who have paid their annual subscriptions. If you have paid and have not yet received your new membership card, and it is not attached to this newsletter, then please let me know. If you have not yet paid, and wish to remain in the Society, then please let me, or any of the Committee (see below), have your subscription. Membership fees are being kept at a nominal rate to encourage as many people as possible to join. But we do need to be able to cover our costs. If you live outside Badsey or Aldington then please include a SAE for your membership card.

The annual subscription charges are:-

£1 per adult — 50p per child — £2.50 family membership



## Committee Members

Terry Sparrow <b>Chairman/Treasurer</b>	36 Brewers Lane, Badsey	01386 833368
Maureen Spinks <b>Secretary</b>	The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey	01386 831154 history@badsey.net
Will Dallimore <b>Membership Secretary</b>	30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey	01386 831012 Will@badsey.net
Marion Allen <b>Committee Member</b>	15 Willersey Road, Badsey	01386 831512 matopika@hotmail.com
Tony Jerram <b>Committee Member</b>	Harrington House, 8 High Street, Badsey	01386 830941 aljerra@lineone.net
Richard Phillips <b>Committee Member</b>	4 High Street, Badsey	01386 831112 Richard@badsey.net
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**SOCIETY**  
**BADSEY**  
**SOCIETY**

**Newsletter**  
**No. 4**  
**April 2003**

Welcome to Newsletter No 4 and the second year of The Badsey Society, which we hope will be as successful as the first.

## Round-Up of Society Events — January to March 2003

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2003 The Annual General Meeting was held at Badsey First School, followed by an informal event based on the 1901 Census. Around thirty people attended and Terry Sparrow was elected as the new Chairman.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2003 Over sixty people attended a talk on house history. Elizabeth Howard from the Worcestershire Record Office had been due to talk but, due to illness, was unable to attend. Instead, at short notice, Committee members Tony Jerram, Richard Phillips and Maureen Spinks stepped into the breach, Tony speaking about architecture, Richard about the history of the Manor House, and Maureen about houses that existed at the time of the 1901 census. It is hoped to reschedule Elizabeth's talk at some time in the future.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2003 Three people took us up on the offer of assistance at looking at their own house history. As well as helping to decode some of the documents, we were able to introduce Society member Rosemary Cook to another Society member, Doreen Moore (née Ballard), who had vivid memories of Rosemary's cottage over 70 years ago when her Grandmother lived there.

## Future Society Events

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2003 Badsey First School Summer Fete, "Development of the Village", which will include a display of work by Badsey First School children

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2003 Exhibition at Badsey Flower Show

September Archaeological Field Walk

Autumn Quiz Night

Autumn/Spring Rescheduled House History talk

## A History of Badsey Schools — The Society's Next Major Publication

Following on from the success of Terry Sparrow's book, *A Brief History of Badsey and Aldington* (over 700 copies have been sold in seven months), The Society plans to publish a book in 2004, with the working title *A History of Badsey Schools*. 2004 has been chosen as the publication year in order to coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> foundation of the school. The school was first known as The National School and was based at what is now The British Legion. It was then called Badsey Board School, then Badsey Council School, then Badsey County Primary School and now Badsey First School.

If you attended the school at any time during its history and have some reminiscences to share, or photos or mementoes (e.g. a concert programme, school newspaper), please contact Maureen Spinks. Any photo borrowed will be scanned and returned to you promptly.

## Asparagus — A Celebration of its History in Badsey

Production of the video, "The Story of Asparagus", has begun. On 16<sup>th</sup> March, Emma-Jane Wheatley, who has kindly agreed to be responsible for the filming, met with members of the Society's committee on the land of Mr Ron Heeks at Bowers Hill, where Ron, together with Mr George Keen, demonstrated the planting of asparagus crowns (roots) and also spring cultivation of the beds. A further session is proposed during the cutting season, possibly during late May.



In keeping with the Society's 'in house' policy is there any Society member who could compose some title music for the asparagus video. All we need is a short original tune that can be used at the start and end of the film. If you have an idea then please contact Will Dallimore.

## Archaeological Field Walk

A hastily arranged field walk took place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April at Under Badsey. This meant that a lot of the Society's members could not be informed of the walk, however for those members who missed out this time a second walk on the same ground, or elsewhere in Badsey, is planned for the autumn.

The South Worcester Archaeological Group (SWAG) who organised the walk will be holding a 'washing session' when the finds, which included Roman coins and British Romano pottery, will be cleaned and examined. Details of when this evening has been arranged will be put on the local village notice boards and on the Badsey website. It is hoped that the finds will be displayed on our stand at the School Fete and the Flower Show later in the summer.

## American Property-Dealer buys Badsey's Blacksmith's Shop

Before you start spreading rumours around the village, we are NOT talking about the present day, NOR are we talking about the present day Blacksmith's Shop. So — who, what, where?

The date is 1877 and the Blacksmith's Shop in question was attached to two thatched cottages (demolished in the 20<sup>th</sup> century) which were situated close to the lych gate in Chapel Street. The Oldaker family were blacksmiths in Badsey for nearly a hundred years. Richard Oldaker had bought the property in 1774; this then passed to his son Samuel and then on to Samuel's son, Richard. Richard died before his mother and, in 1861, we find that his aged mother, Elizabeth (well into her eighties), and his Aunt Mary, were carrying on the trade of blacksmith. Samuel died in 1839 and his son, Richard, inherited the property and business, but his wife, Elizabeth, could continue to live there for the rest of her life; after his wife died, his two daughters were to receive £45 each. Little did Samuel know that firstly, the only grandson that he knew about (Richard, born in 1835) would die in 1855, his son Richard would die in 1860, and his wife would live on until 1866, dying at the age of 90. Richard the son had married for a second time and, in 1856, had a son, John. After Elizabeth's death, the property was held in trust until John Oldaker attained the age of 21 in 1877. A hefty mortgage still remained (having had to pay £90 to Samuel's daughters), and John was now working as a groom for Alfred Berrington of Chicago in the United States, so presumably had no interest in the business. John therefore sold the property, and his employer, Berrington, decided to buy it for £120. He did not own it for long, however, as, less than a month later, he sold it at Public Auction for £160! It was no longer used as a Blacksmith's Shop after that, as by then, Francis Thistle, and then the Hardimans, had established a Blacksmith's Shop at what is now "Greystones", 12 High Street.

We are indebted to Society member, Anna Tucker, for donating the documents related to these premises, together with documents relating to Sharps Row (also demolished). A fuller report may be seen on the Badsey website, [www.badsey.net](http://www.badsey.net). These documents will be on display at Badsey First School Summer Fete, but will then be given to Worcestershire Record Office for safe keeping. If anyone has a photograph of any of these properties before they were demolished, please get in contact with Maureen Spinks or Richard Phillips.

## Quiz Night

The Badsey Society quiz team were victorious at the recent Badsey First School Quiz beating 18 other teams to get the first prize of Easter Eggs. Captained by Terry Sparrow, the team included Carolyn Worth, Marion Allen and John and Will Dallimore. The quiz-master for this entertaining evening was Adrian Hough. Our next newsletter will have details of a Society Quiz this autumn.