

The Badsey Society Committee Members 2004

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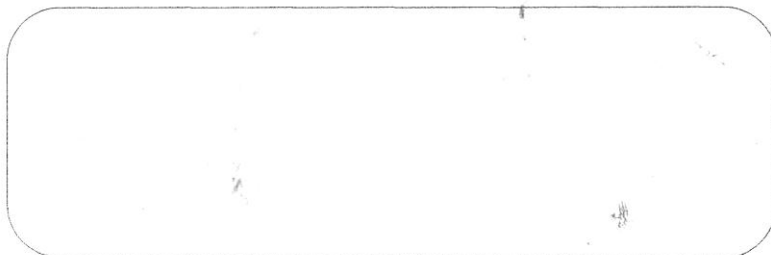
Any Author Business...

The Society has now produced two excellent books, both written by Society members. Could you be the author of its next publication? If you have an idea for a book which would appeal to a local audience then please let us know.

And Finally...

If you have not paid your Membership Subscription for 2004, please do so as soon as possible. The cost is £1 per adult, 50p per child, or £2.50 family membership.

Please do not send cash through the post. Cheques should be made payable to: The Badsey Society. Please send or hand your membership fee to The Membership Secretary, Will Dallimore or, if more convenient, to another Committee member who will forward your membership fee. If you live outside Badsey and Aldington, please enclose a SAE for your membership card.



Summer is at last here! Many of you may be away over the school summer holiday, but if you are around, please come and support the village walk next Friday (see details overleaf). By the way, a big thank you to all those who paid their overdue subscriptions. Current membership now stands at 145.

Round-Up of Events from May to July 2004

Another successful exhibition at **Badsey First School Summer Fete** on Saturday 19th June 2004, which included a visitor from Scotland, Society member Margaret Crawford (daughter of Lily Keen of Badsey), who was holidaying in the area.

An **Open Committee Meeting** was held at Harrington House on Wednesday 7th July 2004 to amend the Society's constitution. The need for doing this was because, as the Society is acquiring more assets, and because we are putting in for further lottery funding to finance future projects, our constitution needs to show what would happen to the assets in the event of the Society winding up. (Just to reassure you, your present Committee still has plenty of energy, and we don't foresee the Society winding up in the foreseeable future for lack of support! However, bodies such as Local Heritage Initiative whom we are applying to for funding, need to be certain that their money would not be wasted.) It seems hard to imagine now, but the Society was formed only two years ago and our assets then were minimal. Now we are accumulating items such as large display boards for exhibitions and a mini-disc recorder for making oral history recordings. A copy of the amended constitution may be viewed on the Society's web pages at www.badsey.org.uk/Society or, if you do not have access to the internet, by contacting the Secretary, Maureen Spinks.

An excellent **Flower Show**, both for the Society and the village. The Flower Show Committee are to be congratulated on organising such a splendid event when there were fears, just a few months ago, that it would not be able to continue because of lack of support. As we saw by visitors to the stand, the Show is patronised not just by the village, but by people from the wider community. People from far and wide come to visit this well-established event (including the great-nephew of Charles Binyon, who came by train from Oxford and then cycled to Badsey from Evesham Station!). It is encouraging to see that a number of Society members, both young and old, entered for and won prizes in a variety of classes. Please support the Show by entering lots of classes next year.

Future Events in 2004

- Fri 6th Aug Village History Walk** following part of the route of the 1901 census enumerator. The enumerator was Walter Warmington, landlord of *The Bell Inn* and he began his census of Badsey by walking along the High Street and down Mill Lane. Information sheets will be available to tell you who lived in the various houses in 1901. Meet outside the *Manor House* (No 4 High Street), Badsey at 7 pm; finish at *The Wheatsheaf*.
- Sat 25th Sep School History Book Launch**
(by invitation only, to subscribers of the book)
- Fri 12th Nov Lecture on the Civil War in Worcestershire** by Malcolm Atkin, with particular reference to the Vale of Evesham

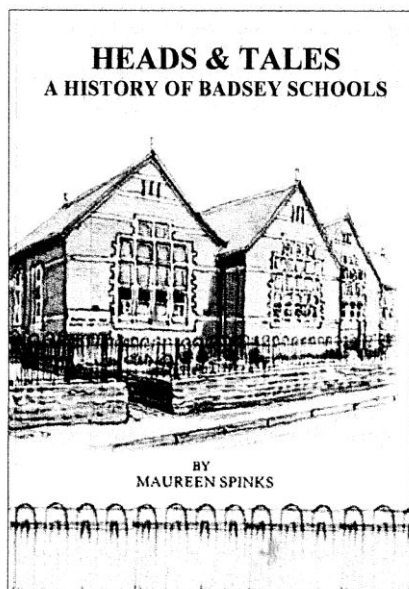
A History of Badsey School

Heads and Tales: A History of Badsey Schools. You will be pleased to know that the book at last has a title! The last date for pre-publication subscriptions has now passed, but there will be plenty of opportunities for you to buy a copy of the book after the publication date at the end of September. 258 copies have already been sold. Everyone who has subscribed will shortly receive an official invitation to the launch on 25th September.

The book is 192 pages long and contains many photographs, illustrations and examples of children's work. Letters by two nine-year-olds, Dulcie Jelfs and Hilary Crane, written in 1933 will appear in the book, together with their photograph.

The letters are just two of a series of letters written by Badsey schoolchildren in 1933 for the Rothamsted Research Institute in Hertfordshire. Many of the letters were broadcast on the radio to describe life in a market gardening community to the general public. The full set of letters may be viewed at the Worcestershire Record Office (Reference BA 12821), or on the Badsey website, www.badsey.net/letters.

In order to give you a flavour of the letters, we have an extract from one by Kenneth Ellison (1920-2002), father of Society member Jane Thompson, on the next page.



"I very often help my father on the ground. One of my favourite jobs on the ground is hoeing the spring onions just as they are coming through. I help my mother to tie the onions in bunches after they have been pulled. When the plum season comes round, I help my uncle to pick the plums. My uncle goes up the ladder to pick the plums off the top of the tree while I pick the plums off the low boughs. My father grows two crops on the same piece of land each year. When he has dug the ground after pulling the spring onions, he plants the young sprout plants in rows about a yard wide. As soon as my father has planted the sprouts I go along behind him and water them if it is a dry season. In the winter as soon as the sprouts are fully grown, my father and some more men go and pick them. If they can pick them soon enough, they try and get them to the market before anyone else, and draw the best price for their sprouts.

My big brother works at the Littleton & Badsey Growers, a very big market gardening firm. They sell all kinds of manure to dig into the ground such as ammonia, horn and hoof manure, potash and other manures of different kinds.

My father's foreman has a big plantation of plum and apple trees. Last year my father stayed out till half past nine at night picking the plums or they would have rotted on the trees. There were hundreds of pots of plums wasted or rotted on the trees because there were so many they would not sell at a decent price. Last year my mother made 40 jars of jam because there were so many plums. The worst thing about market gardening is that the gardeners have too much work to do in the summer and not enough in the winter."

Does this 1933 letter by Kenneth Ellison (aged 12) bring back memories for some of our older members? I warmly commend all the letters to you, so do look at them on the website. Over 70 years later they provide a fascinating insight of life in a market gardening community. What the children have to say comes across with great clarity and is often funny, surprising or moving.

Badsey School – 150 Years

The celebrations have already begun to commemorate the founding of the National School in Badsey in 1854. On 27th April, the schoolchildren went into the playground to hear a special peal of bells. "Badsey Surprise Major", a full peal of 5056 changes rung in 2 hours 43 minutes was dedicated to Eve Bent, a former School Governor, local Councillor, choir member and Society member, who died in February 2004. The celebrations continue with the launch of the book on 25th September, at which a painting by Michael Barnard, will be unveiled. Badsey First School will be opening its doors to the general public for an Open Day on Friday 22nd October, 9.30 – 12. This will be your chance to come and see what school is like in the 21st century. In the afternoon former pupils will be invited to a tea-party at the school at which there will be a cake to celebrate the 150th birthday.