

Membership Subscriptions for 2005 are due now. The cost has been maintained at £1 per adult, 50p per child, or £2.50 family membership. We appreciate that some of you have already paid your subscription for 2005; if this is the case, please ignore this message.

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 a Committee member who will forward your membership fee. If you live outside Badsey and Aldington, please either provide us with your email address or enclose a total of four SAEs so that your newsletter can be sent.

Committee Members

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Newsletter
No 12
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Easter has been and gone and the Society's latest project has been launched. You should recently have received the special project newsletter No 2, "The Development of Badsey and Aldington since 1807", delivered through your letter-boxes with the Parish Newsletter, but brief details appear below.

Round-Up of Events January to March 2005

The Annual General Meeting took place on Friday 11th February 2005 in Badsey Remembrance Hall. Terry Sparrow, after two very active years as Chairman, decided to step down (although retaining the post of Treasurer). Will Dallimore was elected as Chairman in his place and Maureen Spinks remains as Secretary. The current Committee was re-elected; Liz Dyer was co-opted to the Committee at the first meeting followed the AGM. The formal part of the evening was followed by a talk by Terry Sparrow on Enclosure Maps, as an introduction to The Badsey Society's new project. We all learnt a lot about how the surveyor went about his task in measuring and drawing up a map of the village, and felt much more confident about acres, roods and perches by the end of the evening!

It was encouraging to see, yet again, a large number of people assembled at Badsey First School on Friday 11th March for the Society's launch of its latest project, "The Development of the Parishes of Badsey and Aldington since 1807". This project has been funded by Local Heritage Initiative and has enabled copies of the 200-year-old Enclosure maps for Badsey and Aldington to be copied. We hope that you will enjoy viewing them in the Remembrance Hall and the parish church.

Future Events

Saturday 11th June – Badsey Society Marquee at **Badsey First School Summer Fete** with special exhibition entitled, "The Development of the parishes of Badsey and Aldington since 1807"

Saturday 23rd July – Badsey Society stand at **Badsey Flower Show** with special exhibition entitled, "The Development of the parishes of Badsey and Aldington since 1807"

Friday 29th July 7 pm – **Village Walk** in Aldington, following the route of the 1901 census enumerator

Badsey Pig Club

Hands up those who know anything about the Badsey Pig Club? If you do, then we'd like to hear from you. In the 19th century, virtually every household kept a pig. By the 20th century, fewer families in Badsey kept pigs, but those that did formed themselves into an organisation called the Pig Club. The main purpose was that if someone had the bad luck to have his pig die, he got compensation from the Club. The organisation also allowed members to buy certain feedstuffs, not easy to obtain in war-time. As far as Terry Sparrow recalls, the Pig Club fell into abeyance shortly after the Second World War because there was no longer a quantity of pigs being kept and people were more prosperous. For those of our members who lived in Badsey or Aldington in the 1940s or earlier, please send us your memories, or take time to complete the following survey. Please hand your results to Terry Sparrow.

- Did your parents keep pigs?
- Where were they kept?
- Did your family belong to the Pig Club?
- Tell us anything you know about the Pig Club.

To get you in the mood for writing, here are some excerpts from Flora Thompson's classic tale, "Lark Rise to Candleford", set in an Oxfordshire village in the 1880s. Badsey parishioners in the late 19th century would have had a very similar experience to that of Flora's youth in the neighbouring county:

During its lifetime, the pig was an important member of the family, and its health and condition were regularly reported in letters to children away from home, together with news of their brothers and sisters. The family pig was everybody's pride and everybody's business. Mother spent hours boiling up the "little tatars" to mash and mix with the pot-liquor, in which food had been cooked, to feed to the pig for its evening meal and help out the expensive barley meal. The children, on their way home from school, would fill their arms with sow thistle, dandelion, and choice long grass, or roam along the hedgerows on wet evening collecting snails in a pail for the pig's supper.

When the pig was fattened – and the fatter the better – the date of execution had to be decided upon. It had to take place some time during the first two quarters of the moon; for, if the pig was killed when the moon was waning the bacon would shrink in cooking, and they wanted it to "plimp up". The next thing was to engage the travelling pork butcher, or pig-sticker, and, as he was a thatcher by day, he always had to kill after dark, the scene being lighted with lanterns and the fire of burning straw which at a later stage of the proceedings was to singe the bristles off the victim.

The killing was a noisy, bloody business, in the course of which the animal was hoisted to a rough bench that it might bleed thoroughly and so preserve the

quality of the meat. The job was often bungled, the pig sometimes getting away and having to be chased; but country people of that day had little sympathy for the sufferings of animals, and men, women and children would gather round to see the sight. The whole scene, with its mud and blood, flaring lights and dark shadows, was as savage as anything to be seen in an African jungle.

Does this description still ring true in the first part of the 20th century? Put pen to paper and tell us!

Whilst on the subject of pigs, did you hear the one about Neil Thould's grandfather? Neil's Gran, Ivy Stanley, used to tell a story about her husband who was transporting a pig in the back of Mr Hartwell's (the village butcher) van during the war. They had killed a pig for a friend (which you could not do in the war) and were coming down Snowhill when Elgar Hartwell rolled the van down the hill and both were badly injured. Gran knew that they had this dead pig in the back of his van, so she travelled over to Snowhill and brought it all the way back to their house, "San Remo", on Bretforton Road! How she managed to do it, no one quite knows how! The pig was buried in the chicken pen and to this day the Police attending the accident had no knowledge of the incident!

Help Required

In response to an appeal for help in the project newsletter, a goodly number of people have offered to help with transcribing the old documents which accompany the Enclosure Maps. Perhaps historical research is not your forte, but what about spending an afternoon four times a year, sitting round the Secretary's kitchen table (with a cup of tea – and biscuits, if you're lucky!) helping to fold the newsletter? There are 1100 households in Badsey and Aldington, so it would certainly be a case of many hands make light work. The next project newsletter is going out at the end of June. If you feel you can help in this way, please contact Maureen Spinks.

Meanwhile, here's a few photos showing some of the ways you can help:



John and Lizzie (in her LHI T-shirt), part of the transcription team



Maureen and Irene holding copies of the Aldington Award Schedules for transcribing



Or join Ian and Neil behind the bar (or help with the washing-up!)