

Committee Members

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DAY SCHOOL ON OLD DEEDS – FREE TO MEMBERS

Badsey Remembrance Hall, Saturday 12th November 2005, 10 am – 3.30 pm

The Badsey Society has been successful in gaining the services of two guest speakers to run a Day School in the village. The speakers will be Robin Whitaker, Archives Manager for Worcestershire Record Office, and Nat Alcock, author of "Old Title Deeds", published by Phillimore. The day will include: introduction to the use of deeds; the main types and forms of deeds; hands-on study session; sources of Worcestershire/Badsey deeds and related documents; final question session. A Day School such as this would normally cost at least £25 per person, but we are pleased to announce that the session is FREE to Badsey Society members. Places on the course are limited so please return the form as soon as possible, together with a £10 returnable deposit (the cheque will only be cashed if you do not turn up for the event).

DAY SCHOOL ON OLD DEEDS

I wish to attend the Day School on Saturday 12th November 2005. In order to secure a place, I enclose a cheque for £10 made payable to "The Badsey Society" which may be cashed only if I subsequently cancel at short notice.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

If you have not paid your subscription for this year, please enclose £1 membership fee per adult or £2.50 for family membership.



Summer is here and the day of Badsey Flower Show is fast approaching. We hope that many members will support this important local event by visiting the Show (and, of course, The Badsey Society stand) and by entering lots of the competitive events. It's too late to organise for this year, but what about having an entry in the Group Class next year? Remember, Tuesday 19th July is entry night. Last year, a number of Society members, including several of our junior members, won prizes. Keep up the good work for this year.

Round-Up of Events April to June 2005

- Once again, the Badsey Society had a Marquee (courtesy of Badsey Scouts) at Badsey First School's Summer Fete on Saturday 11th June. There was a special exhibition entitled, "The Development of the parishes of Badsey and Aldington since 1807", tied in with the Society's latest project. Peter Stewart also kindly provided a most interesting display of Roman artefacts found in Badsey.
- The Society's Local Heritage Initiative project is progressing well (full details have been given in the special quarterly newsletter which has recently been sent out to the whole parish). I hope you all enjoyed reading the reports about Society members, Fred Roberts and Trevor Hockenull, in the July Newsletter.

Future Events

- **Saturday 23rd July** 1 pm – Society stand at **Badsey Flower Show**.
- **Friday 29th July 7 pm** – **Village Walk** in Aldington, following the route of the 1901 census enumerator; there will also be the opportunity to visit the farmyard and barn which were once part of Aldington Manor. At the end of the evening, you are invited to have a glass of wine at Manor Court, courtesy of Gill and Clive Stewart. Meet for the walk at 7 pm at the junction by Manor Court. Why not walk or cycle to Aldington? If you need to drive, please try to share transport as parking is difficult. If coming from outside the parish, a possibility would be to park at Badsey Remembrance Hall and then walk.
- **Saturday 12th November** – Day School on old deeds (see back).
- Other possible events are an Archaeological Field Walk and a quiz.

Follow-up on Badsey Pig Club

No one has been able to tell us about Badsey Pig Club but, not long after the April Newsletter was despatched, Stan Hayes from Birmingham was quickly on the phone. Stan was an evacuee (you can see him on page 100 of "Heads and Tales") and stayed with the Wasley family in Aldington. He said that the Wasleys kept two pigs and, just a short distance from where he lodged, was the slaughter-house. He and five other evacuees used to go and watch the gruesome goings-on. They would watch the throat of the pigs being cut, an extremely bloody episode, or the bullocks being lassoed.

Arthur Savory and Aldington

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us for the walk at Aldington at the end of July. Aldington has quite a separate character to its bigger sibling, Badsey, and is worthy of a special visit. Did you know that village life in Aldington, in the last quarter of the 19th century, was vividly portrayed by Arthur Herbert Savory in his book, "Grain and Chaff from an English Manor"? Arthur Savory, a "gentleman farmer", educated at Harrow and Oxford, was just 22 years old when he became tenant of Aldington Manor in 1873. He farmed there for the next 28 years. On returning to his native Hampshire, he started work on the book, published a year or so before his death in 1921. The book gives a vivid account of farm and village life in Aldington during the period 1873 to 1902. The book has long been out of print but a copy may be downloaded from www.manybooks.net.

Savory's book gives vivid characterisations of a number of his employees, providing a rich source of interest for local and family historians. Generally speaking, Savory does not give the actual name of the many characters he describes but by looking carefully at census returns and parish registers, it has been possible to deduce in most cases who he was describing.

The only person given his full name was William Bell (1837-1894), the Farm Bailiff, who lived all his life in what is now known as Corner Cottage (his great-grandson, Geoff, still lived in the cottage until his death just a few weeks ago). Arthur Savory obviously had a great respect for William Bell as he is the first employee we are introduced to and the character sketch runs to several pages: "*I soon recognised that I had a splendid staff of workers and, under advice from the late tenant, I selected one to be foreman or bailiff. Blue-eyed, dark-haired, tall, lean, and muscular, he was the picture of energy, in the prime of life. Straightforward, unselfish, a natural leader of men, courageous and untiring, he immediately became devoted to me, and remained my right hand, my dear friend, and adviser in the practical working of the farm throughout the twenty years that followed.*"

George Harwood (c1836-1915), the Hop Foreman, is introduced simply as "Jarge". He lived all his life in a thatched cottage (demolished in the 20th century) on the site of current-day "Hillside". "*Jarge was one of the most prominent characters among my men. He was not a native of the Vale,*

coming from the Lynches (sic), a hilly district to the north of Evesham. He was a sturdy and very excellent workman. He did with his might whatsoever his hand found to do, and everything he undertook was a success. The beautifully trimmed hedge in front of his cottage-garden proclaimed his method and love of order at a glance."

Descendants of George Harwood still live in the area. George's great-grandson, Derek Harwood, has just retired as a Governor of Badsey First School. Savory, writing rather pompously in a style typical of a hundred years ago, wrote of his own admission to the Board of Badsey School: "*Jarge was a man of discrimination. When we were forced to inaugurate a School Board on account of the growing difficulty ... all the old school managers, refused to join the Board. Jarge, who was much exercised in his mind as to the possibility of future bad management, came to me and, referring to a proposal to place working-men on the Board, said: We wants men like you, sir, for members; what's the good of sending we dunderheads there?*" After over a century of state education, it is good to know that we are now all more equal.

William Tricker (c1804-1891) was born at Cockfield, Suffolk. He was living in Worcestershire in 1844 when he married Mary Harris at Badsey. It was only after Mary's death in 1877 that, well into his seventies, he moved to Aldington and went to work for Arthur Savory, lodging with Samuel and Amelia Butler at Elm Cottage. "*Old Tricker came to Worcestershire originally with a farmer who migrated from Suffolk. But he was worn out even when he first came to work for me, though as willing and industrious as ever. My bailiff often praised him – for his work was excellent, if somewhat slow on account of his age – and used to tell him that 'All as be the matter with you, Tricker, is that you was born too soon,' which was only too true, for he must have been the oldest man on the farm by at least twenty years.*"

John Emms (c1807-c1885) moved with his family from Bretforton to Aldington about 1840. He lived next to George Harwood. "*My first gardener had been employed at the Manor, when I came, for very many years, and at the end of ten more he was obliged to resign through old age. He had planted the poplars round the mill-pond in his earliest days, and, among other trees, the beautiful weeping wych-elm on the lawn behind the house. The weeping effect he produced by beheading the tree when quite small and grafting it with a slip of the weeping variety, and the junction was still plainly visible. It was asymmetrical and, especially when in bloom, a lovely tree, but as the blossoms died and scattered themselves all over the grass, they worried the methodical old man, and every spring he wished it had never been planted. It had flourished amazingly, and we could comfortably find sitting room at tea for sixty or seventy people at a garden-party in its shade.*"

What a wonderful evocation of life in Aldington over a hundred years ago! So come and join us for a stroll round the hamlet at the end of July and capture the spirit of Aldington.