

Do you remember

Sadly too many memories of local life are lost when people die. Although some do get passed on by word of mouth, they can easily get lost or forgotten. To address the situation, the Society is opening a Memory Bank. Here you will be able to deposit your memories: old memories, new memories, borrowed memories, even blue memories. These will be of great interest to the future generations with all of the credit being awarded to yourselves. (Please note: the Memory Bank is basically a computer database which will hold text, video and sound archives, and scanned images of photos etc. All original material will be retained by its owner.)

To get the ball rolling, the Society is holding a Memorabilia Evening where you are encouraged to bring along something from your past, or your parents or grandparents' past: Uncle Albert's soccer boots in which he once scored for Badsey Rangers or the photo of Auntie Nellie washing onions in Badsey Brook. Then, like a 'poor man's' *Antiques Roadshow*, our team of local experts will analyse, appraise and expound on your item.

If you are fairly new to the area then just bring yourself for an entertaining evening of coffee and chat, interspersed with yarns and anecdotes of days gone by in the villages of Badsey and Aldington. Who knows, this could be the start of your own bank of memories.

The Badsey Society
present a
MEMORABILIA EVENING
at Badsey Village Hall
on Friday 18th November
7.30pm

Bring along your old photos, postcards, school reports, house deeds, sports trophies, newspaper cuttings, agricultural tools or any other interesting items for appraisal by our team of local experts.

Refreshments available.

Entrance Fee:- Society Members FREE, non-Members £1



Autumn is upon us and we are busy planning the programme of activities for the next year. You should by now have received the Society's Local Heritage Initiative project newsletter which is circulated to every house in the parish. This month, Society member Mike Lovatt of Elm Cottage, Aldington, was featured. Our aim is to alternate between Badsey and Aldington and to feature both old and new houses. Plans are already in hand for articles on places such as Green Leys and the Synehurst estate.

Round-Up of Events July to September 2005

Once again, a successful exhibition was held at Badsey Flower Show. It was good to see so many people visit the stand – both Badsey residents and people from further away. A number of Badsey Society members were successful in gaining prizes. Congratulations in particular to the following members for winning special awards:

- Marianne Beddis (Ron Jones Cup for Hanging Basket)
- Lynn Gibson (Mary Lester Memorial Cup for best floral art exhibit)
- Tony Jerram (Will Dallimore Literature Competition Cup)
- Richard Phillips (W Hatch & P Sandford Photography Challenge Cup)

Perhaps the highlight of the summer was the Society's walk at Aldington. Full details have been included in the quarterly Project Newsletter, but suffice it to say we were pleased with the excellent turn-out of around 60 people.



Treasurer Terry Sparrow talks to members about Aldington Manor House.

New members, Clive and Gill Stewart of Manor Court, our hosts at the end of the evening.

Future Events

- **Saturday 12th November 2005** – Day School on old deeds. If you have not booked a place, please contact Maureen Spinks to see if there are still spaces available.
- **Friday 18th November 2005 7.30 pm** – Memorabilia Evening, Badsey Remembrance Hall (see overleaf for more details).
- **Friday 10th February 2006 7.30 pm** – Annual General Meeting followed by talk on horticulture by Tony Jerram and Terry Sparrow.
- Other possible events are an Orchard Walk and an asparagus evening.

Don Dennick, 1923-2005

It is with sadness that we report the death of Don Dennick on 1st October. At Don's funeral, a bugler from the King's Shropshire Light Infantry sounded "The Last Post" in honour of a man to whom the army was very dear, having entered at the age of 15. The flag was draped on the coffin and his medals laid on a cushion. As a veteran of the campaign in Holland, Don returned twice to Holland: firstly in September 2004 for the 60th anniversary of the battle of Arnhem and in May 2005 for the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Holland. We offer our sincere condolences to Esmé and family.

Follow-up on Badsey Pig Club

Following on from Stan Hayes' war-time memories of Aldington Slaughterhouse, Mike Hewlett has provided us with more information about pig-keeping in Badsey. Mike's earliest memories are from the pre-war years. When he came out of school, he used to go up to the old cottage in Brewers Lane where his grandparents lived; they had pigs at one end of the garden, chickens at the other end. Granny would give some left-overs to the young boy and say, "Go and mix that with some sharps." The meal was always known as "sharps" because of the Sharp family (first Jerry, then his son John) who kept the mill at Aldington; anything that was ground up was called "sharps".

During the Second World War, Mike's father leased the strip of land on the south side of Synehurst Crescent by the tributary from Badsey Brook. There was a stone building at the back of the old school where he built a pig-sty (on the site of which is now the lounge of the British Legion). During the war, people had to be in the Pig Club in order to get the pig rations. Each family was allowed a certain amount of meal in return for surrendering the bacon rations (one book for a family of four). It was a very sparse ration, never enough, which had to be supplemented with other things such as potatoes, beetroot, stale bread, but on the whole, it worked out very well.

Usually pigs were killed between November and February. The owner had to get a permit to have his pig killed, then the pig killer came; this was either Elgar Hartwell or George Roberts (elder brother of Society member, Fred Roberts) of Wickhamford. The pig was put on a pig bench (the owner borrowed one from a neighbour if he did not have one himself) and then four or five people held the pig down on the bench whilst its throat was cut. The pig

was then hung for three or four days and the butcher would return to salt it. It was normal in those days for a pig to weigh around 14-15 score (some 21 stone or 130 kg), although the pig usually had a remarkable growth on Sunday mornings once a tot or two of cider had been quaffed!

The Hewletts, in common with most people in the village, stopped keeping pigs after meat came off ration. Mike believes that the assets from the Club were given to the Scout group which had been formed recently. The people who ran the Pig Club were all local men such as Vic Wasley and so they were happy for the money to go to another good cause.

The Parish Council

Did you vote at the recent Parish Council election? Just under 10% of the population of Badsey and Aldington voted and Society member Roger Martin was duly elected. Voting today for a Parish Councillor is by secret ballot, but back in 1894, when Parish Councils were first established by an Act of Parliament, local residents voted by a show of hands. Terry Sparrow tells the story in "A Brief History of Badsey and Aldington" of how an argument ensued. There were claims that some people had held up their hands more than once! Charles Hall demanded an official poll and the Councillors were elected: William Collett, Henry Keen, Tom Marshall, John Mason, William Mustoe, Samuel Johns, Tom Sadler, Julius Sladden and J F Woodward. Over 100 years on, descendants of some of these people still live in the village today.

Prior to the establishment of Parish Councils, local affairs were dealt with by Vestry meetings held in the Parish Church after Sunday morning service. The meetings dealt with church affairs; they also looked after the old, poor, sick, appointed church wardens, sextons and village constables. With the passing of the Act, civil matters became the prerogative of the Parish Council, whilst church affairs became the business of the parochial church councils.

Committee Members

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