

John Grose-Hodge (1928-2007) and Peter Spencer (1951-2007)

It is with sadness we note the passing of two members at the end of last year. John Grose-Hodge was born in Pietermaritzburg but spent most of his childhood in Bedford where his father was Master of Bedford School. John had a career in audio technology, his final job being with the Scientific & Technical Branch of the Department of Health in Russell Square. John moved to Badsey in 1997. He thought he had no previous connection with the village, until he was sent a family tree which showed that he was a very distant relative on his mother's side of Canon Allsebrook, Vicar of Badsey from 1903-1945. Peter Spencer was born at Wednesfield and grew up at Crow Croft Farm, near Leigh Sinton, Malvern. He was a Fire Fighter with Herefordshire & Worcestershire Fire & Rescue Service for 22 years. We wish to extend our sympathy to Irene Grose-Hodge and to Elizabeth, Peter and Guy Spencer.

Seward Road on TV

With all this talk about Harrington House, did you know that part of its former land featured on TV? Numbers 1-6 Seward Road all stand on land which belonged to Harrington House until the 1960s. For Wendy Such, the owner of one of these houses, a colourful addition to her house's history took place in April. A team of designers and decorators descended on her bungalow to give it a surprise makeover for the ITV programme, "60-Minute Makeover". The programme was aired on TV in November, showing video clips of Wendy enjoying a picnic in the Forest of Dean with conspirators Jane Thompson and Yvonne Haynes, whilst Seward Road was turned into a hive of activity. Don't forget to leave a record of the event in your loft, Wendy, so that a future owner of your house in 50-100 years' time will have a fascinating memento of an episode in the history of the house.

Committee Members

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A happy New Year to all our members. Truth really is stranger than fiction. Who would have thought that of all the houses in all the counties in all the country, Tony Jerram, born in Hampshire, would choose to buy Harrington House (below) in Badsey, which had connections with his kinswoman, Hannah Jerram, born nearly a century earlier in London! For the full story, see inside.

Round-Up of Events November to December 2007

- **Friday 9th November, Railway Talk** – Around 45 people assembled at The Wheatsheaf to hear a most interesting talk by John Boynton about the Oxford, Worcester & Wolverhampton Railway: "The Old Worse and Worse - Or Was It?"

Future Events

- Friday 15th February – AGM followed by a selection of photos of the village taken in 1968; 7.30 pm, Badsey Remembrance Hall
- Weekend of 17th/18th May – The 2008 "Badsey Expedition" photographic survey; see inside and enclosed form
- Friday 6th June – Whit Walk, full details in next Newsletter
- Saturday 26th July – Badsey Flower Show
- Tuesday 14th October – Bob Brown of Cotswold Garden Flowers will talk on "Clues in the Landscape"

Worcestershire Photographic Survey - 1968



8 High Street, 1968 © H Burns

In 1968, a team of 19 photographers descended on Badsey to take photos of almost all the houses in the village, some 600 or so in total. One of the photos was of Harrington House which, in 1968, had stood empty for three years and was in danger of being knocked down for housing development. But 40 years on, the house is still standing and is a great asset to the High Street. And, the current-day owner, as you can see in the article inside, found he had a fascinating link with its past!

Worcestershire Photographic Survey – 2008

Forty years on, the number of houses in the village has almost doubled. Our aim is to conduct a comprehensive survey of the village as it is in 2008. Aldington was not included in the 1968 survey, so we wish to ensure that it is covered in this year's survey. The photographs will be retained as a part of a photographic archive and may be used in future publications or on the website as part of house histories.

If you would like to take part in this unique survey, please complete the enclosed form.

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The BBC programme, "Who do You Think You Are?" has awakened an interest in family history for many people. Read on to find out more about the family history of Alistair McGowan and Tony Jerram.



Actor and comedian, Alistair McGowan, featured recently on the popular BBC TV series. Alistair's parents, George ("Mac") and Marion McGowan, taught for many years at Badsey School, and Alistair himself was a pupil there for two years. Mac died in 2003, but Marion still lives in Evesham. Alistair had always assumed that tracing his ancestry would reveal a Scottish connection, but in reality the story was quite different.

It was whilst collecting documentation to register his father's death that Alistair McGowan noticed that his father was described as an "Anglo-Indian". Alistair knew that his father had been born in India, but had assumed that his family had been out there just for a short time. Far from it! They had, in fact, been there since the late 18th century

The reality of the Anglo-Indian lineage came home to Alistair when he saw a picture of his great-grandparents, who looked completely Indian. He was then taken to see a whole branch of the McGowan family he never knew existed who lived in the centre of Allahabad, and discovered that two generations further back, a Suetonius McGowan had married "a Mohammedan woman of nobility". It was Suetonius' grandfather, John McGowan, who first went to India in the 1760s as a soldier.

And the final surprise? John McGowan was from Ireland, not Scotland, as Alistair had imagined. He looked genuinely shocked (realising he'd been supporting the wrong football team all this time!): "I must be Seamus Singh..."



Badsey Society Committee Member, Tony Jerram, has lived in Badsey since 1988. Unlike Alistair McGowan, he thought he knew all there was to know about his family history, as his brother had traced the Jerram family tree back for several centuries. That was until, as part of our ongoing research into Badsey's history, we began looking in detail at the 19th century landowners, and an amazing coincidence came to light.

Tony Jerram lives at Harrington House which was owned in the 19th century by the Appelbee family. Edward Appelbee (1784-1851) had inherited land in Badsey from his great-uncle, Edward Savage, and then, in 1828 (the year in which he married Elizabeth Loxley), had bought Harrington House and the estate later to be known as Claybrook Farm, totalling nearly 100 acres.

Edward and Elizabeth Appelbee had two children, Thomas and Anne, both born in Badsey. Thomas became a bank manager for the Gloucestershire Bank and lived firstly in Tewkesbury and then in Evesham. What first alerted our attention to a possible connection between the 19th century and 21st century occupants of Harrington House was the intriguing name of Thomas' sixth child, Francis Jerram Appelbee. Usually, when a surname appears as a middle name, it means that it was the mother's maiden name. It transpired that Thomas' wife, Hannah, had been born in London, the daughter of John Jerram, a tea dealer. The question was, was she any relation to Tony's ancestors, who were also living in London at the time?

The clue lay in the 19th century census returns. These revealed that Hannah's father was born at Blidworth, Nottinghamshire, and Tony's great-great-grandfather was born at Breaston, Derbyshire. Breaston is just 17 miles from Blidworth, and it did not take the family historians long to make a connection. Hannah Jerram was a close cousin of Tony's great-grandfather.

Sadly, Hannah died in childbirth in 1872 at the age of 34, leaving her husband, Thomas, with six young children. Thomas, too, died in 1879, a year before his mother, Elizabeth Appelbee, who was still living at Harrington House. Hannah and Thomas, and one of their children, were buried at Badsey. Here you can see Tony Jerram beside the grave of his kinswoman.

IN MEMORIAM
EDWARD APPELBEE
DIED DEC. 25TH 1851
AGED 67.
ELIZABETH WIFE OF
THE ABOVE DIED
MARCH 19TH 1880 AGED
82.
THOMAS SON OF
EDWARD AND
ELIZABETH APPELBEE
DIED JAN. 16TH 1879
AGED 47.
HANNAH WIFE OF THE
ABOVE DIED MARCH
11TH 1872 AGED 34.



And the final surprise? Tony realises that a book, "The Jerram Family Pedigree", written over 50 years ago and now with his youngest brother, mentions the Hannah Jerram in question as having married "Thomas Appleby (*sic*) of Tewkesbury". All of which means that the information was lying unrecognised in the family library for all those years!