

Badsey and Aldington 1911 Census

The transcription for Badsey and Aldington will not appear on the Badsey website until the census becomes more widely available (at Record Offices or on www.ancestry.co.uk). With nearly 300 households in 1911, it would cost us quite a tidy sum to try and access all the details at the moment. But, as soon as it does become more readily accessible, we shall be advertising for volunteer transcribers – so watch this space!

Harrington House – Wanted, one careful owner to love and cherish

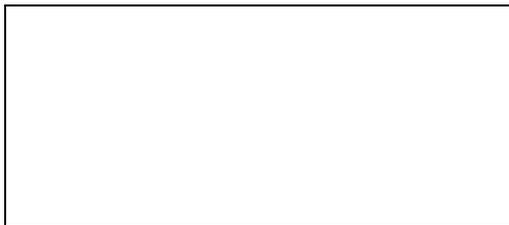
It seems incredible, but it was only a year ago that we featured Harrington House and the strange coincidence of Tony Jerram's connection with the Appelbee family who had owned the house a century earlier. Now Tony is dead, resting in Badsey churchyard not far from his kinswoman, Hannah Appelbee, and Barbara Jerram wishes to downsize. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in buying this Grade II listed building, please contact Barbara on 830941.



Photos: Peter Stewart

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Happy 2009 to all our members. Apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter, which has been delayed through illness. If you, like me, have been suffering from seasonal sniffles, at least we can take comfort from the fact that it's probably better to be ill in Badsey in 2009 than the Badsey of 200 years ago – read inside for more information.

The Society will be seven years old in February, and what an action-packed seven years it has been. With two books, two DVDs, a tea-towel, and a set of computer DVDs already under our belt, we have the Society's next publication to look forward to in April. We hope to see lots of you at the launch in April (see enclosed form).

Round-Up of Events October to December 2008

- Tuesday 14th October – 36 people turned up for an entertaining talk by Bob Brown of Cotswold Garden Flowers entitled “Clues in the Landscape”. From how to find his nursery, to looking at hedgerow plants for clues, Bob kept us entertained in his own individual style.
- Friday 21st November - Badsey First School reverberated to the sounds of the '60s when nearly 150 people crammed into the School Hall to view photographic slides of the village taken in 1968 and 2008. To set the scene, Will and John Dallimore had compiled 24 No 1 hits from 1968 to get people in the mood. The photos formed part of a photo survey of the village undertaken on 26th May 1968 and repeated 40 years later by a 24-strong Badsey Society team. Alison Kelly of Summerfield Cottage won the raffle prize: a framed photo of her house in 1968 and 2008. The audience left to the tunes of “Congratulations” and “Those were the Days”, taking with them two computer DVDs containing some 1500 photos of Badsey and Aldington taken in 1968 and 2008. If you missed out on the evening, but would like to buy copies of the DVDs, there are still a few available, price £3. Please contact Maureen Spinks on 831154.



Back row: Robin Neill, David Jack, Jeff Nice, Mike Gwynn
Front row: Mike Lovatt, Virginia Pawlyn, Lizzie Noyes, Paul Green
Eight of the photographers showed some of the photos they had taken, comparing them with the same view in 1968. A whistle-stop tour of the village took in Aldington, The Parks, Blackminster, and most parts of Badsey. It is interesting to note that none of the speakers (with the exception of Will Dallimore who made the opening Chairman's speech) hailed from Badsey. Most have made their home in Badsey or Aldington in the last 20 years or so.

Future Events

- Friday 13th February 2009, 7.30 pm, Remembrance Hall – AGM, coffee and biscuits, followed by some short illustrated talks on aspects of Badsey.
- Saturday 25th April 2009, 7.30 pm, Badsey First School – Launch of the next Badsey Society publication (see enclosed form).
- Friday 5th June 2009 – Annual Whit Walk.
- Saturday 25th July 2009 – Badsey Flower Show.

The Badsey Society – who are we?

On the evening of the Photographic Survey Slide Show, a survey was undertaken to find out who we are. Of the people who responded to the survey, 73% of the attendees were Badsey Society members. Taken overall, whilst 44% of attendees were born in Worcestershire, only 18% were born in Badsey, going down to 14% for Badsey Society members. The majority of people present were over 50 (87%), those in their sixties being the predominant age group, and there were slightly more women than men. Given this age profile, it is unlikely that many of us will be around to see what the village will be like in another 40 years' time!

Deaths in Badsey, 1785

In September 2008, Robin Parkes from Sussex, whose Brittain ancestors lived in Badsey at the end of the 18th century, contacted the Badsey website. John and Martha Brittain had eight children, four of whom died in 1785, all between September and November. Robin looked at burials 1781-1789 and discovered that there was an average of 11.7 burials per year, yet in 1785 it rose to 33. He then plotted the numbers for 1750-1805. He found that this seemed to have been a unique event and wondered if the village archives might reveal the cause of this particular epidemic. Being "a nosy retired GP", he thought he would ask rather than speculate.

We were able to tell him that the answer was probably in an article, "Badsey suffers from a volcanic eruption" which appeared in Newsletter 19, January 2007. You may recall that the eruption of Laki in Iceland began in June 1783 and lasted for eight months, having dire effects, not only in Iceland, but all over Europe. Some 23,000 people died in Britain as a result of the extreme weather conditions; a toxic cloud was resident for two to three years after the eruption and led to, or accentuated, the extremes of heat and cold.

Robin's response to the article was: "The explanation fits very well. Infections were common and many diseases we regard as trivial now were lethal then. A population stressed by cold and starvation for two years becomes very susceptible to relatively trivial disease. Catch a cold, goes to chest, die of pneumonia. But in those days mumps, measles, scarlet fever, TB and many other infections were common. If you were rich you would do better but my family were probably at the very bottom of the socio-economic ladder so four out of eight of their children died. Looking at the pattern of deaths I would imagine that an infection spread round killing people in sequence. There are no burials in April, May and June 1785 and a new sequence starts in July with a peak of ten in September. I wondered if somebody had travelled in and started an outbreak of something like smallpox." I guess we shall never know, but it is interesting to try and understand the reason for the rise in deaths in 1785.

The 1911 Census

Do you ever get the feeling that someone's got one over you? At a recent Badsey Society Committee meeting, that well-known technophobe, Terry Sparrow, casually announced: "Did you know that you can see the 1911 census?" Well, no, as a matter of fact, us so-called expert internet users, did NOT know that you could yet see the 1911 census! It transpired that Terry's step-son, Richard Cudd, had had the good fortune to be offered a free advance trial of using the census online. Here you can see Terry's 8-year-old father, Alfred William Sparrow, living with his parents and his mother's parents. And just to show that Terry's family haven't always lived in Badsey, take a close look to see where Rose and Alfred Cecil Sparrow were born – Canada and the Isle of Man. How cosmopolitan is that!

1	Joseph Marshall	Head	67	Married		Market Gardeners	Badsey	Worcestershire	1730
2	Bessie Jane Marshall	Wife	77	Married 38	2	1		Worcestershire	
3	Rose Sparrow	Daughter	35	Married 10	2	2		Canada	
4	Alfred Cecil Sparrow	Son in Law	35	Married 10	7	9		Isle of Man	
5	Fanny Cecil Sparrow	Grandson	10					Badsey	
6	Alfred William Sparrow	Grandson	8					Badsey	

Within a week of Terry's pronouncement, the 1911 census for England and Wales was made generally available at www.1911census.co.uk on a pay-to-view basis for an individual household (cost between £2.50 and £3.48, depending on package of credits bought). Within days of the census coming online, we had our first email. This was from Martin Clements of Redditch whose grandfather, Harry Clements, had been a butcher in Evesham. Martin was surprised to find Harry and his wife and children living at Tower View, Badsey, in 1911. The current owner of Tower View, Sarah Pask, kindly allowed Martin and his sister to visit. Sarah has lived in the right-hand half (No 35) since 1989 and took the opportunity to buy the left-hand half (No 33) when the owner, Jim Brailsford, moved into a nursing home a few years ago; it is now a single residence. It seems likely that the Clements family lived in the right-hand side. Sarah said that when she first moved in, she kept on digging up old animal bones. Jim Brailsford said it was because a butcher had lived there in the early days and used to bury the carcasses. So this was most probably Harry Clements who we think worked for Horace Wheatley at The Poplars.

1	Harry Clements	Head	38	Married 13	4	4	Butcher	Worcestershire	
2	Annie Clements	Wife	34	Married 13	4	4		Worcestershire	
3	Alfred Clements	Daughter	6				School		
4	William Clements	Daughter	3				School		
5	William Clements	Son	6				School		
6	Isis Clements	Son	4				School		

The 1911 census shows Martin Clements' 38-year-old grandfather Harry, his 34-year-old grandmother Annie, his 6-year-old father William, and three other siblings. For the first time, the 1911 census also revealed how long people had been married, how many children were born alive and how many were still living. Poor Annie had given birth to eight children, but only four survived.



Martin Clements with his sister, Pam, outside Tower View, January 2009, the house where their father lived for a year, 1910-1911.



Tower View as it was in 1968, probably little changed from when it was built in 1903.