

Membership Fees 2010

When the Badsey Society started in February 2002, membership fees were set at £1 for individual membership and £2.50 for family membership. We have been fortunate during our seven-year existence that we have been able to obtain three grants; this has enabled us to maintain the fees at the 2002 price. However, at the AGM in February, we were asked by several members to look at the possibility of raising the membership fees as there was concern that we might not be covering our normal running costs (newsletter production, hire of hall, speaker costs, etc) out of membership fees. After some consideration, it was decided to increase the membership fee to £2 per person from January 2010. It was also decided to abolish the family membership as this has led to confusion as to what constitutes a family. We hope that you agree that this still offers good value for money and that you will continue to support The Badsey Society.

As a reminder, the objects and aims are: “to promote the understanding and study of the parish and village of Badsey (including Aldington) in Worcestershire, and its surrounding area, past and present. The history, archaeology, folklore, flora, fauna and geology of the area are possible areas of activity. The Society’s activities will include meetings, lectures, education and publication in print and electronic media.”

Wedding Anniversary

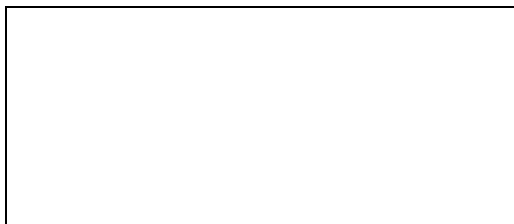
Congratulations to two of our newest members, Bernard and Joan Hewlett, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding recently.

Wanted – Website Editor for Badsey Society pages

Is anyone interested in taking over as Web Manager of the Badsey Society’s pages on www.badsey.org.uk? Experience in web design would be an advantage, but a keen novice could be given tuition. If you think you can help, please contact Will Dallimore on 831012.

Committee Members

Mike Lovatt Chairman	Elm Cottage, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830755
Maureen Spinks Secretary	The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey	01386 831154 history@badsey.net
Terry Sparrow Treasurer	36 Brewers Lane, Badsey	01386 833368
Will Dallimore Committee Member	30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey	01386 831012 editor@badsey.org.uk
Ian Gibson Committee Member	83 Bretforton Road, Badsey	01386 834468
Jane Neill Committee Member	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
Richard Phillips Committee Member	4 High Street, Badsey	01386 831112 editor@badsey.net
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THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY

Newsletter
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The Badsey Society’s third publication - *Aldington and Badsey: Villages in the Vale, a Tapestry of Local History* – is now on sale, so we hope you have all had a chance to buy a copy. As Maureen Butler said in her review in the Vale Magazine, “a fascinating insight into a bygone age – an age of water mills and village blacksmith, of the country squire and manor house, through to the villages at war and the history of the present day council house..... There is much in the book for everyone who is interested in the history of local villages, much to make you ponder and much to make you smile.”

Round-Up of Events April to June 2009

- Saturday 25th April 2009 – Launch of the latest Badsey Society publication (see inside for full report).
- Friday 5th June 2009 – Annual Whit Walk. Well, we knew it couldn’t last, but did it really have to start raining on Friday evening! But, very cleverly, the rain did not start until part-way through the evening, so we had a record number of around 70 people turning up for the annual Whit Walk, which this year was to Aldington. We looked at various locations mentioned in our new book with talks by some of the authors. When the rain started, we made straight for the large Tithe Barn at the back of the Manor where the talks continued. This was a rare opportunity to see inside this historic building as it is not usually open to the public. Many thanks to Mrs Glynda Beames for permitting access and to Mick Taylor for telling us more about the barn. The walk ended at Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington, where refreshments were available, courtesy of Robin and Jane Neill.



Above left: Walking along Main Street to hear more about council housing in Aldington and about Charles Gardiner.

Above right: Here comes the rain! Seeking shelter in the Tithe Barn.

Left: Mick Taylor, who grew up in Aldington, tells us more about the Barn.



Future Events

- Saturday 25th July 2009 – Badsey Flower Show. Once again we shall be having a double pitch at the Flower Show with lots of items on display, so do come and visit us. And don't forget to enter for some of the classes, only 20p a go (children free). Schedules are available in the Spar or may be viewed at www.badsey.org.uk/flowershow. Entries night is Tuesday 21st July, 6-9 pm.
- Thursday 10th September 2009 – Visit to Evesham Library Local Studies section (see enclosed form), 6.30-7.30 pm.
- Friday 13th November 2009 – Talk by Richard Phillips on “DNA and Family History”. Many people have begun tracing their family history but few have used DNA testing to discover more about their ancestry. The talk will explain, in simple language, how DNA testing works and how it can be used to answer all sorts of questions about family history. We would like to hear from anyone who has used DNA testing to research a family in Badsey or Aldington. Please contact Richard on 831112 if you can help.

Donations to the Badsey Archive

The Badsey Archive is steadily growing, the latest addition being 12 books from the collection of Tony Jerram, donated by Barbara Jerram. The books are:

- *Grain and Chaff from an English Manor*, by A H Savory, 1920
- *Worcestershire: A Shell Guide*, by J Lees-Milne, 1964
- *History of Evesham*, by George May, 1845
- *Bengeworth*, by J P Shawcross and assisted by E A B Barnard, 1927
- *The Civil War in Worcestershire*, by J W Willis Bund, 1905
- *The Civil War in Worcestershire*, by Malcolm Atkin, 1995
- *Historic Worcestershire*, by W Salt Brassington, 1894
- *Churches of Worcestershire*, by Tim Bridges, 2000
- *Shut up the Puppets*, by Eva Beck, c 1940s
- *Assigned to Listen: The Evesham Experience 1939-43*, by Renier & Rubinstein, 1986
- *Worcestershire Place Names*, by W H Duigan, 1905
- *The Place-Names of Worcestershire*, by A Mawer & F M Stenton, 1927

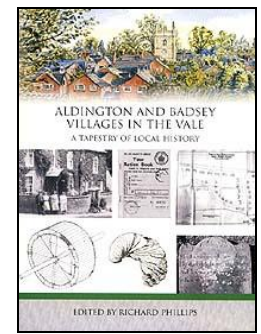
Most of the book titles are self-explanatory, but perhaps *Shut up the Puppets* needs a little more explanation. It is a follow-on from *When I was a Girl*, written by Eva (1884-1965), the daughter of Henry Smith, the proprietor of *The Evesham Journal*, and who grew up in Evesham. Eva married Frank Beck (who appears on the 1901 census for Badsey) in 1911 and had three sons, one of whom, Philip, lived for a short while at The Old Farmhouse, Blackminster, in the 1950s, before moving with his French wife to live in France. Philip died at St Malo in 2007, aged 92; he was the author of a book called *Oradour: The Death of a village (Battleground Europe)*. *Assigned to Listen* is the fascinating story of the BBC Monitoring Service, based at Wood Norton from 1939 to 1943, written by two of the team who listened in to foreign radio networks as part of national intelligence gathering. Tony Jerram, in Chapter 8 of our new book, also refers to Wood Norton's important role during the war when he features Helen Stanton (née Hartwell) of Green Leys who worked there for five years.

Paid-up members of the Society may borrow any of these books (please take very good care, as they are mainly first editions) by contacting Jane Neill on 830301.

Saturday 25th April 2009

Launch of
*Aldington and Badsey, Villages in the Vale:
A Tapestry of Local History*
Edited by Richard Phillips

On sale in the Spar, price £6



Nearly a hundred people turned up at Badsey First School for the launch of *Aldington and Badsey, Villages in the Vale: A Tapestry of Local History*. Our new Chairman, Mike Lovatt, welcomed people to the event and then handed over to the Editor, Richard Phillips. As you all know, the book was the brainchild of Richard and of Tony Jerram and the intention had been for them to act as joint editors. But Tony's sudden untimely death last year meant that Richard continued as sole editor. The book has been dedicated to Tony and the dedication page includes a drawing by Ian Gibson of Tony with his beloved greyhounds. The book contains nine chapters, each chapter by a different author, including Tony Jerram's unfinished chapter concerning the Second World War. Some of the authors gave brief talks about their chapters: Mike Lovatt on Aldington Mill, Will Dallimore on council housing, Ian Gibson on local geology and landscape, Terry Sparrow on Bowers Hill and Maureen Spinks on the village blacksmith. The guest speaker for the evening was David Caswell who entertained us with tales from the forge.

At the end of the talks, Mike Lovatt called upon Barbara Jerram to present the inaugural Tony Jerram Award. This award will be given each year to someone who has contributed greatly to the community of Badsey or Aldington. In future years, nominations will be invited from the community but, this year, the first recipient was decided by the Committee. It was a unanimous decision to give the award to Peter Stewart, who I think you all know has been an indefatigable worker on so many projects connected with Badsey, including the author of one of the chapters in the book.

