

## The Annual Tony Jerram Award

At the Book Launch in April, the inaugural Tony Jerram Award was presented to Peter Stewart. This award is to be given each year to someone who has contributed greatly to the community of Badsey or Aldington. The nominated person (not a Committee member) does not have to live in Badsey or Aldington and does not have to be a Badsey Society member. If you know of a deserving person, please complete the enclosed nomination form and return to any Committee member. The Award will be presented at the AGM in February.



## Membership Fees 2010

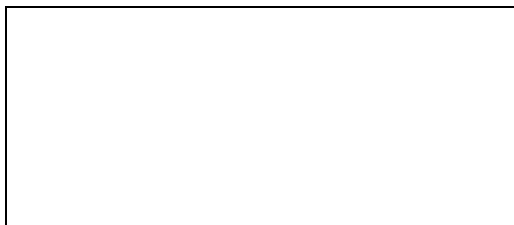
A reminder that subscriptions are due at the start of 2010. The cost for 2010 will be £2 per person.

## Mick Taylor

Mick Taylor has written about his reminiscences of growing up in Aldington. This has been put together in a booklet called "Minty's Tales" and printed by Aldington Residents' Association. Copies are available from Mike Lovatt at a cost of £3.

## Committee Members

Mike Lovatt <b>Chairman</b>	Elm Cottage, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830755
Maureen Spinks <b>Secretary</b>	The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey	01386 831154 history@badsey.net
Terry Sparrow <b>Treasurer</b>	36 Brewers Lane, Badsey	01386 833368
Will Dallimore <b>Committee Member</b>	30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey	01386 831012 editor@badsey.org.uk
Ian Gibson <b>Committee Member</b>	83 Bretforton Road, Badsey	01386 834468
Jane Neill <b>Committee Member</b>	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
Richard Phillips <b>Committee Member</b>	4 High Street, Badsey	01386 831112 editor@badsey.net
Neil Thould <b>Committee Member</b>	1 High Street, Badsey	01386 830160



THE  
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The next Badsey Society event is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November in The Wheatsheaf. Come and find out about exciting new approaches to family history research when Richard Phillips talks to us about DNA (see inside for more details).

## Round-Up of Events July to September 2009

- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009 – Badsey Flower Show. Yet again, we had a large number of visitors to our stand. One person to drop in was "the Lady Thatcher" (aka Mandy Davies) who wanted to know if anyone knew of her namesake, Arthur "Badsey" Davies (no relation), who was a skilled maker of corn dollies and was so-called because he came from Badsey. He is referred to by name in a WI Home Skills' Guide published in 1979. As far as we know, the only person to have lived in Badsey with the name of Arthur Davies was Arthur Edward Davies, the father of "Nurse Davies". Rosalind Davies was district nurse, health visitor and midwife in Badsey for many years and was a former Badsey Society member until her death in 2007, aged 93. Does anyone know if her father was the corn dolly maker?
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – A dozen Badsey Society members took advantage of an invitation from Lesley O'Connell Edwards, the Librarian of Evesham Library, to visit the Local Studies section which has many books and maps connected with Badsey and Aldington's history. Did you know also that with your public library membership card, you can have access, free of charge, to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and Oxford Reference Online. These are subscription sites, paid for by the public library but, as a member, you may log in by typing your library card number into the login box of [www.oxforddnb.com](http://www.oxforddnb.com) or [www.oxfordreference.com](http://www.oxfordreference.com).



Brian Smith, Richard Phillips, David Jack, Terry Sparrow and Doreen Jack peruse the information about Badsey and Aldington.



Jane Neill with Librarian, Lesley O'Connell Edwards, who is showing members what is available on microfilm at the Library.

## Events in 2010

- Friday 12th February 2010 – Remembrance Hall, 7.30 pm. Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Valerie Magan about the arrival of the water supply in Badsey.
- Friday 16th April 2010 – Eve Miles from Earth Heritage Trust will give a talk about the new Geopark Way, a 117-mile trail which runs from Staffordshire down to Gloucestershire. The most diverse part of it runs through our own county of Worcestershire running north-south through the Malverns.
- June 2010 – Whit Walk.
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – Badsey Flower Show.
- Autumn 2010 – The Badsey Archive. A chance to see the wealth of material which has been donated to the Society since 2002.

## Blackminster School's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

On 11<sup>th</sup> September, Blackminster School celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Here you can see some Badsey Society members enjoying the anniversary celebrations which took place at the school.



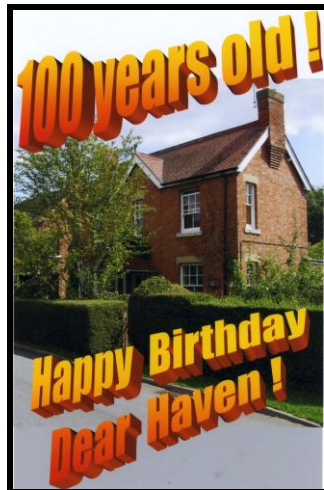
John and June Bird and Muriel Morcombe (née Bird). Muriel was amongst the first cohort of pupils to start at the school in September 1939.



Wendy Beasley (née Tomkins) with her granddaughter, Zoe Hundley, and friend, Eunice Shorthouse (née Hall).

## And The Haven celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

Last year, we reminded people that houses have birthdays, too. Ian and Lynn Gibson celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Cherry House in 2008. This year, it was the turn of Paul and Helen Green to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of The Haven on Badsey Fields Lane. It is possible that Cherry House and The Haven were built by the same builder, having both been built out of the proceeds of the sale of Badsey Manor House after the death of Edward Wilson in 1907. Edward, the son, built Cherry House, and Emma, the widow (Edward's fourth wife and 31 years his junior), had The Haven built on land which her brother, Joseph Knight, owned on Badsey Fields Lane.



*Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009*

*The Wheatsheaf, 7.30 PM*

## *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.*

## STAYING ON AFTER DUNKIRK

*In September, Richard Phillips and Lizzie Noyes received an unexpected visitor to their home – a former occupant from nearly 70 years ago! Here you can see a photo of Margaret Poole (née Thornhill) taken on her visit to the Manor House.*



This September, Margaret Poole visited the Vale of Evesham with her daughter. She was looking for the place where she had lived almost 70 years ago. Her father, Sam Thornhill, was one of the last soldiers to be evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940. He was sent to the Evesham area and stayed on for three months to recover from his injuries. He was joined by his wife Elizabeth and his daughters, Margaret and Joan, who all lived in Sheffield. Margaret could not remember where they stayed but she had one clue: a small, battered, black and white photograph of the house. She took this into the Almonry in Evesham where they had no trouble in identifying it as Badsey Manor House. They went to look at the building and, by chance, met Lizzie Noyes outside, who invited them in to hear Margaret's story.

In the summer of 1940, hundreds of exhausted soldiers, evacuated from the Dunkirk beaches, arrived in Badsey. A few of them remained here for several months. Margaret, who was aged about ten at the time, recalls that there were four or five families staying in Badsey Manor house. The families came from all parts of the country and several of them had children. Margaret remembers a couple called Dick and Irene, and George Donkin from another family, but other names have escaped her.

Although there have been many changes to the house since those days, Margaret was able to recognise the room where she stayed with her sister, and the room next door where her parents slept. She remembered the orchards, which once stood at the back of the house, and playing with other children in the village. She recalled visiting a lady called "granny" who lived in a house, perhaps on Mill Lane, and playing in another house in the village where there was a magnificent doll's house.

The Manor House at this time was in a very poor state of repair. The chimney on the north side had collapsed, making it impossible to use the main kitchen, but there was somewhere to cook food on the south side of the house. We know that a family called Wakefield from Walthamstow were also living in the Manor House about this time. They may also have been caring for a Dunkirk survivor. Perhaps someone remembers other families who were there? After the war, Margaret's family left Sheffield and went to Australia for a few years. They now live in Hampshire.

RP