

entry for 1915. Eliza's great-niece, 19-year-old Kate Witts, gave birth to a living boy in April. The condition of the mother was "quite well" but the condition of the baby was "dead". The Badsey baptism register reveals that the baby, Leonard, was baptised the day of his birth, the note in the register saying, "Ceremony performed by E Stanley, midwife". If your forebear was born in Badsey or Bretforton in the first two decades of the century, you may well find that he or she was delivered by Mrs Eliza Stanley.

Badsey Archive

The Badsey Archive is growing. But, in many ways, we are a victim of our own success. We now have to consider very seriously about the short-term and long-term future of the Archive. Campden & District Historical and Archaeological Society has a Local History Room which it rents in the Old Police Station. We wondered if we could do something similar in Badsey. But does anyone know of a room where we can store our growing archive? Ideally, it should also be a place where members could drop-in at set times (according to number of volunteers) to browse or research. So we are appealing to you, our members, to see if you have any bright ideas about what to do with our growing collection. As a minimum, we would like to find a safe storage place, preferably within the village, where the archive can be kept, rather than being stored in the homes of Committee members. There will be an item on the agenda about this topic at the AGM.

Arthur "Badsey" Davies

Despite appeals in both this Newsletter and Community News, we still have not been able to say with certainty who Arthur "Badsey" Davies, corn dolly maker, was. Anne King, who knew Rosalind Davies (or Myfanwy, as she knew her) very well, did sterling work at Evesham Library trying to track down the current address and phone number of some relatives/friends at Rosalind's funeral the other year, but to no avail. So we still have no definite information to give the Lady Thatcher.

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THE BADSEY SOCIETY

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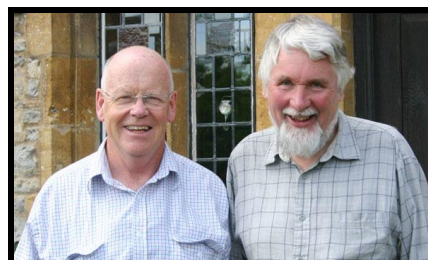


Welcome to a snowy start to 2010. This Newsletter is being compiled with this lovely view (left) from the study window. The streets of Badsey have never seemed so crowded as many people were unable to get to work or the schools were closed. We are lucky to have a village shop and butcher's so that most of our needs can be met within the village. But after the snow has gone, don't forget to keep patronising our local shops!

We begin the New Year with a rare opportunity to visit the Regal Cinema before it opens again in June 2010. Some of you may have read Chris Smith's article in the November edition of Community News. Other Badsey Society members have also visited the cinema, and it was Clive Stewart who rang to suggest that the Society ought to try and arrange a visit to this very worthwhile project. So now is your chance! Then there is our AGM in February where we hope to see as many members as possible present. Details about these events and other happenings are inside the Newsletter. And if you want to become more involved with some of our research activities, please complete the enclosed form.

Round-Up of Events October to December 2009

- Friday 13th November - The main event of this quarter was Richard Phillips' fascinating talk on DNA and Family History. Despite the cold and blustery weather, just over 30 people turned up for the talk. Richard described, in his usual meticulous detail how, by taking a DNA test, this may help you with some of those unsolved queries in your family history research. Through his mother's family, the Wells, he has been in contact with a family who have been in America since the 1620s and whose ancestor was a Thomas Welles, one of the first governors of Connecticut. DNA has proved conclusively that Richard and the Americans are distant cousins, both descended from the same ancestor who lived in a small Warwickshire village in the 16th century. The winner of the raffle was our newest member, Tom Locke of Wickhamford.



Richard and his "DNA cousin", Graham Wells of Australia, on a visit to Badsey in 2006. Richard and Graham know they are related, but just haven't yet managed to work out their exact relationship on the family tree!

Events in 2010

- Saturday 30th January 2010, 2.30 – Tour of the Regal Cinema, Evesham. Here is your chance to see the cinema in its original state and to be conducted round the premises by Laurence Wiper, the manager of the restoration programme. The tour will start promptly at 2.30, so please meet at the entrance to the cinema just before 2.30.
- 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. New Committee members welcome. If you would like to contribute to the running of the society, and want to know what is involved, please don't hesitate to have a chat with any Committee member. The annual Tony Jerram Award will be presented.
- 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.
- Friday 11th June 2010 – Whit Walk, starting at Evesham Abbey bell-tower with a talk by Helen Piper. We hope to finish the evening with a ploughman's supper at Raphael's Restaurant, Hampton Ferry. More details and a booking form will be included in the April Newsletter.
- Saturday 24th 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.



Our Next Project

Just to let you know that we have got lots of exciting plans for 2010-2011. Terry Sparrow is busy writing our fourth publication which will be about the rise and fall of market gardening. Will Dallimore is producing a DVD with a working title of "The Last Market Gardener". To complement these activities, Maureen Spinks will be looking at the 1911 census in detail. A hundred years ago, 78% of households were engaged in market gardening; today the figure is less than 1%. Please see the enclosed form to see how you can help with the project. We are applying to Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant, but we won't know until April if we have been successful.

2010 Membership and Our Junior Members

Subscriptions for 2010 are due; the annual membership per person is £2 and there is no longer a family membership (school-aged children are free). Back in 2002, in the first year of The Badsey Society, we had just seven families who could truly be called family members (ie parents with school-aged children) – the Allen, Gibson, Horton, Smith, Spencer, Spinks and Thould families. In subsequent years, the Pratt, Granger and Westmacott families joined, but that has been the sum total. The years roll by and most of these children have grown up; we have decided to do away with family membership. To all our Badsey Society "children", we wish you well in your future careers. And, of course, if you ever wish to return as full Badsey Society members, you will be most welcome.

Eliza Stanley, Midwife of Badsey and Bretforton

We are extremely grateful to Trevor Hockenhill for extracting information from an early 20th century Midwife's Register which was kept by Eliza Stanley. The register belongs to Barbara Bennett (great-granddaughter of Eliza Stanley) who showed it to Trevor as she knew he would find it of interest. Trevor immediately recognised the importance of this register as it lists the births of 210 babies born in Badsey and Bretforton between 1905 and 1917. You will shortly be able to see the fruits of his labours on the Badsey website. In the meantime, here is a flavour of what has come to light.



Eliza Stanley (née Robbins) was born at Badsey in 1841, the first child of William and Hannah Robbins. Eliza spent all her childhood years in Badsey. She married Samuel Stanley in 1866 and had 11 children (before her marriage, Eliza had given birth to a son in 1860 who had died). Around 1880, the family moved to Bretforton, Samuel's home village, where their last three children were born. It was probably around this time that Eliza began practising as a midwife, although the register does not begin until 1905. The Midwives' Act of 1902 came into effect on 1st April 1905. It governed the training and practice of midwives, making it illegal for any unqualified person to act as a midwife. Eliza, who had had so many confinements herself, and had been acting as midwife for her own daughters and daughters-in-law (Eliza had well over 50 grandchildren), nieces and neighbours for many years, would have had to apply for registration. She also had to start recording the births she attended in a register. Two notes inside the register (probably both written after Eliza's death in 1923) imply that Eliza may have been practising as early as 1875 or 1880.

The first entry in the pre-printed register is for Mrs Alice Slade of Bretforton. From the information recorded, we know that Alice was aged 31, it was her first pregnancy, the midwife arrived on 14th May 1905, a boy was born living at full-term, both mother and baby were "quite well" and the midwife last visited on 27th May. "Dr Drew" has been written in the Notes column, so one assumes that Eliza had had to call the doctor.

During the 12-year duration of the register's duration, Eliza delivered 210 babies. Although the majority were in Bretforton, 37 were in Badsey. Two of these were her daughters, Emma Elizabeth (Lizzie) Knight and Fanny Mustoe. Lizzie had three children and Fanny eight; the last three of Fanny's children (including Patricia, the grandmother of Barbara who now owns the register) were not delivered by Eliza as they were born after she had stopped practising. Then there was her daughter-in-law, Ellen Stanley (née Sears), plus an assortment of nieces and great-nieces. One great-niece was Lottie Caswell, the grandmother of David Caswell. In addition to the relatives, several families who lived on Bretforton Road chose to engage the services of Eliza.

What the register does NOT tell us is the name of the child. Using a little bit of detective work, however, by consulting the baptism registers, the 1911 census and looking at the birth registration index on the Ancestry website, we have been able to work out the names of the children who were delivered by Eliza. There is a poignant