

Pete Smith (1934-2011)

We were extremely saddened to hear of the death of Pete Smith just a few days ago. Pete was a very long-standing member of Badsey & Aldington Parish Council, right up until the time of his death. Until recently, he had been, for many years, a trustee of the Aldington & Badsey Relief in Need Charity. Pete was one of the original Badsey Society members. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Liz and other family members.

Irene Grose-Hodge (1945-2011)

Irene Grose-Hodge moved to Badsey in 1998 and joined the Society in 2002; she was a member of the Enclosure Map transcription team. Originally from Lancashire, Irene was a tutor at the Lancaster School of Nursing. Her husband, John, pre-deceased her.

The Sharp Family of Aldington Mill

Recently, some members of the Committee welcomed two visitors from Lancashire, Peggy and Roger Selby. Peggy's grandfather, John Sharp, and her great-grandfather, Jerry Sharp, had been millers at Aldington. Peggy's mother, Agnes Elizabeth Sharp, known as Elizabeth, was born at The Mill House in 1919. Our Chairman, Mike Lovatt, who is a keen molinologist (one who studies mills) and has written a chapter about Aldington Mill in *Aldington and Badsey, Villages in the Vale: A Tapestry of Local History*, guided Peggy and her husband, plus three Committee members, on a tour of the site of the mill. Peggy has written a short article about her mother for the website which may be viewed at www.badsey.net/history/sharp. If you would like to see Mike in action, he will be at Stanway Mill every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon in July and August.



Peggy and Roger Selby outside Mill House, Aldington, where Peggy's mother was born in 1919.



Our resident molinologist, Mike Lovatt, shows where the Mill once stood.

Committee Members

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THE
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SOCIETY

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Not long until Badsey Flower Show. Remember to come and visit us at our stand where we shall have a double pitch under our new gazebo. To tie in with our Last Market Gardener project, we shall be featuring market gardening families and will have displays relating to the Valuation Survey and 1911 census. And of course, our latest publication, *Digging for a Living* by Terry Sparrow, which was launched on 21st May, will be on sale. For details of the book launch, please see the report and photographs inside.

Round-Up of Events April to June 2011

Evesham Asparagus Festival, Saturday 23rd April - On a very hot St George's Day, Richard Phillips, Lizzie Noyes, Valerie Magan and Terry Sparrow manned the Society's stand in the churchyard by the Bell Tower during a full day of activities at the launch of the asparagus season. Visitors to the stand included Gus the Asparagus and Trevor Harrison, aka Eddy Grundy of *The Archers*.



Gus the Asparagus.



Valerie Magan and Eddy Grundy.

- Whit Walk, Friday 17th June – It was obviously tempting fate to announce that this year's Whit Walk was to have a watery theme. Following one of the hottest and driest springs on record, a period of unsettled weather befell us but, despite this, 28 hardy souls turned up for the walk. We met at the Drinking Fountain (built to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1911 but officially opened a year later) where we were able to look at the workings in the interior. We then embarked on a shortened version of the walk before finishing at The Wheatsheaf for drinks and an impromptu slide show organised by Valerie Magan about the bits of the walk we didn't get to. Thanks also to Will Dallimore, one-time plumber, who gave us details about the plumbing aspects of the fountain.



June 1912 – a hot summer's day with parasols.



June 2011 – a cold, damp day with umbrellas!

Future Events

- **Saturday 23rd July 2011, 1.30-5 pm** - Badsey Flower Show.
- **Saturday 3rd September 2011** - Visit to Hornsfield Nurseries. When you leave Badsey on the Willersey Road, just after crossing the Bullybrook Bridge, there is a huge glasshouse on the left. This is Hornsfield Nurseries where 6 acres of tomatoes are grown under glass using hydroponics. It is run by R & L Holt who are a family-run business using some of the latest horticultural technology. Terry Sparrow gives a short description of the business in chapter 11 of *Digging for a Living*. The visit is limited to 25 people. If you would like to come, please complete the enclosed reply slip.
- **Friday 18th November 2011, 7.30 pm** – Talk by Robin Neill on turnpikes.
- **Spring 2012** – Talk by Margaret Fisher on Charles Randell, market gardening pioneer.

Tools Day

The back garden of 30 Horsebridge Avenue was a hub of activity on the morning of Friday 1st July when some members of The Badsey Society gathered together to have a “tools day”. We have a growing collection of tools which have been donated to the Society but, until now, we have not had the time to record, photograph and identify all the items. We still live in hope that a location will be found in the village for a small museum/archive but, in the meantime, our plan is to create a virtual museum/archive on a special website which is being developed by Will Phillips. Jane Neill took the photos.



John Dallimore dons his decorating overalls to do a spot of cleaning on a two-tine fork.



Meanwhile, that bent figure is Peter Stewart taking a photograph of each tool ...



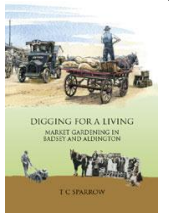
... whilst Maureen Spinks gets on her hand and knees with a tape measure to record the dimensions.



Will Dallimore and Robin Neill look at the cider barrel which once belonged to Tony Jerram.

Digging for a Living: Market Gardening in Badsey and Aldington, by Terry Sparrow

Around 80 people attended Badsey First School on Saturday 21st May for the launch of The Badsey Society's fourth publication. Mike Lovatt welcomed guests to the event and commented that it seemed amazing that a village society such as ours should have achieved so much in nine years.



The guest speaker for the evening was Professor Nick Evans, Professor of Rural Geography at The University of Worcester, who gave an illuminating talk entitled, “Lessons for the Future Whilst Thinking about the Past”. Professor Evans began by showing us some images from the 1940s where the strips in the landscape can be clearly seen; he remarked that one would normally have to go to France to see these strips. He then super-imposed the current pattern showing that the market gardening strips had been wiped away. Professor Evans invited us to consider whether market gardening was sustainable and whether it was likely to make a comeback. He made reference to specific chapters in Terry’s book which he felt provided some of the answers.

Professor Evans then referred to the Chatham House Report, “Food Futures, Rethinking UK Strategy”, February 2009, which gives seven challenges we all face in putting food on the table in the future. Over the next few decades, the global food system will come under renewed pressure from the combined effects of: population growth, the nutrition transition, energy, land, water, labour and climate change. The combined effects will create constraints on food supply and if action is not taken, there is a real potential for demand growth to outstrip increases in global food production. Expectations of abundant and ever cheaper food could come under strain. The UK can no longer afford to take its food supply for granted. Professor Evans commented on how there has been a loss of knowledge, with fewer people having a link to the land. Strawberries are air-freighted from the USA. There are concerns about urban growth, water and running out of oil. What of the future? Tourism is being promoted on the back of market gardening. New methods are being employed to produce food. Whilst Spanish poly-tunnels are making an appearance controversially, there is a site near Margate in Kent, called Thanet Earth, which is the UK’s largest, most hi-tech greenhouse complex, growing tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers with exceptional green credentials.

The evening concluded with Brian Smith reciting his poem about the death knell of market gardening in the Vale.



Far left: Terry Sparrow
Left: Professor Nick Evans
Above: Brian Smith