

Tony Jerram Award

It's that time of year again when we begin to think about nominations for the annual Tony Jerram Award. If you know of someone who you feel is worthy of nomination, please return the enclosed form by 1st January. Last year we had six nominations for the award; if your nominee was unsuccessful last year, please don't hesitate to try again. By the way, Tony's widow, Barbara, is 80 on 27th October. Happy birthday, Barbara!

Wickhamford

Tom Locke and one of our newest members, Val Harman, ran a small exhibition at Wickhamford Fete, held at Hody's Place on 10th September. They showed the 1911 census and Land Valuation Survey and had a few boards with photographs. Tom and Valerie have been doing sterling work collecting as much information as they can about Wickhamford, the results of which may be seen at www.badsey.net/wickhamford. They are focussing on trying to get as many photos as possible of people named in the 1911 census. Tom has also written an article for the website about Wickhamford men in the First World War and there are some beautiful pictures and photographs loaned by Simon Lees-Milne (the grandson of George Lees-Milne who owned Wickhamford Manor). If you have anything which you feel may be of interest, please email Tom at thos.locke@btopenworld.com.

Our Juniors

You may recall that, last year, we abolished family membership and that all school-aged children of adult members would be free. One of our Juniors, Jonathan Spinks, left Prince Henry's High School in the summer. Jon has a place at The University of Nottingham in September 2012 to read Ancient History; he is currently on a gap year in western Kenya, sports coaching and teaching in a primary school. We wish him well in his future career.

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Did you enjoy the unseasonably hot weather at the end of September/early October? It's not normal to be sitting outside enjoying a barbecue on a balmy 1st October evening! Records reveal that 1895 was the last time we had such high temperatures so late in the season. I looked at the School Log Book for 1895 to see if the Headteacher had made any comment about the high temperatures, only to discover that the school was still closed for the harvest holiday. When it did reopen on 4th October 1895, the attendance was not good as so many children were sick – presumably an Arctic front had kicked in by then!

Round-Up of Events July to September 2011

- **Badsey Flower Show, Saturday 23rd July** - Another successful exhibition at this, the 109th annual Flower Show. Business was booming and a new addition to the stand was Peter Stewart's archaeological display. A number of our members displayed a very competitive spirit in the photographic competition. A group of Friday night regulars at The Wheatsheaf vowed to try and win. Feet in all shapes and sizes were photographed, as were items in the other categories, and many 20ps were spent on multiple entries. But in the end, the laurels went to Badsey Society member Jeff Nice. Rosemarie Davies came away with the Will Dallimore Literature Cup and the Henry King Challenge Cup for most points in show. Other Badsey Society cup winners were Ralph and Elizabeth Bolland for the best garden and Derek Crane for most points for fruit. Next year, why not get your competitive green fingers out and enter a prize-winning marrow or other fruit and vegetables?!



Far left: Peter Stewart's archaeological exhibits.

Middle: Jeff Nice, winner of the Photography Cup.

Left: Rosemarie Davies with her cups.

- **Visit to Hornsfield Nurseries, Saturday 3rd September**

Roly Holt of Hornsfield Nurseries welcomed 15 members of The Badsey Society to the impressive glasshouses on Willersey Road. Tomatoes are grown hydroponically (a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions, in water, without soil) on hanging gutters. Well worth a visit!



Future Events

*Friday 18th November 2011, 7.30 pm, The Wheatsheaf
"Turnpikes" by Robin Neill*

The speaker for the evening, Robin Neill, says: "Intrigued by the bus stop 'Badsey Pike' I started to do a little research, and that is always a mistake, you uncover so much information it becomes difficult to know when to stop. So this is a talk, with illustrations, of the journey (forgive the pun) from footpaths to turnpikes."

- Friday 17th February 2012 – AGM, presentation of Tony Jerram Award, and talk, 7.30 pm, Badsey Remembrance Hall.
- Saturday 14th April 2012 – Trip to Stanway Mill, with a special guided tour by our Chairman, Mike Lovatt, molinologist.
- Friday 1st June 2012 – Whit Walk.
- Saturday 21st July 2012 – Badsey Flower Show.

The Red (H)Arrows



Was it Red Arrows or Red Harrows?! Tom Locke's photo (left) of the exciting appearance of the Red Arrows at Badsey Flower Show is complemented by this photo (right) by Peter Stewart of our trusty trio (John & Will Dallimore and Robin Neill) displaying items from our tool collection.



The Women's Institute

A number of our members are also members of the Women's Institute. Doubtless you will be interested to know that a book has recently been published by Shire Publications, entitled *The Women's Institute* by Susan Cohen. Of particular interest to Badsey is that it contains three references to Badsey WI. On page 34, when talking about war-time meetings, it says: "Much more emphasis was put upon practical demonstrations at monthly meetings, with members receiving lessons in first aid or, like the members of Badsey WI, meeting 'Resuscitating Annie' for the first time." On page 49, in the chapter about the post-war period, it says: "On the drama front, new groups sprang up, including the one started by Mrs Daphne Bell of Badsey WI in 1951. Lacking a proper stage, the first performances took place on an improvised construction of trestle-table tops perched on wooden beer crates. Authenticity was crucial, so much so that when, in one play, a part called for a chicken to be plucked, a real chicken was actually plucked on stage."



In addition, there is one photograph, featuring a Badsey WI visit to London in the 1950s. The photograph was loaned by Ivor Martin and appears on page 46 of Susan Cohen's history of The Women's Institute and on www.badsey.net/ophotos. The book now forms part of the Badsey Society library and is available for loan to members.

Sands Lane Hovel



It is possible that there may be a planning application in the fairly near future for development of land in Sands Lane owned by Christ Church College. On that land, there is an unusual old brick shed known as a hovel. If this particular land goes for building, the hovel might be knocked down, but the Badsey Society Committee feels it would be worth putting a case forward for its preservation as very few of that type of building remain today. Richard Phillips has written an article about the hovel for the website, a shortened version of which appears below.

In the Vale of Evesham, market gardeners' huts are called hovels. Unlike a conventional farm with a farm house at its centre, market gardeners lived in village houses and expected to walk or cycle some distance to their different plots of land. Many market gardeners were tenants. In Badsey, when a tenant put up a hovel, he knew he was likely to recover the cost of doing this when his tenancy came to an end. The Evesham Custom gave tenants the legal right to recover the cost of improvements they made to the land, such as erecting buildings and planting orchards.

The hovels were important because they provided a place to store tools and produce. But they were also a place to eat meals and shelter from the rain. In prolonged bad weather, people gathered in hovels to talk and, perhaps for a game of cards. Some hovels had a small fire place and were quite comfortable. In some rare cases men lived in their hovel, particularly if they found life at home intolerable.

Occasionally, thatch was used for the roof. Sometimes a small chimney stack built of brick was added on one side. Unfortunately the older wood and iron hovels have generally deteriorated and been lost. But there were just a few that were built from brick with a tile roof such as the Sands Lane hovel which is still used by Robert Bindoff. He works the adjoining ground called Yew Close that lies between Sands Lane and Bully Brook. Robert is now a part-time market gardener. He grows crops like radishes and runner beans which he sells at the small Bennetts Hill wholesale market. He has made the hovel a comfortable place to work and relax. It is dry, warm in winter and cool in the summer. He no longer uses the fireplace and has an electric convector heater. There is now a telephone and a microwave.

This brick hovel is described in 1913 in the land valuation survey as a "brick and tile shed". There is also a reference to a "wood and iron shed" which could be the building next to it. At that time the tenant was John Keen and the land was owned by the J P Lord estate. There were twelve rows of Pershore plum trees and a glasshouse also stood on the plot.