

sweetcorn (maize) in the garden. Roger vividly recalls a photograph of himself as a nine-year-old standing against the six-foot high maize, but unfortunately this photo has been lost. We are, however, grateful to Roger's cousin, Colin March, for providing a photograph of Mrs March and her grandsons. Roger lived with his grandmother for a few years after Charlie's death in 1942, and greatly enjoyed her stories of life in America, never thinking that he too might one day live there.

Topsy-turvy seasons

In mid-November, Valerie Magan wrote to say: "Along the ancient footpath between Wickhamford church and the silk mill at Badsey, I found at the weekend, blackberry bushes out in flower with a bumble bee busy after nectar. Also, a dog rose out in flower.



According to Collins' *Complete British Wildlife*:

- Bramble - White or pink flowers appear May to August, blackberries mature in Autumn
- Bumble bees - as Autumn approaches, mated queens seek out a place to hibernate
- Dog Rose - pale pink flowers appear June-July; red hips in Autumn



This year, due to unusually dry and warm weather in our area, nature surprises us in November with bushes continuing to flower and insects unwilling to hibernate.

Tony Jerram Award

Many thanks to the eight members who took the time to nominate someone for the annual Tony Jerram award. Who won? I'm afraid you will have to wait and see – all will be revealed at the AGM on Friday 17th February!

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
Valerie Magan Committee Member	21 Sands Lane, Badsey	01386 832100
Jane Neill Committee Member	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
Richard Phillips Committee Member	4 High Street, Badsey	01386 831112 editor@badsey.net
Neil Thould Committee Member	1 High Street, Badsey	01386 830160



**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
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Happy birthday to us – we are ten years old!

One evening at the end of February 2002, 19 people attended a public meeting in the church, the purpose being to discuss a proposal to form "The Badsey Society", with the intention of publishing a second edition of *A Brief History of Badsey and Aldington*. A Society was duly formed with Tony Jerram as the first Chairman, and the second edition of *A Brief History* was published in September 2002. Since then, the Society has gone from strength to strength. We have received four grants, published four books and two DVDs, won awards for our website and our Enclosure Map project; our "Last Market Gardener" Project is still on-going. In 2011, we had 227 paid-up members. We shall be celebrating our tenth birthday at the AGM on Friday 17th February (see over for more details). After the business part of the meeting and the Tony Jerram Award presentation, there will be a birthday cake baked by Badsey Society member, Jane Thompson, and tea/coffee, followed by a slide show and DVD compilation of the highlights of the last ten years. Come and join us at the church on 17th February!

**Round-Up of Events October to December 2011
Saturday 22nd October – King James Bible Talk**

This was not an official Badsey Society event, but is worthy of mention as Terry Sparrow, was invited to give a talk at the church about Badsey at the time of the King James Bible. The church held a special programme of activities over the weekend to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Bible. Terry's talk was well attended and it was fascinating to hear what our village would have been like in 1611. There was an interesting display of items, including an Elizabethan chalice, and various versions of the Bible from all ages. Valerie Magan organised exhibits to go with the talk.



Friday 18th November, From Trackways to Turnpikes

A few months ago, one of our members, Robin Neill, said that he had been doing a lot of research on turnpikes and offered to give a talk to the Society. Never ones to turn down a good offer, we quickly invited him to talk at our autumn meeting. Robin began by saying that, when he first moved to Aldington, he was intrigued by the bus stop 'Badsey Pike', which was when he began his investigations. With his illustrated talk, Robin was soon quickly whisking us along the local tracks and turnpike roads with a veritable store of information. If anyone else has a topic that they have been researching and would be happy to talk about, please let us know.

Future Events

Friday 17th February 2012
10th Annual General Meeting
*7.30 pm, St James Church, Badsey**

Business section of the meeting
Presentation of the Tony Jerram Award
An interval when tea/coffee and birthday cake will be served
An illustrated talk on ten years of The Badsey Society

* Note change of venue

Saturday 14th April 2012, 2.30 pm
Trip to Stanway Mill

Special guided tour by Mike Lovatt, molinologist

We have organised a visit to the ancient watermill at Church Stanway. Dating from the 12th century, the mill has been restored over the last 10 years and is now fully operational. The trip will include a guided tour round the mill, which will be running and producing stone ground flour, followed by a cream tea at the nearby Old Bakehouse Teashop using flour from the mill.

The all-inclusive price is £6 per head (booking essential – please see enclosed form); adequate parking outside the mill.

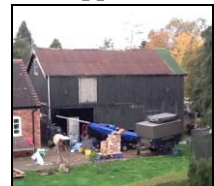
- Friday 1st June 2012 – Whit Walk.
- Saturday 21st July 2012 – Badsey Flower Show.
- Summer 2012 – Launch of our market gardening DVD.

The Badsey Society Committee

Do you fancy becoming more involved with The Badsey Society? We are particularly looking for someone who might take on the role of Treasurer. Terry Sparrow, who has done the job so competently since 2002, has decided to step down (though will remain on the Committee). We need someone either with basic book-keeping skills or an organised mind who can keep our finances in order! It doesn't matter if you have not been a member for very long. New blood is also welcome for ordinary Committee members. If you feel you could take on the job, please contact one of the officers before the AGM.



The Apple Barn at Malvern House



Following our report on Sands Lane hovel, Tim Pinner, who lives at The Little Cottage, thought we might be interested in this photograph of the old corrugated apple barn at the back of Malvern House. The barn is likely to be demolished - a timely reminder that it is important to take photographs of buildings before it's too late. It is worth recording as an example of our market gardening heritage.

The Jones Family in America

International collaboration rules OK! This article has been brought to you by the combined efforts of Maureen Spinks in Badsey, Peter Stewart in Evesham, Roger Savory in America and Colin March in Bredon. The photograph taken in 1951 shows Colin March (left) and Roger Savory (right) with their grandmother, Florence Margaret March, who lived for several years in America with her brother.



It was a simple question from John Haines of Chapel Street to Terry Sparrow. Did we know more about the Jones family who were featured in the October issue of The Last Market Gardener Newsletter? John is the great-grandson of Charles Jones (1837-1914) who was mentioned in the article. What follows is a wonderful example of how teamwork on both sides of the Atlantic can add to our knowledge.

It didn't take long for The Badsey Society to stir into action. Terry Sparrow was puzzled by a reference in Peter Stewart's graveyard survey about a mystery person called Francis Charles Jones who was buried in 1942, aged 80, and wasn't sure how he fitted in; years later in 1975, Florence Margaret March, aged 98, was buried in the same grave. Maureen Spinks became involved and tracked down nine children of Charles and his wife, Anne. Mrs March (née Jones) was the youngest daughter of Charles and Anne. She had been widowed over 70 years earlier, so it was reasonable to suppose that she was in a shared grave with a brother. But Charles did not have a son called Francis; the closest contender was Charles Frederick Jones, whose birth had been registered at Evesham in 1860 but had disappeared from the census after 1881. Next stop, Peter Stewart, to see if he could throw any light on the mystery. Peter spent a morning on the microfilms at Evesham Library looking at the Journals for 1942 and came across an obituary for Francis Charles Jones, confirming that he was the son of Charles Jones and brother of Mrs March.

In the meantime, Maureen contacted Roger Savory who has lived in the USA since the 1970s and whom she knew to be the grandson of Mrs March. Some of our older members may recall Roger as a young lad at Badsey Council School in the 1930s. Roger was a mine of information and was able to fill in some fascinating details about Great-Uncle Charlie, as he called him. Early in 1891, Charlie emigrated to America and settled in the town of Warren in Eastern Ohio, having found gardening work on the extensive parkland estate belonging to William D Packard of the Packard Motor Company. At Packard Park, Charlie extended his wide knowledge of horticulture and eventually became Park Superintendent in 1911. Charlie was a few years away from retirement when his wife died in 1929; since both he and his youngest sister, Florence Margaret March (known as Margaret), were widowed and living alone, he invited her to Warren to keep house until his retirement. It was understood that they would return to England when Charlie retired since, as he often used to say, he wanted to "lay his bones in the Old Country".

Margaret and Charlie returned to Badsey for good in 1937 and 1938 respectively and set up home in a newly-built semi-detached house on School Lane (present-day No 17) which was named Packard House (after the park in America). Roger Savory recalls driving with his father to Southampton to pick up Charlie from the *Queen Mary*, going on-board the ship and doing some "exploring". Back in Badsey, Charlie experimented with growing