

British Newspaper Archive – Yet more sheep-stealing

Talking of sheep-stealing, nearly 200 years after the incident in 1651 with John White, Badsey residents were still being accused of sheep-stealing. This article appeared in *The Worcestershire Chronicle* of 30th December 1840:

Benjamin Pethard and Charles Davis (two well-known characters residing, with their families in the same dwelling at Badsey) were on Monday committed by Dr Beale Cooper on suspicion of stealing a sheep from the fold of Mr John Humphries, of this town, in the night of Wednesday last. On discovering that the sheep had been slaughtered, and the carcass carried off, Mr Humphries gave information to Inspector Arton, who was speedily on the trail of the supposed thieves. Previous to the completion of his plans, some persons amusing themselves on the Avon on Christmas Day discovered what they supposed to be a sheep under the ice, but which proved to be the skin of Mr Humphries' sheep, the ice having evidently been broken to allow of its being put into the river. The following day the Inspector and Policeman Baylis searched the house at Badsey where they found nearly equal quantities of salted mutton in the possession of each family, together with two legs partly eaten. The officers also found a hand saw and about a bushel of peas supposed to have been stolen from Mr Thomas Sheaf of Offenham, and about four bushels of malt.

The outcome of the case is unknown. We are grateful to Richard Phillips for drawing our attention to the website, www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk, which is the home of The British Library Newspaper Archive. This is a partnership between the British Library and brightsolid online publishing to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from the British Library's vast collection over the next 10 years. Why not try putting in the name of one of your ancestors and see what pops up. You never know what they may have been up to in the past! If the area of the country in which you are interested is not covered as yet, keep checking in the future. If you find an article that may be of interest to you, you can buy a 2-day pay-to-view package for £6.95 which seems very reasonable.

John White accused of Sheep-Stealing (article on page 2)

The case was dismissed; the jury obviously could not find enough evidence against White.

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THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY

Newsletter
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Round-Up of Events January to March 2012

Friday 17th February – AGM



A big thank you to all who joined us for our tenth birthday celebrations in February. Over a quarter of our membership (64 people) attended the AGM in St James Church. Mike Lovatt has decided to step down as Chairman; Maureen Spinks was elected in his place. Valerie Magan takes Maureen's place as Secretary and we welcome our first Committee member from Wickhamford, Tom Locke.

This year's winner of the Tony Jerram Award was George Sangha who has run The Spar Shop in Badsey for the past 15 years. In the words of one of the people who nominated him: "The shop is an asset to the village - and George is the shop's biggest asset. He engages with **all** his clientele, from the youngest child to the oldest pensioner. He remembers the smallest of details, enabling him to have interesting conversations with one and all. On some days, George may well be the only person to converse with some of our more reticent residents. Without George our village would be poorer. He has the capacity to brighten our day; he is proof that one person **can** make a difference. I believe George to be a worthy candidate for this award."



George with Barbara Jerram

Future Events

Friday 1st June, 7 pm

Annual Whit Walk

Park by the Royal British Legion, Bretforton, make your way to the Village Square and meet outside the Fleece Inn at 7 pm

This year's walk takes us along the ancient footpaths of Bretforton, out to Allen Barn and returning to the Fleece Inn via Stoneford Lane and the village dairy farm. The theme is one of ancient and modern history, learning about local Roman times, and how the landscape has changed over the years, to viewing where, at the beginning of the 18th Century, a murderer from Bretforton met a horrid end. At the end of the walk, why not stop for a drink at the Fleece Inn before departing home.

- Saturday 21st July 2012 – Badsey Flower Show.
- September/October 2012 – Launch of our market gardening DVD.

The Badsey Archive

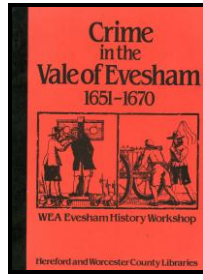
The Badsey Archive team comprising Jane Neill, Maureen Spinks, Jane Croucher, Trevor Hockenhull, Gill Woods, Tony & Avril Wood has been busy cataloguing items for the archive and preparing précis of Parish Magazines and Newsletters in order to assist the search process for the new archive website.



Gill Woods, Jane Croucher, Jane Neill.



Tony & Avril Wood.



A new donation.

One of the latest acquisitions to the archive is a copy of "Crime in the Vale of Evesham 1651-1670", a WEA Evesham History Workshop booklet published in 1987 by Hereford and Worcester County Libraries. In the winter of 1985-86, a group of 14 people met to study quarter sessions records. One of the participants was Shirley Tutton who has donated the book. The book includes a case relating to a Badsey person: John White who appeared at Broadway on 4th April 1651 before Sir William Sambach, JP. He was accused by Edward Bushell of Cleeve Prior of sheep-stealing. When Bushell discovered that the sheep was missing, his enquiries led him to the house of John White at Badsey. White, a butcher, confessed that he sold a leg of mutton to his sister, Mary Bradshaw, who lived at Ruxley in Warwickshire. When asked how he came by the mutton, he said that he had bought it from a country butcher in the house of Richard Horton at Evesham. When asked why he, a butcher, had occasion to buy mutton from another butcher, he said that he had a nine-year-old daughter who was sick and desired to eat some mutton. The case hinged on the testimony of Bushell's servant who claimed that, having discovered that a sheep was missing, he followed the tracks of a sheep to Ruxley Wood, Warwickshire. Two days later he found the blood and entrails of a sheep that had been newly-killed. On searching in Ruxley, he found a loin of mutton in the house of Mary Bradshaw, White's sister. Guilty or not guilty? Find out the answer on the back page.

Jubilee Celebrations

2012 marks the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. Queen Victoria was the only other monarch in the UK to celebrate a diamond jubilee. This occurred in 1897, one year before the start of our Parish Magazine, so we have no report of how the occasion was celebrated. I am sure, though, that there would have been a report in *The Evesham Journal*, so if any of our readers fancy looking through the old newspapers on microfilm at Evesham Library, we would love to hear from you.

For long-term residents of Badsey, please let us know how you remember previous coronation/jubilee festivities. Just a few of you may be able to recall the coronation of George VI in 1937. A number of you will doubtless recall the coronation of our present-day Queen in 1953. To put you in the mood, here is Norman Cleaver's poem about the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977.

BADSEY AT PLAY

Last year as you all know was the Silver Jubilee
A Union Jack was proudly put upon Badsey's tall fir tree
It was put there by three Badsey men on the second day of June
When the village was all quiet and still lit by the silvery moon.

They approached this great fir tall and dark in the night
To stand at the bottom is enough to give you a fright,
But with one thought in mind with flag and with stick
Into the branches sprang Loll, Clint and Mick.

They finally made it and the royal deed was done,
The flag was on high awaiting the sun
With a look on their faces of real satisfaction to reach the
Ground safely was now their main attraction.

This daring deed set the scene and the right start to the day
For the village to celebrate in its own special way.
A day of festivities enjoyed by everyone
Who came to the cricket club and joined in the games and fun.

Six o'clock in the morning three well-known local cooks,
Sam Benfield, David Caswell and the third was Geoffrey Brooks
Were busy at the Jubilee ground where a roaring fire was lit
Soon a pig was roasting as they slowly turned the spit.

Veronica Dore was Jubilee Queen and ruled throughout the day
Whilst her mother in the afternoon for the bunny girls did play,
In their little shorts and bunny ears and powder puffs of white
They played the men at football and the Ref was Ronnie Kyte.

Then the Queen with her attendants, Sarah and Becky, soon began
To tour the village on a lorry willingly lent by Frank and Stan,
They sat there bravely on the back although the wind was raw
Smiled and waved as they passed us by driven by Dave Goldstraw.

Another competition was won at Aldington
Where a prize for the best decorated house was well and truly won
With flags and crowns and bunting it was a wondrous sight
Winners were J Anderson and Arthur Plant our compère for the
night.

The pig was duly roasted and we all stood in a queue
For a little bit of crackling which is very nice to chew.
Ted Wheatley came as Godiva on a horse and borrowed wig
Everyone enjoyed it, except of course the pig!

A first-class meal was being served by the Legion at this hall
When the Queen with her attendants made a very welcome call,
To end the day a disco with flashing lights and noise
Went swinging along till ten o'clock for all the girls and boys.

I hope that these few verses have helped in some small way
To bring back all the things we did on Silver Jubilee Day
Here's health unto her Majesty over us long may she reign,
I hope you all enjoyed the show, cheerio, till we meet again.



The Wellingtonia tree with the flag just visible at the top (for the 1953 Coronation)



Jubilee Queen, Veronica Dore, with Sarah and Rebecca Caswell



Bunny Girls: June Caswell, Sheila Taylor, Ros Grinnell, Daphne Cleaver, Mary Dore, Bet Benfield



Norman Cleaver