

Brian Watkins (1929-2012)

Brian was a proud Welshman, although living much of his life in England. As a child, the family moved to south-east England and on leaving school he trained as an engineer. Art had always been his passion, so when he later trained as a teacher he was able to include it in his work. He was a gifted, if sometimes somewhat unconventional teacher, loved and respected by his pupils. He moved to Badsey where he joined a local art group and was particularly known for his expertise in linocuts. He also judged some of the artwork at the Badsey Flower Show. He and his wife Camilla have been members of The Badsey Society since the beginning. We send her our sincere condolences.

Elizabeth Bolland, MBE

We would like to offer our congratulations to Elizabeth Bolland who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services to young people. Liz was a worthy recipient of the Tony Jerram Award in 2010 in recognition of her long leadership of 1st Badsey Guides and her role as District Commissioner.



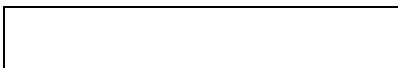
William Barnett Token/Shiner Family Bible

Norman Young of Binyon Close recently donated a market gardener's token to The Badsey Society, which he found when he had the task of clearing out the home of David Barnett who died last year. The token belonged to David's great-grandfather, William Barnett (1858-1921) of Evesham. William had no connection with Badsey but we were pleased to accept the token because of the market gardening link. There was also a magnificent family bible belonging to the Shiner family with a long list of names and dates, which Norman was loathe to throw out. The Shiners had no Badsey connection but, as it was an unusual name, the Ancestry website was searched for descendants doing research. Colin Shiner from Dorset was contacted and was delighted to be offered the bible; he was so humbled by the gift that he offered The Badsey Society a donation.



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THE BADSEY SOCIETY

Newsletter
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As we enter our second decade, The Badsey Society continues to thrive. We would like to offer a warm welcome to new members who have joined us recently. We have a growing membership in Wickhamford and now have our first members from Bretforton.

Round-Up of Events April to June 2012

Saturday 14th April – Stanway Mill

The trip to Stanway Mill was a sell-out with 54 people in attendance. Our very own molinologist, Mike Lovatt, was on hand to give tours of the Mill which has been lovingly restored over the last decade. Because of the large numbers, we split into two groups, with one group touring the Mill first and the other group visiting the gardens of Stanway House where the fountain was in action. The afternoon was rounded off with a cream tea (scones made with flour from the mill). Mike's book, *The River Isbourne: In the Service of Mankind*, had just been published and was available for sale, as was flour from the mill.



Friday 1st June – Annual Whit Walk

Ian Gibson and Valerie Magan were our leaders for this year's walk at Bretforton. Ian spoke about Stoneford Lane which was once an important Roman Road, most likely used for transporting grain to the River Severn at Tewkesbury. The last working farm in Bretforton, run by the Appleby family, could well have been a farm site going right back to the Iron Age, when circular thatched structures were lived in. Valerie provided visual aids whilst explaining how Allen Barn, once a large threshing barn from c1650, now stands abandoned, a complexity of refurbishment and changes to suit newer farming methods; photos of the barn's interior were provided by Tom Locke. A gruesome spectacle took place at Allen Barn in 1708 (www.badsey.net/places/bmurder). The evening was rounded off with drinks at The Fleece Inn.



Future Events

- **Saturday 21st July, 1 pm, Recreation Ground** - Badsey Flower Show. Come and visit us at our stand – and don't forget to enter for the classes!
- **Monday 1st October, 10.30 am, The Regal Cinema, Evesham** – Launch of The Badsey Society's latest DVD, "The Market Gardener". Relax in the magnificent surroundings of the newly-refurbished cinema, restored to its 1930s' Art Deco glory, whilst watching Will Dallimore's fascinating film. Don't delay in sending off the form enclosed with this Newsletter.
- **Saturday 1st December, 7.30 pm, Badsey First School** - A History of Badsey in 100 Objects and Launch of the new Badsey Archive and Museum Website.

Jubilee Celebrations



On 3rd June, Wickhamford celebrated the Diamond Jubilee with a 'Big Lunch'. For The Badsey Society, Tom Locke and Val Harman laid on a display looking at previous celebrations in Wickhamford, including photographs, newscuttings and objects from the years 1919, 1935, 1937, 1953 and 1977. The top picture shows one of the mugs which was presented at The Sandys Arms to village children by Mr Frank Banner to commemorate the end of the Great War in 1919. The bottom picture shows the mug presented this year to several hundred Wickhamford children.

The Hive

Maureen Spinks, Valerie Magan and Tom Locke were invited to a preview tour of The Hive in Worcester City Centre. This is the exciting new library, archive and history centre for use by students and the public. It has been ten years in the making and came about due to the vision and commitment of two key partners, The University of Worcester and Worcestershire County Council. The Hive plans to hold tours for history societies in the autumn, so watch this space.



Boxing Day



We have recently purchased some strong boxes in which to store our growing archive. Barbara Jerram has kindly offered us storage in her attic until such time as we can find a permanent home. Here you can see Tony and Avril Wood and Trevor Hockenhull boxing up the archives, whilst Tom Locke was on hand to transport them to Harrington House.



Albert Chevallier Tayler (1862-1925), Artist

Probably very few of you will have heard of this artist; and you may be wondering what connection he has with Badsey. But if you attended the recent Broadway Art Festival, you will know that Broadway was home to a colony of artists from 1885-1895. We have reason to believe that Tayler was a part of this group. Perhaps this undated painting, Tea in the Garden, might be a garden which he painted whilst staying in the area?



Any ideas of location?

A passage in Arthur Savory's book, *Grain and Chaff*, has always intrigued me:

Tricker, as a very typical representative of the agricultural labourer in old age, was engaged as model for a figure in a picture by Mr Chevalier Taylor [sic], then staying in Badsey. He sat in this capacity when work was not very pressing, and day by day used to repair to the artist's lodgings with his tools on his shoulder. His remuneration was half a crown a day – ordinary wages for an able-bodied man – but he told me that the inaction was very trying, and that a day as model was much more exacting than a day's work on the farm.

The model in question was easily identified as William Tricker who died in 1891 in his late eighties, but who was the artist, and when exactly did he live in Badsey? The wonderful British Newspaper Archive, which we have highlighted before in this Newsletter, gives us a definite date for Chevallier Tayler's stay in the village. The Worcestershire Chronicle of 30th October 1886 has the following report:

Highway Offence – Chevalier Taylor, artist, Badsey, was charged with riding a bicycle without a light at 7.30 pm on October 2nd. Defendant explained that he had met with an accident that prevented his getting home as soon as he expected. The Chairman said he ought to have told the policeman, and then probably he would have heard no more of the case. Fined 1s and 8s 6d costs.

It surely can't be coincidence that this once relatively famous, but now little-known, artist was resident in Badsey when the Broadway colony was just becoming established? Chevallier Tayler, who was born in Essex, was 24 years old in 1886 and thus younger than the Broadway artists, so perhaps chose to live in Badsey where he could be relatively close but on the fringe (although he did have some connections with Worcestershire as his mother was born in Malvern).

We know from The Birmingham Daily Post of 14th September 1886 that Chevallier Tayler exhibited at the Royal Society of Artists in Birmingham, as also did Alfred Parsons (who was the main theme of this year's Broadway Festival). The reporter commented on Chevallier Tayler's "The Latest Novelty from London", the scene being the kitchen of a country inn, in which a grey-haired old pedlar is sitting with his box of goods unpacked. The reporter notes that there is "great character in the face of the old pedlar". I wonder if William Tricker was the model for the pedlar and was the country inn based on The Round of Gras (or Royal Oak as it was known then) or The Wheatsheaf? The location of Chevallier Tayler's earliest works are largely unknown, so we shall probably never know if he painted scenes of Badsey.