

# The Market Gardener





This is a documentary film about market gardeners and their families in the Vale of Evesham. It is the fascinating story of small family businesses working to make a living from the land, told through interviews and archive footage. It explains the role played by children and land girls, and what it was like in the winter. Local customs for growing and marketing crops like tomatoes and asparagus are described. Historical research sits alongside the day-to-day stories of those involved.

DVD Video

Running time: 46 minutes

Aspect ratio 16 : 9

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The **Badsey** Society



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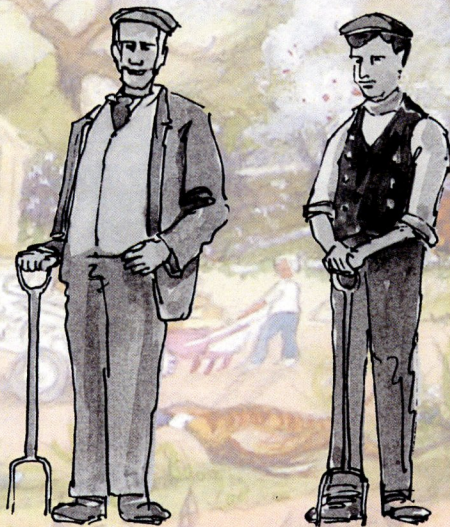
The Badsey Society  
presents

## **The Market Gardener**

Two years in the making, this film documents the life of market gardening families in the Vale of Evesham.

With the aid of archive footage, interviews and old photographs the result is an intriguing look at a way of life fast disappearing.

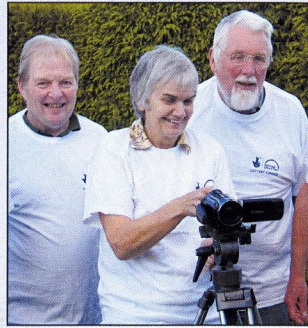
The film portrays the good times and the bad. The customs and the tales.





## THE FILM MAKERS

The film was made by a small team of Badsey Society members. These were Will Dallimore, who had been involved with the Society's previous films. Richard Phillips, who was also the scriptwriter, Valerie Magan and John Dallimore.



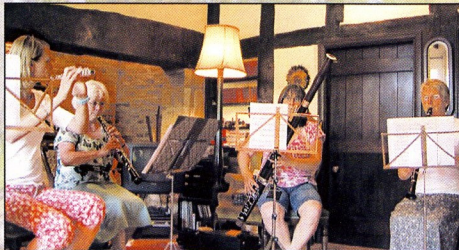
## THE CONCEPT

The late Tony Jerram suggested the idea of making a film to document the decline in market gardening in the Vale of Evesham. His working title for the film, *The Last Market Gardener*, was adopted by the Society for their Heritage Lottery funded project led by Maureen Spinks (left). However, the pessimism first envisaged has not entirely come to pass, so we have taken the word *Last* out of our film title.



## THE MUSIC

The music used in the film was recorded for it by local quartet, Arioso Winds. Helen Green, Society member and oboist, and her colleagues, suggested several pieces of music which best suited the film. These included a work by Peabworth composer Edward Watson. The pieces of music were recorded at Badsey Manor House by Arioso Winds in July 2012.



## THE INTERVIEWS

The film includes several interviews with market gardeners and the wives of market gardeners. Many hours of interview footage has had to be honed down to fit into the film. What you get is a brief glimpse into the world of a remarkable group of people, like George Keen (right), who made their living on the land



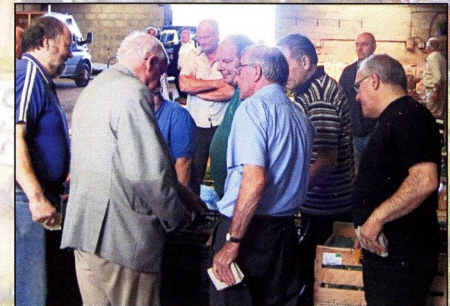
## THE CHILDREN

A unique set of letters were discovered which had been written by children at Badsey School in 1933 about their life in a market gardening community. Four of these letters have been brought to life in the film with the help of Blackminster Middle School pupils, Beth Smith, Deborah Johns, David Conway and Joshua Sellick.



## THE CONTENT

The film contains a mixture of old clips of film, interviews, old photographs and documents. It also gives an insight into what is happening today. All of this content is bound together by the 'local accent' of the narrator, Aldington born, Will Dallimore.





Supported by the National Lottery  
through The Heritage Lottery Fund

*Original Artwork*

Michael Barnard  
Ian Gibson

*Still Photography*

Michael Clemens  
John Dallimore  
Fred Gegg  
Hazel Green  
Ron Lodge  
Lizzie Noyes  
Richard Phillips  
G W Rose  
Colin Shaw

*Photographs & Images lent by*

Margaret Amos, BHGS Ltd,  
Geff Brooks, Graham Caswell,  
Margaret Chamberlain, Derek Crane,  
Esme Dennick, Lorna Edmunds,  
Nick Evans, Evesham Journal,  
Margaret Fisher, Pat Goldstraw,  
Les Grinnell, Val Harman,  
John Hartwell, Tony Hartwell,  
IACR-Rothamsted, Annie Jelfs,  
Neil Jones, George Keen,  
Tom Locke, Valerie Magan,  
Beryl Redgewell, J & J Ryan-Bell,  
Audrey Sides, Brian Smith,  
Chris Smith, Terry Sparrow,  
Peter Stewart, Sunday Mercury,  
Worcestershire Record Office.

*Music*

Bonnie Sweet Robin (Anthony  
Holborne), Lovely Molly (Traditional  
Irish), The Red Haired Boy (Traditional  
Irish), Moonlit Nights (copyright ©  
2012 Edward Watson), Bohemian Air  
(Charles Boscha), Bright Cloris (John  
Wilbye).

Sound Recording Advisor:

Alex Christison.

All recorded at Badsey Manor House by

Arioso Winds

Jenny Poll (Flute)

Philippa Tennant (Clarinet)

Alison Brierley (Bassoon)

Helen Green (Oboe)

*Children's Voices*

David Conway  
Deborah Johns  
Joshua Sellick  
Beth Smith

Recorded at Blackminster Middle School

*Interviews with*

Michael Barnard  
Rob Bindoff  
Pat Goldstraw  
Denis Grinnell  
Les Grinnell  
John Haines  
Martin Hale  
Donald Hartwell  
Roly Holt  
Annie Jelfs  
George Keen  
Beryl Redgewell  
Terry Sparrow

*Archive Footage*

Crop Situation in Vale of Evesham  
(Midlands News 1963); Asparagus  
Farming (ATV Today 1965); Brussels  
Sprouts Harvest (Midlands News 1965);  
Tomato Growing (ATV Today 1968);  
Vale of Evesham Asparagus Exhibition  
(ATV Today 1972).

All Supplied by MACE (The Media  
Archive for Central England)

*Historical Consultants*

Maureen Spinks  
Terry Sparrow

*Camera, Sound & Interviews*

John Dallimore  
Will Dallimore  
Valerie Magan  
Richard Phillips

*Written by*

Richard Phillips

*Directed, Edited & Narrated by*

Will Dallimore

A Badsey Society Production  
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