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MONTHLY

# MAGAZINE

FOR THE PARISHES OF

*S. James, Badsey,*

With ALDINGTON,

AND

*S. John Baptist,*

WICKHAMFORD.

EVESHAM:

Printed at the "Journal and Advertiser" Office, Bridge Street, Evesham.

## COURSING OR SOMETHING WORSE ?

In accordance with a request from the R.S.P.C.A., the Vicar preached in Badsey Church on the Fourth Sunday after Trinity on the subject of Kindness to Animals. In the course of his sermon he said: "It is now my unpleasant duty to refer to a pastime—I will not degrade the name of 'sport' by applying it to such a form of amusement—to which some of my parishioners are addicted. Some months ago my attention was arrested by the yelping of dogs in the Stockey, and I was perfectly horrified at what I saw going on there. I know the devotees of coursing are furnished with arguments in defence of the so-called sport, but from my point of view it is to-day altogether indefensible. However, be this as it may, it is the local variety of this species of recreation that I would venture to criticise to-night. I lived for some years near Altcar, in Lancashire, where thousands assemble annually to witness the coursing for the Waterloo Cup. Now one cannot live in the neighbourhood of that great national coursing ground without learning something of this form of amusement. I have, from time to time, been the unwilling spectator of the coursing on the beach, and when I compare, or rather contrast Badsey with Altcar, one point in particular strikes me as putting the two cases in totally different classes. At Altcar, although, owing to the magnificent strength and lightning speed of the dogs, the quarry from first to last has not a ghost of a chance of escape, yet it is given a *free field*; take away this, handicap the intended prey, and all idea of *sport* at once disappears, whilst nothing remains but loathsome, cold-blooded *butchery*.

Now it would be hard—it would be almost impossible—to imagine a more miserable travesty of what is at best an ignoble form of sport, than the proceedings in the Stockey to which I have alluded. The rabbits which were to be worried (you can't call it coursing) were confined in sacks, surrounded by a crowd of yelping dogs, representing more breeds than there were specimens, and the poor little rabbits experienced a hundred deaths before they were sent down the field. Round the field were ranged a lot of heartless and brutal men, provided with sticks for the purpose of preventing the rabbits from entering my shrubbery or otherwise escaping with their lives. The little creatures thus hopelessly crippled, were driven up and down the comparatively small enclosure, and were, of course, eventually worried by the dogs.

If such meetings cannot be conducted on more humane principles, the law ought to interfere to abolish them; and there is not the slightest doubt that, if the Badsey methods were only adopted at Altcar, the Legislature would soon put an end to coursing.

If any local coursers are here this evening, I beg of them to give up so brutal a pastime which is a disgrace to the village; and I earnestly appeal to you all to do everything in your power to influence public opinion to discountenance miserable meetings."

## CLUB DAY.

Brilliant weather favoured the Societies on the occasion of their annual meeting on Wednesday, June 22nd. There was a Church Parade at noon, when the Vicar read from S. Matthew xxiii. 23, "These things shall be done, and not to leave the other things undone." The preacher, after welcoming members to their Parish Church, pointed out that the presence of such a congregation of men at a mid-day service, in the middle of a week in the middle of summer (Badsey's busy season), furnished undeniable proof that the many men who were almost strangers to the Lord's House on the Lord's Day were, indeed, "without excuse."

At the subsequent dinner the Vicar was supported by Messrs. Adkins, Davies (Secretary of the Cirencester Benefit Society), Gill, and Sladden. Letters of apology for absence were read from the Vicar of Bretford, Colonel Long, and Mr. J. Ashwin. Mr. Davies gave a most lucid account of the working of the Cirencester Society, showing it to be on a thoroughly sound financial basis.

In the cricket match, which was played in the afternoon, Badsey scored a victory over Bretford, but in the tug-of-war Badsey's mighty men were unable to stand against the Railway navvies.

We are pleased to be able to state that although our village had a regular "day out" on the 22nd, we did not see or hear of a single case of drunkenness.

## CHOIR OUTING.

Since our last issue the Vicar has received the following subscriptions: Mrs. H. Byrd 5/-, Orchard 5/-, Mr. Mustoe 2/6. These, amount previously acknowledged, bring the total to £3 5/-. We feel sure there are many who have not yet subscribed, who will be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity of showing their appreciation of the services rendered to the village by the members of our choir.

## S. JAMES'S DAY.

July 25th being the Patronal Festival of St. James, Badsey, there will be Holy Communion at Morning Prayer at 11, and Evening Prayer at 7 on that day.

## THE FLOWER SHOW

It is hardly necessary to remind our readers that the Annual Flower Show takes place on Wednesday, July 27th. It may be as well, however, to point out to children wishing to exhibit wild flowers that they must bring their flowers, as gathered by themselves, to the Parish Room at 9 o'clock on the morning of the Show, and there arrange them in the presence of one of the Commissioners, *without the aid of adults.* Competitors provide their own vases.

## THE REGISTERS.

### BADSEY—BAPTISMS.

June 19, Geoffrey Austen Jones.  
 „ 19, John Henry Bird.  
 „ 19, Clara Beatrice Moisey.

## BADSEY—BURIAL.

June 29, Frederick James Keen, aged 5 years.

## OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

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	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
June 5th.—Sick and Needy	0	2	0	0	2	1
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Church Expenses	0	11	1½	0	3	10½
19th.—Sick and Needy	0	1	6	0	2	6
Church Expenses	0	7	4	0	4	3
26th.—Sick and Needy	0	0	11			
Church Expenses	0	12	2½	0	3	8
	£2	5	5	£0	19	9

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