

Mary Page (1931-2012)

Mary Page (née Cook) was one of the earliest members of The Badsey Society, joining with Roy in 2002. Mary was born in Bengeworth but spent her early childhood in Bristol. She came to live in Badsey at the outbreak of the Second World War, when thousands of children from large centres of population were evacuated to the country. Mary and her mother, Nora, evacuated privately, as Nora was of Badsey stock, and her parents, Lewis and Annie Vincent, lived on Brewers Lane. Not long after the move, tragedy hit the family when Mary's father, Walter Cook, who was in the Royal Navy Reserve, was killed on the aircraft carrier HMS Courageous when it was sunk in the Bristol Channel on 17th September 1939. Mary remained in Badsey for the rest of her life, marrying Roy in 1953. Mary and Roy moved into a new house at Green Leys in 1955 where they raised five children. Mary had been ill for some years before dying in hospital in October 2012. We offer our sincere condolences to Roy and family on their loss.

Membership Fees 2013

Just a reminder that membership fees are now due. Tony Wood, who joined The Badsey Society only just over a year ago, has bravely offered his services as Treasurer. Tony will be formally elected at the AGM. Please pay your subs at the AGM or hand to a member of the Committee beforehand. We are maintaining the very low amount of £2 for the year 2013 as we have been fortunate in being able to build up a nest-egg through a succession of grants over the years. In order to cut down on administration (and save shoe leather!), we shall no longer issue a membership card unless specifically requested. Your current fee status will be noted on the label at the bottom of this page.

Tony Jerram Award

The Tony Jerram Award continues to attract a lot of interest. Many thanks to the 11 members who took the time to nominate someone. Who won? I'm afraid you will have to wait and see – all will be revealed at the AGM on Friday 15th February!

Committee Members

Maureen Spinks Chairman	The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey	01386 831154 history@badsey.net
Valerie Magan Secretary	21 Sands Lane, Badsey	01386 832100
Will Dallimore Committee Member	30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey	01386 831012 editor@badsey.org.uk
Ian Gibson Committee Member	83 Bretforton Road, Badsey	01386 834468
Tom Locke Committee Member	22 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford	01386 831073
Mike Lovatt Committee Member	Elm Cottage, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830755
Jane Neill Committee Member	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
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THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY

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A happy new year to all our members – all 252 of you (the largest number in our 11-year history)! But who are you? Not all Badsey residents, that's for certain:

- 66% live in Badsey (166 members)
- 7% live in Aldington which is part of the ecclesiastical parish (18 members)
- 7% live in Wickhamford which, for over 450 years, has had close links with Badsey, having shared a Vicar from 1542-1996 (17 members)
- 7% live in other parts of Worcestershire or surrounding counties (17 members)
- 6% live in Evesham (16 members)
- 5% live out of area (13 members)
- 2% live in Bretforton or Offenham, the parishes which, since 1996, have been part of the united benefice (5 members)

Wherever you are, thank you for continuing to support us and for helping to make this a thriving and successful Society. With such strong links with Wickhamford in the past, it is good to see a growing membership. We welcomed our first Committee member from Wickhamford last year, Tom Locke, who has contributed an article overleaf about Wickhamford Mill.

Round-Up of Events November to December 2012

Saturday 1st December 2012 - The year concluded with the final event of our Last Market Gardener Project. On a bitterly cold evening at the beginning of December, members assembled in the school hall for the launch of a new archive and museum website. Linda Core played the piano to welcome people to the event, whilst Richard Phillips began proceedings with an illustrated talk about the various things which had taken place in the project. The culmination of the project was the launch of the new website, www.archive.badsey.net, which catalogues every single item in The Badsey Society's growing museum, archive and library collection. Maureen Spinks gave an illustrated talk entitled "A History of Badsey in 100 Objects", showcasing a number of the more fascinating items from the collection. After the talks, members browsed the exhibition and had the opportunity to look at the website on the school's computers and on the Society's new iPads.



Robin Neill presents Maureen Spinks, Project Manager, with flowers at the end of the evening.



Web designer Will Phillips, and Archives Manager Jane Neill, show Steve & Gill Woods the new site.



Linda Core, John Dallimore and Valerie Magan look at some of the archive items on display.

Hot off the press

18 members braved the icy weather to visit The National Archives at Kew on 16th January. Their mission – to look at the war-time National Farm Survey records for Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford. Copies of all the forms were made on digital cameras, which means that the research will be able to continue in the comfort of our own homes. A report about what the Farm Survey tells us will appear in our next Newsletter.



Future Events

Friday 15th February 2013

11th 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 biscuits will be served, followed by short talks by Terry Sparrow (The Origins of Badsey Rangers) and Maureen Spinks (The Badsey Archive, My Top Twenty) and concluding with a short film by Will Dallimore (A Journey through Asum Grammar)

Friday 20th April 2013, 7.30 pm

Tales from the Worcestershire Courts

Talk by Valerie Magan

Back room of The Wheatsheaf

- Friday 31st May 2013 – Whit Walk.
- Saturday 27th July 2013 – Badsey Flower Show.
- Autumn 2013 – Talk by Ian Gibson on exciting discoveries in his family history
- Autumn 2013 – Family History workshop

The British Newspaper Archive

On the opposite page you can see an article about Wickhamford Mill and the Smith family. The wonderful British Newspaper Archive contains a reference to Wickhamford Mill and the Smiths. This report appeared in The Worcestershire Chronicle of 27th July 1864: *Tea Meeting at Wickhamford – On Thursday last, the Wesleyans held their annual tea meeting at Mr Smith's, Wickhamford Mill; about 120 persons were present. After tea, the company retired to the adjoining field, when the chair was taken by Mr Dodwell, and the meeting was addressed by Reverends H Laughler and Sharp, and Messrs Masters, Stokes and Shrup. At half-past eight o'clock, the meeting broke up. The proceeds will be appropriated to the Circuit funds.*

The Smith Family of Wickhamford Mill

Wickhamford Mill, now called Mill House Farm, stands beside Badsey Brook. It is one of 13 mills that once stood on Badsey Brook or its tributaries. Tom Locke, who lives on Pitchers Hill, can see the mill from his back garden and writes about the period when the mill was occupied by the Smith family.



Samuel Smith (1809-1879) was the corn miller at Wickhamford for over 40 years. He was one of at least nine children of Anthony Smith and his wife Catharine (née Calvert), who had married in Badsey in 1792. In previous generations, the family had had connections with the mills at Badsey, Offenham, Evesham, Harvington and Broadway. Samuel married Sarah Gee in the mid 1830s. Sarah, who was born in Macclesfield, was from milling stock herself, her father, Wingfield Gee, having moved to Worcestershire in the early 1820s to work for the Sharp family at their silk mill in Overbury (they had also bought Badsey Mill).

At the beginning of their marriage, Samuel and Sarah lived at Badsey where Wilson, their first-born son was baptised and buried at the age of three weeks in 1837. Samuel was only very briefly in Badsey as he had returned to Wickhamford by 1839 when Wingfield John (1839-1916) was born. Samuel's elder brother, Benjamin, had died in 1837, so it is possible that Benjamin had been running the Wickhamford Mill and Samuel, as the next eldest son, went to take charge. Whatever the truth, Samuel and Sarah were at Wickhamford Mill in 1841 with infant son, Wingfield John. George (1846-1888) was born a few years later. Samuel continued to live at the mill for the rest of his life, dying at Wickhamford in 1879.

Both Samuel's sons became millers. George was at Hampton Mill in 1871 but back at Wickhamford by 1881 helping his widowed mother. George died in 1888 which meant that Sarah, aged 76, had to call upon the assistance of her other son. Wingfield had been lodging in Evesham in 1861 working as a miller. By 1871, he was living in Badsey, married to Jane and with a three-year-old son, Albert Wingfield. Wingfield's occupation was given as miller but, by that time, there was no mill in Badsey so he was obviously working elsewhere; by 1881 he was miller at Childswickham. Following his brother's death, Wingfield moved with his wife and son to Wickhamford Mill where he remained for the rest of his life. Sarah Smith died in 1894 thus leaving Wingfield in charge. Albert was unable to help in the mill because he was "spinal from birth" (1911 census refers).

The end of an era came at the end of 1916. On 30th December, Wingfield John Smith died in the morning, aged 77; in the evening his son, Albert Wingfield Smith, aged 48, also died. The father died of chronic bronchitis and syncope (fainting) whilst the son succumbed to acute pneumonia. They were both buried in Wickhamford churchyard on 3rd January 1917. The Badsey Parish Magazine recorded the event as follows: *"Much sympathy is felt for Mrs Smith of Wickhamford Mill, who suffered a double bereavement on the last day but one of the Old Year, her husband passing away in the morning and her only son in the evening. The double funeral took place the following Wednesday. With Mr Smith's decease a long chapter in the history of Wickhamford Mill closes, the premises having been in the occupation of Mr Smith's family for several generations."*

More information can be found at <http://www.badsey.net/wickhamford/mill.htm>