

*Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013, 7.30 pm*  
*Tales from the Worcestershire Courts*  
*Talk by Valerie Magan*  
*Back room of The Wheatsheaf*

*Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 – Whit Walk*  
*Meet outside The Wheatsheaf, 7 pm*

*Approximately 3 mile-walk via Sands Lane, Pear Tree Corner and Wickhamford*  
*on a theme of walking in “those before” footsteps*  
*Wear stout walking shoes/boots - there are some stiles*  
*Finish with refreshments in the garden of*  
*The Willows, 8A High Street*

- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>/Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Asparafest, Ashdown Farm, Badsey Road; The Badsey Society will be having a stand at this new asparagus and music festival. Check out the website, [www.asparafest.co.uk](http://www.asparafest.co.uk), for details of how to get tickets.
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July – Badsey Flower Show, Recreation Ground, 1-5 pm
- September/October – Visit to The Hive at Worcester (date to be arranged)
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Ian Gibson, Tales from his family history, Wheatsheaf
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Family History Workshop, The Wheatsheaf, 7.30 pm

**Membership Fees**

2013 fees now due; once again the fee is only £2 per member. Please give to our new Treasurer, Tony Wood, 16 Badsey Fields Lane.

**Committee Members**

Maureen Spinks <b>Chairman</b>	The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey	01386 831154 history@badsey.net
Valerie Magan <b>Secretary</b>	21 Sands Lane, Badsey	01386 832100
Tony Wood <b>Treasurer</b>	16 Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey	01386 834768 treasurer@badsey.net
Will Dallimore <b>Committee Member</b>	30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey	01386 831012 editor@badsey.org.uk
Ian Gibson <b>Committee Member</b>	83 Bretforton Road, Badsey	01386 834468
Tom Locke <b>Committee Member</b>	22 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford	01386 831073
Jane Neill <b>Committee Member</b>	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
Richard Phillips <b>Committee Member</b>	4 High Street, Badsey	01386 831112 editor@badsey.net
Neil Thould <b>Committee Member</b>	1 High Street, Badsey	01386 830160
Gill Woods <b>Committee Member</b>	42 Stone Pippin Orchard, Badsey	01386 839505



A new year and new blood. At the recent AGM, we were delighted to recruit two new members to the Committee: Tony Wood and Gill Woods, both of whom moved to Badsey a couple of years ago and both of whom have been involved in our archive project; we hope they enjoy their involvement with the running of this vibrant Society.

**Round-Up of Events January to March 2013**

- **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, Trip to the National Archives** – In our January Newsletter, we printed a photo of our merry team of researchers at Kew. People are now busy beavering away inputting data relating to the National Farm Survey which was the main focus of our trip – the results for Wickhamford can be seen in our article inside.
- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013, Annual General Meeting** – Another successful AGM with 62 members present. In the business section of the meeting, Maureen Spinks was re-elected as Chairman and Valerie Magan as Secretary. Tony Wood was elected Treasurer, taking on the role after Terry Sparrow stepped down after ten years in the job. Will Dallimore, Ian Gibson, Tom Locke, Jane Neill, Richard Phillips and Neil Thould were re-elected as Committee members; Gill Woods was also elected to the Committee for the first time. The annual Tony Jerram Award was presented to Jean Dyke for her many years of running the Coronation Street Club for Disabled People; the club used to operate in Evesham but, for about the last ten years, it meets weekly at the Badsey Royal British Legion. One of her nominators wrote: “You never hear her moan or have a negative opinion on anything. She is a wonderful selfless person who I think wholeheartedly deserves some recognition for what she has done and is still doing.”



Elizabeth Bolland, MBE, a former recipient of the Tony Jerram Award, presents the trophy to Jean Dyke.



Retiring Committee member and former Chairman, Mike Lovatt, receives lifetime Society membership.



After a tea break there were short talks by Terry Sparrow and Maureen Spinks before concluding with a 20-minute film produced by Will and John Dallimore, “A Journey Through Asum Grammar”, featuring the intrepid local adventurer, Doug Deep. If you weren’t there, you missed a rare treat seeing Doug on his flying tour of the Vale, but there are rumours that Doug will fly again!



## Did you Know?

On Radio 4 recently there was a report about the Women's Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge Universities, first raced in 1927. Did you know that a former Vicar of Badsey had a part to play in that historic first race? This snippet of information has come to light because several members of the Society have been doing research on Badsey's Vicars (Terry Sparrow has given a talk to the Mothers' Union, Tom Locke has written an article for the website, Maureen Spinks keeps putting an oar in – excuse the pun). Jeffrey Graham Jeffreys of Christ Church, Oxford, an Australian by birth, was one of the judges in this “novel competition” as it was described in the press. He was Vicar of this parish from 1945-1947. Although here for just a short time, he made a significant contribution. He restarted the Parish Newsletter after a gap of over 25 years and began making entries in the Parish Registers which had lapsed in Canon Allsebrook's declining years.

### What an a-maizing sight!



Charlie Jones with Roger Savory in the garden of Packard House, c1939. You can just see Badsey Church tower in the background.

You may recall in our January 2012 Newsletter that there was an article on the Jones family in America. Badsey-born Roger Savory, now himself resident in America, recalled a photograph of himself as a nine-year-old standing against six-foot high maize growing in the garden of Packard House (present-day No 17 School Lane), planted by his great-uncle, Charlie Jones, who had recently returned to Badsey from America. Roger had thought the photo was lost, but it has just come to light. Packard House is named after Packard Park in America where Charlie worked. Coincidentally, one of our newest members, Hazel Cotterell (née Longmore), moved into the house next-door in 1939. Her parents called their new house Hansmet, after Handsworth where her mother was born and Smethwick where her father was born. It's lovely to know the origin of house names.

### You never know what you'll find on the Badsey Archive website!

A strange coincidence has come to light. Richard Phillips and Lizzie Noyes recently had an email from Liz, a friend of theirs. Liz has absolutely no connection with Badsey (other than knowing Richard and Lizzie), so was amazed to discover on our new archive website a postcard from her great-grandfather, the Reverend F E Robinson, a noted bellringer, written from Drayton Vicarage in December 1897 to the Vicar of Badsey, Reverend W H Price, about church bells. An excellent example of how our archive is accessible to all.

There has been a sudden flurry of correspondence at [www.archive.badsey.net](http://www.archive.badsey.net) in the Visitor Book. Clive Payne of Redditch wrote concerning the location of Cuckoo Bridge (known locally as Cuckoo High Bridge). When Clive's parents were courting in the early 1950s, they used to visit his father's aunt and uncle, Percival and Evelyn Harrison, who lived at Glenroyd, a bungalow at Blackminster. They would walk up Merry Lane to the Fish & Anchor; on one occasion they carved their initials on the bridge. Some 60 years on, Clive is trying to find the bridge as he is hoping there might be a trace of their initials.



The bridge in question is a farm railway bridge at Aldington mentioned in Savory's book, Grain and Chaff, as a place where Aldington Band used to practise! For everything you ever wanted to know about Badsey and Aldington bridges, go to [www.badsey.net/places/roads](http://www.badsey.net/places/roads).

### The National Farm Survey

*In January, a team of researchers visited The National Archives to look at the war-time farm survey for England and Wales. Work on the Badsey and Aldington surveys is still on-going, but Tom Locke and Val Harman (née Mason) have finished their task for Wickhamford. The survey is of particular interest to Val because her father, grandfather and in-laws are featured. Here you can see Val's father, Fred Mason, with a bundle of asparagus outside his home on Pitchers Hill. Below we take a look at what the survey tells us by looking at the returns for the Mason and Harman families.*



On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1941, census forms were sent from The Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, St Annes-on-Sea, to be returned to the Worcestershire War Agricultural Executive Committee. 142 farmers and growers with land in Wickhamford received the forms; of these, 110 returned at least one of the forms, 47 of whom lived in Evesham, 42 in Wickhamford, 15 in Badsey and a handful in other places in the Vale.

Both Val's grandfather, Charles Robert Mason (1876-1955), and her father, Frederick Charles Mason (1910-2006), received forms. The Masons lived at 19 Pitchers Hill (present-day No 32), which Charles had moved into with his new bride in 1906 and when he began renting 1½ acres of land on the north side of Pitchers Hill from the trustees of J P Lord. By 1941, Charles had 3½ acres and Fred had 4½ acres, all rented (at Whitfurrows) except for the 1½ acres that had by this time been purchased. The census reveals that they were growing cabbages, carrots, parsnips, onions, sprouts, runner beans, peas and asparagus. They had a quarter acre of orchard, in which were planted yellow egg, purple egg and Victoria plum trees. They employed no extra labour and the only form of mechanisation was a 2½ hp Auto Culto. Val, born a few years after the survey took place, recalls that crops, with the exception of asparagus, were gathered and packed on the land and wheeled on a barrow from Whifurrows through the land on Pitchers Hill to the roadside where it was picked up by the Central Market lorry to be taken for auction at premises in Avon Street, Evesham. The asparagus was put into pot hampers and taken either on a wheelbarrow or on a rack on the front of Fred's bike back to a shed at the side of their house. There it was tied into rounds with raffia, packed and again put on the side of the road to be collected for market. Val is amazed that there is no mention of a pig as she knew that one was kept in a sty at the top of the garden together with a few chickens; both were essential to help bolster the meagre meat ration allocated by the government.

Val's in-laws, the Harmans, had a larger amount of land, over 15 acres in total, which they rented (later bought) from Christ Church College, Oxford; the business was situated at the bottom of Longdon Hill. Val's father-in-law, Albert Enos Harman (1907-1984), lived at 1 Longdon Hill, a house that adjoined the land; his mother and brother lived in Evesham. The census forms reveal that they had a fordson tractor and kept a horse. They employed two permanent workers and at busy times four casuals. A variety of crops was grown including soft fruit, parsnips, beetroot, onions, broad beans, peas, asparagus and 3.25 acres of orchards consisting mainly of plums. They also had six pigs and 30 chickens. The Harman business, by virtue of its size, was inspected and was given grade A.

A longer version of this article will appear on the website shortly, with examples of the forms and what they tell you – essential reading for anyone with ancestors who tilled the land during World War II, as it will help you if you do your own research at Kew.