

## Future Events

- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July – Badsey Flower Show, Recreation Ground, 1-5 pm
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Visit to The Hive at Worcester (see booking form)
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Ian Gibson, “Vicars, Virginia and Wickhamford”, The Wheatsheaf, 7.30 pm
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Family History Workshop, The Wheatsheaf, 7.30 pm

## Golden Wedding

Belated congratulations to Peter and Julie Stewart who were married in 1963. Peter, who has done extensive research on many Badsey families, is actually from Devon and no blood relative of the Badsey Stewarts.

### Holy Matrimony

Mar. 23 Peter Francis Stewart, of the R.A.F., S. Cerney, Glos., and Julie Ann Stewart, of Badsey.

This is the entry which appeared in the May 1963 of the Parish Review. This, and all the other parish magazines may be seen at [www.archive.badsey.net](http://www.archive.badsey.net), our archive website.

## Frederick Henry Roberts (1914-2013)

Fred Roberts, who was a member of the Society in its early days, has died at a nursing home in Tenbury Wells in his 100<sup>th</sup> year. Fred was born in “the dead centre of Badsey”, as he liked to tell people (a thatched cottage, pulled down in the 1940s, on the site of the current-day graveyard extension). Fred had a phenomenal memory and provided reminiscences for “Heads and Tales”. He was one of the guests of honour at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary tea party for former pupils in 2004 when he and three other nonagenarians helped to cut the cake. Fred went as often as he could to his “den” on Willersey Road, which he had created out of the shell of a bungalow called Bohemia Gardens (see article in July 2005 Enclosure Map Newsletter). Here he brewed his legendary rhubarb wine and looked after his cat, Felix. As Fred told me in 2005, “I’m very thankful for the life I’ve had – and the drink. And I’ve had some of that in my time!” And as Richard, our Vicar, said at his funeral, “Fred is now resting in God’s eternal vineyard”.

## 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



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As I write this, summer has at last arrived after a rather slow start, though this did not prevent us from enjoying various outdoor activities. Coming up in the autumn, we have a trip to The Hive in Worcester; please see the enclosed booking form.

## Round-Up of Events April to June 2013

- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April, Tales from the Worcestershire Courts** – In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the arrival of the Circuit Judge was of great interest and the courtrooms would be packed to hear the latest scandals and gossip of the day. So, too, was the back room of The Wheatsheaf to hear Valerie Magan’s courtroom tales. We learned the Latin abbreviations written on the verdict. PO SE meant that a criminal pleaded not guilty and “put himself on the country” to be tried by jury; CUL meant guilty; SUS meant “let him be hanged”. So if PO SE, CUL and SUS were written next to your name, the outlook for you was bleak! At least SUS wasn’t written against the name of a distant ancestor of one of our Committee members. See overleaf for a dodgy tale of duck stealing.
- **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May, Whit Walk** – Over 40 people, and a dog, joined this year’s Whit Walk led by Valerie Magan and Will Dallimore which went via Pear Tree Corner, Francis’ Grave, Wickhamford, and back along the footpath by the brook to The Willows, where refreshments awaited, courtesy of Maureen and Tony Spinks. Winner of the Flower Show quiz was Terry Sparrow.



## • Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Asparafest



Will & John Dallimore, Jane Neill, Maureen Spinks and Tom Locke manned a stand at Asparafest, the brainchild of one of our Bretforton members, Nigel Smith, landlord of The Fleece. Visitors included Gus the Asparagus Man and two members of a newly-formed Molly Dance group which meets at The Fleece on Thursdays.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Vicarage Tea Party** – Valerie and Bob Magan and Tom Locke were in charge of a Badsey Society stall which featured a display about Vicars of Badsey and Wickhamford. Wendy Beasley, who was on the tea stand, brought along a photo of a much earlier Vicarage tea party which was taken in about 1960.



## Guilty or Not Guilty? What do you think?

In 1895, James Thould and Bert Wright were charged with stealing two ducks, the property of Julius Sladden. They were arrested by PC Meeks near the corner of Wickhamford Lane, as a result of 13-year-old James Willoughby, who had been working with the two men, notifying the constable. Thould protested, "I have seen no ducks" and Wright stated, "I know nothing about it." At Evesham station, there were stains of blood on Thould's right trouser leg and on his left shirt wristband (which he claimed were caused by a thorn sticking into his hand). Thould said that he had a good mind to wring the witness' neck and called him a liar. When the orchard at Wickhamford where the prisoners had been at work was searched, two ducks were found under a tree with fresh earth over them. The ducks were afterwards identified by Mr Sladden as his. The Chairman said that the case had been clearly proved and the prisoners were sentenced to two months' hard labour. Take care of your ducks if you see Neil around in case he's inherited the duck-stealing gene (though I must emphasise it was a distant relative)!

## Seward House during the Second World War

Did you know that it wasn't just schoolchildren who were evacuated to Badsey during the Second World War? A chance comment by Sheila Knight on her recent visit to Badsey Manor House (see opposite) about a Canon Tatlow and a religious society living at Seward House during the war years got us delving on the internet to discover the identity of Canon Tatlow.

Canon Tissington Tatlow (1876-1957), born in County Cavan, Ireland, was one of the founder members of The Institute of Christian Education at Home and Overseas and was its honorary director for over 20 years. Miss Juliet Sladden (1897-1984), youngest daughter of Sir Julius Sladden of Seward House, had left Badsey to work as a missionary in London. The Institute was founded in October 1935 and Juliet was its first Organising Secretary under Canon Tatlow and then became General Secretary.

An article in a 1945 issue of "Religion in Education" reveals that the Institute was evacuated to Badsey for the duration of the war, only returning to its normal headquarters at 49 Gordon Square, London WC1 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1945. On the outbreak of war, Juliet's sisters, the Misses May and Ethel Sladden, invited the Institute to transfer its Headquarters to Seward House. The Institute was able to carry on its normal work with greatly decreased staffing levels, made possible by the fact that Canon Tatlow and Miss Sladden lived and worked in the same house which saved 18 hours a week in travel; they worked ten hours a day with short intervals only for meals and to do without holidays.

*"The debt the Institute owes to the two Miss Sladdens at Badsey is greater than any of the members know. In the first place, they received the Institute as their guests and gave up a considerable amount of accommodation at Seward House to it. The Institute therefore evacuated without having to pay rent. But their help did not end there; with their own domestic staff called away, they turned to and swept and dusted, shopped and cooked, dug in the garden and looked after livestock, all with such cheerfulness and sympathy that they enabled Dr Tatlow and Miss Juliet Sladden to accomplish a mass of work which would have been impossible if the conditions had not been so favourable."*

Canon Tatlow died at his home in Golders Green in 1957. Juliet Sladden retired from the Institute in 1960. She returned to live in Badsey and died at Seward House in 1984.

## Visit to Badsey Manor House

Society member Jane Thompson accompanied her aunt, Sheila Knight (née Butler), on a trip down memory lane recently when they visited the Manor House at the invitation of Richard Phillips and Lizzie Noyes. Sheila spent a lot of time at the Manor in the 1930s, and Jane's parents had their wedding reception in the grounds of the Manor in 1941.



Sheila Knight (née Butler), who will be 88 years young this July, was born at Evesham in 1925, the fifth child of Arthur and Zillah Butler. Sheila was two years old when the family moved to Badsey and settled at Chalcroft on Old Post Office Lane. She has an amazing memory of her childhood years and, in particular, remembers the Manor House during the 1930s when she visited almost daily as a teenager. It was from the age of about 12 that Sheila began spending a lot of time helping Betty Knight and Winnie Jones (two sisters, née Liversidge) with their young children. The Manor House in those days was still one house (it was not made into two until 1946) and there was a connecting passageway between the two halves. The Knights lived in the part which is now No 4 and the Jones lived in the part which is No 6.

Winifred Vera Liversidge, the younger sister, had married John Kelland Jones in 1932. John came from an old Badsey family; his great-grandfather Joseph Jones had owned a good deal of land at the time of Enclosure. Winnie and John had a son and three daughters: Christopher, Avis, Sheila (named after Sheila Butler) and Christine. Betty, the elder sister (whose real name was Ethel), had married William John (Jack) Knight at St James Church, Badsey, in August 1935. Their two sons, Michael and Richard, were born at the Manor House. Sadly, Richard died of a cot death aged six months.

Sheila frequently helped to give baths to the Jones and Knight children. The only bathroom at that time was on the first floor of No 6, which meant walking with young Michael Knight along the corridor that once linked the two sides of the house at first floor level. Sometimes she stayed at the Manor and had a bedroom on the first floor in the south-east corner of the house (No 6). Sheila recalls going up the stairs and there was the most beautiful floor she had ever seen. At the top of the house was an attic where they kept apples and pears. In the lounge was a big open fireplace where she often saw half a tree burning and there was a big thick door into the kitchen.

A memorable event was the marriage of Sheila's sister, Peggy Butler, in May 1941. The ceremony took place at St James' Church, followed by a reception at the Manor. The wedding group below is seen standing in front of a stone stable building, now demolished. Sheila was a bridesmaid and appears in this picture on the right of the married couple.

The Jones and Knight families moved from Badsey at the end of the war, but Sheila still has fond memories of her regular visits to the Manor House.



Left: Sheila Butler is to the right of the married couple, Ken and Peggy Ellison.

Right: The same spot 72 years later; Sheila Knight (née Butler) with Jane Thompson (née Ellison) and Richard and Lizzie.

