

Friday 20th June 2014
Midsummer Walk- Willersey to Saintbury

This “Church to Church” walk takes us from St Peter's Church in Willersey to St Nicholas's Church in Saintbury (a rare opportunity to see inside this church which is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, and described as “a wonderful medieval church with so many fascinating historical features that it is hard to mention them all”)

Meet at the pond in Willersey at 7 pm

Park in the car park behind the Village Hall or considerately on the road near the pond

Length: 2½miles

Suitability: easy walking with slight ups and downs through fields and along the village pavements; **no stiles**, just several kissing gates. 3 steep and 16 shallow steps up to Saintbury Church but there is a strong, metal left-hand rail all the way up.

Sheep and cattle could be in some of the pastures so dogs must be on a lead at all times.

Lovely views (weather permitting) across the Vale to Ragley Hall, Harvington, the Malverns and Bredon Hill.

We can then retire to the pub in Willersey for a well-deserved drink!

- Saturday 31st May/Sunday 1st June 2014 – Visit The Badsey Society stand at Asparafest (asparagus and music festival), Ashdown Farm, Badsey Road. Check out the website, www.asparafest.co.uk, for details of how to get tickets.
- Saturday 26th July 2014 – Badsey Flower Show. Once again we shall have a stand at this, the 112th annual show.
- 6th-14th September 2014 – Exhibition in connection with the centenary of the outbreak of World War I during the Festival of Churches event, St James Church

Membership Fees 2014 - Membership fees due, £5 per person, cheques payable to The Badsey Society. Please forward to Tony Wood, Treasurer, at the address below, or via Paypal at <http://www.badsey.net/bsp/subs.htm>.

Committee Members

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**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
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April 2014**

Another AGM has passed and the same Committee was re-elected. The Society continues to go from strength to strength, the focus at the moment being on sorting out our archive (see report inside). Also in this Newsletter, you can read an abbreviated account from *The Evesham Journal* of 1927 concerning the 80th birthday celebrations of Sir Julius Sladden. Oh, that we could get as much press coverage today! We have several octogenarians in the Society and, just recently, one of our present-day village worthies attained the age of 80. Terry Sparrow, winner of this year's Tony Jerram award (see below), celebrated his 80th birthday in March. Belated birthday greetings to Terry!

Round-Up of Events January to March 2014

Friday 14th February, Annual General Meeting - Despite the stormy weather, 50 members attended. Following coffee and biscuits, four Committee members gave illustrated talks: Will Dallimore spoke about the history of the parish magazine, Gill Woods described what Badsey would have been like in 1914, Ian Gibson talked about the origins of asparagus and Valerie Magan reported on the coming of the wireless to Badsey.

This year's winner of the Tony Jerram Award was Terry Sparrow whose contribution to village life has been enormous. For most of you, no further explanation is required but, for new members, it should be noted that Terry is a founder member of The Badsey Society, serving as Treasurer for ten years and Chairman for two years; for 52 years he was responsible for winding the church clock; he has written four books, including *A Brief History of Badsey and Aldington* and *Digging for a Living*. He has also been on countless other committees too numerous to list and has been an active player in village activities.



Barbara Jerram presented the award to Terry who responded by saying that he was extremely honoured to accept the award as Tony Jerram had been a personal friend for whom he had much respect.

Friday 14th March, An Evening with Henry Sandon

Many thanks to Will and John Dallimore who arranged for Henry Sandon of *Antiques Roadshow* fame to come and speak to us. Will writes: “Digging up the past has never been so entertaining, especially if you caught Henry Sandon and Peter Stewart at Badsey recently. Their Badsey Society gig attracted a large audience to the village church to see these two veterans of the ‘archaeologist's trowel’ dig deeper into the lighter side of their passion for old crocks. Peter started the evening with an illustrated talk on the ‘finds’ he had found whilst metal-detecting in Badsey. Everything from Roman coins to US Army uniform buttons. But it was his pottery that led to a friendly one-upmanship banter with Henry, as to who had dug up the better pieces. Henry came out on top thanks to once having an incredibly ‘full of old pots’ garden.”



After the break, Henry was in fine form as he talked about items of porcelain and pottery brought along by villagers.

Badsey Archive and Museum Project

The Archive is taking shape! Many thanks to Tony Wood who has masterminded the project. Thanks are also due to his able team of helpers – Jane Neill, Avril Wood, Gill Woods, Tom Locke and Alan Tutton – who have helped to paint, lay carpet tiles and erect racking and shelving in the room at the Remembrance Hall. The archive boxes have begun to be transferred to the room and we plan to hold an open day later in the year.

Wychavon Award



On 6th February, five members of The Badsey Society attended a special reception at the Civic Centre, Pershore. The Society had been nominated by Badsey Parish Council for the Wychavon District Council Diamond Jubilee Community Recognition Award. Maureen Spinks accepted a highly commended certificate on behalf of the Society and is pictured left with Margaret Tyszkow, Terry Sparrow and Lizzie Noyes.

... and another award!

Congratulations to Will and John Dallimore. Their film 'Santa's Special' (made for Liz and Ralph Bolland to show during their Christmas Charity week) was in a competition for video camera clubs from Worcester, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud and Bristol. They took first prize and hold the Ray Toleman Trophy for a year. The last time the Tewkesbury Video Club won this was 15 years ago.



Above: Will Dallimore with Ralph Bolland holding the trophy.

First World War Memories Sought – Play your part in documenting history

A gentle reminder. Don't forget, articles are still being sought about stories of World War I (see previous Newsletter). We all have very different stories to tell of our family history and would love to hear about one of your ancestors at the time of the Great War, wherever he/she lived. It does not need to be the story of someone who went off to battle. Just as interesting would be tales of people on the home front, those in the medical profession or those who did not fight, for whatever reason. Articles should not exceed 1000 words; photographs may be used as illustrations. Please submit your article either via email to history@badsey.net or send to Maureen Spinks, The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey, WR11 7EW by 24th August 2014.

Do you have a good speaking voice?

At the annual Festival of Churches in September, there will be a special exhibition to commemorate the outbreak of World War I, at which we plan to include letters written by the Sladden family of Seward House. When war was declared on 4th August 1914, Julius Sladden was in Kent, his wife Eugénie was on holiday in Wales and the sons and daughters were in various different places. As was the wont in those days, family members wrote regularly to each other. Their letters, which are at The Hive in Worcester, give one family's view of the unfolding of momentous events. We hope to have Badsey Society members assuming the roles of Mr & Mrs Sladden and their four sons and four daughters, reading aloud from extracts of the letters. If you would like to participate, please get in touch with Maureen Spinks on 831154 or email history@badsey.net.

Badsey Veterans - A Season of Birthdays

On 25th June 1927, Sir Julius Sladden celebrated his 80th birthday and this was extensively reported in *The Evesham Journal*. The photo shows Sir Julius Sladden in the company of fellow parishioners aged over 70. A goodly number of our Society members are over 70 – what a gathering that would be!



"Age shall not wither them, Nor custom stale their infinite variety." The pleasant village of Badsey might well be described as one which is the peaceful abode of multitudes of veterans, to whom Shakespeare's (adapted) words most suitably apply. Of the total inhabitants of something over 1100, there are no less than 40 who are over 70 years of age and, of these, at least 20 are in, or have passed their 80th year. We hasten to add that it is not solely the remarkable longevity of these people which warrants their story appearing in a journal that invariably contains some account of an old inhabitant or a couple long-wedded, but the notable fact that so many of them enjoy splendid health and are able to pursue their daily round with marked interest, vitality and pleasure.

Of this happy band of people who have passed the Psalmist's allotted span, two - jocularly referred to as Badsey's two "Knights" - celebrated their birthdays on Saturday. Sir Julius Sladden was 80, and Mr Edwin Knight was 83. In honour of the happy anniversary an excellent peal was rung on the bells of St James' Church on Saturday afternoon by a band containing a good number of the local ringers, and not two people in the parish are better deserving of a peal on the Badsey bells. Why? The reasons are that Sir Julius during his long office as churchwarden has always taken a deep interest in the fabric of the parish church, especially the bells, and Mr Edwin Knight, on the other hand, is one of the oldest members of the local band of ringers; he rang in a peal on his 80th birthday, and is a regular churchgoer. Following Saturday's peal, the ringers were entertained to tea, together with Sir Julius and Mr E Knight, by Mr & Mrs J E Knight at Fair View.

To celebrate his 80th birthday, Sir Julius Sladden issued a welcome to all the people over 70 in the parish to take tea with him on Tuesday. It proved to be a very happy gathering, 30 of the 46 responding and enjoying a delightful evening. The oldest person present was Mrs Griffen, who will be 87 in November. Mr William Mustoe and Mr Joe Marshall came, both being 85, while Mr William Brewer of Chalcroft is 84. The average age of those present is 76, which figure would have been increased a little had all over 70 been present. Sir Julius' eight children and nine grandchildren were all present at the birthday celebrations; on Sunday morning, there were 16 Sladdens at church. At 80, the personality of Sir Julius, who was knighted just one and a half years ago, is as bright as ever and his wit as keen. No one could wish for better health than that which he enjoys, health that enables him to take a particularly deep interest in his business and in his public work, and that enables him to cycle to and from Evesham. Outside his business, politics and floriculture occupy much of his time.