

Events in 2015 - IMPORTANT NOTICE - Our first three meetings will take place at Badsey Community Sports & Social Club (www.badsey-club.co.uk, known to many in the village as the Cricket Club or the Rec Club). There is a bar, so please help to support the Club by buying drinks during the evening. The Club is situated at the far end of Brewers Lane. If you need a lift to any of these events, please phone Valerie Magan on 832100.



**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
No 51
January 2015**

Snowhill Manor, Charles Wade and Volunteering with The National Trust
Friday 23rd January 2015, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm
 Robin Neill, who has been a volunteer at the National Trust property, Snowhill Manor, for many years, will talk on the unique collection of over 22,000 items brought to the manor by Charles Wade. He will also give an insight into the life of a volunteer.

Annual General Meeting
Friday 13th February 2015, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm
 New Committee members welcome. There will be a chance for you to give your views about Society matters and events. The business part of the meeting will be followed by presentation of the Tony Jerram award; seven people are in the running. Following the interval, there will be talks by various Committee members.

The Road to Waterloo - Wellington beats Napoleon 1815
Friday 13th March 2015, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm
 June 2015 is the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. Several members of the Worcester Re-enactment Group will give a talk in the uniform and dress of the period, charting the road to the battle, the battle itself and the aftermath. Hugh Martyr of the Re-enactors is keen to include local as well as national points of interest. We have supplied him with information on our own veteran, George Smith of Aldington who served in the Royal Artillery.

- Friday 19th June 2015 - Midsummer Walk: Chipping Campden/Broad Campden
- Saturday 25th July 2015 – Badsey Flower Show
- Friday 16th October 2015 – Letters from a Badsey Family in 1915

Membership Fees 2015

Membership fees due, £5 per person. Please forward to Tony Wood, Treasurer, or pay at the AGM, or via Paypal at <http://www.badsey.net/bsp/subs.htm>.

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
Tony Wood Treasurer	16 Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey, WR11 7 EX	01386 834768 treasurer@badsey.net
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
Jane Neill Committee Member	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
Richard Phillips Committee Member	4 High Street, Badsey	01386 831112 editor@badsey.net
Neil Thould Committee Member	1 High Street, Badsey	01386 830160
Gill Woods Committee Member	42 Stone Pippin Orchard, Badsey	01386 839505

A happy new year to all our members. We have an interesting programme of events lined up for you in the early part of the year – please see the back page for details. Thank you for continuing to support us and for helping to make this a thriving and successful Society.

Round-Up of Events October to December 2014

Friday 24th October 2014, Film Night – From “Plums that Please” (a 1931 film made by the British Film Institute) to clips from Paul Ayshford’s 1995 view of village events, we were entertained with an eclectic mix of film clips featuring Badsey or the Vale of Evesham, selected by Will Dallimore and Richard Phillips.. In particular, the audience was in stitches with a clip from a 1972 TV item, in which a young Chris Tarrant met Nicky Roberts who was planning to walk from Evesham to Worcester with four ferrets down his trousers to raise money for charity.

Thursday 27th November, Wickhamford through the Ages – Tom Locke entertained us with tales of Wickhamford, beginning with reminding all us non-natives on how to pronounce the name of the village. For the avoidance of doubt, it’s Wickhamford, with the emphasis on the last syllable. He illustrated his talk with a number of interesting photos, including one of a row of cottages (which used to stand on the site of the present-day Hody’s Place), with the three Moulbery sisters and their husbands stood outside - Charles & Edith Halford, Sarah & George Brotherton with their daughter, and Beatrice & George Pitts. He introduced us to a range of Wickhamford residents and visitors through the ages: from an early blue-stocking – Bertha Drysdale (née Chamberlain) who gained Class 1 in the History Tripos in 1882 from Newnham College, Cambridge – to a fleeting visit from a knight of the realm when Sir Bradley Wiggins whizzed along the A44 last September in the Tour of Britain,



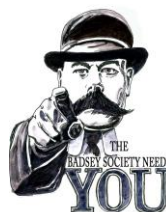
The Moulbery sisters and family.



Bertha Chamberlain.



Sir Bradley Wiggins.



Calling All Computer-Users – Help Required

As you will see on the back page, the next episode in “Letters from a Badsey Family” will take place in October. But, before that, a lot of work needs to be done. Letters written by the Sladden family in 1915 need to be transcribed at The Hive in Worcester before editing can start. If you are a computer-user and familiar with using Word, your help would be appreciated. Please phone 831154 or email maureen.spinks@btopenworld.com if you are able to help.

Peace and Reconciliation

As people gathered in Badsey and all over the UK on Remembrance Sunday to mourn the dead of two World Wars so, too, did people in other parts of the world., Here is the story of remembrance in Roegling, Bavaria, on Volkstrauertag (People's mourning day as it is known in Germany).



M.W... Johann Roskopf
gef. 14. 11. 1918 Engl.



In our last Newsletter, we spoke of finding a descendant of Private Johann Roskopf, a German prisoner of war, who died at Badsey Manor House in 1918. Since then, we have been corresponding with Johann Roskopf's grandson, another Johann Roskopf, and with Maria Mittl, the Burgermeister in Roegling, Johann's birthplace. At the end of November, Frau Mittl sent us the above photos of the war memorial in Roegling, writing:

I'm so pleased to have helped you find the relatives. I was also moved by the grandfather's history and thank you all for your work. On Remembrance Day in England you think of your fallen and missing; we also think of our war dead in Germany. It's sad that we have to mourn our dead. Germany and Europe have learnt from both world wars and we now live peacefully for over 60 years, something unheard of in history. Unfortunately there are so many crises and wars and flare-ups in so many parts of the world. Now, just at Christmas-time, we wish for peace, but we see how difficult it is to make it happen but we mustn't give up to strive for peace. A hearty greeting to all your members in your Society from the little town of Roegling in Bavaria.

Yours, Maria Mittl

Johann Roskopf, the grandson, also wrote at the end of November:

I'm just letting you know that Roegling's Mayor, Frau Mittl, gave a speech at the annual remembrance gathering at the war memorial. A large part of the speech encompassed the fate of my grandfather. Unfortunately due to my health, I was unable to attend. I understand though, that the speech was well received by all those present. As a result of this, the fate of my Grandfather will be published in the next Community News. We have you and your historical Society to thank for all of this. Without your researches, the fate of my Grandfather would have stayed unknown, just like the fate of many other fallen and missing soldiers from both wars, who were from Roegling. I wish you and the whole team of your historical society, a wonderful and peaceful Christmas.

J. Roskopf

Jean Plummer (1924-2014)

We are sad to announce the death in December of Jean Plummer. Jean was born in Long Lawford, near Rugby, later moving to Brentor, Devon. In 1971, she moved to Sherwood Cottage, Aldington; she loved the fact that the provenance of her house could be traced back several hundred years. Jean was involved for many years in making judges' lunches for the Badsey Flower show with neighbour, Iris Brazier, and helped to organise fêtes, strawberry teas and other activities in Aldington. She was a member of Wickhamford WI for a time, having been a very active member (and President) in Brentor. Jean also very much enjoyed working on a project to translate old documents with regards to the local waterways. We offer our condolences to her daughter, Alison.

1815 – Badsey at the time of the Battle of Waterloo

As we approach Waterloo's bicentenary commemorating the Duke of Wellington's defeat of Napoleon on 18th June 1815, it is good to reflect on what Badsey was like at that time. The battle, bringing to an end the Napoleonic Wars, was a turning-point in history. So, too, may 1815 be considered a turning-point in Badsey's history.



As news of the historic battle was beginning to filter through to England (the first notices appeared in the London press on 21st June and not in the regional papers until the following week), life in Badsey was about to change significantly. A private Enclosure Act had been passed in 1812 and, on 1st July 1815, the Commissioners made their awards. As a result, all the ancient rights of the commoners disappeared when fenced areas took the place of open spaces. The centuries-old practice of open field farming was abandoned. Various people were allotted certain parcels of land, resulting in 91% of Badsey's 1,200 acres being owned by just 12 landowners.

One of the large landowners was Edward Wilson of Badsey Manor House, described in the Act as "an Infant was or claimed to be Lord of the Manor of Badsey". Far from being a babe in arms, Edward Wilson was, in fact, aged 19 in May 1812 when the Act was passed and, the following year, joined the Royal Marines and spent the next few years at sea. In the summer of 1815, Edward was anchored in Madras Roads, thinking of home. In his diary he wrote: "Dreamt last night of being in Badsey." A few months later he was a member of the garrison on the island of St Helena, when Napoleon was in exile there.

Another major change in 1815 was the stopping up of the old highway to Evesham and the building of a new road. Until 1815, the village street turned east at the Manor House into what is now Old Post Office Lane and continued along the route of the present footpath to join the Bretforton to Evesham road near the present-day Hither Green houses. A new road was built running north from the Manor House, across the field known as Synehurst. This new, shorter route to Evesham was probably welcomed by the villagers, but pity poor Edward Laughter whose house was knocked down in order to make way for the new road – there probably wasn't compensation in those days!



Note the faint outline (A) of the new road to be built. Note also the house (B) which had to be demolished as it was in the way.

Meanwhile, at the Vicarage, the Assistant Curate, William Squire Rufford, took a deep interest in botany and his notes give us a glimpse of the wealth of wild plants that were then growing in the Badsey area, including Dusky Cranesbill, as shown at the top of the page. The absentee Vicar, Charles Phillott, rarely visited the parish. And to finish our look at 1815, this entry appeared in the Hampshire Chronicle and Morning Post:

John Gibbs, Esq. of Badsey near Evesham, who cultivates his own land, and takes a particular pride in growing corn for the advantage of the poor, last season had a most extraordinary crop. That gentleman realized 1200 ears of wheat from a single grain; one grain produced 32 stems. Mr Gibbs never allows his land to lie fallow, but constantly manures it from his own yard. The above is an event unprecedented in the annals of agriculture, and the methods adopted by Mr Gibbs will no doubt excite a lively interest, as well as imitation, among the growers of that invaluable article.