

Saturday 25th July 2015 – Badsey Flower Show, Recreation Ground.

Once again we shall have a stand at this, the 113th annual show.

Friday 16th October 2015

St James' Church, Badsey, 7.30 pm

**AN EVENING WITH THE SLADDEN FAMILY OF SEWARD HOUSE
LETTERS FROM A BADSEY FAMILY IN 1915**

Members of The Badsey Society will play the parts of the Sladden family and read from letters written in 1915. Patsy Miller (née Sladden) and her husband, Anthony, will again be joining us on the evening to take the parts of Mr & Mrs Sladden. And this year, we introduce Bella Richards, the great-great-granddaughter of Mr & Mrs Sladden, who will be playing the part of her great-grandmother, Miss Amelia (Mela) Browne-Constable, who was engaged to Cyril Sladden.

Tea and coffee will be served in the interval.

Entrance fee: £2.50 members, £5 non-members.

Profits will go to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and The British Red Cross.

Friday 13th November 2015

Badsey Community Sports & Social, 7.30 pm

The eminent military historian, Dr Stephen Badsey, Professor of Conflict Studies in the Department of History, Politics and War Studies, and Co-Director of the First World War Research Group, at the University of Wolverhampton, will talk on:

The expansion of the British Army in WW1, from regulars to volunteers and conscripts, and the role played by the various battalions of the Worcestershire Regiment.

Membership Fees 2015

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

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**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
No 53
July 2015**

We are pleased to announce that we are about to embark on a new project, thanks to receiving a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund's "First World War: then and now" programme. We have got an exciting programme of events lined up for the two-year duration of the project – see inside for more details of our plans.

It's not just 20th century battles we are thinking about. 2015 is the 750th anniversary of the Battle of Evesham and the town will be commemorating the battle and Simon de Montfort's legacy with the Battle of Evesham Festival in August. Read inside about what Badsey might have been like in 1265.

Round-Up of Events April to June 2015

Friday 19th June 2015 - Midsummer Walk: Chipping Campden/Broad Campden

Around 28 members set off from the Old Wool Market Hall in Chipping Campden, to enjoy a wonderful midsummer evening walk over the fields to Broad Campden, ending up at the ancient wool church at Chipping Campden. A stop along the way to visit the Broad Campden Quaker Meeting House gave us an opportunity to ask Chris Tombs, our host, further questions about the somewhat chequered history of the Quakers in the Cotswolds during the 17th century (Paul Shutler, our Society member from Bretforton, shared his knowledge with Chris over the probable origins of the solid wood refectory-type serving table situated in the middle of the meeting room). Closer to the end of the walk, we paused to reflect on the magnificence of the surviving banqueting hall built by Sir Baptist Hicks. His Campden Manor House was burnt down during the Civil War. At the end of our three-mile walk through the wonderful English countryside, a few members took refreshment in The Eight Bells before driving back home.



Update on Dentil Cornices

In our last Newsletter, Richard Phillips wrote about houses in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford on the 1885 OS Map and referred to buildings with dentil cornices (a feature which looks like a row of teeth and usually appears between the top of the building and the roof). Rosemary Blyth of Aldington has written to say that The Old House in Village Street has brickwork dentil cornices as does the kitchen extension to Rose Cottage along the wall just under the eaves to the roof.

Aldington Conservation Area

Rosemary Blyth is leading a group of people to reappraise the Aldington Conservation area. This will involve carrying out a walkabout survey of the conservation area pointing out proposed boundary changes and general character analysis; a draft text will then be provided. If you would like to become involved in this worthwhile project, particularly if you live in Aldington, please contact Rosemary at rosemaryblyth@tiscali.co.uk.

A first for Badsey and a first for The Badsey Society – we have our very own MP residing in the village



Last year, Nigel Huddleston moved into the Manors House with his wife and two young children, and joined The Badsey Society. Nigel was recently elected as the new Member of Parliament for Mid Worcestershire. We wish Nigel well in his parliamentary career.

Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford – a rural community's view of the Great War

The Badsey Society is about to embark on a new project, thanks to a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund to explore our First World War heritage. Your chances of winning on the lottery may not be that great, but every time you buy a lottery ticket, you are helping to fund groups such as ours to explore, enjoy and protect our heritage. To date, £58 million in HLF grants have been awarded to projects across the UK so they can mark the WW1 Centenary and explore all aspects of First World War heritage that matters to them. Through its *First World War: then and now programme*, HLF is making at least £1 million available per year for six years until 2019. It is providing grants between £3,000 and £10,000 enabling communities and groups right across the UK to explore, conserve and share their First World War heritage and deepen their understanding of the impact of the conflict. I am delighted to say that we have been awarded the maximum grant.

With German prisoners of war and Belgian refugees living in the village, we have a rich seam of history to tap into. Added to that, the soldiers' letters which appear in the Parish Magazine and the huge cache of letters at The Hive written by members of the Sladden family of Seward House, provide an abundance of riches in resource material. The grant will primarily be spent on a book about the First World War and a new website to showcase our findings, thus bringing the research to a worldwide audience. Talks by eminent speakers such as Dr Stephen Badsey and Dr Steven Hollowell will be arranged. The popular Sladden letter-reading evenings will continue; we shall now be able to hire army uniforms for the three Sladden sons who went off to war. The 1915 evening will take place on Friday 16th October 2015, so please come along and support this event.

1265 – Badsey at the time of the Battle of Evesham

In our January Newsletter, we looked at what Badsey was like in 1815 at the time of the Battle of Waterloo. In our April Newsletter we looked at what Badsey might have been like in 1485 at the time of the Battle of Bosworth. Now let's roll back the clock a further 220 years and see what Badsey might have been like in 1265 at the time of the Battle of Evesham.



Above: Our very own Ian Gibson has done this delightful painting of Simon de Montfort heading up Greenhill.

The Battle of Evesham was fought on the morning of 4th August 1265 between the rebel barons led by Simon de Montfort (said to be the father of the modern parliament) and the army of King Henry III, under his son Prince Edward. Heavily outnumbered, de Montfort charged his cavalry into the enemy ranks. The battle lasted for some hours before turning into a bloody massacre. Both de Montfort and his son, Henry, were killed, along with around 4,000 of his soldiers. It's under three miles as the crow flies from Badsey to Greenhill, so the residents of Badsey must surely have heard the battle sounds.

We cannot be certain what Badsey and Aldington were like in the 13th century because of the scarcity of source material, but some facts are known. Nearly 200 years prior to the Battle of Evesham, the Domesday Book of 1085 tells us that there were 12 villagers (likely to mean households or smallholdings) with eight ploughs, four slaves and one widow living in Badsey. The reference to eight plough teams, a large number for a small place, implies that arable farming was already well established. There were just under 800 acres in cultivation. Badsey belonged to Evesham Abbey and, about 1233, the Chronicles of Evesham Abbey tell us Abbot Thomas de Marleberge "caused certain pieces of land at Badsey to be cultivated, to the extent of five acres, which had never before been cultivated as long as men could remember."

In those days, Aldington had no connection with Badsey; it was a berewic, or outlier, attached to the Manor of Offenham. At the time of Domesday it was a much smaller place, possessing only five villagers with one plough team between them but it, too, had four slaves. At some time during the 12th century it appears to have been connected with Bretforton, before becoming attached to Badsey about 1290.

Like many villages in the Midlands, Badsey was a nucleated settlement with church and houses surrounded by large-scale open fields; the bulk of the villagers would have lived in modest wattle and daub cottages. The first stone church was probably built at Badsey in the 11th century. In 1295, the first improvement to the church took place; a new chancel, longer than the original and as wide as the nave, was built round the old one which was then demolished.

See www.battleofevesham.co.uk for details of the Festival programme 1st-15th August.