



**The First Day of the Somme – Talk by Dr Steven Hollowell**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm**

Dr Hollowell, who visited Badsey in 2006, will be returning to talk on one of his other specialist subjects, the first day of the Somme, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. The Battle of the Somme is one of the most famous military events in British history, synonymous with huge loss of life and costly failure. By the end of the day, the British had suffered 60,000 casualties, of whom 20,000 were dead: their largest single loss. Some Badsey men were involved in the battle.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – Visit to the Imperial War Museum (see page 2)**

**Inaugural Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture – Talk given by Mick Taylor**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm**

Mick Taylor has one of the finest collections of rules, slide rules and sectors to be found outside a museum. They date from the 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, and all have fascinating stories. Mick has offered to share his knowledge with us in this, the first annual lecture to be held in memory of Richard Phillips. Richard was a polymath with a background in education, psychology and design and was connected with the Shell Centre for Mathematical Education at Nottingham. He was fascinated by numbers and was very interested in Mick's collection; it is thus fitting that Mick should give the first talk.

**Midsummer Walk – Get to Know your Local Footpaths**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016, meet 7 pm, Badsey Remembrance Hall**

**All welcome, dogs included**

Join us for a circular walk which takes in little-used footpaths in northern Badsey, Aldington and Blackminster. Come and see the original home of Badsey Rangers, where they beat Pershore 9-3 in the first match in September 1893. Gentle walking with three stiles to be surmounted (alternative route back for those that can't negotiate stiles); wear stout walking shoes. Afterwards, please join us for a glass of wine or ale at 30 Horsebridge Avenue, courtesy of Will Dallimore.

- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 – Badsey Flower Show
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – Letters from a Badsey Family in 1916, the Sladdens of Seward House

**Membership Fees 2016**

£5 per person – please forward to Tony Wood, Treasurer, or pay via Paypal at <http://www.badsey.net/bsp/subs.htm>, Committee members are:

Maureen Spinks Chairman	The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey	01386 831154 <a href="mailto:history@badsey.net">history@badsey.net</a>
Valerie Magan Secretary	21 Sands Lane, Badsey	01386 832100
Tony Wood Treasurer	16 Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey, WR11 7 EX	01386 834768 <a href="mailto:treasurer@badsey.net">treasurer@badsey.net</a>
Will Dallimore	30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey	01386 831012 <a href="mailto:editor@badsey.org.uk">editor@badsey.org.uk</a>
Ian Gibson	83 Bretforton Road, Badsey	01386 834468
Tom Locke	22 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford	01386 831073
Jane Neill	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
Alan Tutton	34 Seward Road, Badsey	01386 831539
Shirley Tutton	34 Seward Road, Badsey	01386 831539
Gill Woods	42 Stone Pippin Orchard, Badsey	01386 839505

We are getting this Newsletter to you early in April because we have a busy programme of activities lined up for the forthcoming months, beginning with a talk by Dr Steven Hollowell on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April on the first day of the Somme. In May there is the inaugural Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture and in June there is the annual Midsummer Walk. Details of all these events appear on the back page. In addition, we have a few spare places for a visit to the Imperial War Museum – see page 2 for details.

**Round-Up of Events January to March 2016**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Annual General Meeting**

Yet again, there was a good turn-out for the 14<sup>th</sup> AGM of The Badsey Society, with 55 members present. The same Officers and Committee were re-elected.



After the business part of the meeting, it was time for the presentation of the annual Tony Jerram Award. For the first time ever, a posthumous award was made. At our meeting in January, we were unanimous in deciding that the late Richard Phillips was the worthy winner. Richard's partner, Lizzie, and son, Will, are seen being presented with the award by Barbara Jerram.

As the Chairman said in her citation: "I can't believe that it was only a year ago that Richard stepped down from the Committee and was awarded life membership of The Badsey Society. It is most fitting that he should be given the Tony Jerram award posthumously as if it hadn't been for both him and Tony, none of us might be sitting here tonight. When Richard arrived in the village in 2000, he very quickly established the award-winning website, [www.badsey.net](http://www.badsey.net), and suggested to Terry Sparrow that he might like to write a second edition of "A Brief History of Badsey and Aldington" for which Richard did the design. But to publish a book, we needed money. Tony Jerram had long thought that it would be a good idea to form a village society and, having attended many functions, knew that grants were available. Richard immediately started seeking out grant possibilities but discovered that money would not be given to an individual, only a Society. Thus in 2002, The Badsey Society was formed with Tony as the first Chairman and Richard as the first Secretary – and £2000 in the bank from Worcestershire County Council."

Maureen concluded by saying: "Richard was a very humble man, but we, The Badsey Society, and the village as a whole owe him a great debt of gratitude."

After the interval, Brian Smith, the Aldington poet, read from a selection of his poems, aided and abetted by Will Dallimore. Much hilarity was heard from the audience, particularly those who were Badsey born and bred and who were familiar with the old names and places.



## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – Tales of Wood Norton



Around 60 people were present to hear Alan Tutton talk about the history of Wood Norton which has a rich and colourful history. It was the last home in England of Prince Philippe, Duke of Orléans, who claimed the throne of France. During WW2 it was used by the BBC as a station for listening to enemy radio broadcasts and an emergency broadcasting centre; it then became the accommodation for the BBC's engineering training college.

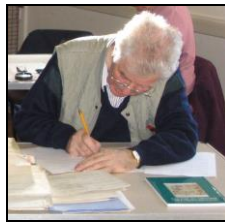
Alan first went to Wood Norton in 1978 on a training course and then joined the staff there in 1982, remaining for 25 years, so thus has a great knowledge of its history. Several of the audience had their own personal memories.



## Trevor Hockenhull (1939-2016)



It is with sadness that we have to announce the death of Trevor Hockenhull on 3rd March in St Richard's Hospice. St James' Church was packed for the funeral service on 22<sup>nd</sup> March when his son, Paul, gave a moving eulogy and his long-term friend, Badsey Society member Alan Eames, gave a personal tribute.



Trevor moved to Badsey in 1974 when he took a job as a prison officer at Long Lartin and quickly became involved in the local community. Trevor was a keen family historian and wrote a book on the Hockenhull family for his relatives. He joined the Society in 2003 and began to use his vast genealogical experience in studying Badsey history. He was involved in many of our early activities, in particular the Enclosure Map project in which he helped to transcribe 200-year-old Award Schedules which accompanied the map. Trevor, a proud Lancashire man, was particularly interested in John Pickup Lord, the Lancashire landowner who bought vast amounts of land in Badsey and Wickhamford in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Using the Enclosure Map as a starting-point, Trevor conducted extensive research into land occupancy on Willersey Road. He wrote an article for our Enclosure Map Newsletter No 3, July 2005 ([www.archive.badsey.net/item/2018](http://www.archive.badsey.net/item/2018)) which demonstrates how occupants of modern houses can study the history of their house and land just as much as owners of older houses. We wish to offer our sincere condolences to Beryl and family at this sad time.

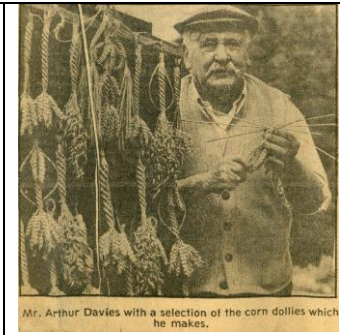
## Visit to the Imperial War Museum – FREE TRIP

We are hiring a 22-seater coach to take us to the Imperial War Museum, London, on Wednesday 18th May, 7 am. Priority will be given to people involved in the Sladden evening as a few of us will be visiting IWM's research room where more Sladden letters are held. But, after that, places will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for anyone who would like to visit the Museum (or other places in the vicinity). In order to secure a place, please write a cheque for £10 per person payable to The Badsey Society. The trip is free to members, so the cheque will be returned to you on the day of travel. Please send the cheque to Maureen Spinks, The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey, WR11 7EW, preferably with an email address or SAE so that confirmation can be sent to you.

## ARTHUR "BADSEY" DAVIS (1890-1983)

### CORN DOLLY MAKER

*Do you remember the craze for making corn dollies in the 1970s? The revival of this ancient craft was in large part due to Arthur Davis. He had made corn dollies all his life, but it was only in his later years that a college lecturer saw him plaiting wheat and exclaimed: "I've been looking all over England for someone who can do that!" So he began giving classes. In the Old People's Home in Droitwich where he was living at the end of his life, he was affectionately known as "Badsey". But who exactly was he and when did he live in Badsey?*



I don't like mysteries, particularly genealogical ones, so it is particularly satisfying when a mystery is solved as happened last week when I managed to discover the true identity of Arthur "Badsey" Davis. I first heard of him seven years ago when Mandy Davies (aka the Lady Thatcher) dropped into our stand at Badsey Flower Show and wanted to know if anyone knew of her namesake (no relation), who was mentioned in a WI Home Skills' Guide on Corn Dollies. It includes details of how to make a corn dolly called "Badsey's Fountain" with the following introduction: "Arthur 'Badsey' Davis, so called because he came from Badsey in Worcestershire, was a great master of the group-linked plait. He used to demonstrate this plait with 49 straws, which was no mean achievement. He copied his father making straw plaits and taught the skill to his son and grandchildren."

Always keen to accept a challenge, we appealed for information. As far as we knew, the only person to have lived in Badsey with the name of Arthur Davis or Davies was Arthur Edward Davies, the father of "Nurse Davies". Rosalind Davies was district nurse, health visitor and midwife in Badsey for many years and was a former Badsey Society member until her death in 2007, aged 93. The late Anne King, who knew Nurse Davies well, did sterling work trying to find the answer, but to no avail.

But then sometimes things just fall into place! Last week Val Harman handed over a faded newspaper cutting dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 1978 which she had found when clearing out her uncle's house. The article from *The Birmingham Post* was entitled "Arthur Davies: Corn Dolly Craftsman" and gave a number of clues as to his identity. Armed with this information and with the help of "Ancestry", we are now able to reveal who Arthur was – and discovered we had a photo of him in his youth on our website.

The Corn Dolly Maker was born Jesse Arthur Percival Davis at Blockley in 1890, the eldest of four sons of Jesse and Mary Davis; he was presumably known by his second name so as not to be confused with his father. By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved to 9 Bowers Hill, Badsey; Arthur was working as a market gardener's labourer. This photo, pre WW1, shows Arthur (second from the left), standing next to Val's grandfather, Charles Mason.



Arthur married in 1915 in the Evesham area but had moved to the Kidderminster area by 1920 when his son Charles was born. Although his parents remained living at Bowers Hill for some time, as far as we know, Arthur did not live in Badsey again, but it must have been during his youth in Badsey that he honed his skills as a corn dolly maker and earned the name Arthur Badsey Davis. So, all you WI members, next time you make a corn dolly, it's all thanks to Arthur Davis that the craft has survived.