

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 – Badsey Flower Show**  
Once again we shall have a stand at this, the 114<sup>th</sup> annual show. See you there!

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016 – Badsey Carnival**

Come and join us at the Carnival as part of the walking procession following the floats. Members of the Committee will be dressing up in costume from the Edwardian era. Meet at the Remembrance Hall at midday. The route will go down Synehurst, then Brewers Lane, Chapel Lane, School Lane, High Street, and back along Brewers Lane to the Community Club where the Carnival Committee has lots of things planned.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016**  
**St James' Church, Badsey, 7.30 pm**

**AN EVENING WITH THE SLADDEN FAMILY OF SEWARD HOUSE  
LETTERS FROM A BADSEY FAMILY IN 1916**

Members of The Badsey Society will play the parts of the Sladden family and read from letters written in 1916. Patsy Miller (née Sladden) and her husband, Anthony, will again be joining us on the evening to take the parts of Mr & Mrs Sladden. The year 1915 ended with Cyril Sladden of the 9<sup>th</sup> Worcestershire Regiment being evacuated from the Gallipoli peninsula, Arthur Sladden working as a bacteriologist at an army hospital in Rouen and George Sladden of the Civil Service Rifles being based “somewhere in France”. Meanwhile their siblings were back in Badsey or London undertaking valuable war work. What will 1916 hold in store for the Sladdens of Seward House? Join us on 9<sup>th</sup> September to find out more.

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.

**LAUNCH OF THE NEW BADSEY WEBSITE**

To coincide with the Sladden letter-reading evening, we shall be launching our new website in September when it will be possible to read ALL of the letters.

- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 7.30 pm, The Wheatsheaf – Family History evening. More details to follow in next Newsletter.

**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 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	30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey	01386 831012 editor@badsey.org.uk
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



**THE  
BADSEY  
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter  
No 57  
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It's almost time for Badsey Flower Show again. It's wonderful that it is still going strong and should be as good as ever in this, its 114<sup>th</sup> show. To get you in the mood, take a look at the article inside about some past Flower Shows.

**Round-Up of Events April to June 2016**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture given by Mick Taylor**



We welcomed 32 members to the inaugural Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture, held in memory of Richard Phillips who died last year. Mick Taylor was selected as the first speaker; he gave a lecture on his amazing collection of rules. Mick began collecting rules in 1985 when he found a rule in a batch of woodworking tools which he had just bought – since then he has built up an incredible collection which would be the envy of many museums.

Richard's partner, Lizzie Noyes, gave a short speech saying that, as a lecturer, Richard would have very much appreciated the idea of a Memorial Lecture and, with his great love of maths and computers, he had always been fascinated by Mick's collection. In fact in his “Problem Pictures” calendar of 2009, he had used two of Mick's rules to pose a mathematical problem. Lizzie is pictured left with the calendar and with Richard's son, Will.



**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016, Midsummer Walk**



Two dogs and 27 members turned out to walk to Blackminster and back via Black Banks and Aldington.

In an Aldington meadow, we marvelled at the fact that this was once home to Badsey Rangers' Football Club in the first 30 years of its existence. Brian Smith, our Aldington poet, recited a poem he wrote about a final in 1912 that attracted around 2000 spectators. Terry Sparrow also gave a brief history of times past when football players and spectators prioritised a football match over their daily labours.



Once at Aldington, we meandered across the mill stream and up the footpath to Horsebridge Avenue where, in Will & John Dallimore's back garden, Jane Neill, our archivist, cut the ribbon and officially opened “The Drill Hall” - the new shed for keeping our market gardening items. A splendid buffet and drinks, courtesy of the Dallimores, and a beautiful sunset, concluded our enjoyable evening walk. Many thanks to Valerie Magan for organizing the event.

## Visit to the Imperial War Museum

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May, a team of 16 people visited the Imperial War Museum in order to photograph and transcribe the WW1 letters between Cyril Sladden and his fiancée, Mela Brown Constable. Two teams of people on the day did work at IWM then, back in Badsey, Ross Davies and John & Lyn Sharp have been doing sterling work transcribing Mela's letters. Mela was a prolific letter-writer, often writing on very thin paper making it difficult to read. "Why did Mela have to write on toilet paper?!" John has been heard to exclaim. But our gallant transcribers have pressed on and become engrossed with the war-time romance. Ross (pictured right) felt motivated to visit her grave: "I went down the churchyard to introduce myself to Mela."

Other Badsey Society members have been called upon as well. Mike & Pippa Tennant (ex Prince Henry's modern language teachers) have been roped in to provide a translation of a letter written by a Belgian refugee who was given sanctuary in Badsey a hundred years ago.



At the IWM Research Room.  
Left: Avril Wood, Gill Woods, Val Harman, Tony Wood.  
Right: Jane Neill, Alan Tutton, Shirley Tutton, Tony Spinks



## Clinton Edward Evans (1938-2016) and Bernard Ivor Hewlett (1926-2016)

We are sad to report the death in the last two months of two long-term natives of Badsey.

Clint Evans, who died suddenly on 19<sup>th</sup> May, was born into a long-established Badsey market gardening family. He, too, worked on the land, having a keen interest in tractor driving. Together with his father and younger brother, he became part of the firm, George Evans & Sons, agricultural contractors, providing a service of ploughing, harrowing, etc for small-scale market gardeners without their own equipment. With the decline of the market gardening industry the business eventually ceased and Clint gave up land work to join the Telephone Service. But he was always a true countryman, particularly interested in shooting; he was well-known at "shoots" around the district. Clint was a bell-ringer and from time to time rang at various towers. A memorial quarter peal was rung at Badsey Church on the day of his funeral there, which was attended by over 200 people.

Bernard Hewlett, who died on 5<sup>th</sup> June, was born in Kidlington, Oxfordshire, his father's native home, but the railway brought them to live in Badsey, Bernard's mother's home village. After leaving school, Bernard educated himself to become an electrician, working firstly with Booth & Bomford and then had a career at Smiths as an aviation electrical engineer. He was a man of many skills and helped neighbours and family alike, with clock-mending, kettle-repairing, fixing fences etc; his hobby was model-making. It was through Bernard's mother's side of the family that Bernard and his brother, Mike, were invited to our Enclosure Map End of Project evening in 2007. The Hewlett brothers were the only known present-day Badsey residents who were direct descendants of a landowner marked on the 200-year-old Enclosure Map. Their great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Ballard, owned what is now No 5 Old Post Office Lane.

## Badsey Flower Show

Who would have thought, when the first Flower Show started back in 1888, that it would still be going strong 128 years later. Today it is one of the premier horticultural shows in the Vale of Evesham and attracts crowds from far and wide. This year's is the 114<sup>th</sup> show (it was not held during the war years and a few other years). Originally held in the vicarage meadow, it has, since the 1920s been held at the Recreation Ground.



The first Flower Show came about at the suggestion of Sir Julius Sladden of Seward House; he continued to take an active part in the Show's affairs until his death in 1928.



When transcribing the Sladden letters at The Hive, we discovered a photo of his youngest daughter, Juliet, who wrote a letter to "The Evesham Journal" in 1909 about the Flower Show:

*Dear Editor, I am sending you my photograph taken in the early part of this summer, and would be pleased to see it in the "Page". Last Tuesday was our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Flower Show. I helped my sisters with a dinner-table decoration and I showed my rabbit. There were roundabout and swing-boats and hoop-la and side-shows as well, so I had a very good time of it altogether.*

*Love, from your affectionate reader,  
Juliet E Sladden.*

*PS – I forgot to mention that the little dog with me is my own dog, Scot. I have had him six years.*

The following year, Juliet's older brother, George Sladden, wrote from London: "Thank you for the Flower Show schedule. If you will have a prize for a dish of figs in the open class I will compete. The prize list is quite a heavy one now. I don't know whether these special prizes are very good for the Show. However, I suppose they are inevitable." Sadly, we do not have any Schedules from this early period, so we don't know if a dish of figs was one of the classes. Perhaps a possibility for future years?



For those of you that have ever won a prize at the Flower Show, you will see that the winning certificate has not changed significantly in over a hundred years – as this one of 1901 shows, which was found in Harold Cave's hovel. We hope that as many of you as possible will enter for at least one event this year. Too late to cultivate that champion marrow, you say? Well at least enter a photograph or consider baking a cake – it's the taking part that counts.

Good luck – entry night is Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at the school. And see you at The Badsey Society stand on 23<sup>rd</sup> July which will have more information on the Sladden family.