

**Friday 28th October 2016, 7.30 pm, The Wheatsheaf
Family History Evening**

The evening will be in two parts. In the first part there will be brief talks:

- What you can expect to find out about a surname – Alan Tutton
- Researching military records – Tom Locke
- Subscription websites: Ancestry/Find My Past – Shirley Tutton
- British Newspaper Archive/Badsey Website – Maureen Spinks

The room will then be rearranged to accommodate six work-stations where you can seek advice from members of the Committee on any genealogical queries you might have. It would be most helpful if you could let us know in advance if you have a specific query; please send as full details as you can by 25th October at the latest to maureen.spinks@bopenworld.com or post through the door at The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey. Priority will be given to those contacting us in advance.

Events in 2017

- Friday 10th February 2017 – Annual General Meeting
- Friday 17th March 2017 – Nostalgia Evening: Remembering Badsey Past
- Date to be confirmed – Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture; Tom Locke and Will Dallimore will talk about Richard's work with The Hive on old buildings
- Saturday 22nd July 2017 – Badsey Flower Show
- September 2017 – Letters from a Badsey Family in 1917-1918

Tony Jerram Award

It's that time of year again when we begin to think about nominations for the annual Tony Jerram Award. If you know of someone who you feel is worthy of nomination, please return the enclosed form by 1st January. Richard Phillips was last year's winner.

Stocking-Filler for Christmas – Badsey Society Tea Towel

Looking for ideas for Christmas? Why not buy this tea towel, designed by Ian Gibson - a welcome addition to your kitchen or as a gift for friends. The tea towels will be on sale at our forthcoming events, or by ordering online at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/badsey-society-publications>. Price £6. Other publications also available.



Membership Fees – Last chance to pay subs for 2016, £5 per person. Please forward to Tony Wood, Treasurer, or pay via Paypal at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions>. 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 58
October 2016**

There is a huge interest in family history these days. For those of you who are old enough, you may remember the hard graft of spending hours in cold churches looking at parish registers, hauling huge leather-bound civil registration indexes off the shelves at Somerset House, or trawling through endless microfilm records looking for that elusive ancestor in the census. Now we have that wonderful thing called the internet and it seems that all your ancestors are there ready and waiting for you to find out more about them, with a multitude of websites to choose from. But genealogical research on the web is both a blessing and a curse. If you would like help, or just want background information, come and join us on Friday 28th October to find out more (see back for more details).

Round-Up of Events July to September 2016

Saturday 23rd July 2016, Badsey Flower Show – It was a beautiful day for this, the 114th Annual Flower Show. Our MP, and Badsey Society member, Nigel Huddleston, opened proceedings. He is pictured right with another Badsey Society member, Gordon Boon, Chairman of the Flower Show Committee. We had a steady stream of visitors all afternoon. In particular, we welcomed out-of-town members, Mr & Mrs Bruce Jones (pictured below) of Mutford in Suffolk, who regularly return to the area at Flower Show time.



Bruce, together with his brother, Barry (also an out-of-town member living in Sussex), grew up at Malvern House, Badsey. Both left the village many years ago but like to keep in touch with what is going on and are always keen to hear of our latest research. Bruce wondered whether he is the member who lives furthest away from Badsey. But no, he's not! In the UK, we have a member who lives in Helston, Cornwall, and overseas, we have three who live in America.

Saturday 30th July 2016 – Badsey Carnival

After a gap of 30 years, it was carnival time in Badsey again. Seven floats took part in a procession which wound its way from the Remembrance Hall, down Synehurst and into the High Street, along Brewers Lane, Chapel Street, School Lane, High Street and back into Brewers Lane, ending up at Badsey Community Sports & Social Club.



Maureen Spinks, Jane Neill and Tony Wood participated in the walking procession and flew the flag for The Badsey Society with a colourful banner made by Jane.



Friday 9th September 2016 - An Evening with the Sladdens of Seward House

Once more people assembled at St James' Church for another evening of readings from the letters of the Sladden family of Seward House. This year's event began with Arthur Sladden serving in France with the Royal Army Medical Corps, George Sladden in France with the Civil Service Rifles and Cyril Sladden with the 9th Worcestershire Regiment on the Gallipoli peninsula. The letters read out formed just a small portion of the huge number to be found at The Hive in Worcester. If you missed the event, or if you wish to read all of the letters, they may be found on our new website (see opposite page). If you do not have a computer but would like to see the letters on the web, these will be made available at our Family History evening on 28th October.



Left (standing): Mellangell Roe-Stevens, Jane Neill, Tony Spinks, Sandra Sparrow, Anthony Miller, Robin Neill, Terry Sparrow, Chris Smith, Will Dallimore. Seated: Ross Davies, Patsy Miller, Martha Morrey, Maureen Spinks.



Above: Cyril Sladden (Terry Sparrow) with his fiancée, Mela Brown Constable (Jane Neill). With grateful thanks to Heritage Lottery Fund.



Mystery Solved – 40 Years On!



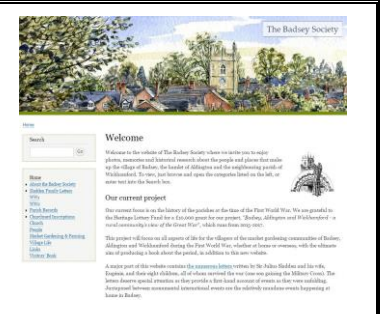
As I've said before, I don't like mysteries. A knock at the door the other month has managed to solve one little mystery. Wendy Beasley came to say that her daughters had been looking through things from their childhood and found an old Badsey School Magazine from 1976. "We did that," they said, pointing to the front cover. The only indication of who designed it is the presence of the initials JB and CB in the top right-hand corner. The magazine cover is pictured on page 127 of *Heads and Tales - A History of Badsey Schools* but the artist is given as unknown. So, thank you, Wendy, for drawing this to our attention, and a belated acknowledgement to Jennifer and Carol Beasley for their artwork.

The Bretforton History Group

The Badsey Society is delighted to report the birth of a new local history group: The Bretforton History Group, founded by a Badsey Society member, Fiona Gibson, who lives in Bretforton. Fiona has been involved with research into Bretforton history since moving to the village a few years ago and hopes to emulate what Badsey has been doing for the last 16 years or so. More details about the group can be obtained from Fiona Gibson (Chair), 30 Main Street, Bretforton, WR11 7JH. Tel No. 01386 830815.

The New Badsey Website

As a result of receiving lottery funding from Heritage Lottery Fund from their WW1 pot of money, we have been able to pay for the launch of a new Badsey Society website: www.badseysociety.uk. For the time being, the focus is on the rich treasure trove of letters written by the Sladdens of Seward House, but there are also other items of interest with articles on market gardening, village life, the church etc. In the meantime, take a dip into the site to see what's there.



The Sladden letters give a fascinating tale of life with the Royal Army Medical Corps (Arthur), life on the Western Front (George), the trials and tribulations of Gallipoli and Mesopotamia (Cyril), nursing in England (Mela) and life on the home front. There are also fascinating glimpses of life in Badsey a hundred years ago.

Shirley James and Pat Goldstraw, who attended the Sladden Evening, were touched to hear their forebears mentioned. If your ancestors lived in Badsey, you may be surprised (pleasantly, we hope!) that they were mentioned in one of the Sladden letters. As Mela Brown Constable said in one of her letters: "One hears a tremendous lot of village gossip whilst one is working – some of the tales make my hair stand on end with surprise! I don't expect any of them are true." To find out if your ancestor is mentioned, from the Home page, click on "Sladden Family Letters", then on "People mentioned in the Sladden Letters" (or go straight to <http://www.badseysociety.uk/sladden-archive/people>). Here you will find an alphabetical list of people. By clicking on the relevant person, you will be able to see in which letters they receive a mention. Some of the local names to be found are: Barnard, Blake, Braislford, Crane, Crisp, Cull, Harrison, Idiens, Jeffries, Jelfs, Johns, Jones, Keen, Knight, March, Murray, Mustoe, Openshaw, Sparrow, Wheatley. Other prominent village people mentioned in the letters are Mrs Ashwin, Mr Binyon, Dr Leslie and Mr Amos.

The letters reveal that members of the Sladden family brushed past some notable names in our history. For example, "Aunt George" (Marian Coleman), the aunt of Julius Sladden and a great favourite of all the Sladdens, was the cousin of the cricketer, W G Grace, and lived with him and his wife at their home in Mottingham in south-east London. A letter of 31st October 1915 from Kathleen Sladden describes Jack Sladden's attendance at the funeral at which Ranjitsinhji was also present. At about the same time, over on the Greek island of Lemnos whilst waiting to be sent back to the Gallipoli peninsula, Cyril Sladden became acquainted with a Captain Attlee with whom he spent many hours on long walks putting the world to rights. Letters of 27th October, 3rd November and 11th November 1915 speak very approvingly of the thoughtful young man described as "extremely interested in social problems, and a very voracious reader, and knows his subject thoroughly". At this point, bells began to ring and, on investigation, yes, you've guessed it, it turned out that Captain Attlee was the future Labour Prime Minister, Clement Attlee. As far as we know, their paths did not cross again, but we shall have to wait until the 1917 and 1918 letters have been transcribed to find out more.

Information on parish records, census returns, wills etc, are gradually being transferred from the old site to the new website, with more baptismal, marriage and burial data being made available, so keep on checking back to see what's new.