

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017**  
**St James' Church, Badsey, 7.30 pm**

**AN EVENING WITH THE SLADDEN FAMILY OF SEWARD HOUSE**  
**LETTERS FROM A BADSEY FAMILY IN 1917-1919**

Members of The Badsey Society will play the parts of the Sladden family and read from letters written in 1917-1919. 1916 had been a sad year for the Sladdens with the death of Mrs Eugénie Sladden. The year ended with Cyril Sladden of the 9<sup>th</sup> Worcestershire Regiment about to go into battle again in Mesopotamia, Arthur Sladden about to be sent to a convalescent home in the south of France 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 the last years of the war hold in store for the Sladdens of Seward House? Join us on 13<sup>th</sup> October for this, the final event of the Sladden letter-readings.

Tea and coffee 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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**7.30 pm, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club**

**WILDLIFE OF BADSEY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA**

In the first part of the evening, Ian Gibson will give an illustrated talk on the animals to be found in the local area. After the break, he will talk about his study of the work of the Reverend William Squire Rufford, Curate at Badsey 1813-1819, whose interest in botany gives us a glimpse of the wealth of wild plants that were then growing in the Badsey area; Ian will compare this with the plants to be found today.

**Events in 2018 – all talks at Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm**

- Friday 9th February 2018 – Annual General Meeting
- Friday 9th March 2018 – Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture; Alan Wadsworth of the Worcestershire Farmsteads Project will talk about his work
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Alan Tutton will talk about the River Avon
- Saturday 29th July 2018 – Badsey Flower Show

**Tony Jerram Award**

It's that time of year again when we begin to think about nominations for the annual Tony Jerram Award. Please return the enclosed form by 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Membership Fees** – Last chance to pay subs for 2017, £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
John Sharp	24C High Street, Badsey - 01386 831235
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 62  
October 2017**

It's almost time for the final "Evening with the Sladden Family" (see back page for details of the event), which will take us to the end of the First World War. Not only do the letters tell us about the lives of the Sladdens both at home and abroad, but we also catch glimpses of the lives of other Badsey and Wickhamford folk. For example, it is a hundred years since George Mason died; his name was mentioned in a couple of letters written in 1917. You will find his story inside.

**Round-Up of Events July to September 2017**  
**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 – Badsey Flower Show**

Saturday dawned bright and clear but, as the morning progressed, dark clouds threatened; an hour before the Flower Show was due to start, the heavens opened. By the time the 115th Show began at 1 pm the rain had stopped and people were able to enjoy the exhibits for an hour or two before the rain began again. We welcomed many visitors to our stand, including members of the Badsey family of Badsey: Professor Stephen Badsey and Dr Phylomena Badsey (right) from The University of Wolverhampton (albeit their ancestors left Badsey over 300 years ago!), who both kindly donated raffle prizes.



There were display boards on the wildlife of Badsey and on house histories. Much interest was shown in the photo surveys of the village which are now available for the first time on the web (advance warning, we hope to repeat the survey in 2018). A mobile phone was used to give visitors to the stand a taste of what is now available on the Badsey website.



Next to The Badsey Society stand was a replica WW1 Bell tent. This was provided courtesy of "Worcestershire World War One Hundred", a project (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund) which is commemorating each year of the Great War. David Jarratt of Worcester Museums Service brought along a number of WW1 objects which were on display.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – Badsey Carnival**

Once again, Jane Neill, Tony Wood and Maureen Spinks flew a flag for The Badsey Society, taking part in the Badsey Carnival, which was revived last year after a gap of over 30 years. The trio followed the vehicle procession on foot as it wended its way from the Remembrance Hall to the Recreation Ground.



## Yet more New Roads

In our July Newsletter, we spoke about the track leading to Bretforton now being officially called Pear Tree Lane. Since then, we have news of not one, but five new roads: one in Badsey and four in Aldington. The four roads in Aldington all have a postal address of Evesham but belong to the parish of Aldington (except Sunset Way, which belongs to Bengeworth, but a third of its houses are physically located in Aldington).

- Kingshurst Gardens, Badsey – a development of 26 houses; it is named after the King family who owned the land for many years. Work began at the end of 2016 and the first houses were occupied in August 2017.
- Lambourne Close, Aldington – a development of 11 houses; the road is named after the Lord Lambourne apple.
- Lodge Park Drive, Aldington – a development of 41 houses; the road is named after Aldington Lodge which was built on the land in 1858 and which, at 2017, is currently still standing.
- Offenham View, Aldington – a development of five houses.
- Sunset Way, Aldington – a development of 50 houses, a third of which are in Aldington; the road is named after the Sunset apple.

## John Bolton (1940-2017)

We are sorry to report the death of Society member, John Bolton, at the age of 77. John was born into a farming family from Worcester. On leaving school he trained with Ford Motor Company in machinery spares. John came to Badsey in 1981 and soon afterwards became one of the team of bellringers at St James' Church. In addition to his commitment as a regular ringer for Sunday services at the church, John carried out much maintenance of the bell fittings.

John was a member of the 2008 Badsey Society photographic team which undertook a comprehensive photo survey of Badsey and Aldington. He was responsible for many of the photos taken along Badsey Fields Lane, which may be viewed at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/photographic-survey-badsey-and-aldington-2008/photos-badsey-fields-lane-2008>. Some time after the survey was completed, John, of his own volition, decided that the site of the soon-to-be-built Stone Pippin Orchard ought to be recorded and took a series of 13 photos which may be seen at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/places/streets/stone-pippin-orchard>.

We send our condolences to John's wife, Hilary (Ringing Master at the church), and other members of the family.

## Patricia Daisy Chilver (née Dyke, 1935-2017)

News has just come in of the death of Pat Chilver, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> September in Worcestershire Royal Hospital. Pat had been a member of the Society since 2014. We offer condolences to her widowed husband, daughters and grandchildren, and to her sister, Jean Dyke of Badsey.

### 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.



## George Mason (1891-1917) of Badsey and Wickhamford

George Mason was born at Badsey on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1891 and baptised in St James' Church, the second of three sons of John and Elizabeth Mason. The family lived at Malvern House, High Street, Badsey, and George and his brothers attended Badsey School. George's father was a market gardener. George's mother was a teacher and Head of Badsey Infant Department.

At some time at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Masons moved to Elm Farm, Wickhamford. George left school in 1904 and went to work on his father's market gardening land.



On the outbreak of WW1, George enlisted with the Worcestershire Yeomanry, later transferring to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment and then becoming attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. He was commissioned as Second Lieutenant on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1916. In 1917, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion saw heavy fighting in France as part of the Arras Offensive.

In a letter of 19<sup>th</sup> August 1917 to her fiancé, Cyril Sladden, Mela Brown Constable wrote:

*“George Mason, the school teacher's son at Wickhamford, was reported severely wounded and missing some little time ago, and his Mother has heard from a friend of his that as he was being carried away on the stretcher, he and the bearers were blown to bits by a shell. George Mason and his brother have both won commissions. The former was engaged to Cissie Barnard, such a sweet-looking girl. I saw her in Church this morning with Mrs Mason, and she was dressed in mourning. She looked so pathetic.”*

A day or two later, Mela confirmed the worst:

*“Mrs Mason has had official intimation of George Mason's death today.”*

George Mason had, in fact, died three months earlier, but it was often some time before relatives had official confirmation of their loved one's fate.

A memorial service was held at Wickhamford on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1917, with the choir being augmented by the senior members of the Badsey choir and a large congregation in attendance. George's grieving parents remained living in Wickhamford for the rest of their lives, John dying in 1951 and Elizabeth in 1955. George's father never got over his son's death; he kept the last letter from George in his wallet. Of the three brothers, it was George who was into farming and would have taken over the family farm.



Also left to grieve was George's fiancée, Cecilia Barnard (1893-1992), known as Cis. The couple had been childhood sweethearts. Cis found it difficult to speak about George after his death, but visited Wickhamford Church every week where a stained glass window had been installed in his memory, and to place flowers and see his parents. It was only in Cis' final illness, when she had to go into hospital, aged 99, that a pile of George's love letters were found under her pillow. They were closely written, in pencil, and she had kept them there for over 75 years. After her death, a special plaque was placed under George's memorial window.