

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
**7.30 pm, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

It's a changing of the guard in 2018. Valerie Magan and Tony Wood, who have served for the last five years as Secretary and Treasurer of The Badsey Society, have both decided to stand down. We would like to thank them for their huge contributions. Fortunately, we have volunteers to step into their shoes but new general Committee members are welcome. The business part of the meeting will be followed by presentation of the Tony Jerram award by Mrs Barbara Jerram.

Following the interval, there will be talks by Terry Sparrow, Brian Smith and Will Dallimore. There will be a raffle – if you have a suitable raffle prize which you wish to donate, please bring along on the evening.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
**7.30 pm, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club**  
**RICHARD PHILLIPS' MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**WORCESTERSHIRE FARMSTEADS PROJECT - ALAN WADSWORTH**

Farmsteads are very much part of the English landscape and this is particularly true in Worcestershire. However, there are enormous pressures on farming and historic farm buildings are being lost. In many cases, they no longer meet the needs of modern agriculture and they are expensive to maintain. The result is that many are being converted to other sustainable uses or are simply falling down.

Alan Wadsworth will talk about the recording and research project he has set up to record Worcestershire's farmsteads. The first part of Alan's talk will focus on what the Project does and how it works. After the interval, he will then demonstrate how the methods are used with a case study farm from our local area.

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

- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Alan Tutton will talk about the River Avon
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Midsummer walk to Wickhamford
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – Badsey Flower Show
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November–Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the end of WW1 and launch of the new Society publication

**Membership Fees** – 2018 membership fees due, £5 per person. Please pay via Paypal at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions> or forward (until the AGM) to Tony Wood, Treasurer. 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 63  
January 2018**

A Happy New Year to all our members. This year, after a gap of seven years, The Badsey Society will be producing a new publication. Our fifth book will be about Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford at the time of the Great War and is due for publication Remembrance weekend, to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war.

**Round-Up of Events October to December 2017**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – An Evening with the Sladden Family of Seward House**

The fourth and final evening of “Letters from a Badsey Family” comprised readings of letters from 1917-1919. A new cast member was Bernard Sladden of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Auckland Company (the Sladdens' cousin from New Zealand), played by his great-great-nephew, Jonathan Miller – who came complete with an authentic “lemon-squeezer” hat!

Left to right: Bernard Sladden (Jonathan Miller), Mela Brown Constable (Jane Neill), Official Voice (Melangell Smith), Arthur Sladden (Chris Smith), Narrator (Will Dallimore), Cyril Sladden (Terry Sparrow), George Sladden (Tony Spinks). After four long years of absence, Cyril and Mela were finally reunited when he returned from Baku in March 1919; six weeks later they were married - several of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren were present on the evening.



Left: A bevy of Sladdens (and Wendy Beasley who entertained the Sladden family with her memories of their relatives). We are grateful to the current owners of the various parts of the Seward House property for allowing us to visit. Seward House was home to the Sladdens for over a hundred years and many of the descendants had visited as children. Gillian Hepburn (90-year-old daughter of George Sladden) recalled driving from Durham with her parents each summer to visit.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Wildlife of Badsey**

Ian Gibson took us on an informative tour of the wildlife in the local area – we had no idea there was so much wildlife teeming in our gardens! Ian is beginning to share his photographic collection in a new section on the website called “Nature Notes”, <http://www.badseysociety.uk/nature-notes>. In the second part of the evening, Ian talked 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 growing in the Badsey area 200 years ago.



This hornet hoverfly is an example of a species relatively new to Britain and now moving northwards.

## King George II Coat of Arms



Bell-ringers, Gordon Hill and Tom Sandham, drew our attention to a huge coat of arms of George II hidden away in the bell-tower of St James Church. George II reigned from 1727-1760, so it must be nearly 300 years old. Royal coats of Arms were erected in many churches from Tudor times, chiefly to mark the monarch's position as Governor of the Church of England. The creators of these items were often itinerant painters who could turn their hand to everything from a royal coat of arms to an inn sign.

The royal coat of arms has evolved over the years reflecting the nation's history. The first quarter contains three golden lions on a red field and dates back to Plantagenet times. In 1707, the kingdoms of England and Scotland were merged to form that of Great Britain; this was reflected by impaling their arms in a single quarter. The second quarter contains fleurs-de-lys, adopted by Edward III and representing his claim to the French throne. The third quarter has a harp, added in Stuart times to represent the Kingdom of Ireland. The fourth quarter was amended in 1714 to show the origins of the House of Hanover as a result of the Act of Settlement.

## A House Through Time

Have you been watching the BBC's *A House Through Time*? The series tells a story of Britain spanning a period of social change from the 1840s to the present day, through the prism of a terraced house in Liverpool. Presenter David Olusoga delves into 180 years of history, searching through city archives, scouring records and tracking down living descendants to tell the untold stories of the people who lived there.

"I wish I could find out about the history of my house," said someone to me recently when discussing the programme. Well, the truth is, you can, or at least begin to find out about it by checking what's on the Badsey website, [www.badseysociety.uk](http://www.badseysociety.uk). For example, if you live in Belmont Terrace, try putting "Belmont Terrace" into the "Search" box, and you will come up with many references – you will be able to see who lived there at the time of the 1901, 1911 and 1939 census and see old photos. If you live in Synehurst, Synehurst Avenue or Synehurst Crescent which were built between the wars, you will find details of occupants of who lived there in September 1939. Even if you live in a modern house, you may well find photos from either the 1968 or 2008 photo surveys.

As David Olusoga says in the opening sentence of his programme: "When we live in a house, we're just passing through. People have occupied it before us and others will take our place when we leave. Every house in Britain has a story to tell." So start finding out about yours now!

## Wanted

Over the years, a number of people have contributed photos and details of ancestors relating to the First World War. If you have any photos/documents of people from Badsey, Aldington or Wickhamford which you have not previously lent and which you think would be relevant to a book on WW1, please either ring Maureen Spinks on 831154 or email [maureen.spinks@btopenworld.com](mailto:maureen.spinks@btopenworld.com).

## Alfred Sparrow - National Farm Survey

In the summer of 1941, 38-year-old Alfred William Sparrow, who lived on Brewers Lane, Badsey, with his wife and young sons, received three agricultural census forms for completion on 4th June. This was part of the nationwide National Farm Survey.

MR. A. W. SPARROW,  
"ROSSNYN", BREWERS ROAD,  
BADSEY,  
EVESHAM,  
WORCS.  
WR/319  
30/176  
6.2/NIL

At the beginning of World War II, Britain needed to increase home food production, and the area of land under cultivation was rapidly increased. Once this short-term objective had been met, thought was given to implementing a more general National Farm Survey which was begun in 1941. The forms sent out were an enhanced version of the regular 4<sup>th</sup> June agricultural return.

Alfred Sparrow recorded that he had: ¼ acre main crop potatoes, 6 acres vegetables, 1½ acres Brussels sprouts, ¼ acre cauliflowers, ¼ acre parsnips, ½ acre onions, ½ acre runner and French beans, ¼ acre peas for market, 1½ acres asparagus, ¼ acre bulb flowers (not tulips or daffodils) and ¼ acre other flowers. He did not employ anyone to help him, he had no motive power or a horse and he had no livestock. He had occupied the holding for 11 years. As Alfred Sparrow was market gardening on land over 5 acres, his holding had to be inspected, which happened 1½ years later. The inspectors were John Edwin Knight, from a prominent local market gardening family, and Ronald William Sidwell, a horticulturalist who moved from the West Midlands to the Vale in 1941.

The form (left) was split into four sections. Section A related to tenure and reveals that he was a full-time tenant farmer; the owner was A C Sparrow (his father).

Section B related to conditions of the farm which was judged to be 100% good, as was the farmhouse and field drainage. It was moderately conveniently laid out, on soil which was 50% heavy and 50% medium. There were no infestations of any kind and no derelict fields.

Section C revealed there was a piped water supply to the house and well and roof water supply for the buildings; there was an electricity supply for household purposes but not for farm purposes.

The final section, D, concerned management. Overall, Alfred Sparrow's management of the farm was classified as A, with condition of arable land being good and adequate use of fertilisers. A fuller version of this article may be viewed at: <http://www.badseysociety.uk/national-farm-survey-1941/case-study-alfred-william-sparrow-badsey>