

**Saturday 28th July 2018**

**Badsey Flower Show**

Come and join us for this year's Flower Show, the 115<sup>th</sup> – see you there! We have a double pitch booked and lots of willing volunteers to greet you.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018**

**Trip to Worcester Cathedral Library**

The Library, which is reputed to be the second most important Cathedral Library in this country, contains a collection of mediaeval manuscripts from Anglo-Saxon times onwards. It also houses books collected from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day together with pictures, prints, artefacts and archives. The famous Worcester Antiphoner (containing the music and liturgy used in the Cathedral and monastery between 1220 and 1225) and the historic Music Library are also housed here. King John's will, his artefacts and relics also form part of the tour. Please see enclosed booking form.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Centenary of the end of the First World War**

- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 7.30 pm, St James' Church – WW1 book launch (see enclosed form)
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 10-4, St James' Church – WW1 exhibition
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – Remembrance Day service

**Also in 2018**

- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August at The Guildhall, Worcester – local groups, including The Badsey Society, will be participating in an exhibition organised by "Worcestershire World War 100". Please call in if you're in Worcester.
- The Almonry is organising an "Extraordinary Women" exhibition. For their WWI exhibition, we have submitted nominations for Ethel Sladden and Mela Brown Constable of Badsey and Bertha Drysdale of Wickhamford. Nominations for other women (any time period) must be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> July for inclusion in an exhibition during Heritage Open Days (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September) – details on the Almonry website. Why don't you nominate someone?

**Membership Fees** – 2018 membership fees due, £5 per person. Please pay via Paypal at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions> or forward to John Sharp, Treasurer. Committee members are:

Maureen Spinks Chairman	The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey 01386 831154; history@badsey.net
Shirley Tutton Secretary	34 Seward Road, Badsey 01386 831539; info@badsey.net
John Sharp Treasurer	Honeysuckle Cottage, 24C High Street, Badsey, WR11 7EJ; 01386 831235; 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
Gill Woods	42 Stone Pippin Orchard, Badsey - 01386 839505



**THE  
BADSEY  
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter  
No 65  
July 2018**

With the glorious weather we've been having in May and June, let's hope the weather lasts for the Flower Show. Many thanks to those members who have volunteered to help out on the stand.

Inside this Newsletter you will find forms for not one, but two events happening later this year. Shirley Tutton has organised for us to visit Worcester Cathedral Library in September. Places are limited, so please don't delay in returning your form. The second form relates to the latest Badsey Society publication which will be published on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November. All who subscribe to the book in advance will be invited to the book launch on the night.

**Round-Up of Events April to June 2018**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018 - The River Avon, talk by Alan Tutton**

The River Avon rises close to the village of Naseby and flows through the West Midlands to Tewkesbury where it meets the River Severn. As a traveller on the river, Alan explained that it is the peace and tranquillity that is particularly attractive; it is such a privilege, for example, to get close to nesting swans, also the large colonies of Canada Geese and Greylags. There are also escaped species such as Egyptian Geese, Mandarin Ducks and Tufted Ducks. Grass snakes may be seen swimming across the river, or the very rare water vole or the vicious predator the mink.



The beautiful kingfisher that often shoots ahead of the boat from one perch to the next.

Alan explained that navigation was originally authorised on the river by Charles I in 1635 when one William Sandys was given powers to improve the river; by 1642 it was possible to navigate to within four miles of Warwick. Today the river is only navigable between Tewkesbury and Alveston just to the north of Stratford.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Midsummer Walk to Wickhamford**

Ian Gibson led us on an excellent trip across the fields to Wickhamford, which afforded a rare opportunity to visit Wickhamford Mill, courtesy of John Poulter. Past Chairman, Mike Lovatt, who is a keen molinologist and presides over the mill at Stanway, was also present to assist John in showing people the works. We also stopped outside Badsey Mill and the Church of St John the Baptist where Ian explained some of the history to us. On returning to Badsey, we adjourned to 34 Seward Road where Alan and Shirley Tutton had kindly provided refreshments.



If you would like to know more about the history of Wickhamford Mill, see Tom Locke's article at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/places/wickhamford-mill>.

## Our American Members

Alan and Shirley Tutton had the pleasure of meeting two of our overseas members, Chris and Beth Kang from California. They invited them for coffee aboard their boat and took them on a cruise to view the local area. Chris wrote on his return to the USA:

*They are such a delightful generous couple who proceeded to share historical tidbits of the surrounding area and then later escorted us to see Wickhamford Manor, the church adjoining the manor where Penelope Washington is buried, Weathervane Cottage and the Fleece Inn where we enjoyed a sumptuous late lunch. I even sat in the chair in the same spot in the Fleece Inn where the photograph taken by Vivian Charles Buckley in the 1930s and pictured on Page 51 of his 1967 book ("The Good Life – Between the two World Wars with a Candid Camera"). We would not have had the wonderful opportunity to see and learn more about the local history of the Vale of Evesham without Shirley's and Alan's generous assistance, friendship and time given so freely of which we are indeed very grateful for.*



Above: V C Buckley, 1930s.  
Below: Chris Kang, 2018



## Badsey Archive



In June, Jane Neill and Maureen Spinks were pleased to help Roger Harrison of Bromsgrove who wished to view some items from our Archive relating to his great-grandfather, James Myatt, an Offenham market gardener famed for his rhubarb and strawberries and after whom *Myatt's Offenham Compacta* cabbage was named.. This was part of the Ron Sidwell horticultural collection.

Many thanks to Peter Stewart for donating his collection of James Lees-Milne books and to Terry Smith for giving a selection of 1930s postcards of Wickhamford. We have also received from the Brazier family an amazing art scrapbook containing art work from Badsey School dating from 1902 to the 1940s. Other additions are deeds of a house in Aldington and photos of the Marshall family.

## Joan Hewlett (1929-2018)

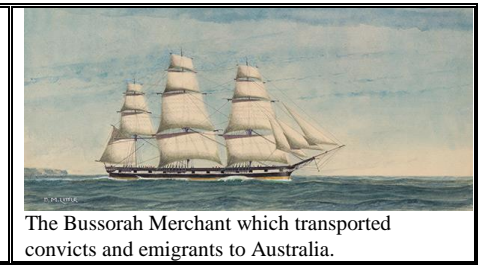
Joan Hewlett, along with her late husband, Bernard, was a member of The Badsey Society until Bernard's death in 2016. Joan died on 1<sup>st</sup> May and the funeral was at Badsey. We send our sincere condolences to Joan's family.

## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Many thanks to all of you who returned the GDPR form enclosed with our last newsletter. We take the privacy of our members seriously and we wish to assure you that the data held by us in order to be able to send you information is held securely and that we will comply with your preferences. A copy of our Privacy Policy may be seen on the website.

## From Badsey and Wickhamford to Australia

*Inspired by a recent trip to Australia, Maureen Spinks has looked at former residents of Badsey and Wickhamford who emigrated to the other side of the world. Tom Locke and Val Harman, in the meantime, found a story of two men who made the long journey, but not of their own volition.*



The Bussorah Merchant which transported convicts and emigrants to Australia.

From time to time, we get emails to the website from people all over the world whose ancestors once lived in Badsey or Wickhamford. Way back in 2000 when the original Badsey website was launched, we were very excited when our first email was from an Australian who was a descendant of the Reverend Charles Bloxham, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Curate of Badsey and Wickhamford. Bloxham was the *de facto* Vicar for almost 20 years during the tenure of the absentee Vicar. Eight of his ten children were born at Badsey Vicarage and baptised in St James' Church – no less than five of these children sought new lives for themselves by emigrating to Australia in the 1840s and 1850s.

The first to go was James Selwyn Bloxham who joined the Merchant Navy and who undertook several voyages to the new colony with emigrants before deciding himself to settle there. He was closely followed by his brothers, Edward, Harry and Arthur, and by his sister, Sophia. Edward John Bloxham in particular seems to have been very successful as a grazier and "squatter". The term "squatter" does not have the connotations it has today. In Australian history, a squatter was someone who occupied a large tract of Crown land in order to graze livestock. They often had no legal rights to the land, but gained its usage by being the first settlers in the area; they were often amongst the wealthiest men. Edward was at the forefront of establishing new townships in New South Wales and Victoria and there are at least three towns with a "Bloxham Street" named after him. More information about the five Bloxham siblings and other emigrants to Australia may be found at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/village-life/emigration-australia>.

Now on to those who were sentenced to transportation. William Allard of Badsey and Thomas Bennett of Wickhamford found themselves on a boat bound for Australia in 1831. Following a bungled attempt at burglary at the home of Allard's grandfather in Pebworth, they were arrested, along with two others – William Holland and John Bennett's (Thomas' brother). Holland was not tried as he turned King's Evidence. The three others were condemned to death. An appeal resulted in Thomas Bennett and William Allard having their sentences commuted to transportation to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) for life. The appeal for the life of John Bennett was refused and he was hanged in public at Gloucester Gaol. The two transported men lived out their lives in Tasmania, both eventually being given parole, despite being far from model prisoners. The full sorry tale can be read at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/people/bennett/john>.

In Australia these days, people are now quite proud to have convict ancestors. Val's claim to fame is that she has a very distant connection to William Allard - his great-grandfather Richard Mason, is Val's 5xgreat-grandfather! Val discovered the story of Bennett and Allard in the National Archives catalogue. She said that she is amazed that it hasn't come to light before, given the huge amount of research that has been done in Badsey and Wickhamford. "It gives me great hope that there are still lots of things just waiting to be unearthed," she concluded.