

Friday 8th February 2019, 7.30 pm

Badsey Community Sports & Social Club – Annual General Meeting

All members are welcome to join us at the 17th AGM of the Society. The business part of the meeting will be followed by presentation of the Tony Jerram award by Mrs Barbara Jerram. Many thanks to the seven people who took the time to nominate someone for the award. Following the interval, there will be talks by Nina O'Hare and Alan Wadsworth about possible future projects for the Society. Nina, an archaeologist working for Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service, will tell us about the possibility of conducting a test pit project in the village, so if you've loved watching *Time Team* and similar programmes, come along to find out more. Alan will talk about a market gardening project which will be carrying out a survey of surviving hovels in the area.

Friday 8th March 2019, 7.30 pm
The Pub in a Club – Members' Night

It has been suggested that it would be good to have an informal evening when members can get together for a chat and a drink and perhaps bring along photographs or other items of interest. So come along to The Pub in a Club to meet up with other members. Depending on the uptake at this meeting, a similar event will be held in May.

Friday 12th April 2019, 7.30 pm

Badsey Community Sports & Social Club – Richard Phillips Lecture

Lizzie Noyes will present this year's Memorial Lecture and will talk about Badsey Manor House. Most of you will know that Richard wrote about the Seyne House (as the Manor House was once known) in our publication, *Villages in the Vale: A Tapestry of Local History*. Since then, more information has come to light. Lizzie has also kindly offered to conduct a tour of the Manor the next morning, Saturday 13th April. There will be an opportunity to sign up for this at the Friday evening lecture.

Other Events in 2019

- Friday 10th May 2019 – Members' Night (dependent on success of March night)
- Friday 21st June 2019 – Midsummer Walk at Offenham; more details to follow in the next Newsletter
- Saturday 20th July 2019 – Badsey Flower Show

Membership Fees – 2019 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
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Jane Neill	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington - 01386 830301
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**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
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A Happy New Year to all our members. Our Heritage Lottery funded WWI project is now at an end. We hope that our fifth publication, *Peace, War & Remembrance*, and the associated events, have helped people to understand what life was like for the people living in our villages a hundred years ago.

It's now time to think about projects for the future. Please join us on 8th February to find out more about a possible archaeological project (see back page) and see inside for exciting discoveries in Aldington.

Round-Up of Events October to December 2018

Friday 9th November 2018 – Book Launch of *Peace, War & Remembrance*

The church was full for the launch of our latest publication (the author, Maureen Spinks, and cover illustrator, Ian Gibson, pictured right). In addition to Heritage Lottery funds, we are grateful to Badsey Parish Council who awarded us money from Section 106 funds. At the end of the evening, guests had the opportunity to try some "Trench Cake"; many thanks to all those who made a cake. Suffice it to say, despite jokes about being used as ammunition, these were all well received and there was not a crumb left!



There were several speeches during the course of the evening. Stephen Badsey, Professor of Conflict Studies at The University of Wolverhampton, who wrote the Foreword to the book, described it as a model of the kind of "building block" history which scholars are finding so valuable in helping create the bigger picture. At the end of the evening, Professor Badsey, who regards Badsey as his "spiritual home", and his wife, Dr Phylomena Badsey, were given life membership of the Society.

Saturday 10th November 2018 – WW1 Exhibition in St James' Church

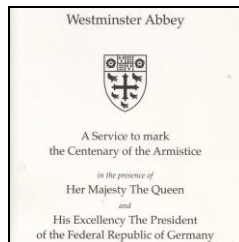
The exhibition included information about our villages 100 years ago, biographical booklets about the servicemen who lost their lives, embroidered postcards, crested china and a tree of hearts embroidered by members of Badsey WI.

People also had the opportunity to view the new memorial in Badsey Churchyard, paid for out of grant funding, and which commemorates all those who played their part, both at home and abroad. In this market gardening region, the role of market gardeners was of great importance in the war effort. The memorial is to the left of the lych-gate as you approach from Chapel Street.



Sunday 11th November 2018 – Remembrance Day

Following the Remembrance Day Service in St James' Church, Badsey, Maureen Spinks then travelled to London where she was privileged to attend the special service to mark the Centenary of the Armistice in Westminster Abbey. As Project Manager of the Society's WWI project, she was one of a number of Heritage Lottery funded representatives in attendance.



Pat Goldstraw (1932-2018)

The close of the year saw the passing of the matriarch of one of Badsey's great dynasties. Elizabeth Patricia Goldstraw (née Barnard), known as Pat, died peacefully at home on 1st December, aged 86. Pat was linked to so many families in the village – Barnard, Addis, Dore, Crisp – and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of her family's history. She was the source of a vast store of photos and memories which proved invaluable when researching material for all our publications. By the time our last book was due to be published, Pat was not very well, but was most anxious still to be of assistance and was very proud of the fact that her father was featured in the book.

On one occasion, three months before she died, Pat's lifelong friends, Pixie Keyte and Shirley James, were visiting. For a brief hour, Pat was able to forget her illness and the three were like schoolgirls again as they chatted happily about the past – oh, to have had a tape recorder then to record those happy memories.

A star scholar at both Badsey Council School and Prince Henry's Grammar, Pat then went to Gipsy Hill Teacher Training College. Pat loved the life that London offered and may well have stayed, had it not been for a family tragedy which caused her to return home at the end of her course. She became a teacher at her old primary school – London's loss was Badsey's gain. Marriage to Frank Goldstraw and the birth of four children followed. It was in 1965, with a growing family, that Pat opened her own pre-school nursery in the grounds of their home, Chalcroft; this was in operation for over 20 years. In retirement, she was involved in many village activities.

Badsey is the poorer for Pat's passing. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to her family and many friends.

A Narrowboat named Badsey

Did you know that there's a narrowboat called Badsey? Neil Corbett, who grew up in Badsey but now lives in Berkshire and has his own narrowboat, alerted us to this fact. Badsey, launched in 1936, is a preserved narrowboat moored outside "Badsey's café" on the Grand Union Canal in Hillmorton, Rugby.



Go to <https://www.badseysociety.uk/village-life/a-narrowboat-named-badsey> to read Neil's full article about the history of the narrowboat. Neil concludes his article by saying: "So now she sits fully restored and looking good as new in Hillmorton outside Badsey's café for all to admire. The café is pretty good too with lovely home cooked food and a number of interesting old canal photos inside plus one or two from Badsey village. Set in the middle of an attractive flight of three pairs of locks the spot would make a pleasant day's outing from Badsey to 'Badsey'."

Life moves on – but the past is dug up

Aldington Lodge is no more. For over 150 years it stood in proud isolation down a long drive off the Offenham Road. But then the developers came and it gradually became surrounded by new houses until it was demolished in December. The Horsman family, who lived there from the time it was built in the 1850s and owned it for over 60 years, would find the area unrecognisable. But, as a result of the housing development, an exciting archaeological discovery has come to light.



There is a constant need for new homes and one of the largest developments in the area is that off the Offenham Road, where Aldington Lodge was located. Four of the new roads – Lodge Park Drive, Offenham View, Turnpike Drive, Lambourne Close – are in the parish of Aldington and are part of Badsey Ward, whilst a fifth, Sunset Way, officially part of Bengeworth, has nearly a third of its houses within the Aldington parish boundary.

Before any major housing development can take place, an archaeological survey must be taken. In 2016, Redrow Homes paid for a dig and an amazing discovery was unearthed. Ian Gibson, who attended a one-day archaeological conference in Worcester in November, at which Derek Hurst of Worcester Archive and Archaeology Service gave a talk entitled "The Aldington Beaker", takes up the story.

The amazing discovery was of a burial site located in gravel near a possible crossing point of ancient trackways one of which went north to what is now Badsey. The site contained a complete bell shaped pottery jar of the type known as a beaker. The style is of the "Low Carinated" type from 2500-2100 BCE. The shape and decoration of the jar is very similar to jars found to the East across the channel. The area of the burial contained looser gravel than the surroundings and this is what drew the archaeologists' attention.



A grave in chalk at Amesbury near Stonehenge from the same period contained the well-preserved skeleton of an archer with a beaker pot close by. This has been subject to isotope research and the surprise finding was that the archer came from the Alps region. The skeleton and teeth in the Aldington burial had dissolved away completely in the acidic gravel soil, leaving only a stone wrist guard or brace parallel with the position of the forearm. This in itself is evidence that the body was of an archer as at Amesbury. Two flint arrowheads were also found, one of which had a broken tip. At Amesbury a broken arrowhead was also found and the tip was found in the body of the archer so there is a suggestion that something similar happened at Aldington but the tip was not found here.

About 300 similar sites have been analysed in England, Wales and Scotland. The main finding is that these people were not local. They had origins in the Steppes, a huge area of Eurasia stretching from Hungary and Romania to China. Further information about the Beaker people may be found in Ian's article at <https://www.badseysociety.uk/village-life/aldington-lodge-beaker>.