



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; please register your interest after the talk so we know how many to expect.

Friday 10th May 2019, 7.30 pm

The Pub in a Club – Members’ Night

Following on from the success of the first Members’ Night held in March, it has been decided to have a further informal evening when members can get together for a chat and a drink and perhaps bring along photographs or other items of interest.

Friday 21st June 2019, 7 pm

Midsummer Walk - Offenham

Please join us for this year’s Midsummer Walk which will start at the Village Hall in Offenham (parking available) at 7 pm. We shall take a pleasant stroll through the beautiful village of Offenham which has the tallest maypole in the country and the longest stretch of thatched cottages in the country. The evening will finish with refreshments at Boat Lane Brewery.

Other Events in 2019

- Saturday 27th April 2019, 1-4pm – 3.4 mile circular walk through Badsey and Wickhamford to explore the historic heart of market gardening within the Vale. Please note that this is not a Badsey Society event but we are happy to advertise this on behalf of Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service. Nina O’Hare writes: “Along the way, we’ll see several ‘ovels – unique structures built by market gardeners – and take a look at the area through the eyes of children in the 1930s, before going back in time to the villages’ medieval origins and local prehistoric settlements.” Free event but booking required as places are limited; contact explorethepast@worcestershire.gov.uk or phone 01905 766352.
- 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
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

Our first meeting this quarter is a talk about the Manor House by Lizzie Noyes (see back page for details). To get you in mood for this, see inside for a story about a former occupant, who lived at the Manor House over 400 years ago. If you have never seen inside the Manor, now is your opportunity as Lizzie has kindly offered to give guided tours on the morning after the talk (please sign up at the talk).

Round-Up of Events January to March 2019

Friday 8th February 2019 – Annual General Meeting

Despite the wet and windy weather, 54 people attended the AGM. This year, the Tony Jerram Award was presented to Anne Poulter who has run the Badsey Beavers (part of the Scout Association) for over 30 years.

One nominator wrote: “Anne is a natural leader and is totally dedicated to what she does. She brings enthusiasm, fun and is a very caring person. The children think she is fantastic and full of adventure! Anne has a great understanding of children and brings wider experience to Beavers and extra hidden skills that the children don’t get at school.”



Barbara Jerram presents the award to Anne Poulter

Anne said that she was extremely honoured to receive the award and accepted it on behalf of all the scouting community.



Coin of Emperor Domitian found in Badsey.

After the break, Nina O’Hare from Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service spoke about a potential archaeology project which the Society may become involved in, and Alan Wadsworth of the Worcestershire Farmsteads Project spoke about a survey which is taking place to record all the surviving hovels in the area.

Many thanks to Peter Stewart who brought along his remarkable collection of finds, which you can read about at <https://www.badseysociety.uk/village-life/badsey-archaeology>.

With regard to the archaeology project, this may take some time to come to fruition as it is dependent upon getting a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund. Meanwhile, Worcestershire’s Market Gardening Heritage project is getting under way and Nina O’Hare will be leading a walk in Badsey on 27th April (see back page).

Friday 8th March 2019 – Members’ Night

Our first Members’ Night, held at The Pub in a Club, proved to be a popular event, so it has been decided to repeat this in May (see back page for details). The March evening began with a brief talk by Tom Sandham about bell-ringing. Some members had brought along photos and these proved a useful discussion point.

Wychavon Award

On 4th February, accompanied by Councillor Mike Gwynn, Maureen Spinks was honoured to receive a Diamond Jubilee Community Recognition Award from Wychavon District Council, for services to local history in the community. With thanks to the members of Badsey Parish Council for making the nomination.



David Caswell (1939-2019), Village Blacksmith – the end of an era

*Under a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.*

*Week in, week out, from morn till night,
You can hear his bellows blow;
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell,
When the evening sun is low.*

*His hair is crisp, and black, and long,
His face is like the tan;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns what'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man.*

*And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door;
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly
Like chaff from a threshing-floor.*

When American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote his famous poem, it was to be almost a hundred years before David Caswell was born, destined to become “the village blacksmith”, the third generation in his family to perform that role. Another time, another place, Longfellow’s words could well have been written about David and Badsey.

David Caswell died suddenly, aged 79, on 11th March 2019, bringing to an end the Caswells’ 110-year association with Badsey as village blacksmiths. David joined the family business in 1955 and was a well-known figure throughout the area.

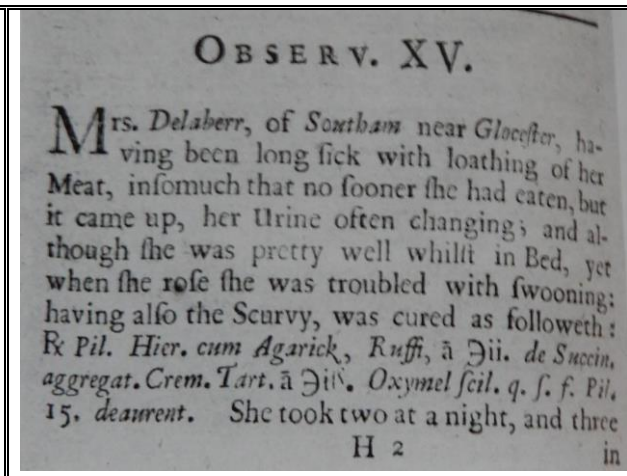
In retirement, it was David’s skills as a raconteur that were uppermost and people travelled from far and wide to view the forge which had changed very little since his grandfather’s day. Outside of a museum, you would be hard-pushed to find a traditional smithy such as the one in Badsey. Until fairly recently, David liked to watch the comings and goings of village life from his forge, which formed a regular meeting-place each morning for his friends. A walk down Chapel Street will not feel the same now that there is no longer a Caswell at the forge. Our sincere condolences to his family.

A Childhood mis-spent by Badsey Brook

In our last Newsletter we heard from Neil Corbett about a narrowboat called Badsey. Neil has been busy with his pen again and has written an article for the website called “A Childhood mis-spent by Badsey Brook”, sub-titled, “Don’t try this at home”. For any of our older members who grew up in Badsey, this may well bring back happy memories of a carefree childhood when there were no computer games and other such attractions to distract kids. Go to <https://www.badseysociety.uk/village-life/a-childhood-mis-spent-badsey-brook> to read the full article.

A Resident of Badsey Manor

On a recent visit to Hall’s Croft in Stratford-upon-Avon, Maureen Spinks came across a reference to two local women being treated by the eminent physician, John Hall, who was the son-in-law of William Shakespeare. He practised as a physician in Stratford-upon-Avon 1607-1635. One of the women he treated was Margaret Delabere (née Newman) who grew up at Badsey Manor.



Margaret Newman lived at Badsey Manor House for about 15 years at the turn of the 17th century. Her father died when she was young and her mother married again in 1593 to Richard Hoby who had inherited the Manor House from his half-brother, Sir Philip Hoby. In 1608, Margaret married Richard Delabere (1559-1636) in St James’ Church, Badsey, and went to live at Southam. At some point in her married life, she was treated by John Hall who wrote up her case in a small notebook known as his *Little Book of Cures*:

Mrs Delaberr, of Southam near Gloucester, having been long sick with loathing of her meat, insomuch that no sooner she had eaten, but it came up, her urine often changing; and although she was pretty well whilst in bed, yet when she rose she was troubled with swooning: having also the scurvy, was cured as followeth:

There then followed a full description of the ingredients which made up the treatment and the frequency with which it was to be taken, after which:

... and so for two days, the third she purged, by which she came to be so much better, as that to walk and ride, and then would to the Bath, where she used the following Decoction, when she came out of the Bath, and went to bed and swet:

Margaret Delabere was one of Hall’s few patients to undertake hydrotherapy, for which she travelled to Bath, some 60 miles away. Her loss of appetite and vomiting were treated by Hall’s usual methods for expelling ill humours. He prescribed a sweating decoction containing guaiacum and sassafras to be taken when she emerged from the hot springs.



Some time after the death of her step-father in 1616, Margaret’s mother, Margaret Hoby, went to live with them at Southam, where she died in 1625. Margaret Delabere erected a magnificent memorial at Badsey to her mother and step-father. Her step-father’s first wife and child were not mentioned on the memorial, but she ensured that her own name was included. Later she commissioned an even grander memorial in Bishops Cleeve church with effigies of herself and her late husband, Richard Delabere. For further information about Dr Hall’s patients, see <https://www.badseysociety.uk/village-life/patients-dr-john-hall-stratford-upon-avon>.