

Friday 11th October 2019, 7.30, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club Talk – Archaeological Excavations, Broadway Flood Alleviation Scheme

Richard Bradley, Project Officer for Worcestershire Archaeology, will talk about exciting results of the big dig at Broadway. Excavation and watching-brief work by Worcestershire Archaeology, undertaken on behalf of the Environment Agency, uncovered a large multi-period site with at least 8000 years of activity. This included scatters of Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint debris, a complete Beaker and associated grave goods, a Bronze Age to Iron Age farmstead represented by a series of roundhouses and large enclosure ditches, Roman gullies and enclosures, multiple burials and post-built buildings, Saxon finds and the remains of medieval agriculture.

Friday 15th November 2019, 7.30, Pub in a Club Members' Evening

This is an informal evening when you will have a chance to meet other members and have a chat over a drink. Val Harman has offered to kick off the evening by bringing along and talking about a few family items relating to Badsey and Wickhamford.

Friday 17th January 2020, 7.30, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club Focus on Photos

The evening will open with a series of short talks about various aspects of photography. There will then be a chance for you to bring along your own photos which we can scan on the night for possible use, with your permission.

Other Events in 2020

- Friday 7th February 2020 – Annual General Meeting. After the business section of the meeting, Jane Neill will talk about “Extraordinary Deaths in an Ordinary Family” and Tom Locke will talk about his experience of using DNA to help find out more about his family history, a useful introduction to the talk in April.
- Friday 6th March 2020 – Members' Night, Pub in a Club.
- Friday 3rd April 2020 – Richard Phillips Lecture, Amelia Bennett will talk about DNA and Family History.

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 1st January.

Membership Fees – If you haven't yet paid your 2019 membership fee, £5 per person, please pay via Paypal at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions> or forward to John Sharp. 2020 fees will remain at £5 per person.

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THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY

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The nights are drawing in and this is the last Newsletter of 2019. If you haven't paid your subs this year, we should be grateful if you would please do so as soon as possible. We have lots of things planned for 2020, so we hope that you will all still wish to retain membership. Our next event is an archaeological talk (see back page for more details) on 11th October. For those of you who came to last year's AGM when we had a talk from Nina O'Hare of Worcestershire Archaeology, you may be wondering about what is happening about the Test Pits Project which we hope to participate in. The application for grant funding is still going ahead and we hope to have more news by our next Newsletter.

Round-Up of Events July to September 2019



Saturday 20th July – Badsey Flower Show

After the bad weather of last year, it was a relief to have relatively good weather for this year's Flower Show. The Society stand was well attended and many thanks to the volunteers who helped out on the day. Val Harman is pictured here holding the swagger stick which belonged to her great-uncle, Private Harry Walters. Just the day before she had taken it to school and given a talk to the children at the Peace Day Centenary (see inside for report).

Tuesday 3rd September – Sulgrave Manor Visit

On a beautiful sunny day, 20 members went on an outing to Sulgrave Manor, Northamptonshire. The original house (much altered over the years) was first built in the 16th century by Lawrence Washington, a direct ancestor (5xgreat-grandfather) of George Washington, First President of the United States of America.



The Manor opened to the public in 1921 to promote friendship and goodwill between the British and American peoples.



Meet the ancestor – Ian Gibson comes face to face with his illustrious forebear.

We visited Sulgrave because of the Washington family connections with Wickhamford. Penelope Washington, who lived for a time at Wickhamford Manor, was the 3xgreat-granddaughter of Lawrence Washington. She was also the second-cousin-twice-removed of George Washington.

And that's not the only connection. One Society member with a vested interest in the trip was Ian Gibson who can claim kinship with the Washington clan. As Ian explained in a talk he gave to the Society a few years ago entitled “Vicars, Virginia and Wickhamford”, he is the third cousin six-times-removed of George Washington!

Peace Day Centenary

On Friday 19th July, a special centenary event was held at Badsey First School. Exactly a hundred years to the day, a tea party and entertainment by the pupils was organised to which older members of the community were invited. The reason: the centenary of the Peace Day celebrations held on 19th July 1919.



Many events were held in November 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of hostilities in the Great War. But the war was not at an end. Although the guns fell silent on 11th November, peace was not officially proclaimed until 28th June 1919 when the Treaty of Versailles was signed. To mark the final end of the war, Saturday 19th July 1919 was designated a public holiday and Peace celebrations took place throughout the land.

In Badsey on Peace Day 1919, the bells rang out both morning and afternoon with a thanksgiving service in St James' Church. In the afternoon, decorated bicycles and prams arrived and were judged. The intention had been to have a procession through the village but, due to incessant rain, this was aborted. At the school, a tea party was organised for the pupils and for people over 70.

For the 2019 event, we organised an exhibition in the School Hall which included details of the 22 pupils and one teacher who lost their lives in the war.

Our New Noticeboard

We hope that you have seen our new noticeboard outside The Spar. Thanks to the prisoners at the Long Lartin workshop, we have a beautiful, lockable noticeboard with our name proudly displayed across the top and there is plenty of space to advertise our events.

George Keen (1924-2019)

Although never a member of The Badsey Society, it is important to record the passing of George Keen, one of the last market gardeners in the area, who has died, aged 95. George took up market gardening in 1938, carrying on a tradition dating back to his great-grandfather, Henry Keen, who was one of the first market gardeners listed in Badsey in the 1871 census. George features in Terry Sparrow's book, "Digging for a Living" and in the Society's DVD, "The Market Gardener".

What's in a Name?

You may have read about "Nigel Night" at The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, instigated by the enterprising landlord, Nigel Smith. Nigel, a former member of The Badsey Society, came up with the idea in 2016 after no new-borns that year were called Nigel – "before it's too late and we become extinct" – and 432 Nigels joined him, including our MP.



Nigel Huddleston & Nigel Smith

When did you last hear of a baby called Nigel? A quick look at the baptisms recorded in "Community News" this year seems to concur with the fact that Nigel has a point. The boys' names recorded are Alfie, Bertie, Tommy and Eddy – obviously a new twist on old names, with the short form of fairly traditional names being adopted. It's fascinating to look at the fashion for names over the years. I wonder if Nigel Smith has started a trend and we shall start seeing some young Nigels again?!

Visitors from Abroad

Over the last few months we have welcomed two sets of visitors from overseas: Christopher Harris from Norway and Chris & Beth Kang from America. We always welcome the opportunity to show people round our villages. We have a number of members who do not live in the vicinity so, if you venture over to Worcestershire, please do get in contact before you come.



At the end of July, Christopher Harris, who has lived in Norway for over forty years, came to visit. His Harris and Halford ancestors lived in Wickhamford, Badsey and Aldington in the 19th century. After a tour of Honeybourne (where he thinks the Harrises were previously), Badsey and Wickhamford, we went to Aldington to view the site of the thatched cottage which was his ancestors' home. This was knocked down in the 1920s to make way for the council houses called Hillside. Here you can see Christopher with Arthur Plant who came out to see us.

We were delighted to see the return visit of Chris & Beth Kang, American members of The Badsey Society from Sacramento. Some time ago, Chris picked up a book called "The Good Life – Between the two World Wars with a Candid Camera", by Vivian Charles Buckley, which included photos of Wickhamford and Bretforton. The author lodged at Weathervane Cottage for a short time in the 1930s when visiting this part of England; he appears on the electoral register for 1939. Chris was delighted to get the chance to see round Weathervane Cottage, courtesy of the present owners, pictured right.



Although he appears on the 1939 electoral register, V C Buckley was back living in London by the time of the 1939 register taken in September. He was described as an "author of travel books, lecturer and journalist". The occupants of Weathervane Cottage in 1939 were Hilda Fraser Brown and her widowed mother, Caroline Hodgson, who had previously lived in Birmingham. One wonders whether the lady pictured below is Mrs Fraser Brown who died in Broadway in 1993.



Then and now: Weathervane Cottage around the time V C Buckley lived there and present day.