

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

Focus on Photos

The evening will open with three short talks about various aspects of photography – how to keep and preserve your photographs, how a family photograph album led to a fascinating detective story, and what we do with any photographs shared and donated to the Society. Just in the last week, some fascinating photos have come to light, donated by Paul Brazier following the recent death of his mother. See inside for more details. After the break, there will then be a chance for you to show your own photos which we can scan on the night for possible use, with your permission.

Friday 7th February 2020, 7.30, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club

Annual General Meeting

The same Committee is prepared to stand again for the forthcoming year, but if anyone else would like to join our happy band, don't be afraid to speak up on the night. At the end of the business section, the winner of the annual Tony Jerram Award will be announced. Many thanks to the five people who took the trouble to nominate someone. After the break, 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, 7.30, Pub in a Club

Members' Night

Please join us for an informal evening when members will have a chance to chat and show any items of interest relating to Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford.

Friday 3rd April 2020, 7.30, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club

Richard Phillips Lecture

Amelia Bennett will talk about DNA and Family History. Amelia lives in Gloucester, is a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies and a Trustee of the Society of Genealogists. She is a specialist in the use of DNA for genealogical purposes.

Other Events in 2020

- Friday 19th June 2020 – Midsummer Walk. We hope to have a guided walk round Harvington; more details to follow in the next Newsletter.
- Saturday 25th July 2020 – Badsey Flower Show.

Membership Fees – 2020 membership fees are now due, still only £5 per person. Please pay at the AGM or via Paypal at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions> or forward to John Sharp.

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THE BADSEY SOCIETY

Newsletter
No 71
January 2020

A happy New Year to all our members. We ended the year with 197 paid-up members in total, including four who live overseas.

We have an exciting programme of activities lined up for 2020, beginning with a "Focus on Photos" evening next Friday, 17th January. We had hoped to be able to bring you details of an archaeological test pits project that we hope to participate in, but unfortunately there is still no definite news. Worcestershire Archaeology has put in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding. If the bid is successful, professional archaeologists will work with six parishes in the county (Badsey being one of them) to uncover the past. It is expected that a decision will be made in the next week or two, so we hope to have more news by the AGM. If successful, we hope to start digging in May.

Round-Up of Events October to December 2019



The Broadway Beaker.

Friday 11th October – Archaeological Excavations, Broadway
Richard Bradley, Project Officer for Worcestershire Archaeology, spoke about the exciting results of the big dig at Broadway. This was conducted prior to the work done on the Badsey Brook flood alleviation scheme, which officially opened a week earlier. The talk was well attended with around 45 people in attendance. 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, Saxon finds and the remains of medieval agriculture.

Postscript – sadly the new flood alleviation scheme has yet to prove its worth. Just a month after Richard's talk, Badsey Brook burst its banks and two houses in Mill Lane and gardens in Seward Road were flooded!

Friday 15th November – Members' Evening

Another successful Members' Evening was held at The Pub in a Club. Val Harman began the evening by bringing along a case full of memorabilia relating to her ancestors in Badsey and Wickhamford. Amongst the items was a Flower Show certificate and art-work done by her uncle. We hope that, at future meetings, members will bring along items for a "Show and Tell" session.



From "Berrow's Worcester Journal", 1st November 1792

There is now a fruit tree in full blossom in the garden of the Rev Mr Jones of Badsey near Evesham in this county. There are also in the same garden strawberries in blossom. An apple tree which was planted last Christmas in the parish of Badsey has blossomed and yielded fruit twice this season. Strange as this may appear it is an absolute fact.

We were not the first!

Some long-term residents of the village may recall that, nearly 50 years ago, there was talk of forming a village history society. An exhibition was organised by David & Iris Brazier and the following report appeared in the Parish Magazine of July 1971:

VILLAGE HISTORY

A most interesting exhibition was held in May at the Meeting House, Badsey [the old chapel building, now the Dance Hall], depicting past and present life in Badsey and Aldington. The exhibits consisted of old documents and village maps; an excellent display of Victorian dresser and nursery items; photographs of some village personalities, local views, old farm and garden implements, together with many other items of interest. The exhibition was open for two days and was organised by the St John Ambulance Brigade; it realised £12 for the Brigade's Badsey Division.

We are grateful to those who lent items displayed, illustrating as they did so many facets in the past and present history of our villages. We believe that there must be further illustrative material which could be found if steps were taken to collect, preserve and document it. If any are interested in forming a society for this purpose, will they please contact David Brazier? With the help of such a group it should be possible to compile records in the form of a pamphlet or book, photograph albums, tape recordings, etc as historical evidence to be held in trust for the interest of future generations. There must be many people, particularly in the old generation, who have memories or have been told stories by their parents of past events and village history, or who may have some old photographs, maps, plans, documents, items connected with past village industries, in fact any interesting material tucked away and forgotten in some attic or drawer. If these could be preserved and lent or given to the society, it would greatly assist us in compiling a "History of Village Life in Badsey and Aldington".

Following the death of Iris Brazier, some items from this collection have now been donated to the Archive. These will be on display at "Focus on Photos", on 17th January. If you remember the 1971 exhibition, we would love to hear from you.

The Badsey Website

New articles are constantly being added to the Badsey website, www.badseysociety.uk – in order for you to see what is new, we have made it easier by revising the Home page giving a list of recently added articles. If you do not have access to a computer and feel that you are missing out, please contact one of the committee who will be pleased to give you a tour of the site. Alternatively, computers are available at Evesham Library.

You never know what you might find in the Badsey Archive

An intriguing note stuck into a book in the archive led to a family history detective hunt to discover the identity of the sender and recipient. The note, in the front of a book called "Bengeworth", said: *To: Mrs E Cooke, Robin Cottage, Wickhamford, Evesham, England. From: F Hayman, Pelly, SOA 220, Sask, Canada. Dearest – I am more than happy to send you the book. I hope you enjoy it to the utmost. 9.7.74.*

After much research on *Ancestry*, it was discovered that E Cooke was Eva Cooke (née Cull) and F Hayman was Florence Hayman, the widow of Stanley Hayman, whom she had met when he came to Field Farm, Wickhamford, as a farm pupil. The pair emigrated independently to Canada and were married in Saskatchewan in 1913. On the next page you will hear more about the many people who made the journey to Canada.

Emigration to Canada

In July 2018, we featured an article about emigration of Badsey and Wickhamford residents to Australia. We now turn our attention to Canada, where two families – the Knights and Cooks – emigrated in the 1850s, and a significant number emigrated at the beginning of the 20th century (members of the Agg, Colley, Cox, Hayman, Idiens, Jelfs and Taylor families). To date, 52 people are known to have left Badsey, Aldington or Wickhamford for a new life overseas.



Alice Idiens outside the family home in Comox, British Columbia, which they named 'Cotswold Farm'; Alice and her husband emigrated in 1913.

The first known Canadian emigrants were Joseph & Esther Knight and children. Esther was Joseph's second wife; his first wife, Sarah, had died in 1851 and he had married widow Esther the following year. The family lived at The Wheatsheaf where Esther had a grocer's shop. Soon after his marriage, *The Worcestershire Chronicle* tells us that Mr Joseph Knight's housewarming dinner at The Wheatsheaf Inn when "upwards of 30 gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the worthy host". For whatever reason, a few years later Joseph decided to emigrate to Canada and settled in Gosfield Township, Essex County, Ontario. They were soon followed by Esther's son, John Cook, and his wife and two young children.

There was then a gap of some 50 years before other folks from Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford decided to take the brave move to emigrate. Amongst the first to go was Charles William Cox (1884-1966) of Wickhamford who set sail from Liverpool to Nova Scotia in March 1906 with his wife and two-year-old daughter, Inez Rose. Many years later, Inez wrote an article called "Wild Roses and Prairie Wool" about their pioneering life at the beginning of the century. Charles, in his later life, was a visitor to Wickhamford on several occasions, and is remembered for wearing a Stetson and smoking a large cigar around the village! Charles had been followed to Canada in 1910 by his brother, George Frederick Cox, but George returned to Wickhamford in 1933.

Between 1911 and 1913, eight members of the Idiens family emigrated: John & Alice Idiens and six of their seven children. Only Harold, the eldest, who married Lena Crisp, remained in Badsey. The Idiens had been tenants of Wickhamford Manor for a number of years, but had to move in 1908 when it was sold to George Lees-Milne. Their eldest daughter, Daisy, was the first to emigrate, in 1911, and was followed in 1912 by three of her brothers. Finally, her parents and two sisters made the journey overseas in 1913. John Idiens had run into financial difficulties over failed business schemes at Bowers Hill and elsewhere, so perhaps it was easier to start a new life in Canada.

It was also in 1913 that Joseph Foster Agg (1871-1953), the Badsey choirmaster, emigrated with his wife and four children. During WWI he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was able to pay a return visit to Badsey; regular reports about his activities appeared in the parish magazine of the period.

If you have enjoyed reading this article, stories of all the emigrants may be found on the website at <https://www.badseysociety.uk/village-life/emigration-canada>.