

Future Events

With social distancing being advisable for the foreseeable future, it is difficult for us to plan our normal programme of activities. We are therefore putting on a series of lectures via Zoom. If you wish to attend one of these meetings, it is important that you sign up in advance by emailing badseysoc@gmail.com, stating which events you wish to attend. Prior to the meeting, you will be sent a meeting request which will enable you to log on.

Friday 21st August 2020, 7.30 pm

Zoom Lecture – Ship Wrecks, Hulks and Disaster on the River Severn

During the night of 25th October 1960 two river craft collided resulting in a massive explosion causing a bridge to collapse and five men to lose their lives in the ensuing disaster. The remnants of this terrible night are still to be seen to this day. This talk by Alan Tutton describes a journey along the lower reaches of the River Severn and the battle to stabilise its shore line.

Friday 18th September 2020, 7.30 pm

Zoom Lecture – Happy Birthday, Synehurst! Celebrating 100 years

Join Maureen Spinks for a trip down memory lane when we take a look at the first families to live in the new Council Houses built just after the First World War.

Saturday 17th October 2020, 10.30 am – 3.30 pm

Zoom Workshop – Reading Old Documents

Alan Tutton will give an introduction into decoding and transcribing old handwritten documents that can be found in archives. The teaching will consist of three short presentations followed by staged exercises where the individual participant can gain essential practical skills. This will be followed by a flexible workshop where participants can choose to transcribe either stock documents or bring along one of their own.

Other Events in 2020

- Friday 13th November 2020, 7.30 pm – Zoom lecture, Shirley Tutton.
- Autumn 2020 – Unveiling of a commemorative information board celebrating 100 years of Badsey Recreation Ground.

Postponed until 2021

- Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture – Friday 19th March, hopefully as a “live” event (if not, via Zoom).
- Badsey Test Pits Project – Sadly no work can take place on this in 2020; we hope to be able to excavate in June 2021.

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

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 73
July 2020**

Well, what a lot has happened (or not happened!) since our last Newsletter. Our April Newsletter (printed mid-March) gave news of the Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture at the beginning of April, and the new Badsey Test Pits Project, “The Big Dig! – Small Pits, Big Ideas”, to be launched in May. Our annual Midsummer Walk was to have taken place at Harvington, and of course we should all have been gearing up for Badsey Flower Show by now. But then world events on an unprecedented scale overtook us, which meant that the country went into lockdown and all social activities ceased.

Work has, however, been going on behind the scenes. We’re pleased to be able to include with this Newsletter a copy of John Sharp’s *Centenary History of the Recreation Ground*. This is being given **free** to all members. If you would like extra copies, these are available, price £2.50, by contacting John directly, or by ordering online. A gentle reminder, if you have not yet paid your subs for this year, please forward to John. The membership fees help to pay for subscriptions to Ancestry, Findmypast and the British Newspaper Archive, all of which are vital resources for compiling such a booklet as the Recreation Ground history. We are also members of the British Association for Local History, through which we pay for insurance, and we pay a monthly fee to the Remembrance Hall in order to store our archive.

Committee Meetings – Just because we couldn’t meet up physically, this didn’t mean that the Society ceased to function. Here’s your Committee meeting up via “Zoom”. Until a few months ago, we thought that to zoom meant “to move quickly or suddenly with a loud humming or buzzing sound” – now we’re all busy zooming in one way or another!



On the back page, you will find an exciting list of activities which we have got planned for the rest of the year. If you have never before used “Zoom” and would like assistance in getting started in order to participate, please email info@badsey.net. It really is very easy and all you need is a computer and access to the internet. We hope, also, that some of our out-of-town members will be able to join us in these meetings.

Research Activities soared during lockdown

Since the coronavirus pandemic caused the world to shut down in March, our website contributors have been working overtime: some 50 or so new articles have been added to www.badseysociety.uk. It’s been a fairly catholic selection: from David Ella’s several articles about turnpike roads to the Dallimore brothers’ “Back Garden Films” which have kept us all amused during lockdown. From Lizzie Noyes’ essay on putting Badsey Manor into context to photo galleries of Silver Jubilee and VE Day celebrations; from a plethora of articles by Tom Locke and Val Harman on all things Wickhamford, to a pot-pourri of stories about Badsey folks by Maureen Spinks. To read all of these articles, go to the Home page of the website and click on the links for the recently added articles.

Pandemics – now and a century ago

How has lockdown been for you? It's certainly been a strange past few months. Not only have some of us learned how "to zoom", but phrases such as "social distancing", "lockdown" and "the R-number" have become common parlance. Some members have written about their experiences during this period (go to the Home page of www.badseysociety.uk and follow the link). It's not too late for you to send in your Coronavirus Chronicle by emailing history@badsey.net. Just as the letters written by young soldiers over a century ago gave a first-hand account of their experiences, so these chronicles will provide a fascinating snapshot in a time of national crisis.

The importance of oral and written testimony is so important, and it was because of our researches that the Society had a brief minute or so of fame on Radio 4! With the country in the grip of the current Covid-19 crisis, Radio 4 harked back to the influenza pandemic of 1918 and put together, at short notice, a three-episode programme in May.

So how did The Badsey Society get involved? A programme researcher found a reference to Spanish flu on our website. An extract from a letter by Mela Brown Constable to her fiancée, Cyril Sladden, was dramatized in Episode 2 and extracts from two of the letters written by Dr Arthur Sladden, in which he was critical of the government's response to the pandemic, were heard in Episode 3. If you missed hearing them on Radio 4, follow the links from the Spanish flu article on www.badseysociety.uk as they are still available.

An Unfortunate Name?

In the 20th century, according to *Ancestry*, some hundred or more girls were registered with the first or second name of Corona. Here in Badsey, on 18th June 1911, Isabel Corona Crisp was baptised. Perhaps Corona is not the best of names these days!

Everyone Loves a Wedding

We have introduced a new Photo Gallery on the website displaying photos of people who married at Badsey or Wickhamford. If you have a photo you would like included, please send a JPEG to history@badsey.net. Congratulations also to Pat and Jim Gorin who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 4th June.

Farewells

Sadly, over the last few months, we have said goodbye to several old friends; we offer condolences to all their families. They all led very full lives, too much to record here, but fuller biographies may be found on our website.

Michael Barnard (1928-2020) was one of the earliest people to join the Society in 2002, being membership No 11. Michael, who came from a well-known market gardening family, was well known throughout the Vale for his sketches which appeared frequently in *The Journal* and *Vale Magazine*. A trademark aeroplane always featured somewhere in a picture, as can be seen in the one opposite of the Stone House.

Anna Tucker (1923-2020), who has died, aged 96, joined the Society in its foundation year, 2002, and remained a member until moving to Evesham. Anna, a German by birth, moved to Badsey in early married life and immersed herself in English village life.

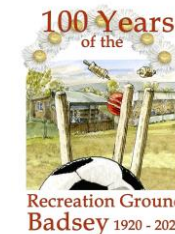
Roger Savory (1930-2020), who was Badsey born and bred, but lived in America for the past 40 years, was a good friend of the website. It's thanks to Roger that our knowledge of Badsey bell-ringing has been brought to a worldwide audience.

Wychavon Award

Many congratulations to Rosemary Blyth who has received a Highly Commended in the Wychavon Community Awards 2020 for her work on the Aldington Conservation Area.

A Year of Anniversaries

It's been a year for anniversaries. Nationwide, people commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the 80th anniversary of Dunkirk – the latter had particular significance for the people of Badsey as, in the days following the evacuation, several hundred soldiers arrived in the village. Here in Badsey we celebrate 100 years of the Recreation Ground and the Synehurst Council Houses. Go to www.badseysociety.uk for longer articles.



VE Day, 8th May (75th anniversary)

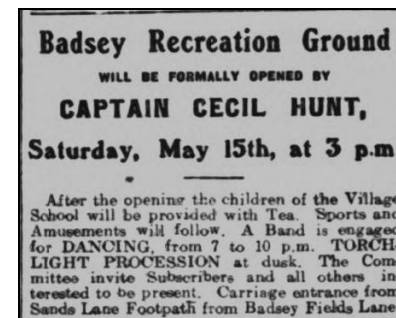
Villagers all over Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford came out on to the streets to commemorate VE Day. Full coverage of the day can be seen on our website.



In 1945, a young Terry & Pat Sparrow attended a VE Day party in Brewers Lane; 75 years later they attended a similar party in Brewers Lane, this time with their spouses.



Badsey Recreation Ground, 15th May (100th anniversary)



After several years of planning, Badsey Recreation Ground was opened on 15th May 1920 by Captain Cecil Hunt (son of a previous Vicar of Badsey). The band played, people danced and the finale was a torchlight procession round the ground. We had planned to be able to unveil a commemorative board at this year's Flower Show, but sadly this cannot happen; we hope to be able to do something later in the year. In the meantime, please enjoy reading John Sharp's diligent research.

Dunkirk, June (80th anniversary)

One morning in June 1940, Badsey residents awoke to find the churchyard full of sleeping soldiers; the men were soldiers who had been evacuated from Dunkirk. This 1999 sketch by Michael Barnard depicts his memory of the soldiers outside The Stone House, waiting there until they could be allocated accommodation.



Happy Birthday, Synehurst! 100 years old

The houses on the western side of Synehurst celebrate their 100th birthday this year. These 24 houses were the first council homes to be built in Badsey; the tenants were mainly returning soldiers with young families. Please join us on a Zoom meeting in September to find out more about the early residents. (Painting by Dick Caswell, 1921.)