

Future Events

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.

Saturday 24th October 2020, Recreation Ground Official Unveiling of the Centenary Information Board

Members are welcome to take a stroll on the Recreation Ground and view the board after the official unveiling by Brian Smith; please observe the current social distancing rules.

Friday 13th November 2020, 7.30 pm, Zoom lecture “Their Name Liveth For Evermore”

Sarah Moody of the Commonwealth War Commission will talk about the history and work of the Commission which works across the globe to ensure that the 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth who lost their lives in the two World Wars are not forgotten. Find out more about the history, the work of the Commission and stories of those we commemorate.

Friday 4th December 2020, 7.30 pm, Zoom Lecture From Aldington to Ohio – the story of Annie Bell and William Marsh

Shirley Tutton will take us on a voyage of discovery following in the footsteps of Annie Bell who emigrated to America in 1885 with her new husband, William Marsh, and his two sisters. The idea for the talk started with a photograph of William Bell, Annie's father, posted on our Facebook page. This led Shirley to find out more about the Bells, why they emigrated, how they got there, and what happened to them in Ohio.

Events in 2021 – via Zoom (except Test Pits) unless restrictions are eased

- Friday 15th January 2021 – The Turnpike roads of Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford, talk by David Ella.
- Friday 12th February 2021 – Annual General Meeting.
- Friday 19th March 2021 – Richard Phillips Lecture, Amelia Bennett will talk about DNA and Family History.
- June 2021 – Badsey Test Pits Project.

Membership Fees – If you haven't yet paid your 2020 membership fee, £5 per person, please pay via Paypal at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions> or forward to John Sharp. 2021 fees will remain at £5 per person, due 1st January.

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Shirley Tutton, Secretary	34 Seward Road, Badsey; 01386 831539; info@badsey.net
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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
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A big welcome to our five new members who have joined the Society during the last few months. We trust that all our members have been keeping well in these strange coronavirus times – 2020 has certainly not been the year we thought it would be.

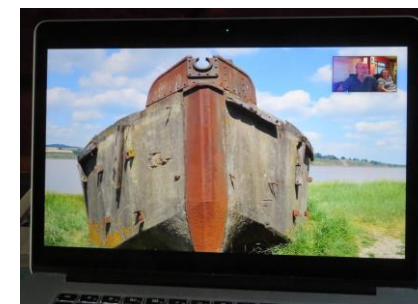
We hope that you will be able to join us at one of our Zoom lectures or workshops (see back page for details) as it seems unlikely that we shall be able to meet physically until well into next year; 37 members have attended one or both of the lectures held so far. The October workshop should prove useful to those of you who have ever struggled to read old handwriting and we're excited about the fact that our November talk is by an outside speaker from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which has only been made possible by having a remote lecture. If you wish to attend one of these meetings, please 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. A reminder that if you've never used Zoom, please phone Alan Tutton on 831539 to seek advice.

In this centenary year of the Recreation Ground, John Sharp has provided the text for an information board designed by Ian Gibson. We are grateful to the Parish Council for contributing towards the costs of the board. Due to delays beyond our control, the official unveiling will now take place on 24th October. Only members of the unveiling party will be able to be present because of “the rule of six”, but Will Dallimore will be videoing proceedings, and do come along to look at the board later.

Round-up of Events July-September

Friday 21st August 2020 – Ship Wrecks, Hulks and Disaster on the River Severn

Many thanks to Alan Tutton for putting himself forward to give the first Zoom lecture. This was a fascinating talk about the ship wrecks that can be seen on the lower reaches of the River Severn and also about the remains of a bridge which collapsed in 1960 when two river craft collided resulting in a massive explosion. As a result of the talk, several members have been to Purton to see the wrecks for themselves.



Friday 18th September 2020 – Happy Birthday, Synehurst! Celebrating 100 years

The first Council houses to be built in Badsey were those on the west side of Synehurst, beginning to be occupied from July 1920 onwards. Many of the original tenants remained living there for the rest of their lives, and some houses saw long associations with the same family, with tenancies being taken on by children and grandchildren. As a birthday present for each of the current occupants, they were given a copy of *Aldington and Badsey: Villages in the Vale*, as it includes a chapter by Will Dallimore about council housing. We understand the owner of one of the houses was making a birthday cake! If you missed the lecture, a comprehensive article may be viewed on the website.

Research Activities soared during lockdown

Badsey Society members have continued to write articles for the website, furthering our knowledge about the place where we live. The items are fairly wide-ranging, from Ian Gibson's Nature Notes with wonderful photos of wildlife in the area, to Will Dallimore's "Bite-sized Badsey", his short, educational films about features you can see whilst walking around Badsey. Tom Locke continues to provide us with lots of articles about Wickhamford, several members have sent in archaeological contributions (see below) and Maureen Spinks tells us about VJ Day in Badsey, 1945, and the return of Phil Sparrow from a Japanese prisoner of war camp. Please check out the many new articles that have been added to the website in the past few months by going to www.badseysociety.uk and clicking on the links.

Exciting finds in local gardens

We very much hope that the Badsey Test Pits Project, "The Big Dig! – Small Pits, Big Ideas", will be able to take place next June. In the meantime, three of our members have come up with interesting archaeological finds.



In an Aldington garden, Brian Smith recently unearthed a small brass medallion, 22 mm in diameter. When he cleaned it up, a clock face emerged on one side and lots of small writing on the other. These were three biblical texts, all relating to time. It was probably awarded to a child in recognition of good timekeeping when attending the Baptist Sunday School which thrived in Aldington in the second half of the 19th century and first half of the 20th. Having gardened there for 39 years, Brian was amazed he hadn't found it before.

Meanwhile, in Badsey, Derek Coupe produced a ball which he had found some 20 years ago when digging a trench in preparation to laying foundations for a conservatory. The ball weighs 400 gm with a diameter of 4.5 cm and seems to be made of lead, or possibly iron. When Lizzie Noyes visited the Coupes, she was convinced that it was a shot ball dating back to the Civil War as much fighting went on in Worcestershire in the years 1642-1645.



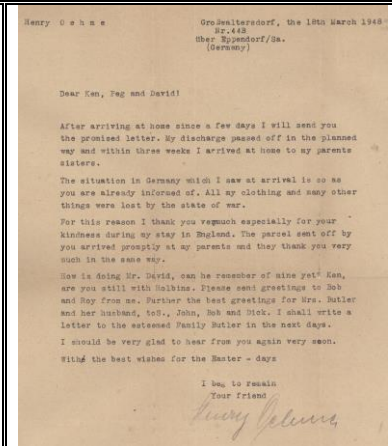
Peter Stewart has been looking back through his archaeological finds and sent us a photo of these three strange-looking objects found over a period of years from sites in Badsey. They are known as Jew's Harps, a poor man's instrument, a harp with just one string. It's still possible to buy modern versions and indeed, our very own Will Dallimore owns one.

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. Perhaps you know of some community-minded person who has performed magnificently during the current crisis. Or it might be someone who can be considered for a lifetime achievement who, through age or infirmity has not done much in recent years but, in the past, has contributed greatly to our village in some way.

Letter from a German prisoner of war

Badsey Society member, Jane Thompson, has recently donated to the Archive a letter which was sent to her parents, Ken and Peggy Ellison, in 1948. It was from Henry Oehme, who had been a German prisoner of war and worked on the land in Badsey. A little-known fact is that prisoners of war were unable to return to their homeland until nearly three years after the war had ended. This letter, dated 18th March 1948, was written soon after Henry arrived back in Saxony, in what was to become East Germany. Jane's parents had been very fond of him and corresponded with him after the war.



The letter is addressed to Ken, Peg and David and begins:

After arriving at home since a few days I will send you the promised letter. My discharge passed off in the planned way and within three weeks I arrived at home to my parents and sisters. The situation in Germany which I saw at arrival is so as you are already informed of. All my clothing and many other things were lost by the state of war. For this reason I thank you very much especially for your kindness during my stay in England. The parcel sent off by you arrived promptly at my parents and they thank you very much in the same way.

Ken was Kenneth Austin Ellison (1920-2002) who had married Thelma Lorraine (known as Peggy) Butler in 1941; they had a baby son, David, born in 1944. In the first years of married life, they lived in a building in the grounds of Chalcroft, Old Post Office Lane, where Peggy's parents lived. In 1947, when the council houses at Horsebridge Avenue were built, they had the opportunity to move into a new home which seemed luxurious. Other people referred to in the letter are Peggy's relatives: her parents, Arthur and Zillah Butler, and her brothers, John, Bob and Dick.

Jane, who was born shortly after Henry returned to Germany, recalls that, for years afterwards, her parents talked very fondly of the young German lad they had befriended. "He was just a boy," they said. Henry was only 15 when he joined up towards the end of the war, and was captured almost straight away; he told them he was so frightened. He would have been a prisoner either at the camp at South Littleton or one up in the Cotswolds. Along with other prisoners of war, he was bussed in daily to Badsey to work on the land. Mrs Butler felt very sorry for the lad who was younger than her own children and invited him regularly to Chalcroft for meals. When Ken and Peggy moved into their new council home, Henry gave Ken a lot of assistance with moving in and working in the enormous garden which was just a bare patch of land.

Early in 1948, Henry and other POWs were repatriated. His home was Grosswaltersdorf, a town in Saxony about 120 miles south of Berlin. We know that his parents were still alive and that he had sisters. Jane recalls that there were other letters which told of hardships. The Ellison and Butler families sent out food parcels from time to time. Sadly, the Ellisons lost touch with Henry. Ken Ellison did try to find out what had happened to him, but it was difficult trying to get information from behind the Iron Curtain. One wonders if Henry is still alive; he would be an old man in his 90s by now.