

Future Events

Friday 15th January 2021, 7.30 pm, Zoom lecture The Turnpike roads of Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford

David Ella looks at the road system around Badsey and Evesham and how it developed over the last 800 years. Using old maps and extracts from Abbey charters we will see how people and goods moved around the area before the days of railways. Looking at old carts and wagons will help us understand why roads and the routes that were chosen needed to improve over time. We will look at the two main routes between Worcester and London which ran close to Badsey, and a third now little-known route which ran through Badsey.

Friday 12th February 2021, 7.30 pm, via Zoom Annual General Meeting and presentation of the Tony Jerram Award

The same Committee is prepared to stand again for the forthcoming year. We would love to hear your views about how we have been doing during the past difficult year and any suggestions you might have. Please raise these, either on the evening or by sending a message in advance to Shirley Tutton. At the end of the business section, the winner of the annual Tony Jerram Award will be announced. Thanks to the six people who completed nomination forms. There will then be a selection of short films on a Badsey theme.

Friday 19th March 2021, 7.30 pm, Zoom lecture Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture, DNA and Family History

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 2021 – via Zoom

- Friday 16th April – “A Social and Archaeological History of Allotments and Urban Gardens”, talk by Rob Hedge, Worcestershire Archives & Archaeology Service
- Friday 14th May – Report on the Archaeological excavation at the Biomass Shed site, Laurels Road, Offenham, Worcestershire, by Nina O’Hare of Worcestershire Archives & Archaeology Service
- Friday 18th June – “Lines in the Landscape: Decoding Boundaries”, talk by Dr Simon Draper, Assistant Editor, VCH Oxfordshire

Membership Fees – 2021 subscriptions are now due, £5 per person, payable by:

- Paypal – go to <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions>
- Bank transfer – Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-93-11, Account No 02105424
- Cheque payable to The Badsey Society or cash – send to John Sharp, Honeysuckle Cottage, 24C High Street, Badsey, WR11 7EJ

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 75
January 2021

A Happy New Year to all our members – what a year 2020 was! Let’s hope that the promise of the vaccine will give us a chance to meet together at some point in 2021.

A big thank you to all our members for staying with us during this difficult period. Membership remains buoyant – we ended the year with 201 members. Whilst we had to say goodbye to some long-standing members who had sadly died, we have welcomed several new members during the course of the year. So who are our members? Membership comprises 103 women and 98 men of whom 34 have been members since our foundation in 2002. 124 live in Badsey, 10 in Aldington, 9 in Wickhamford, 19 in Evesham, 20 in Worcestershire and surrounding counties, 14 elsewhere in the UK and 5 live overseas. Over a quarter of our members have attended at least one Zoom lecture. It has been particularly pleasing to see some of our out-of-town members at these meetings which they would not normally have been able to attend.

In addition to our quarterly Newsletters, we send out monthly email updates. If you have a computer and we do not have your email address, please let us know. We hope that you will be able to join us at one of our Zoom lectures (see back page for details). Prior to the meeting, you will be sent a meeting request which will enable you to log on. A reminder, if you’ve never used Zoom, please phone Alan Tutton on 01386 831539 to seek advice.

Round-up of Events October-December

- **Saturday 17th October 2020, Reading Old Documents Workshop** - This very successful workshop culminated in a collaborative transcription of the 17th-century will of William Forrest, yeoman of Badsey. Find out who William Forrest was and where he lived by reading the article on the website. The will was downloaded for free (whilst COVID-19 restrictions are in place) from The National Archives website – so do make use of this free service whilst it lasts!
- **Saturday 24th October 2020, Recreation Ground Official Unveiling of the Centenary Information Board** – see inside for a full report
- **Friday 13th November 2020, “Their Name Liveth For Evermore”** – Sarah Moody of the Commonwealth War Commission gave a fascinating 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. Sarah concluded her talk with photos of the cemeteries where some of our WWII soldiers are buried.
- **Friday 4th December 2020, “From Aldington to Ohio – the story of Annie Bell and William Marsh”** – Nearly 50 people from the Badsey area are known to have emigrated to America in the last quarter of the 19th century – and specifically to the Auburn region of Ohio. Shirley Tutton told us the story of Annie Bell (daughter of William Bell, the farm bailiff at Aldington Manor) who emigrated to America in 1885 with her new husband, William Marsh, and his two sisters. As well as Annie’s personal story, Shirley outlined the reasons why so many people may have left the Vale, what conditions were like on board ship and what it was like when they arrived in America.

Website Award – www.badseysociety.uk

At the AGM of the One-Place Studies organisation, The Badsey Society was honoured to be chosen as the first recipient of its new website award. The Committee judged the entries on the following criteria: (a) Design (the visual appearance of the website; presentation and layout of pages); (b) Usability (the organisation of the website; ease of navigation, readability of content); (c) Content (the information on the website; good synthesis of data, range of data sources used); (d) Updates (regularity of updates and additional content). Check out our Home Page for the latest articles on our award-winning website.



The Royal British Legion Centenary

The Royal British Legion will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2021 and the British Association for Local History has asked us for help with a project, “Telling Our Story”. Local branches have been the stalwarts of the Legion's history. Whilst the Badsey branch no longer exists, we know that a number of our members have been actively involved in the past. If you would like to participate by telling us your story – how you came to be involved, what you did for the organisation, etc, please contact Shirley Tutton.

Photo Survey of Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford

Photographic surveys of the village have taken place in 1968 and 2008. Since then, much has changed. Houses have been demolished and many new roads have appeared: Stone Pippin Orchard, Fothersway and Sladden Close, to name but a few. In addition, we intend to include Wickhamford in the 2021 survey. Photography will take place in May, with a training session held in April explaining what is required. If you would like to take part, please contact Maureen Spinks.

Queen of the Villages

In October, Brian Smith posed a question. Hazel Smith has lived in all three villages covered by the Badsey Society: Wickhamford 20 years, Badsey 7 years, Aldington 39 years. An unusual hat-trick, but not unique – or is it? No one stepped forward to dethrone Hazel, so she can rightfully be considered Queen of the Villages.

Arthur Plant (1927-2021)

If Hazel Smith is the Queen of the Villages, Arthur Plant, who has died aged 93, must surely claim to have been King of the Villages. Born at Wickhamford in 1927, he then moved with his family to Badsey when he was about five years old. For the last nearly 70 years of his life he has lived at Aldington. Arthur was a member of the Society for a year and was a worthy winner of the Tony Jerram Award in 2015. A real character!

Gordon Lashford (1930-2020)

Gordon Lashford, who has been a member of the Society since our foundation year, has died in the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch, aged 90. Gordon came to live in Badsey in 1969 with his wife, Joyce, and twin daughters. He quickly embraced village life, becoming involved in many activities. He was a Governor at Badsey School from 1994-2002, but it was mainly for his work with the Flower Show that he was most well-known, being involved for over 40 years. Most people will remember him as the voice of the Flower Show, making the announcements over the tannoy for many years. When we are next able to meet again at the Flower Show, it will be without the familiar measured tones of Gordon. He will be greatly missed. See also a longer article on our website.

Unveiling of the Recreation Ground Centenary Information Board

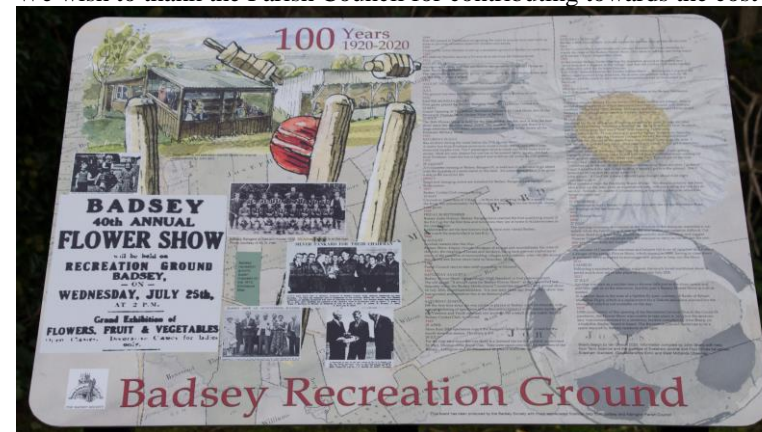
On a cool autumn day towards the end of October, a small group of people met on the Recreation Ground to perform the unveiling of an information board to celebrate the centenary of the Recreation Ground. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that any plans to hold an event on the actual centenary date in May or at the annual Flower Show in July were thwarted. So it was a select group that assembled to witness the unveiling, with various other members of The Badsey Society viewing from a respectful distance.



Left to right: Gary Bailey (Chair of the Parish Council), John Sharp (compiler of the information booklet), Brian Smith (unveiler), Ian Gibson (board designer).

The official anniversary of the opening of the Recreation Ground had not been completely ignored. The country was still in lockdown but, on 15th May, Brian Smith, together with his wife, Hazel, took a bottle of Prosecco and two glasses and sat on a bench drinking a toast to his great-grandfather and to the villagers of a hundred years ago who left a lasting legacy of the Recreation Ground for future generations. Brian's great-grandfather, Hubert Smith, had originally owned the land. He sold it to the parish for a reasonable price on the understanding that it would be used as a recreation ground for use of the parishioners at any time. Hubert also contributed to the fund administered by Julius Sladden, started in 1912. But then the war intervened and it was not opened until eight years later.

The members of the unveiling party were: John Sharp (compiler of the text for the board and booklet), Ian Gibson (designer), Brian Smith (performed the unveiling), Gary Bailey (Parish Council), Mike Tennant (Parish Council) and Will Dallimore (video cameraman). We wish to thank the Parish Council for contributing towards the cost of the board.



Have you been to the Recreation Ground to see the centenary board? Thanks to John Sharp for compiling the text and Ian Gibson for the design. Copies of the official centenary booklet are available in The Spar.

Postscript – Letter from a German prisoner of war

Following on from the article in last month's Newsletter about a German prisoner of war, Les Grinnell contacted us with a letter which his father had been sent in 1947. This was from George Jung who had worked with Harold Grinnell at Littleton & Badsey Growers. The full story may be read on our website.