

Future Events

Friday 16th April 2021, 7.30 pm, Zoom lecture

A Social and Archaeological History of Allotments and Urban Gardens

For thousands of years, ordinary people have worked small plots of land: for subsistence, for profit, for pride, and for pleasure. The archaeological traces of this activity are scattered through the soil. This talk by Rob Hedge of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service will explore the history of allotments and household gardens, and give an introduction to types of archaeological artefacts that are commonly found while tending the land: what they are, what they tell us, and how they got there.

If we were able to meet in person, Rob would usually invite people to bring along things that they have found in gardens or fields for identification. This is difficult to replicate on a video call due to image quality and focus issues, but he is very happy to look at any photos submitted in advance. If you wish to take advantage of this kind offer, please send an email to rhedge@worcestershire.gov.uk stating that it is for The Badsey Society talk on 16th April. Ideally, photos should be well-lit (natural light if possible), include a range of angles, and be accompanied by a scale such as a ruler or coin.

Friday 14th May 2021, 7.30 pm, via Zoom

Rural, rich and religious? Roman settlement in Offenham

This talk by Nina O'Hare of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service will focus on the recent excavation of Roman settlement alongside the Broadway Brook in Offenham. What does the archaeology reveal about who lived here? What was going on nearly 2000 years ago? And how does this site fit into the wider landscape?

Friday 18th June 2021, 7.30 pm, Zoom lecture

Lines in the Landscape: Decoding Boundaries

Dr Simon Draper, Assistant Editor of the Victoria County History for Oxfordshire, will talk about how boundaries tell us about the history of our landscape.

Other Events in 2021 – possibly via Zoom

- Friday 3rd September – Archaeological Excavation at the Biomass Shed site, Laurels Road, Offenham, talk by Jo Pine, Director of Excavation

Events for later in the year to be organised once we have a better idea as to whether we can hold large meetings.

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

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**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

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Spring is in the air! There is the gradual easing of restrictions, but we still don't know for certain when we shall be able to meet in person, so our next few lectures will continue to be via Zoom. At this point I would like to thank Alan Tutton for co-ordinating the Zoom arrangements at all our meetings. We were one of the first local history societies in the Evesham area to begin using Zoom. Just to remind you that, so long as you have a computer or ipad, if you've never used Zoom, please phone Alan to seek advice.

Round-up of Events January-March

Friday 15th January 2021, On the Way to London: Badsey & Evesham Roads

David Ella began his fascinating talk by looking at the earliest records of roads around Badsey from parish boundaries described in Saxon Abbey Charters. He showed us some of the maps from the 16th-18th centuries which first featured Badsey and the roads around the village, including the map used by both sides in the English Civil War. Two historic routes from Worcester to London passed close to Badsey; these changed direction over time. A third unexpected route also passed through Badsey. He concluded by talking about the turnpike road system which came to the Evesham area in 1728.

Friday 12th February 2021, Annual General Meeting

The 19th AGM of The Badsey Society had to be held via Zoom because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic; 59 members were in attendance, representing over a quarter of the membership. The same officers and committee were re-elected. Will Dallimore provided film footage of Badsey which was shown before and after the AGM.



At the end of the business section, the winner of the Tony Jerram Award was announced as Mary Dore. Normally the award would be presented in person by Barbara Jerram but this was not possible. So instead, Mary's son, Martin, surprised her on her doorstep with the trophy. Mary was given the award for her lifetime achievement in raising money for many organisations in the village, most notably the church tower appeal in the 1980s and the charity bingos that she ran at the village hall.

Friday 19th March 2021, Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture

The fifth Richard Phillips Memorial lecture should have taken place in April 2020 but, due to the pandemic, had to be postponed. Amelia (known as Mia) Bennett gave a talk on DNA and Family History. This was a subject of great interest to Richard. He was an early adopter of the use of DNA in family history and 11½ years ago gave a talk to the Society. In her talk, Mia explained, in simple language, how DNA testing works and how it can be used to answer all sorts of questions about family history. She also gave advice on how to select which commercial DNA company to use, detailing the factors to consider and the pros and cons of each. Mia provided some useful notes to accompany her talk which will prove invaluable for anyone wishing to pursue this aspect of family history.

Evesham Abbey Trust Conservation Project

Badsey Society member Elizabeth Spencer, who is Vice Chair of Evesham Abbey Trust, tells us a little bit about the project.

How can a major Abbey disappear into the grass? It was Henry VIII's fault of course, he sold the stones to local builders. You can see them in village walls around Evesham, their carved faces turned inward, as ordered. How is it rising from the grass? The Rudge family gave the Abbey land to a local trust as part of a 2015 plan to energise the town and create a heritage hub. Since then, parties of townfolk have cleared the rubbish and moved the allotments so that the site can become a public garden open to tourists, schools, and walkers. It is to be the hub of tourist interest in this ancient town.

Founded in 709 AD by St Egwin, following the holy vision of Eof the swineherd, the Benedictine Abbey at Evesham became the third most influential monastery in England. Notably, Lady Godiva retired there, Simon de Montfort's torso is buried there and in the Almonry Museum, is the Thomas Martin bible, on the margins of which was described the arrival of the soldiers to enforce the Dissolution as it happened. The abbey was sacked several times by Norsemen and all that remained following the dissolution was the Cloister Arch, crumbling walls and the free-standing Bell Tower.

The project has the vision and drive of Trust Chair, Barry Baldelli, who, with fellow trustees, volunteers and members of the community has employed professional and scholarly assistance. This has been made possible with grants from Heritage England, The Heritage Lottery Fund, Wychavon District Council and Evesham Town Council. By 2023 the surviving walls will have been stabilised and the outline of the abbey buildings will be in a setting of interpretive gardens dotted with informative panels. Would you like to become a Volunteer or Trustee? Please visit www.eveshamabbey.org.uk, or contact the Community Engagement Officer, Natalie Hanson, Nehanson2002@yahoo.co.uk.

Wickhamford Parish Council Burial Ground

Thanks to the hard work of Tom Locke, Val Harman, Peter Stewart and Maureen Spinks, all the monumental inscriptions in Wickhamford Parish Council Burial Ground may now be viewed on the website. The Cemetery was consecrated in 1956 and the first burial took place early in 1957. As of 2021, around 300 burials have taken place. Peter Stewart has also been busy updating the monumental inscriptions in Badsey churchyard.

To Vaccinate or not to Vaccinate

As I write, hopefully most of us will have at least had our first COVID-19 vaccination. Anti-vaccination theories are very much in the news at the moment, but did you know that this was a hot topic at the end of the 19th century? It may come as a bit of a surprise to learn that the anti-vax movement has been around for 150 years and was very active in the Evesham area between 1893 and 1896. In 1895, several Badsey folks were amongst 56 people who appeared before Evesham Petty Sessions for not having their child vaccinated. Read all about it in Shirley Tutton's article on the website.

The Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race

Another little-known fact. Did you know that a former Vicar of Badsey was a judge in the inaugural women's race in 1927? The Reverend Jeffrey Jeffreys, who was Vicar of the parishes of Badsey with Aldington and Wickhamford from 1945-1947, was teaching in Oxford in 1927 when the race took place on the Isis in Oxford. Check out Tom Locke's article about Reverend Jeffreys on our website.

Photo Survey of Badsey and Aldington

Who knows where this is? Long-term residents of the village will know that these cottages were on the site of the houses which now make up Hither Green. Thanks to Birmingham Photographic Society and the Record Office, we have an amazing collection of photos taken in Badsey in 1968.



© R W Horsley, May 1968.

Badsey Society members undertook a similar exercise in 2008 and we now wish to replicate this in 2021. These will form the basis of an important archive for future generations. In a hundred years' time, when the census we have just completed becomes available for public viewing, we hope that the photos will have survived in some format, allowing our descendants to see the house where an ancestor lived.

It was back in the 1960s that Harry Sargeant, the Worcestershire County Archivist, embarked upon a project to record areas of the county which might possibly be subject to change. Many people considered it a strange project for an archive office to undertake, thinking that pictures of the present day would not be of interest. Badsey was first targeted in 1960 when a Record Office staff member took photos in the Brewers Lane area because of the proposed development of the orchard which later became St James Close. But by far the largest survey of Badsey took place in May 1968 when over 500 photos were taken in one day by a 19-strong team from Birmingham Photographic Society. Expeditions, as they were called, were always a jolly occasion with a pub for lunch and lots of cups of tea from friendly householders. Well over half a century later, we can appreciate the foresight of the project.

In 2007, with the permission of the then archivist, and from copyright holders, Peter Stewart spent a day at the Record Office taking digital images of all the 1968 photos, which may be viewed on the website. In 2008, Badsey Society members repeated the exercise; in 40 years, the number of houses in the village had nearly doubled. But even in the 13 years that have elapsed since then much has changed; 15% of Badsey's houses have been built in the last decade or so, and some have been demolished. So that is why we felt it important to conduct another photo survey.



Aldington Lodge – knocked down to make way for new housing on Lodge Park Drive. Photo Gill Stewart, 2008.



Averill House, 27 Brewers Lane – knocked down to make the entrance to Fothersway Close. Photo John Bennington, 2008.