

## Future Events

Please note that all meetings held at Badsey Community Sports & Social Club will also be live-streamed and available via Zoom.

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 7.30 pm, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club The Archaeology and History of Pear Tree Fields

Parish Councillor Mike Tennant will talk about the history of the plot of land at Pear Tree Corner where the new Parish Council Burial Ground and allotments are to be located.

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 7.30 pm, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club Inn Signs and Pub Names of Worcestershire

Anthony Collis of Stourbridge, who has written a book called "The Inn Signs and Pub Names of Worcestershire" and has been photographing inn signs for more than 30 years, will give a talk on this subject. Besides displaying an excellent variety of inn signs, Anthony will explain the origin of various local pub names.

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021, 7.30 pm, St James' Church, Badsey Badsey Photographic Survey, talk and exhibition

Please note change of date (not 10<sup>th</sup> December as previously announced in our last Newsletter, as this clashes with carol-singing at The Wheatsheaf) and note that this is taking place in the church. Maureen Spinks will talk about the village photographic survey which took place earlier this year and will show how the village has changed over the past 50 years. There will be an exhibition of photos and the chance to chat to other members whilst partaking of mince pies to get in the festive spirit!

## Further Events in 2021-2022

- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – What's to be discovered in the 1921 census
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – AGM followed by Small Pits, Big Ideas meeting
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Richard Phillips' Memorial Lecture, The Geology of Badsey & the Surrounding Area, Alan Eames
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Census walks in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Preparation for Small Pits, Big Ideas
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May & Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 – Small Pits, Big Ideas weekend

**Membership Fees** – A few members have yet to pay their 2021 subscriptions, still only £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

Newsletter  
No 78  
October 2021

This September marked the beginning of the return to "normal" when we were able to hold our first in-person meeting for 18 months. It's been a rocky road for many people during the pandemic but we're pleased that we have been able to reach out to members via Zoom during this time. We recognise that, for a number of our members, they may still wish to continue viewing a lecture via Zoom, so we shall still be offering a link in this way. This has been particularly beneficial to those who do not live locally (members have logged on from as far afield as London and America) or those who no longer find it easy to go out at night. Please see the back page for our list of events for the autumn and winter.

## Round-up of Events July-September

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Photo Exhibition at Badsey Flower Show

It was not quite the Flower Show we all know and love but, when it was announced that the 118<sup>th</sup> Flower Show would go ahead, albeit in a cut-down way and not at the Recreation Ground, we decided to erect our gazebo in the front garden of The Willows, High Street, Badsey. There was a host of new displays, including a first look at some of the photos taken in the recent photo survey of the village. A steady flow of visitors came to see us on both afternoons.



### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 – The Archaeological Excavation at Offenham

Apparently, it's not just HGV drivers that there's a shortage of – there's also a national shortage of archaeologists! So said Joanna Pine, Director of the excavation at Laurels Road, Offenham. This was a follow-on from the talk in May by Nina O'Hare about the Roman settlement. Jo spoke about the archaeological excavation undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (East Midlands) at the site of Valefresco. The process of the archaeological excavation was explained and Jo presented the results of the fieldwork. These showed that the site was occupied from the early prehistoric period through to late Roman times. Jo finished by discussing life as a field archaeologist and showed some of the interesting sites she had worked on in her 30-year career digging holes.

## 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 pandemic. 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.

## Royal Worcester Flower Show Dessert Plate

In our July Newsletter in the article about Badsey Flower Show 1926, we asked if anyone had one of the specially-designed Dessert Plates made by the Worcester Royal Porcelain Company which was given in lieu of a cash prize. It wasn't long before Pat & Judy Sparrow got in contact. Here is Pat at his Brewers Lane home holding the plate which was won by his grandfather, Alfred Cecil Sparrow. Pat knows there is another Flower Show plate in Swansea, inherited by another grandson, the late Arthur William Sparrow, which is decorated with flowers.



Pat's plate, decorated with plums, damsons and blossom, is by A Shuck and marked 1929.

Right: Alfred Cecil Sparrow (1876-1957) pictured with the Flower Show silver cup which he won outright. It was presented back to the Flower Show by his two sons, Francis Cecil and Alfred William Sparrow, and newly-engraved as the A C Sparrow Memorial Cup. Alfred Cecil died suddenly and peacefully in his bed during the night before Flower Show day 1957.



## New virtual Aerial Archaeological map from Historic England

A new virtual Aerial map allows us to explore England's archaeology from the air. For the first time ever, Historic England has made the results of over 30 years of aerial photograph mapping projects freely available online. Like a huge archaeological jigsaw puzzle, the map pieces together archaeological landscapes recorded during analysis of over 500,000 aerial photographs (ranging in date from the 1920s to the present). More recently, innovative technologies such as lidar – airborne laser scanning – and web-based sources, such as Google Earth, have been added to the sources used.

The Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer lets you explore the layers of archaeology in and around your locality. On opening the map you will see the project areas (in red) which highlight where mapping data exists. Click on a project area to download a free publication highlighting the area's archaeological discoveries. The nearest project area to us is the North Cotswolds (2012 report), which includes the neighbouring Gloucestershire villages of Willersey, Childswickham and Murcot, which is well worth reading.

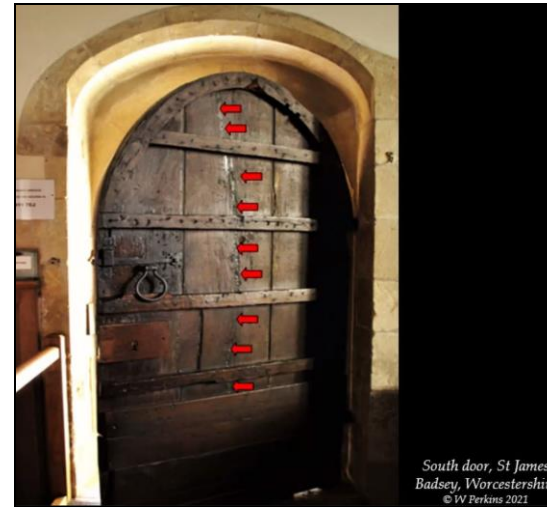
If you enter Badsey, Aldington or Wickhamford in the Search box, you will see a fascinating view of the extent of ridge and furrow arable cultivation which is shown in pale blue with blue arrows giving the direction. If you walk along Brewers Lane, you can still see the ancient ridge and furrow but, in most areas of the village, you would not be aware of its existence. The Historic England research record states: "An extensive area of contiguous Medieval ridge and furrow covering virtually all of Badsey parish has been mapped from aerial photographs. The ridges were visible as earthworks in 1946-7 but at least two thirds had been levelled by ploughing by the 1960s. Development around the edges of Badsey was responsible for some destruction." To begin looking at this exciting new map, go to the Historic England website.

## Graffiti in Badsey

Did you know about the graffiti in St James' Church? Several members of The Badsey Society attended a recent talk hosted by the Vale of Evesham Historical Society, entitled "Medieval Graffiti in the Evesham Churches". Archaeologist Wayne Perkins explained the significance of these marks and other graffiti and ritual protection marks that may be found in local buildings.



"Witch circles" at the foot of the fireplace, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcestershire © W Perkins 2020



South door, St James' Badsey, Worcestershire © W Perkins 2021

Have you ever noticed the marks on the door of St James' Church as shown in this photo by Wayne Perkins? One of the large oak panels had split vertically. This "opening" had been "sealed" by a multitude of taper burns applied along its length before putty was applied to seal it finally against the "outside". These taper burns are what are known as "apotropaic" marks, primarily made on buildings to protect the occupants from malign forces, especially from the evils of revenants (the restless dead), demons and witches.

Understanding the motivation behind the ritual application of taper burns to timber is still under discussion. Much has been said about the deployment of "sympathetic magic" whereby to "offer up a flame to wood" was a way of ensuring that the building did not subsequently catch fire. Inoculation against lightning has also been suggested.

The Hoby Memorial in the chancel of St James' Church shows signs of a different type of graffiti. This detail of one of the children shows numerous "tally" marks on the tomb as well as a grid (or mesh) pattern suggestive of a spirit trap. Family tombs, Easter Sepulchres and effigies of knights in particular became the focus for graffiti during the ensuing centuries.



At The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, "witch circles" may be found at the foot of the fireplace (see photo, top right). They are there to prevent evil spirits or witches from entering through the chimneys and doors. These witch circles were restored after The Fleece was seriously damaged by fire in early 2004. Perhaps it might have been better if the graffitists of centuries ago had applied some apotropaic taper burn marks to ensure that the building did not catch fire!