

## Future Events

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30 pm, via Zoom (link to be sent via email)**

**What's to be discovered in the 1921 census**

The 1921 census was released on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Shirley Tutton and Maureen Spinks will talk about what you can expect to find in the census and how it will help you understand more about your family history. We will also look at what Badsey was like in 1921 and anticipate what we might expect to find.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 pm, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club & Zoom  
AGM followed by Small Pits, Big Ideas meeting**

The same Committee is prepared to stand again for the forthcoming year but we welcome any new nominations. At the end of the business section, the winner of the annual Tony Jerram Award will be announced. We received eight nominations – it was a tough decision, but a choice has been made. This will then be followed by talks by Nina O'Hare and Ian Gibson giving more details about the forthcoming archaeological project in May.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 pm, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club & Zoom**

**Richard Phillips' Memorial Lecture, Geology of Badsey & the Surrounding Area**

Alan Eames will present the sixth Memorial Lecture. Badsey has moved a lot over the millennia – from below the equator to where we are now. Some basic geology will be covered, with a bit about earthquakes and volcanoes (why don't we have any, could we ever?), what is actually underneath our feet, and why does stuff move around all the time even though very slowly. Why do Badsey's stones etc have the form they do, where did they come from? And what happened to all the stuff once above us and no longer there? Why is there a Cotswold escarpment and why is Bredon Hill... over there? We shall see!

**Other Events in 2022** – There has been a slight change to previously published events. We have had an offer from Evesham-born Wayne Perkins to give a talk on 8<sup>th</sup> April, so we have decided to defer the census walks which were scheduled for April.

- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – “Historic Graffiti & Ritual Protection Marks in St James' Church, Badsey”, talk by Wayne Perkins; please bring a torch
- 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
- June/July – Census walks in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 – Badsey Flower Show

**Membership Fees** – 2022 subscriptions are now due, 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 79  
January 2022**

A Happy New Year to all our members! Let's hope that 2022 sees the lessening of restrictions and the end of the pandemic. Despite the sadness and difficulties faced by many during 2020 and 2021, we are proud of the fact that our membership has increased, talks have been plentiful and many of our members have learned how to Zoom. This has meant that our out-of-town members have been able to participate. Since September, we have successfully held three “hybrid” meetings, where members have attended either in person or via Zoom, and we hope to continue with this format in future. Please note, however, that due to several Committee members needing to shield, our meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January will be held only via Zoom.

Did you know that it is 20 years since the Society was formed? Little did we appreciate back in 2002 how the Society would grow. A quick look at our membership reveals that 38 of our current members have been continuous members since 2002. A big thank you to all our members, whenever you joined, for your support over the years. Look out for some merchandise which will be available later in the year to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Round-up of Events October-December**

#### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – The Archaeology and History of Pear Tree Fields**

Our second hybrid meeting was attended by 28 people in person and 19 people via Zoom. Parish Councillor Mike Tennant spoke 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. In the words of one of our members: “I thought the talk on Friday excellent: a very good speaker. Being very much under weather at the time I was most pleased to see the whole episode on Zoom. The whole new setup is much better and came up very clear on my small laptop.”

#### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – Inn Signs and Pub Names of Worcestershire**

Did you know that the commonest pub name in the UK is “The Red Lion”? It's because of a royal decree, issued more than 400 years ago, when James VI of Scotland was also crowned James I of England. Following his coronation in 1603, King James ordered the red lion of Scotland to be displayed on all important public buildings – which of course included inns and taverns. This was just one of the many fascinating facts that Anthony Collis of Stourbridge told us in his entertaining talk about the inn signs and pub names of Worcestershire. The talk was attended by 43 people present in person and 21 attending via Zoom, including members from America and London. What was impressive, though, was not only the huge number of unusual inn signs Anthony showed us throughout the county, but the amazing amount of knowledge displayed by the audience. I never knew our members were such a boozy lot!

#### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 – Badsey Photographic Survey, talk and exhibition**

Maureen Spinks spoke about the village photographic survey which took place in the Spring of 2021 and showed how the village has changed over the past 50 years. There was an exhibition of photos and the chance to chat to other members whilst partaking of mince pies to get in the festive spirit.

### Patrick Sparrow (1936-2021)

It was only in our last Newsletter that we featured Patrick Sparrow pictured with the dessert plate which had been awarded to his grandfather. Sadly, Pat lost his battle with cancer on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Badsey born and bred, Patrick spent the early part of his career working as an engineer on projects such as the Severn Bridge and the M5 motorway, then became consultant engineer with Worcestershire County Council. In 1972, Patrick settled in Aldington with Judy and his three sons. He became very involved in the life of the village and for 40 years was Treasurer of Badsey Flower Show. His contribution to village life was recognised in 2018 when he won the Tony Jerram Award. In the last two years of his life, he lived at 38 Brewers Lane, Badsey, in a house built in the garden of his childhood home. A full appreciation of his life may be viewed on the website.

### John David Hall (1951-2021)

John Hall, who died on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021, just a short while after his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, was the postman in Wickhamford for many years; many of you will know his son, Mark, who delivers the post in Badsey. John grew up at Green Leys, Badsey, and attended Badsey and Blackminster Schools. As well as being the village postie, he was also an accomplished photographer; he was the official photographer at the book launch of "Heads and Tales" and at Terry & Sandra Sparrow's wedding. His funeral is on 12<sup>th</sup> January at Fladbury Crematorium; the funeral car will pass Evesham Post Office at 9.30.

Our sincere condolences to members of the Sparrow and Hall families.

### 1921 Census

The 1921 census is here! Go to <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census> to access it, then pay to view a digital image (£3.50 per image or £3.15 with a subscription). As you can imagine, this would cost The Badsey Society a lot of money to purchase all the images relating to Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford. So, instead, Maureen Spinks is heading off to London where the census can be viewed for free at The National Archives. On her return, a team of transcribers will be ready at their keyboards to start the lengthy process of transcription, the results of which will be placed on the Badsey website for all to view. **If you would like to be a part of this transcription team, please contact Maureen – all you need is a computer and the ability to use Excel.** The more volunteers we have, the quicker the work will be done. This is the last big data capture for most of us in our lifetime. The 1931 census was sadly destroyed by fire, the 1941 census was not taken, so it will not be until 2052 that the 1951 census can be viewed. Come and join us at the talk on 14<sup>th</sup> January to find out more about the 1921 census.

### Consecration of Badsey Parish Council Burial Ground – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

On a cold, grey November morning, Robert Paterson, the former Bishop of Sodor and Man and now an honorary assistant bishop in the Diocese of Worcester, consecrated the new Parish Burial Ground at Pear Tree Fields. Around 40 people were there to witness this historic event. The ceremony began at the entrance with both the Bishop and Rev Philip Morton leading the prayers. After reciting Psalm 90, the deed of consecration was read stating that the ground was now to be set aside "from all profane and common uses". Everybody then followed the clergy around the perimeter of the burial ground. At each corner the Rt Rev Paterson formed the sign of the cross with his crozier and blessed the ground.



### *An Epidemic of Yesteryear*

*Another year and still the COVID-19 pandemic is with us. We've all heard of the Black Death which, in 1349, caused a rural depopulation of Worcestershire of nearly 50%. But very few people know of the serious epidemic which raged in England 1727-1730 – an epidemic which has virtually been lost to history with very little research done on the subject.*

*History teaches us that, even with the advance of medical science, we must never be complacent about the impact that disease can have.*



Ledger in front of the altar in St James' Church of Eleonor Wilson of Badsey Manor who died in 1727, aged 35: "Life is uncertain, death is sure to all."

We are fortunate that one of the few in-depth studies of this epidemic concerns Worcestershire. In 1971, J A Johnston, published an article in "Medical History" (Vol 15, Issue 3) entitled *The Impact of the Epidemics of 1727-1730 in South-West Worcestershire*, basing his study on 71 Worcestershire parishes. Contemporary records tell only of a fever, but the exact type is unknown. Bubonic plague has been ruled out as the epidemic of 1727-1730 was widespread and as serious in rural areas as in towns and cities. Other possibilities were cholera, diphtheria, scarlet fever, smallpox and influenza, but the most likely cause was typhus or typhoid.

A study of the Badsey and Wickhamford parish registers reveals that it appears to have been an epidemic of such enormity that the mortality rate has not been equalled (with one notable exception) any time since parish registers began in 1538. This one exception is not, as you might expect, the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918, but another catastrophe (a volcanic eruption in Iceland, would you believe) which affected the whole of Europe in the 1780s – but that, as they say, is another story.

Back to 1727. The first case was possibly an infant named James Byrche who was buried at Wickhamford on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1726/27 (the Julian Calendar changed to the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, so the months of January to March are recorded in this way). The register notes that he was an 'advena' or incomer, so did not live in the village. As the spate of deaths occurred in Wickhamford soon after this, and quickly spread to Badsey, it is quite possible that his family brought the disease with them.

In 1727, a total of 36 people were buried in Badsey – the largest number of burials in any one year ever recorded in Badsey's history. The epidemic appeared to begin to recede in 1728 with 19 burials but then it returned with a vengeance in 1729. A total of 32 people died in this second wave. In the decades prior to this and the decades following, the average number of burials a year was normally in single figures. As a comparison, 18 people were buried in 1918 during the Spanish flu pandemic. At Wickhamford, after October 1729, when Judith Mason died, there were no more burials until May 1730, so it seems that the disease had run its course in Wickhamford.

By 1731, the epidemic was beginning to subside in Badsey with seven burials in that year. Possibly one of the last to die as a result of the epidemic was the incumbent, the Reverend Robert Hill, who was buried on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1730/31.

If you would like to find out more about this forgotten epidemic, take a look at two articles on the Badsey website.