

## Future Events

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 pm, St James' Church (not available on Zoom)**

### **Historic Graffiti & Ritual Protection Marks in St James' Church, Badsey**

The study of medieval graffiti has been in the ascendant recently. It is now understood that similar symbols and signs can be found in domestic and farm buildings which echo those often found in churches. Graffiti can span the entire medieval period but appears to peak between AD 1650-1850 at the time of the so-called 'witch craze' in Europe. At St James' church compass-drawn circles, Marian Marks and protective crosses have been found incised into the masonry ... as well as something else ... evidence for an act of ritual building protection ... All will be revealed by Wayne Perkins on the night!  
**PLEASE BRING A TORCH.**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 pm, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club**

### **Preparation for Small Pits, Big Ideas: The Big Badsey Dig**

This is a meeting for all participants who have volunteered in some way to participate in The Big Badsey Dig. Also see inside for more information about the Big Badsey Dig.

**Weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

### **Census Walks around Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford**

Come and join Maureen Spinks and Tom Locke for strolls in the village to look at some of the places which feature in the 1921 census.

- Badsey South – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 7 pm, meet outside The Wheatsheaf
- Aldington – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 10 am, meet outside Aldington Manor
- Badsey North – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2 pm, meet outside the Remembrance Hall
- Wickhamford – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2 pm, meet at Wickhamford Church

## Other Events in 2022

- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, 2 pm – Market Gardening Meander. Please note that this is an event organised by Evesham Ramblers, not The Badsey Society, but our very own Terry Sparrow will be giving a talk on the walk. Booking essential: <https://www.eveshamwalkfest.org.uk/events/ewf-9-badsey/>.
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 – Badsey Flower Show
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – Frederick Preedy and the Gothic Revival
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – Reading Old Documents Workshop

**Membership Fees** – 2022 subscriptions are now due, still only £5 per person, payable as follows:

- 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
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 80  
April 2022**

It is now 20 years since The Badsey Society was formed. To mark the occasion, all of you – some 36 members – who have had continuous membership of the Society since 2002, will have received a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary bamboo pen as a token of our appreciation for your support over the years. If other members would like to buy a pen, these will be for sale at our events throughout the year, together with a special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary tray designed by Ian Gibson.

## Round-up of Events January-March

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – What's to be discovered in the 1921 census**

Just a week after the release on the 1921 census Shirley Tutton and Maureen Spinks spoke about what you might expect to find in the census and how it will help you understand more about your family history. See inside for more about the census.

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – AGM followed by Small Pits, Big Ideas meeting**

The 20th AGM of The Badsey Society was held on Friday 25th February 2022 as a "hybrid" meeting; 38 members were in attendance in person and 11 via Zoom. The same officers and Committee were re-elected. At the conclusion of the business section, the Tony Jerram Award was given to Anne McCombie. A record number of eight nominations was received.

Anne was instrumental in bringing the Knitted Bible exhibition to Badsey in August 2021. She gathered a large band of enthusiastic helpers, thus enabling the event to be very successful, whilst raising between nearly £3,700, divided between Caring Hands in the Vale and Friends of the Holy Land. Anne, together with her husband, Graham, has also been closely involved with the Freedom Club. They have taken a lead role in welcoming them to Badsey churchyard on most Wednesday mornings, when weather conditions permit. Here, these adults with learning difficulties are able to undertake small jobs, under supervision, thus giving them a sense of purpose in a friendly environment.



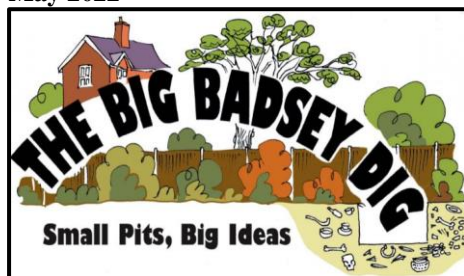
After a short break, Ian Gibson gave a talk about The Big Badsey Dig. He also brought along displays of pottery found at a dig in Beoley.

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Richard Phillips' Memorial Lecture, Geology of Badsey & the Surrounding Area**

The sixth Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture was presented by Alan Eames. Maureen Spinks, who was present at the lecture via Zoom, made her introductory speech from over 2,000 miles away from the volcanic island of Lanzarote whose geology is in stark contrast to that of Badsey. Alan, whose articles in *Community News*, have been enjoyed by Badsey and Aldington residents, then proceeded to tell us about how the geology of Badsey has been affected by continental drift over the millennia. He also explained more about the development of building in the area making use of the local stones.

## Small Pits, Big Ideas: The Big Badsey Dig – May 2022

Things are progressing with preparations for the Big Badsey Dig. It wouldn't be possible without the supervision of professional archaeologists from Worcestershire Archaeology and Archives Service and the Worcester Archaeology Society who, about ten years ago, put in a successful bid to The National Lottery Heritage Fund. So keep buying those tickets!



Badsey is one of six villages taking part in the Worcestershire Big Dig. We are planning to have 20 one square metre test pits dug in Badsey gardens as part of a countywide project to survey areas which have never been looked at before in spite of being continuously occupied and therefore rich in archaeology. The others are Beoley, which took place last autumn, Wichenford, which takes place in March, White Ladies Aston, which happens in April, then Badsey in May, Wolverley in June and Bewdley in July.

At the AGM we had a brief glimpse of the finds from Beoley. There were some clues about the existence of a mediaeval manor house and pottery excavated at Holt End showed that this settlement was mediaeval and older than the buildings around nearby Beoley church. More recent development in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and later were to connect the two parts of the village to create its current appearance.

We now have 20 gardens selected with a couple in reserve although not all the permission forms have been returned so this is a reminder to anyone who has not done this yet! Also there are still places for anyone wanting to help dig or prepare finds. Volunteers don't have to live in Badsey to take part. If interested please contact Ian Gibson on 834468 or [iangibsonart@btinternet.com](mailto:iangibsonart@btinternet.com)

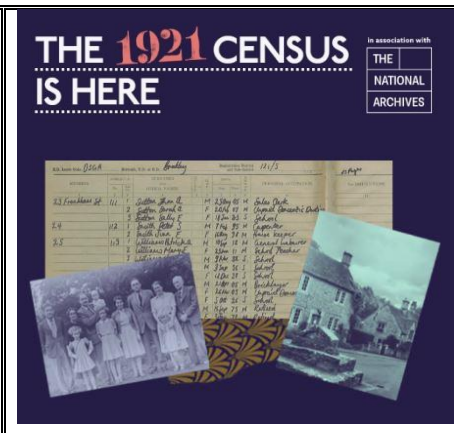
### In Memoriam

We are sorry to report the recent deaths of two of our members:

- **Margaret Tyszkow (1953-2021)**, who went missing from her home in Badsey on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021, was sadly found dead on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 when her body was recovered from the River Avon. Margaret, who was of Russian and German heritage, spent most of her life in Badsey, living in the house in St James' Close which her family had moved to when the estate was first built in 1964. She was often to be seen in the front garden chatting to neighbours. Margaret was Head Girl of Badsey School, then went on to Prince Henry's Grammar School where she also became Head Girl. The majority of her working life was spent working for the tax office. She was a member of Badsey Parish Council for many years, resigning just a short time before her death. A fuller appreciation of her life may be seen on the Badsey website.
- **John Newbury (1945-2022)**, who had been suffering from cancer for some time, died at home in Wickhamford on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the village of his birth. He was a former pupil of Badsey School, where he was Head Boy, and Prince Henry's Grammar School. On leaving school, John began working for the Daffurns at Elm Farm; the rest of his working career was spent in agriculture. He was Chairman of Wickhamford Parish Council for many years and was a keen angler. John's house in Manor Road was in poor condition when he bought it and he spent a lot of time renovating it. Our condolences to Margaret.

### The 1921 Census

On 6<sup>th</sup> January this year, the 1921 census went live. All the images for Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford were downloaded, and a team of 16 set to work on transcribing the census returns. Thanks are due to: Rosemary Blyth, Alex Christison, Jane Croucher, Karen Evans, Wendy Gwynn, Val Harman, Tom Locke, Kerry Moreton, John Patrick, John Sharp, Lyn Sharp, Stephanie Shearman, Maureen Spinks, Peter Stewart, Shirley Tutton and Gill Woods. Just two months after going live, the results may be seen on the Badsey website.



The census should have taken place on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1921 but it was delayed for two months due to industrial unrest. The census eventually took place on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1921. This was the first and only census in the UK ever to have been postponed. Not even COVID disrupted the census of 2021. It was the first census to take place in the summer which meant that there were some shifts in population. We see an inflation of population in the seaside towns as more people were on holiday.

Falling between the two world wars, the 1921 records paint a picture of the 38 million people who were living in England and Wales. From the Royal household to the average working-class citizen, everyone in the country was accounted for. At the time, the nation was still reeling from the impact of the First World War, a major housing crisis and the Spanish flu pandemic, as well as bearing the brunt of a ravaged economy and industrial turmoil.

Owing to the vast number of men who fell in the war, the census reveals there were 1,096 women for every 1,000 men recorded, with this discrepancy being the biggest for those aged between 20 and 45. This means there were over 1.7 million more women than men in England and Wales, the largest difference ever seen in a census. Interestingly, in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford, this does not appear to be the case. Whilst we have not had time to do a detailed analysis of the census results, it would appear that there were still more men than women in the village, possibly because many of the men had been granted military exemption because of the need to feed the nation.

Thanks to the additional information recorded on the status of parents and children, the census also reveals the devastating impact the war had on families with over 730,000 fatherless children being recorded versus 261,000 without a mother. Once again, this is not the case in our villages, as there were actually more motherless than fatherless children.

The 1921 Census was the first census to list 'divorced' as an option for marital status; divorce rates had risen dramatically during and immediately after the First World War. But there were no divorced people in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford in 1921.

If you don't have the good fortune to have ancestors who resided in Badsey, Aldington or Wickhamford a hundred years ago, you will need to search for them on the Findmypast website. 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).