

Future Events

Saturday 15th October 2022, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 10 am-2 pm

Reading Old Documents Workshop

Following on from their successful workshop held via Zoom in 2020, Alan & Shirley Tutton will repeat the workshop, this time to be held in person. The workshop is split into four sessions, each one dealing with different aspects of the reading and understanding of old documents; there will also be time and help in deciphering your own documents if you wish. There will be a meal break at noon, so please bring a packed lunch. Please contact Alan or Shirley if you would like to find out more.

Friday 11th November 2022, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

“What we can learn from the 1921 census”, a talk by Maureen Spinks

Back in January of this year, Maureen Spinks and Shirley Tutton spoke to members about the 1921 census which had just been published. Maureen had just been to The National Archives at Kew to download all the images for Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford. A team of volunteers was on hand to begin transcribing the records. In double-quick time, the records were published on our website. Maureen will now paint a picture of what our villages were like a hundred years ago and will compare the results with national figures.

Friday 16th December 2022, St James' Church, Badsey, 7.30 pm for 8 pm

“Worcestershire Church Bells, Craftsmanship and Sound”, a talk by Chris Pickford

This event follows immediately after the annual Christmas carols outside The Wheatsheaf, organised by the Parish Council. The church bells will be rung from 7.30 whilst you can come inside the church and warm yourself with tea/coffee and mince pies. At 8 o'clock, Chris Pickford, an archivist, writer and bell-ringer, will then talk to us about Worcestershire church bells. He is among the leading historians of bells and ringing and he writes regularly for The Ringing World.

Events in 2023

- Friday 23rd January 2023 – “Eat like your ancestors: the archaeology of food and the farmed landscape and the future of food”, a talk by Liz Pearson Mann
- Friday 10th February 2023 – AGM followed by “Worcestershire Place Names”, a talk by Dr Mike Jenkins
- Friday 17th March 2023 – Badsey Big Dig, report by Nina O'Hare & Ian Gibson
- Friday 28th April 2023 – Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture, “500 Years of Badsey and Worcestershire Maps”, talk by David Ella

Membership Fees – Membership still only £5 per person, payable as follows:

- Paypal – <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

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
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THE BADSEY SOCIETY

Newsletter
No 82
October 2022

It was only in our last Newsletter that we had an article about Jubilees past and present, in recognition of the Platinum Jubilee which took place in June to mark Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne. On 8th September came the sad news of the Queen's death at Balmoral. In Badsey, people were invited to light candles in the church in the Queen's memory. We wish our new sovereign, King Charles III, a happy reign.

Round-up of Events July-September 2022

Saturday 23rd July 2022 – Badsey Flower Show

Saturday morning dawned bright and clear. After a gap of two years due to the pandemic, it was good that Badsey Flower Show was once again taking place at the Recreation Ground. In the words of one of our helpers: “The whole show was brilliant, lots of stalls and people. Lovely to see everyone and catch up with friends. Just what everyone needed after an awful two years.”



Roy Page, 91 years young, had his own stall next to The Badsey Society one, showing some of the amazing models he has made in the last few years from recycled goods – including lorries which belonged to well-known Badsey names: Brazier, Jones, Marshall, Sears, Wheatley.

Friday 9th September – Frederick Preedy & the Gothic Revival

The Chairman, on holiday in Germany, introduced the talk via Zoom; five people were on Zoom and 27 were present in the Hall. A minute's silence was observed at the beginning of the meeting to mark the Queen's passing. Gerry Harte of the Vale of Evesham Historical Society then went on to give a most informative talk about the life and work of architect and stained glass artist, Frederick Preedy, who was born at Offenham in 1820. Our very own Badsey Church has a Preedy window. The window is in the north transept and is dedicated to Edward Appelbee who died in 1851.



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. Last year we received eight nominations. If your nominee was unsuccessful last year, please try again this year.

Elizabeth Jane Noyes (1943-2022)

We have just learnt of the death of Lizzie Noyes on 30th September at Wood Norton Home. Lizzie had been suffering from cancer for some time, but her indomitable spirit meant that she was determined to carry on as best she could and remain in control.

A Londoner by birth, Lizzie always felt that she was more of a city person but, on moving to Badsey with her partner, Richard Phillips, in 2000, she threw herself into village life. She served as Secretary of the Flower Show Committee for several years and was one of the founder members of The Badsey Society. Whilst never on the Committee herself, she gave much support to Richard who was actively involved. Lizzie and Richard took great delight in living at the Manor House and held many social events there over the years. A woman of many talents, Lizzie was extremely knowledgeable on all manner of subjects (so a good person to have on a quiz team!). She had travelled widely and seemed to have a story to tell about a godfather or grandfather in every part of the world. As well as having a degree in Psychology, she studied dairying at Seale Hayne College, Devon, adding milking a cow and making cheese to her accomplishments. She worked for a time as prison psychologist at Long Lartin. Lizzie will be greatly missed.

Dennis Barry Knight (1934-2022)

Dennis Knight was a proud native of Badsey, the Knight family having an association with the village since the 17th century. Dennis' birth took place at 11 Cotswold View (present-day 54 Willersey Road); he died at 32 Willersey Road, just 100 yards from where he was born. As a young boy, he was playing by Bully Brook which was in full flood and lost his footing. He was swept along by the raging torrent, but was fortunately rescued by Bill Bennett. As his mother was at work on the land, Bill handed him over to Mrs Bishop at No 42 who put him in an old tin bath. Anyone falling into Bully Brook was christened "Mayor of Badsey" and Dennis had this title for some time. On leaving school, Dennis worked with his father on the land before being called up for National Service. He went back to market gardening but then went to work at Unipart. Marriage to Mary Cresswell took place in 1957 and two sons were born. Dennis was a keen supporter of West Bromwich Albion; a West Bromwich shirt was placed on his coffin. Our sincere condolences to Mary and all the family.

Michael Draper (1932-2002)

Michael Draper, who died on 26th September at a Care Home in Bromsgrove, joined the Society in 2003. Michael was brought up in Pinner. He had his own business in Luton supplying parts to Vauxhall. He later took over the management of Severn Valley Railway. Michael moved to Badsey in 1997 and took an active part in village life. He was on the Flower Show Committee and was Chairman of the Sundowners' Club for many years. His interests were train and planes, politics and world affairs. He moved to Evesham in 2007 but still collected his paper from The Spar every day.

Elizabeth Anne Martin, née Cleaver (1954-2022)

Known as either Betty in her younger days or Liz in later life, Liz grew up in Badsey and became a member of the Society in its foundation year, joining the Committee for a year in 2005. Liz died in a Nursing Home in Tenbury Wells in August. Her ashes will be interred with her parents, Fred and Margaret Cleaver, in Badsey churchyard.

St John the Baptist Church, Wickhamford

Fund-raising has begun to replace the roof of the Grade I listed church. You are invited to sponsor a tile, minimum donation of £25; your name will then be written on the back of the tile. Please send your donation to: Carole Collis, 83 Winchcombe Road, Sedgeberrow, Evesham, WR11 7UZ. Cheques payable to Wickhamford PCC.

The Women's Land Army

The recent death of one of the older members of our community, Beryl Redgewell (née Bishop), who has died at the aged of 95, brings to mind the work of the Women's Land Army during the Second World War, as it was this organization which brought Beryl to Badsey in the first place. Though never a member of The Badsey Society, Beryl's story of working as a Land Girl at Wickhamford Manor features in our book (pp 117-118), "Aldington and Badsey, Villages in the Vale: a Tapestry of Local History".



In May 1943, 16-year-old Beryl was a cinema usherette living in King's Heath. Claiming to be older than she was, she enlisted in the Women's Land Army. Shortly afterwards, her uniform (boots, socks, breeches, dungarees, aertex shirt, jersey, hat, badge and greatcoat) arrived and, before long, she found herself amongst a group of girls put on a train for Worcester where they were met and loaded on to a lorry. It dropped ten of them off at Wickhamford Manor, the first detachment of WLA girls to move into the Manor, recently vacated for them by George Lees Milne. Beryl was issued with a bike and was sent off first to a farm at Bretforton to sort mangolds. Other jobs followed such as haymaking, potato picking, fruit picking, topping beans and driving sheep.

During her off-duty periods, Beryl enjoyed trips to the Evesham YMCA and regular evenings at The Sandys Arms, which was also favoured by American and Canadian servicemen. Dances were held regularly in surrounding villages, and occasionally at Wickhamford Manor. Work stopped at noon on a Saturday, so sometimes Beryl went home to Birmingham for a brief weekend.

For health reasons, Beryl left the WLA in February 1945. But her stay in the area had a happy outcome. Two years later Beryl married a Badsey man, Bernard Redgewell, and she remained in the village for the rest of her life.

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Joan Galloway on the harrow.

We are fortunate that we have a good deal of information about other Land Army girls at Wickhamford Manor. A few years ago, Tom Locke and Val Harman had the good fortune to meet Joan Broscomb (née Galloway) who, like Beryl, was from Birmingham, and was billeted at the Manor. Joan had a Leica camera and took many photos of her Land Army days.

Another Birmingham girl to go to Wickhamford was Jean Knight who ended up marrying Peter Sutton of Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford. The stories of Joan and Jean may be seen on our website at:

<https://www.badseysociety.uk/ww2/joan-galloway-land-girl-wickhamford-manor>

<https://www.badseysociety.uk/ww2/land-girls-photos-the-album-joan-galloway>

<https://www.badseysociety.uk/ww2/land-girls-wickhamford-manor>

Some of the Women's Land Army Index Cards have now come online at *Ancestry*. If you had an ancestor who worked for the Land Army, you may wish to take a look.