

Friday 12th January 2024, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

“The Medieval Graffiti of St James’ Church, Badsey”

In 2022, following a talk on medieval graffiti by Wayne Perkins, three members of the Badsey Society, Shirley Tutton, Helen Green and Kerry Moreton, undertook a photographic survey of the medieval graffiti in St James' Church. Come and hear Shirley Tutton’s talk about what they found, and what the graffiti tells us about the beliefs and lives of medieval people. Please note that the talk is at the Rec Club, not the church but, in due course, leaflets will be available for you to explore the church on your own.

Friday 16th February 2024, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

AGM followed by a talk on “Hatches, Matches and Dispatches”

The same officers have indicated they are willing to stand again; there is a space on the Committee if anyone would like to join. The AGM will be followed by the presentation of the Tony Jerram Award; please come on the night to find out who has won. After a short break, Gill Woods and Maureen Spinks will take a light-hearted look at some Badsey “hatches, matches and dispatches” as recorded in the registers and local press.

Friday 15th March 2024, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

“When Evesham rocked London”, a talk by Garry Smout

Now for something a bit different. How, in 1982, did separate, independent articles on three bands from Evesham end up in one magazine? One of the bands even sung about the town and area and still has interest in the current music press. Another’s debut album charted at number 4. How, who, why, and more, are covered in this tale of hard work, fate and disappointment.

Other Events in 2024

- Friday 12th April 2024 – Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture, “The Rise and Fall of Evesham Abbey”, a talk by Elizabeth Spencer
- Friday 10th May 2024 – a talk by Terry Sparrow about market gardening
- June 2024 – outing to Beckford and Tewkesbury, exact date and more details to be confirmed
- Friday 12th July 2024 – Summer musical soirée and garden party with local wind quintet, The Chameleon Ensemble, playing light and popular classics
- Saturday 27th July 2024 – Badsey Flower Show

Membership Fees – Membership fees are due for 2024, 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, please put “Subscription” as a reference
- Cheque payable to The Badsey Society or cash, send to Will Dallimore, 30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey, WR11 7XD.

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| 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 |
| Will Dallimore, Treasurer | 30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey - 01386 831012; treasurer@badsey.net |
| Committee Members: Ian Gibson, Helen Green, Andy Higgitt, Tom Locke, Jane Neill, Alan Tutton, Gill Woods | |



A happy new year to all our members – all 208 of you. A few facts and figures:

- Our membership is made up of 94 men and 114 women
- 31 people have been continuous members since the Society’s inception in 2002
- 127 live in Badsey, 15 in Aldington, 9 in Wickhamford, 5 in other parishes in the United Benefice, 15 in Evesham, 33 live elsewhere in the UK and 4 live overseas

What we all have in common is a shared interest in and love of our village.

Round-up of Events October-December 2023

Thursday 16th November 2023 - Trip to Oxford and the Ashmolean Museum

A full coach-load of people headed to Oxford for the day. The majority of the group visited the Ashmolean Museum where the day began with coffee, followed by a guided tour of highlights of the museum. After lunch there was free time to carry on exploring the museum further or to visit the city.

Friday 17th November 2023 - The Arts & Crafts movement in the Cotswolds

This talk had to be postponed from October to November and a last-minute change of venue to the church was required, but this did not deter some 42 members from attending. Gill Woods spoke knowledgeably about why 150 Londoners moved from the East End to Chipping Campden in the early 1900s and told us about the Russell family of Broadway. Gordon Russell, after whom the Design Museum in Broadway was named, was a design pioneer, schooled in the Arts and Crafts tradition of the Cotswolds. He had moved to Broadway in 1904 at the age of 12 when his father bought The Lygon Arms.

Friday 15th December 2024 - Shepherd’s Crook Folk Choir



This event followed immediately after the annual Parish Council’s Christmas carols outside The Wheatsheaf. We were delighted to welcome many new faces to the event, as well as our regular attendees. The bell-ringers began ringing at 7.30; during this time people were able to avail themselves of tea/coffee and mince pies. The choir, who are based in Winchcombe, began singing at 8 pm. They performed a selection of traditional Cotswold Carols and Wassails, with a short commentary on each piece about its origin and history. The songs were mainly traditional local songs sung in 4-part harmony to keep Gloucestershire music in people’s memories, but there were also some more modern pieces. In lieu of a fee, the choir asked for donations for Ukraine.

Linda Core (1942-2023)

Linda Core was born in Evesham in 1942. She was educated at Bengeworth C of E School then Evesham County Secondary School which she left with O levels in English Language, English Literature and History. Linda began working at H Burlingham & Co in 1958 in the accounts department and stayed there for the next 30 years. Linda and her mother Hilda moved to Badsey in the 1960s and lived in Post Office Lane until her death. Music played a big part in Linda's life and she played the organ at Wickhamford Church for over 30 years until difficulty climbing the steps to the organ loft forced her to retire. She also worked as a cleaner at Seward House when it became a care home for the elderly. Linda survived a serious stroke a couple of years ago but it left her paralysed. Before her death she was able to publish a book of her short stories called *Tales from the Tall Thin House* (this was her home at 7 Old Post Office Lane). Linda will be remembered for her great fortitude and always seemed to have a smile on her face. Her funeral will take place at Badsey Church on 10th January.

Pat Waters (1943-2023)

Pat was born in June 1943 in Chester. Aged 18, she began training at Guy's Hospital as a State Registered Nurse. Whilst there she met John and they married in 1967. John's job took them to far-flung corners of the world – the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Madrid, Washington DC – and was accompanied by Pat and their three children. Pat and John returned to the UK in 2003. Almost immediately John was offered another job in Venezuela but Pat “commuted” between Cleeve Hill and Caracas for the next four years. They finally returned to the UK in 2007, living firstly in Devon, then moving to Badsey in 2017. Pat enjoyed life in the village and built up a wide circle of friends. She had taken up stained glass whilst living in Devon and continued this hobby from home. One of her finest works was a stained glass window for her nephew who runs a Mission in central Ukraine – so far it has not been the target of Russian missiles or drones! Another piece, a fire screen, won a prize at the 2023 Badsey Flower Show. Over the last two years her health had been deteriorating due to the onset of leukaemia. She was able to spend Christmas Day at home with her children and grandchildren but her health declined rapidly on Boxing Day and she died in Worcester Royal Hospital. A Thanksgiving Service for her life will be held in Badsey Church on 18th January.

The grave of Florence Jane Brewer (1901-1909)

Have you ever wondered about any of the graves in Badsey churchyard? Recently, a Badsey resident inquired about a grave under a holly tree. The inscription was indistinct and she was unable to make out the name.

Thanks to Peter Stewart's detailed survey of the monumental inscriptions in the churchyard, undertaken some years ago, we were able to provide the answer. The person buried there was eight-year-old Florence Jane Brewer who died on 7th March 1909. She was the daughter of James Brewer, the baker, and his wife, Sarah. The school log book reveals that she died of diphtheria. The school was closed on the Wednesday afternoon following her death, on account of her funeral. Five-year-old Douglas Sparrow, who also died of diphtheria, was buried on the same day, but he has no gravestone.



End of an Era – Goodbye to an old favourite

It's the end of an era! The building that once graced the corner of High Street and Synehurst Crescent is no more. However you remember it – whether as the old school/the Scout Hut/the Royal British Legion or The Pub in a Club – it has strong memories for many people.

*The Legion's gone, how strange it looks
To see that empty space.*

*A piece of Badsey's history swept away,
For flats to take its place.*



The building began life as The United Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford National School, opening on 1st November 1854. It remained a school until 1895 when the school which we know today as Badsey First School opened its doors. After the school had moved to new premises, the building was used as a community centre for the next half century. Dances, concerts, whist drives, parties, wedding receptions and public meetings were held there, and it was often the starting-point for processions through the village.



In 1946, the 5th Evesham (1st Badsey) Boy Scouts was formed. They needed a meeting-place and took on a five-year lease of the old school. In 1951, they had the opportunity to buy the building; Harry Stewart, the President, was the purchaser. The Scouts continued to use it as a meeting-place for the next ten years until a new hut was built on the Recreation Ground.

Left: The old school building pictured in 1959.

The building was then sold in 1962 to the Royal British Legion. Renovation quickly began, much of it on a voluntary basis. The Badsey branch had a large and enthusiastic membership, whose members quite happily gave their time or donated items; various extensions were added over the years. Due to dwindling numbers, caused by the death of so many of its staunchest members, the Badsey, Aldington & Wickhamford Branch of the Royal British Legion ceased to meet towards the end of 2014.

Early in 2015, the building was leased to the private “Pub in a Club”. The opening of this new venture meant that the various activities for social groups, particularly the elderly (such as the Over 60s' Friendship Club), could continue. The following year, Tracey Hemming started Freedom Disco every Tuesday night at the Club. This was a disco for young people who had learning difficulties. The Freedom Day Centre opened in 2017.

In 2021, the Royal British Legion decided to put the building up for sale. On 23rd February 2023, an application was received by Wychavon District Council to demolish the building and to erect nine two-bedroom apartments. Approval was granted on 11th October 2023 and demolition began a few weeks later. Work has already begun by the developers.

A much longer article tracing the history of this building may be seen on the Badsey website, together with links to Will & John Dallimore's film of the building's demolition and to Brian Smith's poem (the first verse of which is shown above). Thanks are also due to Les Grinnell and Chris Helm for providing useful information.