

Future Events (the talk on 12th April will also be available via Zoom)

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

Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture

“The Rise and Fall of Evesham Abbey”, a talk by Elizabeth Spencer

Elizabeth Spencer, former Head Teacher of Badsey First School, will deliver the annual Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture. Elizabeth is Vice-Chair of Evesham Abbey Trust (EAT) and her lecture will cover a brief history of the Abbey and the famous people associated with the Abbey throughout history. In addition, she will talk about the formation of the trust, its conservation, archaeological, educational projects and legacy.

Friday 10th May 2024, St James' Church, Badsey, 7.30 pm

Market Gardening in Badsey

Terry Sparrow will talk about the origin and development of market gardening in Badsey. He will begin with how market gardening started initially in Evesham, then talk about the reasons for change in Badsey and the development of market gardening from the late 19th century and the resulting population increase. His talk will cover details of the crops grown, marketing and the growing of medicinal herbs in WW1. **Please note change of venue.** We cannot offer Zoom, but hope to make a recording available.

Wednesday 12th June 2024, Trip to Tewkesbury including an industrial history tour

Please join us for a trip to Tewkesbury, cost £14 (see enclosed form). In the morning, John Dixon, President of Tewkesbury Historical Society, will take us on industrial historical tour from the Abbey Mill to Healings and King John's Bridge. This will be followed by lunch (not included in price) and the opportunity to explore on your own. Suggestions are: the Heritage Centre, the Abbey, John Moore Museum, the Battle Trail.

Other Events in 2024

- 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, Recreation Ground
- Tuesday 10th September 2024 – Trip to Berkeley Castle and Dr Jenner's House
- Friday 20th September 2024 – “Tales from the Newsroom: Life at *The Worcester News* in the 1970s & 1980s”, David Wood
- Friday 18th October 2024 – “Skeletons in the Closet”, Alan Tutton
- Friday 15th November 2024 – Family History evening, bring your questions
- Friday 13th December 2024 – Christmas celebration with Musyck Anon

Membership Fees – Membership fees are due for 2024, still only £5 per person, pay by:

- 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.

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: Helen Green, Andy Higgitt, Tom Locke, Jane Neill, Alan Tutton, Gill Woods	



**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
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Hope you all had an enjoyable Easter weekend, despite the weather not being the best. We have several fascinating talks lined up in the months ahead, and Shirley Tutton has been busy planning a couple of outings. The form for the Tewkesbury trip in June is enclosed. A form for the Berkeley Castle trip in September will be included with our July Newsletter.

Round-up of Events January-March 2024

Friday 12th January 2024 – 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. Shirley gave a talk about what they had found, and what the graffiti tells us about the beliefs and lives of medieval people.

Friday 16th February 2024 – AGM followed by Hatches, Matches & Dispatches talk

The 22nd AGM was held as a “hybrid” meeting; 40 members being in attendance in person and 12 via Zoom. Maureen Spinks was re-elected as Chairman, Shirley Tutton as Secretary and Will Dallimore as Treasurer. Tom Locke, Jane Neill, Alan Tutton, Gill Woods, Helen Green and Andy Higgitt were re-elected to the Committee. Ian Gibson stood down and was awarded life membership for his services to the Society. He has served on the Committee for 20 years, designed all our book covers and was Project Leader for the Big Badsey Dig. After a short break, Gill Woods spoke about the Badsey Marriage Banns Register, which she has recently transcribed, and Maureen Spinks gave a talk entitled “Hatches, Matches and Dispatches”.

At the end of the business section, the winner of the Tony Jerram Award was announced as Brian Smith. Brian was recommended for the award in recognition of his contribution to the local story. His poems (more than a hundred) bring to life many scenes and characters now almost forgotten. Some of his poems may be found on the website. He has also published three books of poems, telling the story of life in Badsey and Aldington: *From Blackminster to Golden Lane*; *From Pack Meadows to Pear Tree Corner*; *From Down Sands Lane to Cuckoo Bridge*.



Friday 15th March 2024 – When Evesham rocked London, Local Cultural History

Garry Smout entertained us to a fascinating talk about three Evesham bands from the 1970s and 1980s – a subject matter which was quite a change from our normal offering. How, in 1982, did separate, independent articles on three bands from Evesham end up in one magazine? One of the bands sung about the town and area and still has interest in the current music press. Another's debut album charted at number 4. For those of you who were young in those times, it was a chance to remember what it was like before there were no mobile phones and no bypass round Evesham. The talk was given again via Zoom on 28th March to a large number of people.

Farewells

We have to report the death of two of our members in February.

Meryl Pratt (1957-2024), who joined the Society in 2003, was born at St Asaph, North Wales. Meryl trained as a paediatric nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital, later working as a Health Visitor for number of years. After marriage to Andy, and the birth of two children, Meryl moved from Derbyshire to Badsey 31 years ago, engaging herself fully in Badsey village life. Meryl's health had been poor since 2000 and, during the last few years, her illnesses required nursing care support. Nevertheless, Meryl took a keen interest in the archaeological dig which took place in the Pratts' back garden in May 2022 during the Big Badsey Dig, and avidly read the report which was published last year. Meryl died on 1st February. Our condolences to Andy and family.

Graham Reginald Haines (1936-2024)

Graham Haines was Badsey born and bred. He was the youngest of four children of Albert and Stella Haines and grew up at Glebe Farm (demolished in the early 1960s – houses on the west side of Willersey Road now stand on the spot). His mother died when he was just two years old and his father was left to bring up a young family on his own. Graham attended Badsey Council School and then Blackminster. He died suddenly on 22nd February, aged 87. Our condolences to his widow, Christine, and family.

The Big Badsey Archive Spring Clean

Last month we put out a call for help in spring cleaning the room at Badsey Remembrance Hall which we rent in order to store all the Society's archives, stock of books and display boards. Here's the band of willing helpers who were there with their feather dusters to clear away the cobwebs.

Pictured right: Tom Locke, John Dallimore, Alex Christison, Will Dallimore, Helen Green, Jane Neill.



A connection between Badsey and Tewkesbury Silk Mills

If you join us on the trip to Tewkesbury in June, you will be taken on an industrial historical tour from the Abbey Mill to Healings. These were both flour mills but, for a brief period in the 19th century, Tewkesbury had a silk mill, as of course, did Badsey.

The owner of the Tewkesbury mill was Humphrey Brown, MP. An article in *The Worcester Journal* of 4th December 1851 reveals that there was a contretemps between Brown and Thomas Bolland Langley, who was then Master of Badsey Mill. It began by saying, "It appears that our Member of Parliament, H Brown, Esq, and Mr Langley of Badsey near Evesham, two great silk throwsters, are not on the best friendly terms." The article went on to say that at Tewkesbury Petty Sessions on 28th November, Brown accused Langley of poaching a number of boys from his mill in the Oldbury district of Tewkesbury. The upshot was that Langley had to pay damages of £5 5s. Neither the Tewkesbury nor the Badsey silk mill lasted long after this. Humphrey Brown, who was described as having "an uncontrollable love of speculation", became bankrupt and ended up in prison. As for Thomas Bolland Langley, an ordained Church of England minister, he was a most unlikely candidate to take on the running of a silk mill. As well as poaching mill workers, he was also accused of forgery and defaulting on payment. He disappeared suddenly in 1852, and was probably the last Master of Badsey Mill.

Flocks of Byrds over Badsey – Sparrows and Pigeons

The origins of some English surnames derive from a nickname that described a person as being bird-like. In Badsey, we have had several surnames that fit into this category – Sparrows, Pigeons and Byrds, for example, and a few Teals. Our very own Terry Sparrow, who celebrated his 90th birthday in March, has a name which is of Anglo-Saxon origin. It derives from the Olde English pre 7th Century "spearwa", Middle English "sparewe" (a sparrow) and was originally given to a homely or chirpy person. What Terry doesn't know about the history of Badsey isn't worth knowing, so we tend to think of the Sparrows as having lived in the village since time immemorial. But that's not the case!



It wasn't until 1889 that the first Sparrow was recorded in the parish registers. This was when Alfred Sparrow and his wife Lucy (Terry's great-grandparents) had their youngest child, Rose Emma, baptised at St James' Church. Alfred was born at Church Lench in 1848, but his father, James, had moved from Suffolk as a young man. Alfred began his working career as a plough boy but later left his native Worcestershire to seek work elsewhere, as times were hard for farm labourers. At the time of the 1871 census, he was working as a footman at the Rectory, Langar, Nottinghamshire. Alfred later moved to work on the Isle of Man where most likely he met his future wife, Lucy Hards, who worked in service as a nurse. They married at Braddan in 1874. Alfred and Lucy remained in Braddan in their early married life and their first son, Alfred Cecil, was born there in 1876. They were back in Worcestershire temporarily in 1878 when William Douglas was born at Church Lench. By 1881, they were back on the Isle of Man, where Alfred was working as a butler. They returned to Worcestershire a year or two later where two more children were born: Louis Henry at Atch Lench and then the aforesaid Rose at Badsey. They remained in the village for the rest of their lives. Alfred's sister, Emma, already lived in Badsey. Emma was married to Henry Keen, a successful market gardener, and Alfred obviously decided to try his hand at gardening. The rest, as they say, is history, with the generations following taking up market gardening. Terry's talk on market gardening in Badsey will take place on 10th May – come and join us.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the commonest surname in Badsey was Pigeon. The name has two possible derivations, both of early medieval English origin. Firstly, it may have been a nickname for a person thought to be particularly gullible, "easily taken", like the bird, or a name for someone who hunted wood pigeons. With the death of widow Elizabeth Pigeon in 1727, this was the last of the Pigeons in Badsey.

By the end of the 17th century, members of the Byrd family (or Bird as it sometimes appeared) began settling in Badsey and, in the 18th century, was one of the commonest names in the village. Thomas Byrd was a prominent landowner at the time of the Aldington and Badsey enclosures at the beginning of the 19th century. By the end of the century, however, the wealth of the Byrds had diminished and it was as a result of various farm sales that the land was parcelled up into small lots which allowed the former "Ag Labs" turned market gardener to acquire an acre or so of land. The name Byrd is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and derives from the Olde English pre 7th century "bride" meaning a bird, originally given as a nickname to one thought to bear a resemblance to a bird, ie, bright-eyed or active, or perhaps to one with a beautiful singing voice.