

Thursday 16th January 2025, 10.30 am, meet in Worcester

“Explore the Past” tour at The Hive, Worcester

Please join us for an Explore the Past Tour, including an introduction to the Historic Environment Record. This gives members the chance to go behind the scenes to meet some of the team and to see where they work, as well as seeing some documents not normally on display to the public. Details may be found on the enclosed form.

Friday 17th January 2025, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

“Evesham Quakers and the 17th-century English Revolution”

In 1655, during Oliver Cromwell's rule, life in Evesham was shaken by an episode of disorder and agitation when Humphry Smith, a leader of the new sect called Quakers, visited the town. In this talk, Dr Stephen Roberts will look at what happened and why and will set this turbulent period in Evesham's history in context. Dr Roberts was Director of the History of Parliament Trust in London. He is a vice-president of the Cromwell Association and is active in the Worcestershire Historical Society.

Friday 7th February 2025, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

AGM and presentation of Tony Jerram Award

We currently have nine people on the Committee, but if anyone would like to join our merry band, please make yourself known to us. The AGM will be followed by the presentation of the Tony Jerram Award. After a short break, Alan Tutton will show some old slides which he has digitised and which belonged to Ralph Bolland's family.

Friday 14th March 2025, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

“Witchcraft in Worcestershire – the Archaeological Evidence”

In 1690, four women were found guilty at Worcester Assizes of bewitching children to death. We now know that witch trials were rigged and that preconceptions of what constituted a ‘witch’ were based upon a culturally-constructed stereotype. Each of the confessions in the Worcester trial followed an almost identical narrative. Evidence suggests that few people ever actually practised the kind of witchcraft as depicted in popular pamphlets. However, the perceived threats seemed very real to the common populace. Wayne Perkins, who spoke to the Society two years ago, will tell us more.

Events in 2025

- Friday 11th April 2025 – Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture, “90 Not Out – A Personal Experience of Nearly a Century Living in Badsey”, Terry Sparrow
- Friday 16th May 2025 – Nature in Badsey and Aldington, Jane Neill
- Friday 13th June 2025 – Follow the Skylark Trail around New Farm Nature Reserve, Evesham

Membership Fees – Membership fees now due for 2025, 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 (address below)

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Shirley Tutton, Secretary	34 Seward Road, Badsey; 01386 831539; info@badsey.net
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Committee Members: Helen Green, Andy Higgitt, Tom Locke, Jane Neill, Alan Tutton, Gill Woods	



**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
No 91
January 2025**

A happy new year to all our members. We ended the year with a membership of 197. Sadly, some of our longest-standing members died earlier in the year, so we are left with 27 members who have been members since our foundation year, 2002. Perhaps not surprisingly, given the age profile of our members, the commonest male names are John and David and the commonest female names are Wendy and Carol.

Round-up of Events October to December 2024

Friday 18th October 2024 – Skeletons in the Closet

Alan Tutton spoke to us about some of the skeletons in his family history. This was a precursor to the family history event which was taking place the following month.

Friday 15th November 2024 – Who do you think you are? Family History Evening

We asked members who had hit a brick wall in their research, to contact us to see if we could sort it out. Research was undertaken by Maureen Spinks, Tom Locke and Shirley Tutton, making use of the various subscription sites which the Society pays for. After 80 years of not knowing, Ivor Martin, whose father was adopted, at last found out the identity of his paternal ancestors. Will and John Dallimore learned more about the family of their late mother, Myrtle Grace Dallimore who was orphaned as a child. Penny Christison needed help with illegitimate ancestors in a small village in Hampshire. Terry Sparrow's queries, on the face of it, were quite straightforward, but turned into quite an interesting detective story. Due to popular demand, both the October and November lectures were repeated the following week via Zoom.

Friday 6th December, Trip to Hereford

A successful trip to Hereford was organized by Shirley Tutton. We were split into groups and whilst one group had a guided tour of the Cathedral, another group visited the Mappa Mundi exhibition and the Chained Library, and then swapped. This was followed by a buffet lunch in College Hall with access to parts of the cathedral not normally seen. After lunch there was free time to explore the cathedral further or to visit the Christmas Market.

Friday 13th December, Christmas celebration with Musyck Anon

This event followed immediately after the annual Christmas carols outside The Wheatsheaf. Around 50 people came to warm themselves with tea/coffee and mince pies. Musyck Anon, who performed in 17th-century costumes, then sung several early English carols. They are an Evesham-based “a cappella” group with particular interest in early music. A total of £130 was raised for their chosen charity, Children with Cancer.



Revels a hundred years ago

In The Evesham Standard of 3rd January 1925, an account was given about a Badsey Hockey Club party:

A fancy dress dance, in connection with the Badsey Hockey Club, was held in the Bengeworth Church House on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance, and the many coloured fancy dresses and costumes presented a gay appearance. The room was tastefully decorated, and altogether the dance was quite a success. Much fun was occasioned by the fancy dress parade. The "cleric's appearance was much enhanced by a pair of large horn-rimmed spectacles. Prizes were won by Miss Gladys Bird (Arabian Princess), Miss Cox (Bretforton, Rival Blues), Mr P Baylis (Sheikh), and Mr A L Milner (a schoolgirl). Dancing to the strains of the orchestra, which played exceptionally well, was continued till 2 am, when everyone went home after an enjoyable time.

The life stories of two former nonagenarian members of the Society

In our last newsletter, we reported on the death of Peggy Hancock, aged 96, and Barbara Jerram, aged 92 – both members of the Society since 2002. Whilst Peggy never strayed far from her native Worcestershire, Barbara, had a life which took her to the four corners of the globe before spending the last 35 years of her life at Harringotn House, Badsey. Articles on Peggy's love of Wickhamford and Barbara's exciting adventures whilst living in the Sudan may be found on the website by going to the Home page, www.badseysociety.uk and looking under "Recently added articles".



The story of a stone jar

Brian Smith is an avid collector of old bottles and stone jars with Evesham names on them. He has 18 of them and they take up a lot of room, but wife, Hazel, is very understanding! Most bear the names of wine and spirit merchants and breweries, but others are from tea merchants, seed suppliers and grocers. One was Edwin Thompson, Grocer, High Street, Evesham. Brian discovered to his delight that the only useful link on the web was to the Badsey Society site which told him that in 1881, Edwin was living at The Firs, High Street, Badsey.

He was described as a retired grocer, so Brian reckons his jar is from about 1870 or even before. Edwin hailed from Coventry but, since at least 1854, had lived in Evesham where he established his grocer's business. He was married to Hannah Dunscombe Ransford and had twin daughters, Annie Louisa and Mary Elizabeth, who are thought to have been adopted. In retirement, the Thompsons lived in Badsey for about a decade. Edward was described as a grazier of 45 acres. He died at The Firs in 1889, but was not buried at Badsey. His widow and daughters then returned to Evesham.

George Alfred Aldrich (1930-2024)

George Aldrich joined the Society in 2002 and was a continuous member until failing memory meant that his membership lapsed. George was born at Evesham in 1930, the only son of George Stephen Dickinson Aldrich, a pharmacist of 59 High Street, Evesham, and his wife, Hilda. He was educated at Sherbourne School and colleges in Portsmouth and Cheltenham. His father was Mayor of Evesham from 1949-1951. Like his father, George became a pharmacist. In retirement, George spent a lot of time travelling; he also had a pilot's licence. For the last 30-40 years of his life, he lived at his mother's family home in Badsey, in the building which was once the bakery (see article on next page).

The Sumachs Bakery, High Street, Badsey

A distinctive house stands in Badsey next to the Spar. For many years, at the end of the 19th century and start of the 20th century, it was the home of baker and confectioner, John Ernest Cull, his wife, Ruth, and their ten children. This included Hilda Annie, who was the mother of George Aldrich who has recently died. It has remained in the same family for almost 150 years, but for the last 30-40 years has been empty. No one knows what will happen to it.



Some time in the early 1880s, newly-married John Cull bought this house on the High Street from Thomas Byrd. John had been born at Bengeworth in 1860, the son of Bazaleel Cull, a Port Street baker and confectioner. He had married Ruth Sylvester, the Badsey National School Mistress, in 1881. They were living in Badsey by January 1884 when their first child was born. Between then and 1900, nine more children were born.



John quickly set about establishing his baker's business. John, Ruth and their children lived in the main house whilst the bakehouse was in the extension at the back.

Throughout most of the 20th century, it was known as The Sumachs Bakery after a Japanese tree. John Cull had four sons, all of whom began their working careers assisting in the business. But John, the third son, died of influenza in Mesopotamia just a few weeks before the end of the First World War, and Walter, the eldest son, had turned to market gardening by 1921.

John Cull died in March 1929. After John's death, Ruth carried on the bakery business with her other two sons, Alfred and Edgar. Ruth died in April 1938, so it was left to her surviving sons to carry on as best they could. But Alfred was an invalid for a great part of his life and Edgar was severely wounded in the head whilst serving in the First World War, and the experience had a lasting effect on him. By the late 1940s, poor health obliged the Cull brothers to give up the bakery.

Right: Gravestone to the Cull family in Badsey churchyard. The cross was first erected for the Culls' youngest daughter, Evelyn Lavinia, who died in 1915 aged 15. Also recorded are the deaths of John Sidney Cull (1890-1918), John Ernest Cull (1860-1929), Ruth Cull (1858-1938), and their daughter, Hilda Anne Aldrich (1892-1983), who died in Badsey.



The land behind the bakery was sold off in the 1960s for housing development on Seward Road. The former bakery was converted into residential accommodation (No 18A High Street) and what was once the bustling family home fronting on to the High Street has lain empty for many years – its future unknown.