

Friday 4th July 2025, Garden of 34 Seward Road, 7 pm

Garden party with the Chameleon Quintet

Following on from a successful musical soiree last year in the Tuttons' back garden, the Chameleon Quintet has kindly agreed to come and play for us again. Please bring a picnic and drinks, if you wish, and folding chairs if possible – though some will be available on the night. The group will play a selection of light and popular classics for around 30-40 minutes. There will then be a break when you can enjoy your picnic and chat, followed by more informal background music. We have provisionally booked the church in case of bad weather. Based on the forecast, a decision will be made late on Thursday evening, so please be sure to check your emails.

Saturday 26th July 2025, Badsey Recreation Ground, 1-5 pm

Badsey Flower Show

Come and visit our stand at the show where we have a double pitch booked. As usual, volunteers are always welcome to help out for an hour or so. Please contact Maureen or Shirley if you are able to offer assistance.

Thursday 4th September 2025, 9.30 am, meet at The Wheatsheaf

Visit to Hartlebury Castle

Please join us for a trip to Hartlebury Castle. The cost is £33 and includes coach travel, refreshments on arrival, State Room tour and Hurd Library tour, with free time to look at the county museum and grounds. Bring a picnic lunch or buy food at Hayley's Kitchen at the castle. The enclosed form should be returned to Shirley Tutton by 8th August.

Friday 19th September 2025, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

The SS Suevic and the night the RNLI saved 611 people

Badsey Society member, Galen Bartholomew, will give a talk about how the SS Suevic ran aground in a storm off the Lizard Point in Cornwall in March 1907. The RNLI rescued 456 people in appalling weather conditions. This is still the largest number of people rescued by the RNLI in a single operation. Another ship, the SS Jebba, ran aground off the South Devon coast the same night and the RNLI saved a further 155 lives. Not a single life was lost in either rescue. Galen has a personal interest in the story, when he discovered that his great-grandmother and great-aunt were amongst those rescued from the Suevic. This is a remarkable account of shipwreck and survival.

Future events in 2025

- Friday 17th Oct – “To murder a priest: Popish Plot & Worcestershire 1678-1681”
- Friday 14th November – “The Evolution of Badsey: 1066 to the Present Day”
- Thursday 4th December – Trip to Gloucester Cathedral/Shopping in Gloucester
- Friday 12th December – Christmas Celebration: Shepherds Crook Folk Choir

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 (Ref: Subs)
- Cheque payable to The Badsey Society or cash, send to John Waters (address below)

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 Waters, Treasurer	Hollywood Villa, 10 High Street; treasurer@badsey.net
Committee Members: Helen Green, Andy Higgit, Tom Locke, Jane Neill, Alan Tutton, Gill Woods	



**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
No 93
July 2025**

We're delighted to report that, since our last Newsletter, one of our members has stepped forward to be the new Treasurer. John Waters, who joined the Society in 2018, and has been the Treasurer for the PCC for some years, has agreed to take on the job. Thank you!

Round-up of Events April to June 2025

Friday 11th April 2025 – “Badsey 1934-2025: the changing scene”

Terry Sparrow, 91 years young, delivered this year's annual Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture. It is now almost ten years since Richard died; in many ways, it was because of him that the Badsey Society came into being, so the lecture is held each year in his memory. A large number of people attended, which included members who had travelled from Cheltenham and London. Richard's son, Will Phillips, attended via Zoom from Nottingham. Terry's talk followed on from his talk in May 2024, bringing the story up to date. His knowledge of Badsey is encyclopaedic, and his stories and anecdotes really brought bygone days to life. You can listen again to his talk on our website.

Friday 16th May – “Nature in Badsey and Aldington”

Jane Neill who, for the past few years has been writing the “Nature Notes” column in Community News, gave an illustrated talk about the flora and fauna to be found in Badsey and Aldington. She stressed that you don't need to go far afield in order to see a large variety of creatures. We all came away thinking that we need to slow down on our walks and take time to look at our surroundings.

Thursday 29th May – Visit to Stourbridge Glass Museum & Red House Glass Cone

A visit to Stourbridge Glass Museum and Red House Glass Cone was enjoyed by 28 members. We learned about the origins of glass making in Stourbridge, discovered the tools glass makers used, and explored the museum's extensive glass collections, some dating back 400 years.



Friday 13th June – “Roots in Time: the excavations at New Farm, Norton”

Nina O'Hare from Worcestershire Archaeology and Archives gave a fascinating talk about the 2022 community excavation at New Farm, Norton, which investigated millennia of stories buried within the landscape. Geophysical survey of the site had revealed an Iron Age or Romano-British settlement; this was confirmed by the excavations. The archaeological evidence has now been covered over, but there are display boards on the Skylark Trail, a 20-minute walk from The Valley, Evesham.



Sunday 22nd June – Midsummer Meander

Members enjoyed a gentle stroll around the village which began and ended at The Wheatsheaf. The searing heat of the previous few days had abated, so the temperature was more comfortable. Alan Tutton led the walk, pointing out the QR codes along the way, and explained about the sites of Badsey's two mills (one dating back to Domesday).

Eighty years since the end of the Second World War

Our main display at this year's Flower Show will relate to the Second World War, as this year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the war. There will be information on evacuees, prisoners of war, BBC Wood Norton and how the village celebrated VE Day in 1945 and 2020. There will also be potted biographies of the 12 men who died during WWII and are named on the war memorial, plus newspapers from May 1945 and medals belonging to Badsey men, Frank Knight and Phil Sparrow. If you have any memorabilia relating to the war which you would be prepared to loan, please let us know.

Victory in Europe, 8th May

In our April Newsletter, we featured an article about VE Day. On Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May, upwards of 150 people (and five dogs) visited St James' Church, Badsey, to remember the occasion. The event was organized jointly by the Parochial Church Council and The Badsey Society, with funding gratefully received from Badsey and Aldington Parish Council. Free tea, coffee and biscuits were served throughout.



Left: Committee member, Tom Locke, with a copy of *The Daily Mirror* of 9th May 1945. Hostilities ended in Europe at 23.01 hours (Central European Time) on 8th May. As the UK was one hour behind, this meant that hostilities did not end officially until a minute past midnight on 9th May. Tom himself has no recollection of that day, as this was the day that he was born!

Victory over Japan, 15th August

On 6th August 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, Nagasaki was bombed. A little after noon (Japanese time) on 15th August 1945, Emperor Hirohito's announcement of Japan's acceptance of the terms of the Potsdam Declaration (a Statement that called for the surrender of all Japanese armed forces) was broadcast to the Japanese people over the radio. Thus 15th August marked the end of World War II and the date became known as VJ Day.



In Badsey, victory celebrations took place the following week. A party took place in Mill Lane on Wednesday 22nd August.



Victory Day, 8th June 1946

Although VE Day and VJ Day were celebrated in 1945, official Victory celebrations were not held until 8th June 1946. There was a large parade in London, with representatives from all of the Allied nations, apart from the USSR, Yugoslavia and Poland (disagreements occurred between the communist Polish Government and representatives of the Free Polish forces, so neither attended).

Reports appeared in *The Evesham Standard* of celebrations that were held in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford on 8th June, but the weather was wet, so most outdoor events were cancelled and held a week later.

The state of the churches in Badsey and Wickhamford in 1852

Over 170 years ago, "A Rambler" began a series of weekly articles in *The Worcestershire Chronicle*, entitled "*Stray Notes on the Churches and Church-goers of Worcestershire*". In September and October 1852, the churches in the Vale of Evesham were featured.



The Rambler was much enchanted by the area, beginning by saying:

Thanks to the opening of the railway, we have now a ready communication with that golden valley, clothed with the richest verdure and watered by the meandering Avon, which has from early times been famous for its beauty and productiveness – I mean, of course, the Vale of Evesham.

It is fascinating to get a visitor's view of what our churches in Badsey and Wickhamford were like at the time. His visit took place 33 years before the restoration of Badsey Church and nearly 50 years before repairs to Wickhamford Church were completed.

Whilst the Rambler was impressed by the view of Badsey church tower as he approached from the Bretforton road, he was less than enamoured with the burial ground which he described as being in a most slovenly state. He had to wade up to his middle in nettles in order to read the inscriptions on the gravestones. The Rambler finished his article about Badsey with the following paragraph:

Just opposite the church of Badsey, dissent beards the establishment in the shape of a Wesleyan chapel; but I am credibly informed that if all the former incumbents of this church had done their duty faithfully, no such evidences of sectarianism would have been visible here.

At Wickhamford, the Rambler was amazed to see the very large number of people who were already seated in the small church half an hour before the service was due to begin. As he noted:

More comers continued to pour in, till the pews were also crowded, and in a place less sacred it would have afforded some amusement to note how delighted the rustics were who, by coming early, and being secure in the enjoyment of their own seats, watched the disappointed movements of those who came late and looked round imploringly for an inch of room.

He discovered that the reason for this was that it was the valedictory service for the incumbent. This was the Reverend Edmund Boggis, Curate of Badsey and Wickhamford during the time of the absentee Vicar, the Reverend Charles Phillott. When Reverend Phillott died in 1851, Reverend Boggis remained at Badsey Vicarage until the arrival of the new incumbent, the Reverend Thomas Henry Hunt in mid 1852.

To read the full reports of the Rambler's visit to Badsey and Wickhamford, go to the Home page of the Badsey website and click on the relevant "Recently added articles".