

Friday 16th January 2026, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

Excavating Milestone Ground, Broadway

Come and hear the story of an exciting excavation which traces the habitation of Broadway from prehistoric times, through Roman settlement into the time of the Anglo-Saxons. Jamie Wilkins, Archaeological Project Officer, Explore the Past, Worcester, will talk on the subject. His enthusiasm for the dig and what it has revealed so far is tremendous. Milestone Ground is important both in terms of Worcestershire and nationally, and its finds will be part of archaeological research for some years to come.

Friday 6th February 2026, 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 then explain how to use AI to transcribe old documents.

Friday 6th March 2026, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture

We are delighted that our MP, Nigel Huddleston (who is also a Badsey Society member), has agreed to deliver the 2026 Richard Phillips Memorial lecture. As many of you will know, until his untimely death, Richard was a neighbour of Nigel's at the Manor House. Nigel will entertain us with a light-hearted talk about life as an MP.

Wednesday 11th March 2026, depart from The Wheatsheaf, 7 am

Guided Tour of the Houses of Parliament

As a follow-up to Nigel's talk, we have organised a day trip to London with a free 75-minute guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. If there is sufficient interest, Shirley Tutton will organise a group tour of Westminster Abbey in the afternoon. Full details may be found on the enclosed booking form.

Events in 2026

- Friday 17th April – “A House through Time: the story of Harrington House”, Maureen Spinks (please note, change of date from that announced previously)
- Friday 15th May – “Recent Notable Finds in Worcestershire”, Susheela Burford, Finds Officer, Portable Antiquities Scheme
- Friday 12th June – “Victorian Rural Women in South Worcestershire”, Carol Wood, Community Project Officer, Explore the Past

Membership Fees – Membership fees now due for 2026, 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, Badsey; treasurer@badsey.net
Committee Members: Helen Green, Andy Higgitt, Tom Locke, Jane Neill, Alan Tutton, Gill Woods	



**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
No 95
January 2026**

The January Newsletter is being sent to you early so that those of you who receive a printed Newsletter and are not on email may use the booking form enclosed for the visit on 11th March to the Houses of Parliament. We anticipate this being a popular event, so please return your form to Shirley Tutton as soon as possible. This trip is just one of many exciting things we have got lined up for you in 2026.

Round-up of Events October to December 2025

Friday 17th October – To murder a priest: the Popish Plot & Worcestershire 1678-81

Doug Smith, a retired History teacher, spoke about the Popish Plot, a fictitious conspiracy that emerged in 1678, alleging that Jesuits were planning to assassinate King Charles II in order to place his Catholic brother on the throne. Doug gave us a whistle-stop tour of the events which led up to the Plot, describing how the turmoil following the Reformation of the 16th century and the Civil Wars of the 17th century were the root cause. He used examples from Worcestershire to show how the Plot, centred on London, affected the whole kingdom.

Friday 14th November – The Evolution of Badsey, 1066 to the present day

Despite it being an absolutely foul day, and still raining when a number of members bravely walked along Brewers Lane in the rain, we had nearly 40 people in the room and 13 people on Zoom for Alan Tutton's presentation which was very much enjoyed. Having worked on the Badsey and Aldington QR Code Trail and led walks around the village based on this, Alan became fascinated by how the topography of the village has affected its development. This was then fuelled by a visit to the Hive where, as part of a guided tour for the Society, he was introduced to the Historic Environment Record – a searchable database with digital mapping of all known archaeological sites, historic buildings and landscapes in the county supported by paper and digital sources. Alan shed new light on what makes Badsey the village it has grown into today.

Thursday 4th December – Trip to Gloucester Cathedral/Shopping in Gloucester

We enjoyed an excellent day out to Gloucester. On arrival, we walked the short distance to the Cathedral, where we were welcomed with coffee and cookies before splitting into two groups for tours of the cathedral and the crypt. The cloisters (right), used in the filming of the Harry Potter films, are an example of wonderful medieval fan vaulting. A buffet lunch was served in the Parliament Room, then members were free to explore the city on their own.



Friday 12th December – Christmas Celebration: Shepherds Crook Folk Choir

We had a welcome return visit from Shepherd's Crook Folk Choir who came to sing for us in St James' Church. This followed immediately after the annual Christmas carols outside The Wheatsheaf, organised by the Parish Council. Members enjoyed tea/coffee and mince pies before the concert began at 8 pm. The choir performed a selection of traditional Cotswold Carols and Wassails.

Evesham Abbey Trust awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service

You may recall that last year, Elizabeth Spencer, Vice-Chair of Evesham Abbey Trust, delivered the annual Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture, speaking to us about "The Rise and Fall of Evesham Abbey". Elizabeth and all members of Evesham Abbey Trust are proud to report that the Trust has been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service. The Award is given each year to voluntary organisations in recognition of outstanding contributions by volunteers to local communities.

In 2014 a small group of volunteers conceived the idea of doing something to recognise the contribution of Florence Haynes-Rudge CBE. She ran the Evesham VAD Volunteer Hospital during the First World War, which nursed over 3000 injured soldiers back to health, yet was largely unrecognised and forgotten in the town. When approaching the Rudge family about this plan, they generously offered the complete 1½ acre Abbey site as a gift to the town. Following extensive investigations, including costing surveys, establishing funding sources and negotiations with public bodies, The Evesham Abbey Trust was formed in 2017 to formally accept this kind offer.

Over the following eight years, the Trust sought to raise in excess of £1.2m to enable it to conserve and restore the site and its standing walls and structures together with developing a range of interpretive gardens open to all. Much of the work was undertaken by volunteer members of the Trust with over 400 local members of the public involved. These activities included working alongside skilled contractors during the restoration work period. The work of the Trust also included involvement with over 40 schools.

Today the site is open free of charge every day and has proved to be a popular destination for local people and visitors to Evesham. Evesham Abbey Trust is to be congratulated for their well-deserved award.

Jottings from *The Evesham Standard* from a century ago

9th January 1926 – *Knighthood for Badsey Conservative, Notes by "the Chiel"*. *There was general satisfaction in the district on Friday morning last week when the morning papers announced to the world that Sir Julius Sladden of Badsey was in the New Year's honours list among the knights. Badsey folk feel that the whole of the honour and glory belongs to them. Evesham claim him as their Knight. Sir Julius has received many congratulations, and particularly gratifying to him must be the fact that they came with equal sincerity from members of all political parties. It was not only for his political work, much as he has done, that he was honoured, but for the vast amount of public work he has done during the 47 years he has lived in the district.*

2nd January 1926 – *Football Notes by "Referee"*. *The only local senior match this Christmas took place at Bretforton on Boxing afternoon when the Old Boys entertained Badsey Rangers in the Worcester League and won a hard game by two goals to one. The half-time interval was curtailed owing to a late start, but the band did not allow this to interfere with them. In fact they played with great gusto for some minutes after the second half commenced. A rabid Badsey fan was heard to express the view that if the band had played something lively during the last quarter of an hour his side would have piled on about half-a-dozen. "Oh for the Badsey National Anthem," he said. "If only the players had heard the melody of 'Eat More Gras', they would have won easily."*

30th January 1926 – *The Travelling Cinema now staying at Badsey is a great source of attraction, especially with the youngsters. They appear to be having a full house every night.*

Charles Arthur Binyon, OBE (1874-1963)

Some years ago, Maureen Spinks visited Edmund Gray of Oxford, the great-nephew of C A Binyon. He kindly allowed access to Binyon's diaries and papers and granted permission for the digital images to be reproduced on our website. The transcription of Charles Binyon's autobiographical notes has recently been finished and placed on the website, giving a fascinating insight of the humble man who was to have such an impact on the village for over 60 years. His notes describe his life before Badsey and from his arrival in the village in 1899. There are then many diaries, some of which are more detailed than others.



Many of our older members who grew up in Badsey will remember with fondness C A Binyon, known to all as "Mr Binyon". The young people of the village knew him particularly through the school where he was on the Board of Managers for nearly 60 years, 30 years of which were as Chairman. He developed their interest in the natural world, art and architecture and took a number of the older boys on cycle rides in the countryside, visiting local churches and encouraging them to make sketches of what they saw. In addition he was a founder member of Littleton & Badsey Growers, a member of the Parish Council for around 50 years, a member of the Board of Guardians, represented Badsey on the Evesham District Council, a magistrate for 33 years, treasurer of the PCC, custodian of the church clock and a member of the bell-ringing team for over 50 years. For most of this time, he lived in rented rooms at Sandford Villa, Badsey Fields Lane (present-day No 10), and then in a room at the Vicarage.

So what was Charles Binyon's background? He was born at Burton in Lonsdale, Yorkshire, on 9th March 1874, the son of the Reverend Frederick Binyon and his wife, Mary. His brother Laurence was the poet, whose immortal poem with the words, "At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them", are said every year at Remembrance Day services. His brother Gilbert was for some years Vicar of Hinton-on-the-Green. Charles went for a short time to St Paul's School where he was a contemporary of G K Chesterton. As a boy, he wanted to be an architect, but an illness during his schooldays caused his doctor to order an outdoor career as the only way of saving his health. He went to Devon where he met William Henry Churchill. Both decided to start market gardening in the Vale of Evesham. Will Churchill and Binyon were partners in market gardening in the 1890s and early 1900s, and lifelong friends.

Charles Binyon's notes about the years 1899-1914 are a particularly interesting period. He tells how he was met at Evesham Station by his cousin, Tom Remington, who was market gardening at Badsey: "It was a beautiful evening and I liked the first view of the village from Horsebridge Hill with the church tower rising above the orchards." He describes the state of market gardening as he found it then and charts the early years of Littleton & Badsey Growers which was formed in 1908.

Charles Binyon died on 11th February 1963 at Avonside Hospital, Evesham. The following year, the Garden of Rest in Badsey Churchyard was dedicated in his memory. The plot of land which he had bought in 1916 was sold to developers and Binyon Close was named after him.

The Binyon Archive may be found at <https://www.badseysociety.uk/binyon-archive>.