



Friday 17th April 2026, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

A House through Time: the story of Harrington House

Maureen Spinks, who has lived literally in the back garden of Harrington House for the last 32 years, will give a talk about its history, from the 18th century through to the present day. With apologies to David Olusoga for borrowing the title of his popular BBC2 series, Maureen will look at history within the walls of one house. She will delve deep into the lost lives of the inhabitants – under the same roof, decades apart.

Friday 15th May 2026, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

Recent Notable Finds in Worcestershire

Susheela Burford, Finds Officer, Portable Antiquities Scheme, will begin her talk by giving an introduction to the scheme, then will describe recent finds from across the county. She will also bring a handling collection.

Friday 12th June 2026, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

Victorian Rural Women in South Worcestershire

Carol Wood, Community Project Officer, Explore the Past, Worcester, will give a talk about Victorian women in our part of the county. She will relate the stories of women she discovered when researching her dissertation, particularly those she encountered using our very own Badsey Society website for her research. Formerly a teacher, Carol is passionate about helping all customers at The Hive in Worcester, and children in particular, to learn from primary sources.

Thursday 18th June 2026, depart from The Wheatsheaf, 9 am

Trip to the Corinium Museum and Cirencester

Please join us on this trip to Cirencester (form enclosed). The cost is £30 to include entrance to the Corinium Museum, refreshments on arrival and a talk on the discovery and conservation of the Willersey Swords (see inside for more information on the swords). There will be free time after lunch to explore the rest of historic Cirencester. If you wish to spend the day at leisure in Cirencester, the cost is £15.

Other Events in 2026

- Friday 10th July – Garden party with the Chameleon Quintet, 34 Seward Road
- Saturday 25th July – Badsey Flower Show
- Thursday 3rd September – Visit to Richard III Visitor Centre and Leicester
- Friday 18th September – “Chance findings in Family History”, Sue Ablett, Galen Bartholomew and Noelle Chambers
- Friday 16th October – “The Severn Valley Pioneers”, Mark Higgitt

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, WR11 7EW; treasurer@badsey.net
Committee Members: Helen Green, Andy Higgitt, Tom Locke, Jane Neill, Alan Tutton	

It's been a good start to 2026 with some excellent talks and a most enjoyable trip to London in which almost a quarter of our membership participated. As always, Shirley Tutton is to be thanked for organising our programme of events.

Round-up of Events January to March 2026

Friday 16th January – Excavating Milestone Ground, Broadway

Jamie Wilkins, Archaeological Project Officer at Explore the Past, gave a talk about the exciting excavation which took place recently at Broadway which explored its habitation from prehistoric times, through Roman settlement to Anglo-Saxon times. 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. We have already said he must come back and talk to us when all the finds have been catalogued!

Friday 20th February – AGM and presentation of Tony Jerram Award

At the 24th AGM, the same officers and committee were re-elected, with the exception of Gill Woods who has decided to step down after 13 years. We would like to thank Gill for her excellent work over the years. At the conclusion of the business section, the winner of the Tony Jerram Award was announced as Marlene Atkinson. After a short break, Alan Tutton gave a talk about using AI to transcribe old documents.

Marlene was nominated because of her dedication in playing the organ and being leader of the choir and music director for over 30 years at St James' Church. Aged 92 and suffering with ill-health, Marlene retired last year. As Marlene now lives in Briarlea Care Home, a video was shown of an unsuspecting Marlene being presented with the award by Jane Neill a short time before.



Friday 6th March – Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture

We had a very entertaining evening with our MP, Nigel Huddleston. The evening was attended by 60 people in the room and 15 on Zoom. Nigel had organised an inter-active quiz which proved to be an excellent warm-up for those of us visiting the Palace of Westminster the following week. For example, what colour is Westminster Bridge and what colour is Lambeth Bridge, and why are they those colours? Why do some of the lions on the tiles in St Stephen's Hall have their eyes open and some have them closed? Who is the current Speaker? Nigel then answered questions from the audience.

Wednesday 11th March – Guided Tour of the Houses of Parliament

As a follow-up to Nigel's talk, we enjoyed a day trip to London with a free 75-minute guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. One of the highlights was seeing the Speaker's procession. A cry of “Speaker!” announced the approach of Sir Lindsay Hoyle and his entourage and the assembled crowd fell silent. This was followed by a cry of: “Hats off, Strangers!” All too soon, the Speaker was gone on his journey to the Commons chamber. With all that is going on in the world today, it is comforting to think that this piece of pageantry still takes place. See overleaf for a photo of the group with Nigel.



We had left Badsey at 6.15 and arrived at the Palace of Westminster at about 10.20. Fortunately it didn't take too long to get through the airline-style security and we were soon in the magnificent Westminster Hall which is the oldest surviving building within the Palace of Westminster. Nigel came to meet us. He said it was the biggest group he had had! We then split into two groups for our tours.

Almost the Badsey Swords!

On 18th June, we shall be heading off to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester, where we shall be able to see and learn about the discovery and conservation of the Willersey Swords. Here's a little bit of background information to whet your appetite.



In March 2023, first-time metal detectorist, Glenn Manning, much to the surprise of his sceptical fellow detectorists, unearthed two Roman swords in a field near Willersey. Manning's discovery prompted Historic England and Cotswold Archaeology to team up and conduct geophysical surveys on the site. These revealed remains dating from the Early-Middle Iron Age through to the 2nd century AD. Extensive excavations also uncovered Iron Age ring ditches; remnants of Roman limestone that may once have been a villa; an Iron Age burial with a nearby horse skull; and the bones of an arm and a hand. News of the site and its various treasures was only made public in July 2025 following extensive conservation of the swords at the Corinium Museum, prior to going on display. You may have also seen them on a recent episode of Digging for Britain.

The fact that the swords ended up in Cirencester was a complete accident of geography. Because the site was off Badsey Lane, the team contacted Worcestershire's Portable Antiquities Scheme, only to be told that the site was a short distance across the county border, and therefore they would come under the care of Gloucestershire. They were therefore almost the Badsey Swords!

Farewells

Colin Hatfield (1942-2025), who has died of cancer, joined the Society in 2009. Originally from Birmingham, Colin and his wife, Beryl, decided to make their home in Badsey some 47 years ago. Colin was a quantity surveyor, working for W A Cox. He had helped to build the bungalows in Binyon Close which is when he first thought that Badsey would be a good place to live. He would frequently take home produce from the market gardens which he had been given by some of the site workers. Beryl describes him as a quiet but content man who loved photography and his garden.

Sue Cole (1950-2026) died on 7th January at Cavendish Park Care Home. Sue joined the Society in its foundation year and was a member until ill-health forced her to resign. Sue originally trained as a primary school teacher and, on moving to Badsey in 1988, did supply teaching at a number of local schools. She started a Beaver pack in Badsey and was then a much-loved Brownie leader. Sue was a Churchwarden for many years, and trained to be a reader in 2006. St James's Church was packed for her memorial service which was held on 20th February.

Laburnum Villa, Bretforton Road

Following the recent death of Sue Cole, who lived at Laburnum Villa, 45 Bretforton Road, for over 30 years, her son, John, has donated the old, original house deeds to the Society. The earliest deeds date back to 1798, a century before the house was built, and help to add to our knowledge about the house and land on which it was built. Read below to find out what we know about this house.



Laburnum Villa is a detached red-brick house on the corner of Bretforton Road and Birmingham Road. We know from the name and date plaque on the house that it was built in 1897. It stands on land known as Netherfield Close. The 1798 deed tells us that John Wilson sold the land to William Ballard. William died in 1803; in 1814 his widow, Elizabeth, and son bought the neighbouring strip of land, also called Netherfield Close, making a total of about 6½ acres. It was thus Elizabeth Ballard's name which featured on the Enclosure Map of 1815. In 1826, the Rev Henry Portmore Cooper bought the land which was later inherited by his son, the Rev Henry Cooper. The Royal Oak Inn (now The Round of Gras) was built on part of the land in the 1830s. Between 1847 and 1893, the inn and land was owned by the Ingles family. Richard Ingles was the landlord until his death in 1862; it was then inherited by his daughter, Ann Sherwood.

From about 1873, John Poole was the licensed victualler at The Royal Oak. On the death of Ann Sherwood in 1893, he took the opportunity to buy the inn and Netherfield Closes. Four years later he had a fine villa built for his family: Laburnum Villa. As was popular at the time, he had the name and date plaque added to the building. In the same year, he sold The Royal Oak to Messrs Sladden & Collier, brewers, and a small piece of land fronting the Badsey to Littleton road to Henry Geden (on which West View, Birmingham Road, was built). On selling The Royal Oak, John Poole gave up the licence and concentrated on his butcher's business which was based at 63 Bridge Street, Evesham. His step-son, Alfred George Kerr, was very involved in the management. Alfred was the son of John's wife, Joyce. At the time of the 1901 census, Alfred's two sons, ten-year-old John Poole Kerr and seven-year-old Alfred Poole Kerr, were living at Laburnum Villa with John and Joyce. The boys' mother, Annie, had died the year before and their father was living at 63 Bridge Street, managing the butchery business.

When John Poole died in 1904, he left his butcher's business to his step-son, Alfred. The 1911 census records the occupants of Laburnum Villa being Alfred Kerr, Edith (his second wife), Alfred (his son by his first wife), five-year-old Arthur (Alfred and Edith's son) and two servants. Laburnum Villa was inspected in 1913 as part of the nationwide valuation survey, and was described as follows: "Brick and tile detached house, 1887, good repair: entrance hall, 2 front sitting-rooms, dairy and kitchen, cellars, 2 bedrooms with bay and side windows and back bedrooms, back kitchen, kitchen and sink, hot and cold, 2 ash closets and office. Slaughter house and cow sheds with loft."

Alfred George Kerr died in 1917, aged 49. His widow, Edith, remained living at Laburnum Villa until her death in 1953. Her son, Arthur, never married, and also lived there until his death in 1982 – thus continuous residence for 85 years by just one family. This month, the house will enter a new phase in its history when it opens as Poppins Day Nursery. Go <https://www.badseysociety.uk/places/laburnum-villa-45-bretforton-road> for the full story of the history of Laburnum Villa and the land on which it stands,