



THE BADSEY SOCIETY

Newsletter
No 97
July 2026

Garden party with the Chameleon Quintet

Back garden of 34 Seward Road, Friday 10th July 2026, 7.30 pm

Following on from a successful musical soir  e in 2024, the Chameleon Quintet has kindly agreed to come and play for us again. Please bring a picnic and drinks, 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. The Chameleon Wind Quintet was formed in 2010 by a group of local players; committee member, Helen Green, who plays the oboe, is a part of the group.

Badsey Flower Show

Saturday 25th July 2026, Badsey Recreation Ground, 1-5 pm

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.

Visit to Leicester and the Richard III Visitor Centre

Thursday 3rd September 2026, depart 9 am from The Wheatsheaf

Please join us for a trip to Leicester and the Richard III Centre. After refreshments and a talk about the exciting discovery of the Richard III's remains in August 2012, 527 years after his death at the Battle of Bosworth, you will be free to explore the Centre. After lunch, we visit the medieval Guildhall, then you can visit Richard's tomb in Leicester Cathedral, follow the Richard III Trail guided by Alan Tutton, or explore the nearby shopping areas. The cost for all this will be £36 each (£20 coach only). Please complete the enclosed form as soon as possible and return to shirleytutton@talktalk.net.

"Chance findings in Family History", Sue Ablett, Galen Bartholomew, Noelle Chambers

Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, Friday 18th September 2026, 7.30 pm

You never know what you're going to discover when embarking on family history. If you've got the family history bug and are happy to spend hours poring over a computer screen or old manuscript, you will know that it's the unexpected piece of detail that excites you. Our three speakers will share some of their fascinating examples of their chance findings.

Other Events in 2026

- Friday 16th October – "The Severn Valley Pioneers", Mark Higgitt
- Friday 13th November – Medieval Re-enactment, "The House of the Twin-Tailed Lion"
- Friday 11th December – Christmas celebration at St James' Church

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; 07740 286941; 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 nearly time for Badsey Flower Show. As always, any volunteers to spend an hour or two on our stand would be most welcome – just contact Shirley or Maureen. And don't forget to enter for the Show – schedules available in The Spar.

Round-up of Events April-June 2026

Friday 17th April – 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, gave an in-depth talk about the house, beginning with the Grove and Jones families who lived there in the 18th century, right through to the present day. There was the tale of the ill-fated Scardefield family – young Mrs Scardefield died in Badsey Brook, her husband committed suicide just a few weeks later as he couldn't live without her – and stories of the Johns family, who ran a successful working farm for many years.

Friday 15th May – Recent Notable Finds in Worcestershire

Susheela Burford, Finds Officer, Portable Antiquities Scheme, began her talk by explaining how the Portable Antiquities Scheme works and then looked at some of the most exciting finds from prehistory onwards in Worcestershire and Warwickshire. She ended with a specific mention of finds from Aldington, Badsey and Wickhamford. There were lots of questions from the floor. Susheela also chatted about the finds she had brought along.

Friday 12th June – Victorian Rural Women in South Worcestershire

Carol Wood, Community Project Officer, Explore the Past, Worcester, is a familiar figure to anyone who has visited The Hive to do research. Formerly a teacher, Carol is passionate about helping all customers to learn from primary sources. Her two great passions are Victorian history and local history. The subject of Carol's talk was about Victorian rural women in our part of the county. Some of the examples she used were drawn from her home village of Bishampton. She related the stories of women she discovered when researching her dissertation, particularly those she encountered using our very own Badsey Society website for her research.

Thursday 18th June – Trip to the Corinium Museum and Cirencester

We had an excellent trip to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester with 32 members present. After refreshments on arrival, we had a chance to tour the museum before having a very informative talk by Phillip Brant-Simmons, Education and Collections Assistant, about the Willersey swords. These were discovered by an amateur metal detectorist in a field at Willersey in 2023. If they had been 200 metres to the west, they could have been the Badsey swords! After lunch, members were free to visit Cirencester Park, the amphitheatre, or just to wander round town.



Membership Increase

At our recent committee meeting, we decided that, as from 2027, the membership fee per person will increase to £7.50. When the Society was first formed in 2002, membership was only £1. It increased to £2 in 2010 and to £5 in 2014. Over the years, the nature of the Society has changed. We now have more speakers than we did in the past, we pay monthly Zoom charges, we pay rent for a room at the Remembrance Hall to house our archive. We have been fortunate to have obtained a number of grants which has helped enormously with costs, but we feel that now is the time to increase the membership fee, which we hope you will understand. If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2026, this remains at £5.

An Exciting New Project for the Badsey Society

While preparing for my presentation to the Badsey Society about the development of our village I found that so much work had already been carried out and presented on the Badsey website. Documents have been collected and transcribed and there is a wealth of material, it only needs to be analysed and given structure. One issue that sparked my imagination was how has the population of the village has grown and developed over the centuries. Far more people have been born in Badsey and Aldington than died in the villages. What is not clear is when these people left and what national issues may have drawn them away. Was it war or developments in industry and society in general?

To try to understand this mystery a little better I have started a "One Place Study" the aim of which is to understand how the village's population has evolved over the centuries. I aim to follow families from 1530 when parish records began up until the beginning of the 20th century. This is an enormous project and I need help. If you can offer some time, even only a few hours, to assist in searching through the parish records and censuses please contact me on Alan.tutton@talktalk.net or phone 07740 286921. Alan Tutton

Farewells

Judith Sparrow (1936-2026), who died at Cavendish Park Home on 14th June, aged 89, joined the Society in its foundation year. Judy was born in Evesham, the youngest of four daughters of Reginald and Edna Weaver. It was whilst at Prince Henry's Grammar School that Judy met her future husband, Patrick Sparrow. On leaving school, Judy did various secretarial jobs, some of which were in London where Patrick was studying. The couple married at St Peter's Church, Bengeworth, in March 1959. In pursuit of Patrick's career as an engineer, they lived in various different places before settling in Aldington in 1972 with their three sons. When the boys had grown up, Judy returned to work, her final job being as Secretary at Badsey First School from 1989-1999. Judy was a member of the Mothers Union for many years. Her funeral will take place at St James' Church, Badsey, on Monday 14th July, 2 pm.

Christine Joan Haines (1945-2026) was born at Badsey, the eldest of five children of Francis and Elaine Sadler. She grew up at Horsebridge Avenue and was educated at Badsey County Primary School and Blackminster Secondary. Christine married Graham Haines in 1965 and had three children. Christine died suddenly on 10th June, aged 81.

Exciting plans for next year

Next year will be The Badsey Society's 25th birthday. Shirley is busy planning some exciting trips for 2027, beginning with a trip to the Bayeux Tapestry exhibition at the British Museum in the Spring. The cost of a ticket is £33, plus the cost of the coach. As per our trip to the Houses of Parliament, this will depend on the number of people going. Forms for the trip will go out in September but, in the meantime, please contact Shirley with an expression of interest: 07740 286941, shirleytutton@talktalk.net.

When women could legally kidnap men

Have you ever heard of Hocktide? I certainly hadn't until a reader of the Badsey website contacted us to tell us about a reference to Badsey which she had seen in a book entitled "The Rise and Fall of Merry England: The Ritual Year 1400-1700". The book is by Ronald Hutton (a leading historian whom you may well have seen on television), who mentioned Badsey because he was describing the medieval festival of Hocktide.



So what exactly was Hocktide? Hocktide was a medieval festival that took place on the Monday and Tuesday in the second week after Easter. Together with Whitsuntide and the 12 days of Christmas, the week following Easter marked the only vacations of the husbandman's year. It was a time for merry-making, but also a chance to collect money for the church. It was a riotous occasion when mock kidnapping and ransom traditionally took place. On one day, men captured the women and demanded payment for their release. On the other day (the day when rents traditionally fell due), women captured men. Hutton comments that in most places it was specifically the married women who were responsible, but at Badsey, the maidens went out with the ropes. They stretched ropes across roads, stopped any men that passed, tied them up and demanded a ransom.



Ronald Hutton got his information from a "Transcript of the Badsey Churchwardens' Accounts, 1525-1571", edited by E A B Barnard, which he had seen at Worcestershire Record Office. The accounts had been painstakingly transcribed by the Reverend William Henry Price, Vicar of Badsey (1897-1903). Following Reverend Price's untimely death, the Evesham historian, E A B Barnard, edited the manuscript, and added an introduction and notes. Mrs Drysdale Bowden (Reverend Price's sister) paid for it to be published in 1913 as a memorial to her brother. We are fortunate to have a copy in our own archive.

Hutton noted that the women invariably raised considerably more money than the men. By contemporary standards, their sums were handsome, occasionally furnishing more than any other parish collection of the year. This is borne out in the Badsey records. For example, in the year 1528-1529, the young men collected 2s 2d whilst the maidens collected a total of 5s 7½d.

Studies of other parishes have shown that women consistently out-performed men at Hocktide. The answer seems to be that the customs evolved differently for each sex. Men started demanding kisses from women instead of money, flirtation rather than fund-raising. Women stuck to demanding actual cash. The women's collections became serious parish income; the men's collections became a bit of fun.

Records suggest that Hocktide was genuinely popular across central and southern England from the 15th century onwards. But, by the end of the 16th century, Hocktide had largely disappeared across England. In the Badsey Churchwardens' Accounts there are no more references after 1539. The demolition of the abbey at Evesham was in full progress at this time, so perhaps this was a factor. Five hundred years on, could a revival of the festival be a money-spinner for the church?!

See also this article: <https://www.badseysociety.uk/church/hocktide-badsey>.