

The Aims of the Project

- To produce a book about the rise and fall of market gardening.
- To produce a DVD with the working title “The Last Market Gardener” in order to capture market gardening on film before it’s too late.
- To transcribe the 1911 census for Badsey and Aldington and place it on the Badsey website (www.badsey.net).
- To produce an outside mural at Badsey First School, based on the occupations and land-use in the Parish at the time of the census 100 years ago.
- To create adequate storage facilities for the growing archive (market gardening tools, photographs, documents) which The Badsey Society is accumulating; to hold annual archive evenings when the contents of the archive will be on display and to allow more accessibility.
- To hold historical exhibitions at Badsey Flower Show, Evesham Asparagus Festival, Bretforton Fleece Inn Asparagus Auction.
- To hold a series of walks and talks and readings from some letters written by Badsey schoolchildren in 1933 about living in a market gardening community.

Friday 19th November 2010
7.30 pm, The Wheatsheaf

A chance to meet other members of The Badsey Society for a drink and chat. Items from The Badsey Archive will be on display – come and see what has been donated to the Society since 2002.

We also hope to have computer access to the internet so that members without computers may view the Badsey website and family history sites.

If you are not a member of The Badsey Society, you can join on the night – just £2.



The Badsey Archive - Do you have skills in using Microsoft Access and uploading data to the internet? If so, we would love to hear from you. It has been suggested that Access would be a good way of storing details of the catalogue we are compiling. We shall be visiting the curator of Worcester Porcelain Museum in November in order to pick up some tips, as they use Access. If you feel you can help, please contact Jane Neill on 830301 or email jane@familyneill.co.uk.

We also desperately need a home for our growing collection, so if anyone knows of anywhere in the village which might be suitable, please let us know.

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THE BADSEY SOCIETY



THE LAST MARKET GARDENER NEWSLETTER 2 – OCTOBER 2010



Meet The Badsey Society Committee (Terry Sparrow, Neil Thould, Jane Neill, Will Dallimore, Maureen Spinks, Richard Phillips, Valerie Magan, Ian Gibson, Mike Lovatt) at the launch of “The Last Market Gardener” project at Badsey Flower Show. Many thanks to all who visited us at our stand, and to those who responded to our appeal for items and photos connected with market gardening.

So what have we been up to since the first Newsletter? Terry Sparrow is storming ahead with the research and writing up of his book about the rise and fall of market gardening in Badsey. More details about this can be found on the enclosed form.

Meanwhile, Will Dallimore is getting great enjoyment out of the new camera equipment (when he can get his hands on it!) which we have bought out of grant money. Here you can see Will with Mike Lovatt, Valerie Magan, Richard Phillips and Robin Neill, who attended a training course run by Will. The DVD is planned for 2012; to see a clip of what will NOT be in the DVD, go to www.badsey.org.uk and view what happened when



Valerie filmed local market gardener, Martin Hale!



Our Archivist, Jane Neill, is getting to grips with the enormous task of sorting out our growing archive and museum collection. With the use of grant money, we have appointed a mentor, Michael Diamond (a former Director of Birmingham City Art Gallery & Museum), who is advising us. Here you can see Jane with Michael and with Moira Buick, a paper conservator.

THE CRANE FAMILY

Badsey Society member, Derek Crane, came away from the 2010 Badsey Flower Show with no less than four cups: the Sir Julius Sladden Challenge Cup (most points in show), the C A Binyon Cup (most points for vegetables), the E M Norton Trophy (most points for fruit) and the Henry King Challenge Cup (most entries in Show). Market gardening is in Derek's genes, because here you can see him with two of his cups, together with a photo of his father who won the very same cups some 50 years ago.



Derek is the younger son of George Henry Crane (1918-1986), who was born at The Leys (cottages which were demolished in the mid 20th century on the site of the present-day Hither Green) but then moved to one of the new Council houses on Synehurst in 1921. Whilst both Derek and his father pursued other careers and grew fruit and vegetables for a hobby, Derek's grandfather, also George Henry Crane (1882-1955), worked in market gardening all his life. Derek's great-grandfather, John Crane (1853-1914), began life as an agricultural labourer but had become a market gardener by 1891. The Cranes had moved to Badsey from Wickhamford in the 1870s.

John and his family lived at Silk Mill Cottages. At the time of the 1911 census, just their youngest son, Cecil, was still at home, plus a grandson. Cecil was to perish a few years later in the Great War.

John Crane	Head	58	Married	38	6	5	1	Market Gardener	Cons. Agent at Home Badsey
Elizabeth Crane	Wife	54	Married						Badsey
Cecil Crane	Son	19	Single					Market Gardener's Labourer	Worker at Home Badsey
Raymond Crane	Grandson	9						School	Badsey

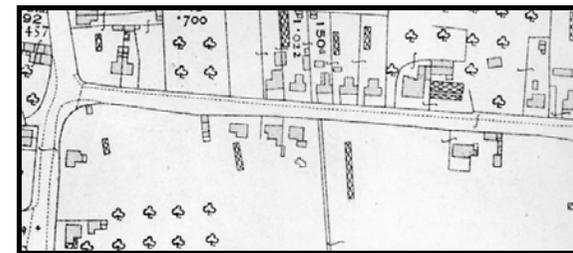
Cecil's only child, Evelyn (1912-2003), wrote an article about her childhood at the Mill which is on the Badsey website. It includes the following passage: "My Granddad Crane was a Market Gardener. They lived quite comfortably, kept a few cows in the Cow Meadows – over the bridge – and also a pony and trap. This was used for the visits to Evesham for shopping, to market and the bank, and on Sundays to call on relatives living outside Badsey. Granddad died in 1914, so Granny was now living alone, and when mother got a job at Collett's Canning Factory in Evesham, it was only natural that a small three-year-old should move in next-door during the day-time." Cecil was killed at Gallipoli in August 1915 so never had the chance to return to his native Badsey and continue life as a market gardener.

Other members of the Crane family who lived in Badsey a hundred years ago included John's older brothers, William Crane, a widower, who lived on Old Post Office Lane and was a market gardener's labourer, and Thomas, who lived with his large family close to John at Silk Mill Cottages. Thomas' wife, Lydia, had given birth to 15 children, but four had died in childhood, the first-born three boys all dying at just a few days old. In 1911, the eight youngest children were still at home, with Ellen, Ernest and Walter, and their mother, Lydia, all helping Thomas in the market gardening business. Thomas died, aged 60, four months after the census.

COMING SOON IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER – THE HALL FAMILY

BADSEY FIELDS LANE

In our last Newsletter, we talked about the sale in 1890 of a large amount of agricultural land and property which had belonged throughout the 19th century to the Byrd family. Within a year of this sale, houses began appearing on Badsey Fields Lane.



1923 map of Badsey Fields Lane

For most of the 19th century, the only housing along Badsey Fields Lane was the farmhouse (Orchard End) at the far end; the rest of the land was agricultural. At the entrance to the road, a pool was situated, thought to have been filled in at the end of the 19th century (the garden of No 2 Badsey Fields Lane now occupies the site). By the end of the century, times were changing. The great agricultural depression meant that many of the large landowners in Badsey had already begun dividing the land into strips which were then let to the former farm labourers who would otherwise have been unemployed. These men seized the opportunity to start market gardening on their own account and began to prosper. With the sale of William Byrd's estate in 1890, the land was put up for auction in small lots of around an acre, which gave many of the newly prosperous market gardeners the chance to buy a plot of land on which they then built a house. Within a year of the sale, development had begun on the south side of the road. Norfolk House, Sandford Villa, Summerfield Cottage and The Cottage were the first to be built, whilst on the north side, the present-day numbers 1 & 3 were erected.



Norfolk House, 1968



The Cottage, 1968



Summerfield Cottage, 1968

Development continued in the early years of the 20th century as more land came up for sale. In 1905, James Brewer sold land on the north side of the road in several lots. The buyers were all market gardeners (William Wilkins, Augustine Dore, William Ballard, John Dore, Walter Harwood and Arthur Sears) who, very soon, built themselves a detached family home: the present-day numbers 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 & 21.



1968 photos of Nos 11-21 Badsey Fields Lane by Birmingham Photographic Club

Further houses were built later in the century. Bringing us up to the present day, a housing development of 30 houses known as Stone Pippin Orchard is being built on the south side of the road. Stone Pippin is a type of apple tree and was the name given to the land 200 years ago when it was owned by Joseph Jones.

COMING SOON IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER – BREWERS LANE