

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.

1911 Census

1910-15 Valuation Survey

Have you looked at the 1911 census and the Valuation Office Survey records yet on the Badsey website? Thanks to a team of transcribers from The Badsey Society, you can now find out what our village was like a hundred years ago.



Check it out now at www.badsey.net.

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How to Join The Badsey Society

Membership - £2 per person (please give your name, full address, telephone number and email address)

Cheques should be made payable to “The Badsey Society” and sent to the Treasurer, Terry Sparrow, 36 Brewers Lane, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EU.



THE BADSEY SOCIETY



LOTTERY FUNDED

THE LAST MARKET GARDENER NEWSLETTER 5 – JULY 2011

The Badsey Society is proud to announce the publication of its fourth book, *Digging for a Living: Market Gardening in Badsey and Aldington*, which was launched at Badsey First School on Saturday 21st May. On sale in The Spar or at www.badsey.net/bsp.



The author, Terry Sparrow, giving a brief summary of his book.



Terry Sparrow with Professor Nick Evans of The University of Worcester, the guest speaker at the launch.



Brian Smith, who gave a rendition of his poem, “Leaving the Land”, at the launch. Here you can see the first and last verses; to read the rest, see page 103 of *Digging for a Living*.

*George sits down in his hovel,
It's shutting down with rain,
The time has come to leave his land,
Those eyes betray his pain.*

*His roots are torn asunder,
As if some giant hand
Had seized him in a vice-like grip
And ripped him from the land.*



Around 80 guests assembled in the School Hall.



Guests look at the exhibition after the talks.

THE JELFS FAMILY

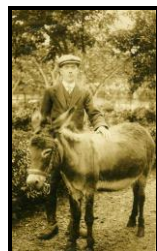
We are grateful to Esmé Dennick (née Jelfs) for lending us these photographs of her family. Esmé is the sixth generation of her branch of the Jelfs family to be born in Badsey; before that, the family came from Bretforton. Here you can see Esmé's grandfather, George Rogers Jelfs (1868-1930), picking fruit. George began his working career as an agricultural labourer but, by 1901, had become a market gardener's labourer.



The first market gardener in the Jelfs family in Badsey was John Jelfs (1857-1940), the fifth of six children of Richard and Mary Jelfs. John Jelfs began his working life as an agricultural labourer but was a market gardener by 1891. He married Clara Adelaide Virginia Kennett at Badsey in 1881 and had five children. By 1891, they were living at Elm Cottage, Main Street, Aldington, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

George Rogers Jelfs (1868-1930), pictured above, was the son of John Jelfs' sister, Angelina, and was brought up by his grandparents, Richard and Mary Jelfs, at Orchard Way. George married Ashley Carter in 1886 at Badsey and they had four sons and two daughters. By 1901 the family had moved to a cottage on Brewers Lane (present-day No 18). The Jelfs family's connection with the cottage lasted around a hundred years, Mrs Edith Cleaver (née Jelfs) living there almost until her death in July 1996.

George's second son, Bert (1894-1963), was the father of Esmé Dennick. Here you can see him with Will Jelfs' donkey. On the far right is Esmé's mother, Edith, pictured during the Second World War holding a bundle of asparagus and with Dick the horse who belonged to Denis Grinnell.



Lindwood Villa
Badsey 3.
Evesham
11th April 1923

Dear Sirs,
My father is a market gardener who lives in Badsey & I go to Badsey Council School. There are six of us in the family & I do lots of things to help on the ground. Sometimes I tie onions. My other brothers help on the ground at night in summer time. My father grows onions, leeks, gillies and vegetables and a lot of other things. My father grows different plants in the different seasons. It is very pleasant here in the summer time. Sometimes I take

the tea up to father so that he can stop after tea. In the winter he comes home to tea and does not go back after. My father has about four acres of ground. He sends his plants to London & I think it is very nice to be a gardener though it is hard work.

I remain
Your truly
Dulcie Jelfs (aged 9).

George's eldest son, William Herbert Jelfs (1888-1964) was the father of Dulcie Jelfs who wrote one of the children's market gardening letters featured on the Badsey website.

BRETFORTON ROAD

In our last three Newsletters, we have been concentrating on the housing boom which took place at the turn of the 20th century in the centre of the village as the result of the sale of land belonging to William Byrd. William Byrd also owned most of the land on the south side of Bretforton Road, and this, too, was sold in 1890. Subsequent sales by other major landowners – Thomas Byrd, Henry Field, James Ashwin – led to rapid development in the early years of the 20th century along the road to Bretforton.



At the time of the Badsey Enclosure in 1815, the only development along Bretforton Road was on the south side where a house and parish cottages were located on the site of the present-day Hither Green. On the north side of the road, The Royal Oak Inn (now The Round of Gras) came into existence in the early part of the 19th century, as did a farm at Claybrook. A house was built at Netherfield in the 1870s and a pair of semi-detached cottages (Nos 20 & 22), dated 1886, was built near the former parish cottages.

Development started more seriously along the south side in the 1890s after the sale of William Byrd's land (east of Hither Green). Very soon, Wickliffe House (No 66) and Cotswold Cottages (Nos 54 & 56) appeared in 1890, followed by Osborne Cottage (No 50) in 1891 and Beulah House (No 64) in 1897. Land west of Hither Green, owned by Thomas Byrd, was sold in 1908; by 1911, Nos 12-18 had appeared.



Wickliffe House



Cotswold Cottages



Osborne Cottage



Beulah House

Photographs taken by members of Birmingham Photographic Club on 26th May 1968.



The Valuation Office survey records tell us that the house which is now No 18 was erected in 1908 at a cost of £250. It is described as follows: "Brick and tile house in good repair about 6 yrs old: entrance hall, 2 sitting-rooms, board floors, 1 bay window; brick porch and dairy, back kitchen and furnace, 3 large bedrooms, water closet and bath." The owner was Mrs Elizabeth Pethard.

Development on the north side began at the end of the 19th century with the building of Laburnam Villa (No 45) and then proceeded at a fast rate in the first decades of the 20th century as land owned by the Field family was sold. By the time of the 1911 census, Nos 49-59, 71-87 and 105-109 had appeared. Further development was able to take place on the north side of the road (in the westerly part which was once part of Aldington) shortly before and during the First World War; this was made possible by the sale of the Ashwin estate in 1912.