

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.

Outside Mural at Badsey First School

We are delighted that “Jon the Potter” of Eastnor Pottery has agreed to come to Badsey First School for a week during the summer term to work with pupils on an outdoor mural. The pupils will first have the opportunity to look at the 1911 census on the internet and talk about the different occupations of the people in Badsey and Aldington 100 years ago. They will reflect on what the village looked like then and how the land was used. The Badsey Society will take along its growing collection of market gardening tools to a session at the school so that the children can examine them, take photos and study them prior to incorporating some of them into the mural.

The pupils will then work with “Jon the Potter” to produce a mural made from glazed ceramic tiles reflecting the occupations and land-use in the Parish at the time of the census. As well as providing a stimulating activity for the children, the mural will be of lasting benefit to the community. To celebrate the completion of the mural, an event will be arranged when the families of pupils at the school will be invited to see the mural and to hear the story behind it. It is hoped that “Gus the Asparagus” will be in attendance. The school’s laptops will be available for the pupils to show their family (who may not be as IT-literate as a youngster!) what can be found out about their market gardening ancestors in the 1911 census and also look at other items related to market gardening on the Badsey website.

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.

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**THE BADSEY
SOCIETY**



THE LAST MARKET GARDENER NEWSLETTER 8 – APRIL 2012

What a funny old time we’ve been having weather-wise so far this year – soaring temperatures in March, then plummeting in early April resulting in snow on northern hills. The market gardeners of yester-year always needed to keep an eye on the weather to see how it would affect their crops. The following two items from the “From the Archives” section of The Evesham Journal illustrate this point.

100 YEARS AGO

MARCH 21 1903

Asparagus should be a good crop this year. There was a good bower with no blight last year and the roots should be healthy and strong this season. Spring onions have not been so successful this time. Owing to the wet weather last autumn growers could not keep the weeds under, and the consequence was that some plots got so bad that it was impossible to clean them and they were ploughed in. In some cases the onions themselves have rotted away underground.

25 YEARS AGO

MAY 11 1978

The season’s first asparagus of the season arrived in the market at Evesham on Monday and, responding to the higher temperatures, supplies had rapidly increased by yesterday. The crop has been held back this year by some of the coldest spring weather for 61 years and it is the first time in living memory that the season’s first asparagus did not appear in the markets before the end of April. “Cutting normally starts between April 20 and 25 so it is two weeks late,” said Mr R.M. Mills, manager of Evesham Smithfield Market.

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The Badsey Archive

Articles such as the two above form part of The Badsey Society’s growing archive and will be available on a special archive website later this year. Our trusty team of helpers – Jane Croucher, Trevor Hockenhull, Tony & Avril Wood, Gill Woods – are working with Jane Neill and Maureen Spinks to catalogue all the archive documents and museum items. Here is a flavour of some of the items connected with market gardening:



Asparagus bundling box.



Seed drill.



Row marker.

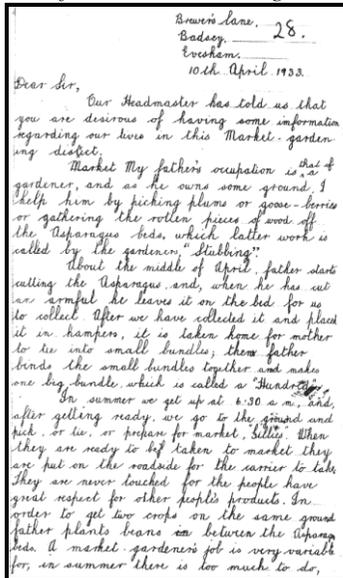
THE HARTWELL FAMILY

The Hartwells of Badsey are all descended from George Hartwell (1761-1823) of Ebrington who moved to Badsey in the 1780s. George had four sons and four daughters. It was the descendants of his sons Charles and William that populated the village throughout into the 20th century. Pictured right is 91-year-old Don Hartwell (3xgreat-grandson of George) pictured on Willersey Road, the Hartwell home since the start of the 20th century.



For most of the 19th century the Hartwells were agricultural labourers but, by 1881, William Hartwell (1823-1896) had become a market gardener. By 1891, all four of William's sons still living in the village - Daniel, William, James and George - were market gardeners like their father. William died at his home on School Lane in 1896.

At the time of the 1911 census, the brothers were still market gardening and lived very close to each other. Daniel Jonathan Hartwell (1855-1911) lived at 9 Bullybrook Terrace (present-day No 50 Willersey Road) with his wife, Elizabeth, and three youngest children. News of his death at the end of 1911 was reported in the Parish Magazine of January 1912: *News of the death of Mr D J Hartwell, of Badsey, which took place on December 7th, came to many as a painful surprise. Although he had been in indifferent health for some months, he had nevertheless been able to do a little work up to within a week of his death which resulted rather suddenly from a seizure. He was one of the most civil and genial men in the parish.*



Across the road at 12 Belmont Terrace (present-day No 35 Willersey Road) lived William Hartwell (1860-1947) with his wife, Maria, and three of his children; their daughter, Emily, was a teacher at Badsey Council School, and their sons, John (1890-1949) and Richard (1895-1976) were market gardeners.

John Hartwell went on to marry Winifred Hill in 1915 and had three children. This letter, describing the life of a market gardening family, was written in 1933 by his son, Denis (1919-1940), who was 13 at the time. The full text of the letter, which runs to three pages, may be seen at www.badsey.net/letters.

Two doors away from Daniel and family at 7 Bullybrook Terrace (46 Willersey Road) lived George Hartwell (1866-1926) with his wife, Eliza, and four children.

James Hartwell (1863-1943) lived with his wife in a semi-detached house which had been built in the 1890s (present-day No 1 Badsey Fields Lane); they had no children. James was a market gardener who employed others. According to 97-year-old Fred Roberts, James was known as "Spud" Hartwell because he always grew early potatoes. Next-door to James at No 3 lived his second cousin, George Hartwell, with his partner and children. George was a market gardener's labourer.

WILLERSEY ROAD

The area where most of today's Willersey Road houses are situated was described by the Enclosure Commissioners in 1815 as: "One public Carriage Road and Highway of the breadth of 35feet marked Number 3 on the said map leading in an Eastwardly direction out of the Village of Badsey aforesaid until it enters the Green, from thence in a Southwardly direction over the West side of the said Green until it enters Bully Brook Lane and from thence in or near its usual track before it communicates with the Willersey Road."



This terrace of 14 houses, built in 1906 on the west side of the road, was originally known as Bully Brook Terrace or Cotswold View.

The present-day Willersey Road begins at the junction with School Lane and Chapel Street but, 200 years ago, the road then known as Willersey Road began only at the road junction (known today as Three Ways) with Wickhamford and Bowers Hill. The Enclosure Commissioners referred to the northern part as Wickhamford Road, leading into The Green and Bully Brook Lane.

For most of the 19th century, the only housing along what we now consider to be Willersey Road was the farmhouse at Glebe Farm (demolished in the 1960s). Following a sale of land in 1888 which had belonged to the Jones family for generations, development began at the end of the 19th century on the east side of the road north of Sands Lane. The land was sold off in 1 acre plots and four members of the same family bought plots upon which to build: Charles, Theodore James and Owen Joseph Hall, plus Joseph's brother-in-law, Henry Keen. All had prospered in the market gardening boom and each was able to build a detached home for his family (see below).



Rose Villa – No 1



Homeleigh – No 5



Auburn House – No 7



Bredon View – No 11

More housing was built at the turn of the century on the east side, south of Sands Lane, when Belmont Terrace, a terrace of 12 houses was built in 1900 following the sale of land by the Trustees of Captain J P Lord. On the west side, in 1900, Stanhope House was the first house to be built, followed by Bully Brook Terrace (also known as Cotswold View) in 1906 as more of the Captain Lord land began to be sold. (More information on these houses can be seen at www.badsey.net/places/roads/willrd in articles by Trevor Hockenhull.) During the 20th century, infill occurred on the eastern side, and then a number of new houses (Nos 2-16 Willersey Road) were built on the west side in the 1960s following the demolition of Glebe Farm. A small settlement of houses grew up at Three Ways in the mid 20th century and there is a scattering of houses in the southern part of the road.