

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.

Outdoor Mural at Badsey First School

The pupils at Badsey First School had a great time in June when “Jon the Potter” of Eastnor Pottery visited. Badsey Society Committee Member, Jane Neill, assisted and talked to the children about their market gardening heritage and took along some tools from the Society’s museum collection. Each child made a leaf or fruit decorated with garden tools, fruit, vegetables, etc. The tiles will then be mounted on to three wall panels in the shape of an apple, plum and pear tree which will be placed in the playground. The official “opening” of the mural will be held in the Autumn Term. Jon has posted a brief report of his visit to Badsey on his website, www.eastnorpottery.co.uk. This includes a photograph of a tile made by a Year 2 pupil and decorated in the style of a “sad farmer” (you can just about make out the tears). Why is the farmer sad? “Because his horse has died.”



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.

| Conctact Numbers | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|----------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Maureen Spinks | 831154 | Will Dallimore | 831012 | Jane Neill | 830301 |
| Terry Sparrow | 833368 | Ian Gibson | 834468 | Richard Phillips | 831112 |
| Valerie Magan | 832100 | Tom Locke | 831073 | Mike Lovatt | 830755 |
| | | | | Neil Thould | 830160 |



**THE BADSEY
SOCIETY**



LOTTERY FUNDED

**THE LAST MARKET GARDENER
NEWSLETTER 9 – JULY 2012**



MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER - A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We are delighted to announce that we have managed to secure a private booking of The Regal Cinema for the launch of The Badsey Society’s latest DVD, “The Market Gardener”. Here is your chance to relax in the magnificent surroundings of the newly-refurbished cinema, restored to its 1930s’ Art Deco glory, whilst watching Will Dallimore’s fascinating film. There will also be the opportunity to buy coffee or drinks from the bar. If you would like to come, don’t delay in sending off the form enclosed with this Newsletter.



THE FIELD FAMILY

At the time of the 1911 census, there were four Field market gardening families living in Badsey, three of whom were connected. Pictured below you can see the entry for 26-year-old Harry Field (1884-1965), who lived at Rusholme (the present-day No 29 Brewers Lane) with his wife, Ethel. Two children followed in 1913 and 1916: Miriel Lucy and Frank. Frank's son, David, is one of the few market gardeners left in Badsey, albeit on a part-time basis. On David's mother's side, he is also descended from Henry Keen (1819-1883), one of the original market gardeners back in 1871.

| CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911. | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink. | | | | | | |
| The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, than the preparation of Statistical Tables. | | | | | | |
| NAME AND SURNAME | RELATIONSHIP to Family | AGE (last birthday) and SEX. | PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. | PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards. | Where Born. | BIRTHPLACE of every person. |
| 1 Harry Field | Head | 26 | Married | Market Gardener | Gen. Acc. | Aldington, 1884 |
| 2 Ethel Field | Wife | 29 | Married | | | Badsey, 1882 |

Over at Chapel Cottage, Aldington, lived Harry's father, James Field (1855-1949), who had moved there shortly after his marriage to his first wife, Elizabeth Cook, at Cleeve Prior in 1879. James' elder sister, Jane, was already living at Aldington, married to Theodore James Hall, one of the earliest market gardeners in the village. In 1881, James Field was described as an agricultural labourer but, by the time of the birth of Harry in 1884, he was described as a market gardener. In 1911, he was living at Chapel Cottage with his second wife, Dinah Cook, who was Elizabeth's first cousin; he was described as a market gardener working on his own account. James remained at the cottage until his death in 1949, aged 93.

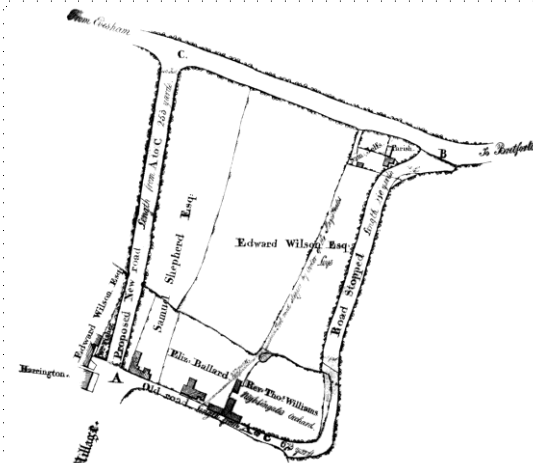
By 1891, James' elder brother, Richard Field (1840-1909), had moved to Ivy Cottage, Aldington. Like his brother, Richard had previously been an agricultural labourer but was now a market gardener. He remained in Aldington until his death in 1909. Richard's son, George Edward Field (1873-1963), had originally become a baker but the 1911 census reveals that, he, too, had become a market gardener.

The fourth family of Fields living in the village in 1911 was 57-year-old Frederick Field who lived on Old Post Office Lane. Frederick was descended from the Fields of Owletts End, Bengeworth, who had been farmers in the 19th century, but the family was now less prosperous, Frederick being employed as a market gardener worker. In 1933, another descendant of the Owletts End Fields, 13-year-old Harry Field, wrote one of the market gardening letters composed by the children of Badsey Council School. "After the asparagus has been cut bower grows on the beds and when the bower has been cut, hard decayed stubs are left," he wrote (the full letter can be seen at www.badsey.net/letters). Harry lived in one of the Council houses at Wickhamford. The 1911 census reveals that Harry's father, John, was a market gardener's labourer, again showing that this branch of Fields had fallen on harder times since the time when they owned land in Evesham and a large amount of land at Bretforton Road.

COMING SOON IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER – THE BALLARD FAMILY

OLD POST OFFICE LANE

Until 1815, the road now known as Old Post Office Lane was the main road going north out of Badsey to Evesham, following a contorted route. From the end of the present-day road, it turned left, roughly following the route of the modern footpath, before emerging on the main road between Evesham and Bretforton at Hither Green. In 1815 this was changed by the construction of a 'new road' which extended the High Street north past the Manor House and along what is now called Synehurst. The new route shortened the journey to Evesham by 420 yards and the old road was 'stopped'.



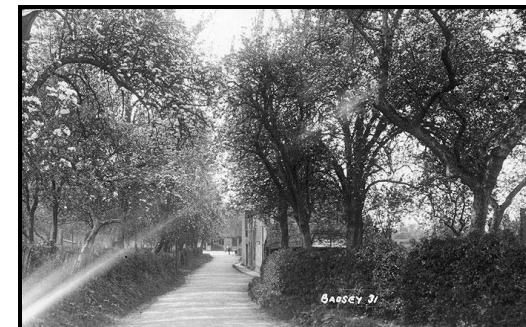
The change is described in a Magistrate's Order dated 1st July 1815 which accompanied the above map.

A number of houses and cottages dating back to the 17th century and earlier exist on the north side of Old Post Office Lane, or Old Road, as it was known in the 19th century (to signify the old road to Evesham). No further housing development occurred on the north side until the latter part of the 20th century.



Blenheim Cottage, at the eastern end, was where the first Post Office in Badsey was situated in the 1890s. It was not a Post Office for very long, however, as a new Post Office was built in the High Street (opposite the church) in 1897. The road soon began being known by its present name. In 1911, Blenheim Cottage was home to market gardener, Valentine Knight, and his family.

With the exception of number 14 Old Post Office Lane, which was built in the 1850s, all the housing on the south side is modern. Until 1964, it was an orchard, being owned by the Johns family of Harrington House. This postcard, looking down the lane to the High Street, shows the orchard on the left.



COMING SOON IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER – HIGH STREET