

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.



If you feel you can help, please ring Jane Neill on 01386 830301 or email familyneill@gmx.co.uk

The Badsey Archive – No computer expertise required for these tasks!

- Neat Writers and Measurers, please read on! We have made a start on cataloguing the growing Badsey Archive which will have its own website. It is now time to put a unique reference number on every single item (every tool, book, letter, deed). This can be done either in your own home at any time convenient to yourself, or a morning or afternoon or two at Jane's house. All you need is an HB pencil and the ability to transcribe a number correctly on to the right document in an easily readable format. At the same time, we need to add information to the catalogue such as the measurements of the object and the physical description.
- Tools – You've probably seen some items in our collection of market gardening tools. We need help in cleaning the items and identifying exactly what they are, manufacturer, approximately when made, etc.

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

How to Join The Badsey Society or Subscribe to "Digging for a Living"

- Membership - £2 per person (please give your name, full address, telephone number and email address)
- Pre-Publication price for "Digging for a Living" - £5 (please give your name, address and your name as you would like it to appear in the back of the book)

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



THE LAST MARKET GARDENER NEWSLETTER 3 – JANUARY 2011

A happy New Year to everyone. This looks set to be a busy year for The Badsey Society, with various events planned: 1911 census walks at the end of March, the publication of Terry Sparrow's book in May, the Whit walk in June. Meanwhile, Will Dallimore and team are progressing with the making of their DVD scheduled for 2012, and Jane Neill and a willing band of helpers (see the back page of this Newsletter to see how you can help) will be getting to grips with our growing archive. To ensure that you keep abreast with all that is happening in The Badsey Society, why not become a member? See back page for details.

1911-2011

Celebrating the Census

On Sunday 27th March, all households in the country will be required to complete a census form. A hundred years ago, the residents of Badsey and Aldington were doing the very same thing but, back then, the village was very different. Most people remained in the village for work and nearly 80% of households were engaged in market gardening. A team of transcribers has been busy transcribing the census, the results of which will be put on the Badsey website in the week leading up to the census, and an exhibition will be held in the church grounds. We shall also be organising a series of

walks over the census weekend:

Sat 26th Mar, 11 – Walk 1 Badsey (meet by Badsey Church door)

Sat 26th Mar, 2.30 – Walk 2 Badsey (meet by Badsey Church door)

Sun 27th Mar, 10.30 – Walk 3 Aldington (meet by Lokos sign, Main St, opp Hillside)

Sun 27th Mar, 2.30 – Walk 4 Wickhamford (meet at Wickhamford Church)

Digging for a Living by Terry Sparrow

Four generations of the Sparrow family have been market gardeners in Badsey. Terry's book gives a detailed account of the rise and fall of market gardening in the village. The book is to be published on Saturday 21st May 2011 when subscribers will be invited to the launch at Badsey First School. The pre-publication price is £5. If you would like to order an advance copy, please contact Terry before the end of February.

THE HALL FAMILY

One of the visitors to The Badsey Society stand at the 2010 Flower Show was Margaret Harris (née Hall), whose family had been market gardening for four generations. She was extremely interested to read the folder about the Hall family and subsequently provided us with this photo of her father, George Hall (left), his brother, Arthur, and their father, Percy, taken at the back of Homeleigh on Willersey Road where they ran their market gardening business.



On 5th February 1890, the Allotments and Smallholdings Association held its fourth conference in Evesham, and was attended by a strong delegation from Badsey, led by Thomas Hall (Margaret's great-great-grandfather); it included two of his sons, Charles and Owen Joseph. Thomas Hall (1817-1907), born at Dumbleton, was actually a shoemaker by profession and at no time considered himself a full-time gardener. However, it seems that Hall's talents lay in finding tenants for financially-pressed farmers who needed to let their land and he had the foresight to see what was required for the development of market gardening in Badsey. Hall was adamant that the building of houses was essential and that is indeed what happened, with the population doubling in the next 20 years. By the time that Hall died in 1907, Badsey was in the throes of one of the most prosperous times in its history.

Of Hall's three sons who survived to adulthood, Charles (1839-1911) started life as an agricultural labourer but turned to market gardening in the 1880s; Theodore James (1845-1923) and Owen Joseph (1849-1899) both initially followed their father into the shoemaking profession, but became market gardeners in the late 1870s. In 1888, the Hall brothers took advantage of buying land on the north side of Willersey Road (previously owned by John Jones) when it came up for sale at auction and built houses on the land. Charles and his second wife, Elizabeth, lived at Homeleigh (No 5), Owen Joseph and his wife, Eliza (née Keen) lived at Auburn House (No 7), Theodore James Hall and his wife, Jane, lived at Bredon View (No 11); whilst Eliza's brother, Henry Keen, who had also bought land, lived at Rose Villa (No 1).

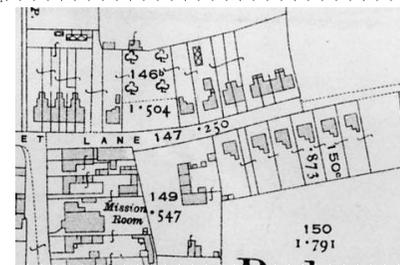
Whilst all three brothers married, only Owen Joseph Hall had surviving children. His wife, Eliza Keen, whom he married in 1879, was also from a prominent market gardening family. Owen Joseph and Eliza had seven sons and three daughters in total, nine surviving to adulthood. Owen died in October 1899 at the age of 50. Eliza remained at Auburn House until her death in 1934, aged 80, carrying on the market gardening business with the aid of her sons. Fortunately for Eliza, she would have had the support of her two brothers-in-law, Charles and James, who lived either side of her, and her brother, Henry Keen, just down the road.

Of Eliza's six surviving sons, four went into market gardening: Thomas Henry (1880-1918), John Percy known as Percy (1882-1957), Theodore James (1884-1924), Arthur Richard (1889). In the 20th century, the market gardening business was carried on from Homeleigh, where Percy went to live after his uncle's death in 1911. Percy remained at Homeleigh until his death in 1957; his widow, Ethel (his second wife), remained there until her death in 1981. All three of Percy's sons became market gardeners.

COMING SOON IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER – THE KEEN FAMILY

BREWERS LANE

In our last Newsletter, we talked about the houses which began appearing on Badsey Fields Lane at the turn of the century as the result of a large sale of agricultural land in 1890. This sale also led to the development of housing on Brewers Lane. This map of 1923 shows the houses which had been built by then.



In 1815, at the time of the Badsey Enclosure Awards, this road was referred to as Private Carriage Road Number 9, owned by Joseph Jones. There were five dwellings on the road (three of which still remain as Nos 18, 20 & 22). By the mid 19th century, the road and most of the land either side was owned by the Byrd family. With the sale of the Byrd estate in 1890, the land on the north side was bought by William Hurd Adams and the land on the south side by Evesham builders, Espley & Co. The north side was developed first. In 1893 Adams erected a terrace of six cottages, South View (Nos 13-23), and then sold the adjacent land to James Brewer, who had three houses built (Nos 25, 29 & 31) which he later sold. Brewer also began to sell other portions of land which resulted in a row of four cottages (Nos 37-43) being built in about 1899, followed in 1903 by Tower View (Nos 33-35), now a single residence.



Houses on the north side of Brewers Lane, built 1893-1903, taken in 1968 by Birmingham Photographic Club: 13-23 (South View Terrace); 33-35 (Tower View); 37-43 (Fair View).

On the south side, Espleys did not build on the land but sold it off in smaller portions over the next 15 years. In 1892 and 1893, James Brewer bought two plots on the corner with Chapel Street and built a bakery and a house next-door (No 1 Chapel Street) for his growing family. In 1905, he took the opportunity to buy more land from Espleys and had six detached houses built (Nos 24-34 Brewers Lane).

Houses on the south side of Brewers Lane, built 1893-1906, taken in 1968 by Birmingham Photographic Club: James Brewer's former bakehouse (which in 1968 was a shop) and Nos 24-34.



At the beginning of the 20th century, the road was known as Lanket Lane (derived from "langet" meaning a narrow strip of land), but it was not long before it started being known as Brewers Lane after the person who owned so much of the land. Fortunately for today's residents of Brewers Lane, an application to pull down No 27 (still owned by a member of the Brewer family) in order to allow access to a proposed development of up to 39 houses on the land at the rear, was withdrawn in November 2010.

COMING SOON IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER – CHAPEL STREET