

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					
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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.

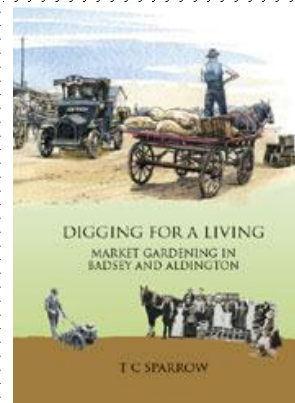


THE BADSEY SOCIETY



THE LAST MARKET GARDENER NEWSLETTER 4 – APRIL 2011

I hope you are all enjoying the Spring weather which puts us in the mood for the Badsey Society’s latest publication by Terry Sparrow.



On sale in The Spar from Sunday 22nd May, price £6, or at www.badsey.net/bsp.

Digging for a Living: Market Gardening in Badsey and Aldington by Terry Sparrow

Professor Nick Evans, Professor of Rural Geography at The University of Worcester has written: “Once the dominant land use, small-scale market gardening in the Vale of Evesham has all but disappeared. Drawing upon first-hand experience and fascinating illustrative material, Terry Sparrow provides timely insights into 'growing'. *Digging for a Living* traces the rise of market gardening in the late 19th century, when Badsey and Aldington bucked the trend of rural depopulation, through the boom years, to steep post-war decline. I can thoroughly recommend this book to all those who want to understand the essence of Badsey, Aldington and the Vale beyond.”

Thousands More Records added to 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. A transcription of the 1911 census, fully indexed, is available on the Badsey website, www.badsey.net. Also available is a remarkable resource called the Valuation Survey which gives details of every single house and piece of land in the parish. Combining the two resources, we can begin to build up a picture of what Badsey and Aldington (plus Wickhamford) were like in the heyday of market gardening. Thanks to all who took part in the transcription project, some of whom can be seen to the right.



THE KEEN FAMILY

The Keen family were amongst the first in the village to become market gardeners. Brothers John (1814-1881) and Henry Keen (1819-1883) were both market gardening by 1871. Prosperity continued and Henry's son, Henry (1849-1917), had sufficient money to buy an acre of land in 1888 on which he built Rose Villa on Willersey Road, pictured right.



The Keens had first moved to Aldington in the 1820s when Thomas Keen, the father of John and Henry, became the miller. Both John and Henry began their working careers as millers but both were listed in the 1871 census as market gardeners, two out of just nine people with that occupation. John and his wife, Elizabeth, were living at Barn Court on Mill Lane, whilst Henry, his wife, Elizabeth, and five of their eight children were living not far away at Silk Mill Cottages. Whilst Henry was a market gardener in 1871, his four sons still living at home were all agricultural labourers. However, by 1881, the market gardening boom was really beginning to take off and the sons, Henry (1849-1917), John (1852-1938), William (1856-1932) and Richard (1858-1939), had all become market gardeners.

Henry Junior obviously prospered as a market gardener as, on 7th July 1888, when land which had previously been owned by John Jones came up for sale at auction at The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Henry bought just over an acre of land (Lot 4, part of "Sands Garden") on the north side of what was then known as Bully Brook Road. His sister Eliza's husband, Owen Joseph Hall, and two of Eliza's brothers-in-law bought adjacent plots to the south. By the time of the 1891 census, Henry and his wife, Emma, were living in their new home, Rose Villa, which they built on the site. The Hall brothers built villas further along the road. Henry and Emma remained at Rose Villa until their deaths in 1917 and 1939 respectively.

<p>288 Reference No. Map No. Z-1-N</p> <p>System <i>Acres, 1/4000</i></p> <p>Description <i>Acres, 1/4000</i></p> <p>Extent <i>10 00 1/4</i></p> <p>Gross Value Land & Buildings, £ 17</p> <p>Gross Annual Value, Schedule A, £</p> <p>Occupier <i>Mr. Keen</i></p> <p>Interest of Owner <i>Keen</i></p> <p>Superior interests</p> <p>Subordinate interests</p> <p>Occupier's tenancy, Term from</p> <p>How determinable</p> <p>Annual (or Estimated) Rent, £ 22</p> <p>Any other Consideration paid</p> <p>Outgoings—Land Tax, £ paid by</p> <p>Tithes, £ paid by</p> <p>Damage Other Outgoings, £ 1/8</p> <p>Who pays (a) Rates and Taxes (b) Insurance, c) covenants</p> <p>Who is liable for repairs</p> <p>Fixed Charges, Easements, Common Rights and Restrictions</p> <p>Former Sales, Dates</p> <p>Interest</p> <p>Consolidation</p> <p>Subsequent Expenditure</p> <p>Owner's Estimate, Gross Value</p> <p>Full Site Value</p> <p>Total Value</p> <p>Assessable Site Value</p> <p>Site Value Deductions charged</p> <p><i>House & Land, Rose Villa, Badsey</i></p> <p>Rents and Serves, Dates of Expenditure</p> <p>Amount</p>	<p>Particulars, description, and notes made on inspection</p> <p><i>3 1/2 Acs. Detached house</i></p> <p><i>All the Detached house</i></p> <p><i>has been erected by the present owner</i></p> <p><i>3 1/2 Acs. of land</i></p> <p><i>has been purchased by the present owner</i></p> <p><i>2 1/2 Acs. of land</i></p> <p><i>has been purchased by the present owner</i></p> <p>Reference No.</p> <p>Valuation—Market Value of Fee Simple in possession of whole property in its present condition</p> <p>Deduct Market Value of Structure and other improvements, but if disposed of structure, timber, fruit trees, and other things growing on the land</p> <p>Difference Balance, being portion of market value attributable to structure, timber, &c.</p> <p>Divided as follows—</p> <p>Buildings and Structures £ 500</p> <p>Machinery £</p> <p>Timber £ 20</p> <p>Fruit Trees £</p> <p>Other things growing on land £</p> <p>Market Value of Fee Simple of Whole in its present condition (as before) £ 550</p> <p>Add for Additional Value represented by any of the following for which any deduction may have been made when arriving at Market Value—</p> <p>Charges (excluding Land Tax) £</p> <p>Restrictions £</p> <p>GROSS VALUE £ 550</p>
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The Valuation Office Survey Field Book entry for Rose Villa: "Brick and tile detached house: hall, kitchen, parlour, big pantry, back kitchen, 3 bed-rooms. Glasshouse at side, water closet and coalhouse; brick and tile stable and coach-house loft over; 12 rows of trees." The Survey also reveals that Henry owned nearly two acres of pasture land at Salter Street. His brother, John, owned nearly an acre of land at The Sands, on which he grew eight rows of Pershore. See more details for other market gardening families at www.badsey.net.

COMING SOON IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER – THE JELFS FAMILY

CHAPEL STREET

In our last Newsletter, we talked about the houses which began appearing on Badsey Fields Lane and Brewers 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 the east side of Chapel Street. Prior to that, the only housing was on the west side, as the Enclosure Map of 1812 shows. The road was referred to in the Enclosure Awards as a "private Carriage Road and Drift Way Number 8".



In the 19th century, the layout of the road which we now know as Chapel Street was quite different. At the point where the road became adjacent with the church, it split into two, with parish cottages and land forming an island in the middle. The road then converged again opposite the junction with the present-day Badsey Fields Lane. A pool existed on the east side of the road (known variously as Sand Pool or Green Pool), just south of the entrance to Badsey Fields Lane. The road was then known as Green Road, as Badsey Green was located to the east.

At the time of Enclosure, the only houses in existence on the road were the present-day Numbers 2 & 4 Chapel Street and some cottages (demolished in 1950) which were on the site of the churchyard extension. In the mid 19th century, two old cottages (Numbers 8 & 10 Chapel Street) were moved from Evesham and erected close to the old parish cottages.



Far left: The Roberts family outside their cottage, demolished in 1950.
Left: Nos 8 & 10 Chapel Street in 1968, moved from Evesham in the 1850s.

Development started along the east side of the road in the 1890s after the 1890 sale of William Byrd's land. Very soon, the present-day Numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 & 25 had been built. They were followed in the first decade of the 20th century by Numbers 17, 19, 21 & 23 on the east side and Numbers 14 & 16 on the west side. By the time of the 1911 census, the road was being referred to as Chapel Street after the Quaker chapel which had been built on the east side in 1894.

Right: Nos 1, 3 & 5 Chapel Street.
Far right: No 7 Chapel Street and the chapel with inscription "Adult School and Friends Mission Room, 1894", now a Dance Studio.
Photos taken by Birmingham Photographic Club in May 1968.



COMING SOON IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER – BRETTFORTON ROAD