

Annual General Meeting

Friday 5th February 2016, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

New Committee members welcome. There will be a chance for you to give your views about Society matters and events. The business part of the meeting will be followed by presentation of the Tony Jerram award by Mrs Barbara Jerram; five people are in the running for the award. Who won? I'm afraid you're going to have to wait until the night to find out. Following the interval, our Aldington poet, Brian Smith, will read from a selection of his poems, aided and abetted by Will Dallimore.

Tales of Wood Norton – Talk by Alan Tutton

Friday 11th March 2016, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

Now a luxury hotel, Wood Norton Hall has had a rich history since it was first built as a home by a playboy pretender to the French Throne. The estate was gradually split up and the Hall become a boys' school before being bought by the BBC just before the outbreak of the Second World War. For a while the presence of the BBC was a war-time secret, but word soon got out as the fame of some of those billeted in Evesham soon gave the game away. After the war, the site was developed as a Training Centre for the BBC. This light-hearted talk follows the story of this historic site and some of the many activities that have taken place there over the years.

The First Day of the Somme – Talk by Dr Steven Hollowell

Friday 8th April 2016, Badsey Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30 pm

Dr Hollowell, who visited Badsey in 2006 to give a most interesting workshop on Enclosure Records, will be returning to talk on one of his other specialist subjects, the first day of the Somme, 1st July 1916. The Battle of the Somme is one of the most famous military events in British history, synonymous with huge loss of life and costly failure. By the end of the day, the British had suffered 60,000 casualties, of whom 20,000 were dead: their largest single loss.

- 27th May 2016 – Inaugural Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture
- June 2016 - Midsummer Walk
- Saturday 23rd July 2016 – Badsey Flower Show
- Friday 9th September 2016 – Letters from a Badsey Family in 1916

Membership Fees 2016

£5 per person – please forward to Tony Wood, Treasurer, or pay at the AGM, or via Paypal at <http://www.badsey.net/bsp/subs.htm>, Committee members are:

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Jane Neill	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
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**THE
BADSEY
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter
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January 2016**

A happy New Year to all our members. We have a number of events planned already and hope to see you there – details of our events are shown on the back page. You will note that we are planning a Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture for the end of May. We were all shocked and saddened by Richard's sudden death, and debated long and hard about how best to perpetuate his memory. It was Ian Gibson who came up with the idea of a lecture, as a virtual memorial to Richard. Mick Taylor will have the honour of presenting the inaugural Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture – details to follow in the next Newsletter.

Round-Up of Events October to December 2015

Friday 16th October 2015 – An Evening with the Sladden Family of Seward House

The church was crammed with people for a reading of letters from the Sladden family written in 1915. This followed on from last year's successful debut event covering letters written in 1914. Badsey Society members, plus some Sladden family descendants, played the parts of the Sladden family. Patsy Miller, who is the great-niece of Julius Sladden, the patriarch, returned to play Eugénie Sladden, and her husband, Anthony, played the part of Julius. This year a new character was introduced, Miss Amelia Brown Constable, the fiancée of Cyril Sladden. Amelia, or Mela as she was known, was a nurse in Birmingham, and was played by her great-granddaughter, Bella Richards, of Oxford. This year's event began with Arthur Sladden serving in France, and with George and Cyril Sladden, preparing to go overseas. Fourteen present-day members of the Sladden family (the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Cyril Sladden) were amongst the audience.



Standing: Kathleen Sladden (Sandra Sparrow), Jack Sladden (Tony Spinks), Juliet Sladden (Martha Morrey), Arthur Sladden (Chris Smith), Julius Sladden (Anthony Miller), George Sladden (Robin Neill), Mela Brown Constable (Bella Richards), Cyril Sladden (Terry Sparrow), Narrator (Will Dallimore), May Sladden (Jane Neill). Seated: Official Voice (Valerie Magan), Eugénie Sladden (Patsy Miller), Producer (Maureen Spinks).

Friday 13th November 2015 – Regulars, Volunteers and Conscripts

We were extremely honoured that one of the foremost military historians in the country, Professor Stephen Badsey of The University of Wolverhampton, accepted an invitation to give a talk about the Worcestershire Regiment in the First World War. Stephen Badsey is Professor of Conflict Studies and Co-Director of the First World War Research Group. He is an internationally recognised specialist on the history and present practice of wartime propaganda and military-media relationships. He has held research positions at the Imperial War Museum and for the BBC, and for several years he was a member of the academic staff at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He has written more than a hundred books and articles. He appears and advises frequently for television and other media, and advises for academic, defence and governmental organisations. In the last five years he has been invited to address audiences in Denmark, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Estonia and the United States – and now he has been to Badsey.

Professor Badsey regards Badsey as his ancestral village as it is almost certain that he is descended from one of the families by the name of Badsey who lived in Badsey until the end of the 17th century. As a child growing up in the West Midlands, his parents would often take a detour via Badsey, so he was honoured to be invited to speak in what he considers to be his home village. A number of Professor Badsey's relatives, likewise all descended from the 17th century Badseys, were in the audience.



Left: Maureen Spinks with Professor Stephen Badsey of The University of Wolverhampton.

Right: Descendants of the Badseys of Badsey.



Condolences

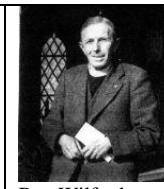
We are sorry to report the death of two of our members at the end of last year.

Graham Cudd (1939-2015) joined The Badsey Society in 2008. Graham was born in Stirchley and, on leaving school, started an apprenticeship as a draughtsman at Lucas, a Birmingham-based business. Good at drawing, this was the perfect job for Graham; he drew the plans for moulds for the first rear car lights to be made out of plastic – the new wonder material! Graham moved to Badsey in 1976. When his daughter was growing up, he helped with Brownie and Guide camping trips. For eight years, he acted as Treasurer of Badsey Church. Graham, who had been suffering ill-health for the last two years, moved last year with Liz to Astwood Bank, where he died on 6th November. Our thoughts are with Liz and his children, Richard and Helen, on their loss.

Richard Ecroyd (1931-2015), who had been a member since 2007, died on 29th December 2015, aged 84. Richard and his wife, Carol, made their home at 24 Brewers Lane after moving from their native Herefordshire, where Richard had been in business as a farmer. With several thousand cattle, Richard was among the largest dairy farmers in the country. A memorial service took place at a packed Credenhill Church near Hereford on 19th January. Our sympathy goes to Carol and other members of his family.



Rev George Drummond (Vicar 1785-1807)



Rev Wilfred Chapman (Vicar 1947-1958)

Vicars and Vicarages

In March we shall welcome the Reverend Philip Morton to be the new Vicar of Badsey. It is thus timely that we think back to earlier Vicars of Badsey, and the old Vicarage which used to stand on the site of Allsebrook Gardens.



Rev Philip Morton (Vicar 2016 onwards)

The Reverend George William Auriol Hay Drummond was Vicar of Badsey from 1785 until his untimely death at sea in 1807. Drummond was an absentee vicar for most of the time, but his legacy to the village was the rebuilding of the Vicarage. He had a new stone house built which he described as “a neat and commodious building”. It was this house which remained in use as the Vicarage (extensively renovated in 1856 under the Reverend Hunt) until it was demolished in 1971.

Society member, Peggy Hancock of Evesham, reminded us recently of an entry in the Parish Register for 1791:

Be it remembered that in ye year 1791 the Revd Mr Drummond (the incumbent) enclosed with rails and pales the piece of ground where ye old Parsonage Houses stood, on ye right hand of which, in going from ye present Parsonage House, grows an elm tree close to yet outside of ye pales very near ye corner where they turn by ye street. This tree we know to have been nursed up by ye people who lived in ye old Parsonage Houses who had a garden extending several yards beyond ye tree. We therefore think it proper, for preventing any dispute in future time, to insert this memorandum in our Parish Register, and say we perfectly know that ye tree above mentioned belongs to ye Parsonage House. Witness our hands this 26th day of May in ye year 1791. D Jones, Curate under Mr Drummond; Wm Collett, Church Warden

The elm tree mentioned in the 1791 memorandum did not last quite as long as the Vicarage. Fast forward some 160 years to the time when the Reverend Wilfred Broadhurst Chapman was Vicar. We are grateful to his daughter, Angela Holdsworth, who has donated a large number of photos to the Badsey Archive, including some which show the demise of the elm tree.



Left: September 1953, the elm tree in front of the old Vicarage, which had been built in Drummond's time.



Top right: Not long after, the tree was cut down as it had become dangerous. Here it is on the wagon ready for removal.



Bottom right: Meanwhile, Danny, the Vicarage dog, and Jimmy the tortoise, are on the stump of the elm tree.