

The cottage was, until recent times, set on a large plot with gardens front and rear, which allowed the growing of vegetables and no doubt the rearing of a pig or two. A well is situated in the front garden, which was used as the water supply in living memory for several cottages. It still functions today, the water level being normally about 18" below ground level. The privies were on higher ground at the back of the cottage.

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JUST A FEW SPACES LEFT – DON'T DELAY IN RETURNING THE FORM

DAY SCHOOL ON OLD DEEDS – FREE TO MEMBERS
Badsey Remembrance Hall, Saturday 12th November 2005, 10 am – 3.30 pm

Do you have a pile of old documents relating to your house but don't know what to do with them? Well, now's your chance to learn how to interpret them. The Badsey Society has been successful in gaining the services of two guest speakers to run a Day School in the village. The speakers will be Robin Whitaker, Archives Manager for Worcestershire Record Office, and Nat Alcock, author of "Old Title Deeds", published by Phillimore. The day will include the following items:

- Introduction to the use of deeds
- The main types and forms of deeds
- Hands-on study session of typical deeds
- Sources of Worcestershire/Badsey deeds and related documents
- Final question session

A Day School such as this would normally cost at least £25 per person, but we are pleased to announce that the session is FREE to Badsey Society members. Places on the course are limited so if you wish to attend, please return the form as soon as possible, together with a £10 returnable deposit (the cheque will only be cashed if you do not turn up for the event). If you are not a member of the Badsey Society, it costs just £1 to join.

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DAY SCHOOL ON OLD DEEDS

I wish to attend the Day School on Saturday 12th November 2005. In order to secure a place, I enclose a cheque for £10 made payable to "The Badsey Society" which may be cashed if I subsequently cancel at short notice.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

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TELEPHONE: E-MAIL:

Please return to Maureen Spinks, The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EW. If you are not a member of The Badsey Society, please enclose £1 membership fee per adult or £2.50 for family membership.



THE BADSEY SOCIETY



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISHES OF BADSEY AND ALDINGTON SINCE 1807

NEWSLETTER 4 – OCTOBER 2005

It was good to see a large crowd of people turn out in July for the Society's walk at Aldington. Around 60 people (and a dog) turned up for the event. Many people took heed of our suggestion to leave the car behind and walked from Badsey for the event. Here you can see the assembled crowd learning about the Manor House. A full report of the walk is given overleaf.



If you haven't had a chance to see the Aldington Enclosure Map, dated 1807, take a moment to have a look at it the next time you visit the Remembrance Hall for an event. The Badsey Enclosure Map is still on temporary display in the church, but plans have gone in for Faculty approval to hang the map on the south wall of the church. Meanwhile, staff at Worcestershire Historic Environment & Archaeological Service are working on the digitisation of the enclosure maps.

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The Badsey Society is grateful for a grant received from Local Heritage Initiative in order to fund the project. The Local Heritage Initiative is a national grant scheme that helps local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) provides the grant but the scheme is a partnership, administered by the Countryside Agency with additional funding from Nationwide Building Society.



Badsey Society Walk at Aldington – Friday 29th July 2005

Participants on the walk assembled by the village noticeboard where information sheets were given out. Richard Phillips began by talking about the role of a census enumerator. The party then walked back down Village Street to Sherwood Cottage and from then on followed the route that the 1901 census enumerator, William Warmington, took when completing the census form. Various members of the Committee – Maureen Spinks, Terry Sparrow, Tony Jerram, Will Dallimore – took it in turns to talk about the various properties, as did some of the home-owners whose houses featured on the route.

The highlight of the evening was the chance to see inside the barn and farmyard formerly attached to Aldington Manor. The barn is aligned east and west behind the Manor. It is built of local Littleton stone with wooden plank infilling. However, the size of the barn and the number of entrances, possibly means that it was originally a monastic tithe barn, subsequently altered at a later period and re-roofed. The barn forms the west side of a model farmyard. The yard is surrounded on four sides by buildings: the barn along one side providing cart sheds, another side lined by cowsheds and stables, the third side by the maltings, and on the fourth side the Manor House.

The evening was rounded off with refreshments in the garden of Manor Court. Our sincere thanks to Gill and Clive Stewart for their wonderful hospitality and to Mr & Mrs Beames for permitting us to view the barn and farmyard.

RIGHT: The roof line of the barn presents a hipped appearance and is currently tiled. If the present roofing is “modern”, the original structure would probably have been thatched.

BELOW LEFT: Inside, the construction of the roof and the tie beams would indicate an approximate 17th century date.

BELOW RIGHT: The barn has three large wagon porches on the north side.



Elm Cottage, Aldington

Mike Lovatt has lived at Elm Cottage since November 1993. The cottage was in a poor condition when he bought it but, over the next few years, he lovingly restored it. Mike is a keen molinologist (person who studies mills). He would love to find out more about the mill at Aldington. If you have any photos or memories of the mill, please contact Mike on 830755.



Elm Cottage was built as two semi-detached cottages in the 18th century by the Lord of the Manor of Aldington to house his agricultural workers. It remained in the ownership of successive Lords of the Manor until the latter part of the 20th century when it was sold to the Bell family and made into one. At the time of the Enclosure Act, Elm Cottage was described as a homestead adjacent to Pitwell Road and belonged to George Day, who owned the land for just two years before selling to the Ashwins.

The name “Elm Cottage” was given some time during the 20th century. The name is most apt as the wooden framework is elm. Some of the internal walls are the original timber frames infilled with wattle and daub. The cottage was built of local blue lias limestone on clay. It is likely the external walls were partly demolished and rebuilt in brick around the original frame and a tiled roof fitted. The original blue lias walls are remaining up to a height of about two feet in places. The walls are sold nine-inch bricks (no cavity). The same treatment has been given to at least one other cottage in the village and this may have been a “modernisation” programme by the landowner at some stage.

There are two internal chimney stacks, one at each end which formed inglenook fireplaces, complete with bread oven. The main kitchen/living room of each cottage where the family spent their time was at each end where the fireplaces were. An internal door led to the other downstairs room, the “parlour”. A door to the rear led to a lean-to wash-house. Upstairs, each staircase led on to a landing bedroom for children and the main bedroom was at each end. Being low, the ceiling reaches to the ridge of the building, there being no loft.

When the two cottages were made into one, a landing was created upstairs by sawing through the main tie beam and removing enough timber and infill for a walkway. Downstairs floors were flagstones throughout laid on the clay. The previous owner to us was a very short lady who decided she would like a nice dry even floor. So she had several inches of concrete poured on the flagstones, resulting in an average headroom of about 5’ 8”. During restoration we had to remove this together with the remains of the flagstones. In order to get a substructure and membrane in we had to go below the foundations of the walls. We all held our breath until the new concrete had set!