

Lionel Knight (1924-2011)

Although not a member in recent years, Lionel was amongst the first group of people to join the Society in 2002, so it is appropriate that his death on 22nd March should be noted. Lionel was Badsey born and bred and attended Badsey Council School; some of his memories of his schooldays appear in "Heads and Tales, a History of Badsey Schools". Lionel left school in 1938 and went to work in the offices of Evesham Rural District Council, where he was to remain for the rest of his working career, except for a spell in the army during the war. Lionel served the community well, acting as church clock winder for 30 years, honorary auditor of church and Remembrance Hall accounts, and committee member of Badsey Recreation Club and the Royal British Legion for many years. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow, Sheila.

Graham Allen (1942-2011)

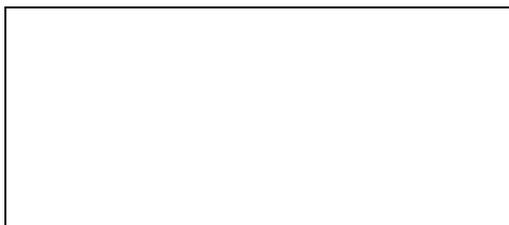
We are sorry to note the death of Graham Allen of 10 Brewers Lane, who has been a member of the Society since January 2009. Graham, a former market gardener, was forced to give up work some years ago due to poor health. He attended a number of our events and kindly lent us a couple of photographs for inclusion in our forthcoming publication, "Digging for a Living". We send our sympathy to his elderly mother.



The Badsey Archive – There is still time to sign up to help with cataloguing the Badsey Archive and helping to clean and identify tools. If you feel you can offer some time, please contact Jane Neill on 01386 830301 or email familyneill@gmx.co.uk.

Committee Members

Mike Lovatt Chairman	Elm Cottage, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830755
Maureen Spinks Secretary	The Willows, 8A High Street, Badsey	01386 831154 history@badsey.net
Terry Sparrow Treasurer	36 Brewers Lane, Badsey	01386 833368
Will Dallimore Committee Member	30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey	01386 831012 editor@badsey.org.uk
Ian Gibson Committee Member	83 Bretforton Road, Badsey	01386 834468
Valerie Magan Committee Member	21 Sands Lane, Badsey	01386 832100
Jane Neill Committee Member	Fircroft, Main Street, Aldington	01386 830301
Richard Phillips Committee Member	4 High Street, Badsey	01386 831112 editor@badsey.net
Neil Thould Committee Member	1 High Street, Badsey	01386 830160



THE BADSEY SOCIETY

Newsletter
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Spring is here and our thoughts turn to events in the blossom season. The next major event is the launch of Terry Sparrow's new book, "Digging for a Living". We hope to see as many of you as possible at the launch on 21st May. Please complete the form enclosed and return as soon as possible so that we can gauge numbers for buying drinks.

Round-Up of Events January to March 2011

- Nearly 60 members, representing almost a third of the membership, turned up for the ninth Annual General Meeting on Friday 11th February. The same officers and Committee members were returned. After the break, Valerie Magan gave an entertaining talk about Evesham Gaol and the police force in the surrounding villages. The annual Tony Jerram Award was presented to Les Grinnell by Barbara Jerram. Many thanks to all those who sent in nominations; if your nominee was not successful, please try again next year.



Born and bred in Badsey, Les Grinnell went to work for Littleton & Badsey Growers after leaving school. He remained with them for his working life, apart from a spell in the Armed Forces. He was initially involved with the tractor side of the business but moved on to herb growing. He has been involved with the running of the Royal British Legion for over 30 years and, for the last 17 years, has been the local organiser of the British Legion Poppy appeal.

- It was a busy weekend at the end of March when we held a census exhibition in the churchyard on the Saturday and a full programme of walks following the route of the 1911 census enumerator, on both the Saturday and Sunday. More details and photos about the census and Valuation Survey overleaf.



Will Dallimore, Maureen Spinks and John Dallimore by the new Badsey Society gazebo.



Evesham member, Ann Tillier, finds her grandmother, Maud Newbury, in the 1910 Valuation Survey.

Future Events

- **Saturday 23rd April 2011** – Evesham Asparagus Festival. Come and visit the Society's stand during this full day of activities on St George's Day for the launch of the asparagus season, 10-4, churchyard by the Bell Tower, Evesham.
- **Saturday 21st May 2011** – Launch of Terry Sparrow's book (see enclosed).
- **Friday 17th June 2011 (note revised date), 7 pm** – Whit Walk. This year's theme is a watery one. Meet at the Drinking Fountain (built to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1911) in the High Street. We shall then walk via Sands Lane and Abraham's Well to Pear Tree Corner, back by The Mill, and finish at The Wheatsheaf for drinks.
- **Saturday 23rd July 2011, 1.30-5 pm** - Badsey Flower Show.

The 1911 Census and 1910 Valuation Survey

Hopefully you have all sent off your 2011 census form by now. Have you had a chance yet to look at the 1911 census on the website? There is an immense amount of detail on there, not only from the census, but also the Valuation Survey, which took place at about the same time. Particularly if you live in a house which was in existence a hundred years ago, do check out the details on www.badsey.net. Huge thanks to Richard Phillips who has put the transcriptions on the website, all fully indexed.

Census Enumerator

Badsey Society member Trevor Hockenhull was a census enumerator for the 1991 census and has written a report for the website. We are indebted to Trevor for his illuminating insights, which gives us some idea of what earlier census enumerators would have been up against. We are sure that the citizens of Badsey who are around in 2091 when the 1991 census is published will be fascinated by Trevor's tales. If anyone has been involved with the 2011 census, we would be pleased to hear of your experiences.



Bell-Ringers, Beware!

Valerie Magan, in her researches at Evesham Library, came across an interesting article in The Evesham Journal of March 1869, in which a case of over-exuberance on the part of the bell-ringing fraternity almost resulted in them ending up in gaol!

On Thursday 18th February 1869, Mr George Field and Miss Elizabeth Hambler, eldest daughter of the late Mr Robert Hambler of Badsey, were married in Badsey parish church. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Reverend T H Hunt; the church was well filled by spectators and the festivities carried on "right heartily throughout the day". Towards the close of the marriage ceremony, the bell-ringers, namely William Field, Elisha Hopkins, Charles Hall, William Williams and Joseph Harris decided amongst themselves they would ring the church bells, in opposition to the ruling that the bells of Badsey church may not be rung during Lent.

John Phipps and Joseph Jones, both Churchwardens, brought a court case against the bell-ringers for riotous and unlawful behaviour in church. PC Surrell from Bretforton issued a summons for all to attend Evesham Petty Sessions Court on 1st March. On the day of the court session, the bell-ringers offered their deep regret at what had happened. The Churchwardens accepted their deep regret and said that they did not wish to go into the charge. The Magistrates felt that, although the Vicar and Churchwardens had the right to compromise the matter, they still wished to investigate the case. It was felt the bell-ringers had committed a serious offence and they should know exactly how the law stood. Had there been a charge, they could have received a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding two months.

The Reverend Hunt was also in court and stated he was desirous of saying that it was not on account of any personal feelings that the bells were not allowed to be rung; he believed the ruling had been in place before his sojourn in Badsey. In fact the bride had been a friend of his for the past 17 years and, he added, he had given her a bridal present, as had his wife and sister. He felt the rule should not be broken for rich or poor. The only time when the bells were rung in Lent was on the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, and never before.

The Chairman felt Reverend Hunt and the Churchwardens were right on the subject of the law regarding ringing of the bells and probably the parties who caused the disturbance were ignorant of the law – doubtless they were entirely ignorant. The Court was crowded, and the greatest interest seemed to be manifested in the proceedings. It was obviously a relief to the bell-ringers and their families that they got away with just a ticking-off. Does anyone know when Badsey church rules about bell-ringing in Lent were relaxed?



Some of the people involved in the Census or Valuation Survey project: Ivor Martin, Jane Croucher, Jane Neill, Lizzie Noyes, Shirley Tutton, Mike Gwynn. Kneeling: Maureen Spinks, Wendy Gwynn.



The Badsey walk: a happy coincidence took us to Belmont Terrace just as 90-year-old Don Hartwell was arriving home; he regaled us with stories about the house which has been in his family since 1900.



The Aldington walk outside Corner Cottage, recently renovated and for sale: Jane Neill, Judy Foster, Judy & Patrick Sparrow, Keith Foster, Maureen Spinks.



The Wickhamford walk led by Tom Locke: working out which of the thatched cottages in Manor Road are old and which were built in the 1930s.