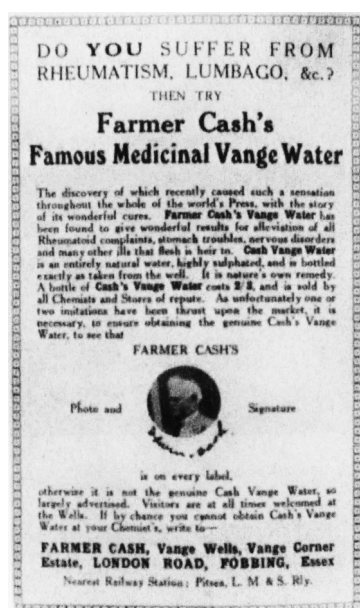




# BASILDON HERITAGE

*A Future for our Past*

## Vange well no5



£2.10



Edwin Cash



Marie Ward his 2nd wife

Edwin Cash was born 14<sup>th</sup> May 1851 in Irby on the Marsh Lincolnshire to parents William Cash and Harriett Herringshaw.

He married Caroline Hone in November 1871 in Spilsby, Lincolnshire. And they had five children.

Caroline died 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1894.

In January 1896 he married Marie Ward

1899 – 1910 Friend at Hand public house 37-39 Hans Road, Bloomsbury, London

1915—1921 He was licensee of Angle Hotel Islington, London.

1922- 1931 Private Residence 17 Hastings Road, Southend, Essex.

And died in Rochford 17<sup>th</sup> May 1931.

Arthur Edwin Cash his son

1901 – 1905 licensee George and Dragon

St John Street, Clerkenwell, London.

1911 –1915 Angel Hotel Islington, London.

1922- 1939 Brook House Farm, Fobbing ,Essex.



*Chelmsford Chronicle*

*September 1906*

*Shows Mr Edwin Cash at  
Brook House Farm. Fobbing*

## 28th September Edwin Cash purchases Land on the Vange Corner Estate

From the Essex records office.

### The purchase of land

John Frederick Hodgson of 5, Manor Terrace, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, gent.,

and Edwin Cash of 39, Hans Road, Brompton Road, London, S.W., gent.

28th September 1900      Agreement for Sale, for £485

This shows Edwin Cash's purchase of land in Fobbing

From the Essex records office.

Conveyance, for £2,151

John Frederick Hodgson of 52, Nightingale Road, Hackney Downs (co. Middx.), gent., to

Edwin Cash of 39, Hans Road, Brompton Road, London, S.W., gent.

A few weeks ago a vigorous old man called in at my office. He said his name was Edwin Cash. His career interested me more than his story of his Vange magic well.

He had been a caterer and manager of Cambridge University; he had bred prize cattle which won first prize against Rothschild, and had been congratulated by King Edward; he had owned the Angel Hotel at Islington, London. And is now a farmer again.

I witnessed Mr H J Shearman, builder and decorator of Hastings Road, Southend, Essex. Was crippled with rheumatism, and had come for his third cure and threw away his walking stick.

By Sidney A Moseley Pall Mall Gazette 28th October 1922

**Miracle Well Dries Up.**

**SUDDEN DISAPPOINTMENT AT VANGE.**

The curative waters which caused the little Essex village of Vange, near Billericay, to jump to fame have dried up.

During the last few months the well has been the scene of many reputed cures, chiefly for rheumatoid and nervous complaints. From all over the British Isles—and, indeed, from America—sufferers have crowded to it in the hope of cure; and those who were too ill to make the journey prevailed upon their friends to bring them bottles of the healing water.

The pilgrimage continued daily. But on Sunday, when about forty motor-cars and motor-coaches had arrived, it was announced that since nine o'clock that morning the well had been dry.

The increasing number of visitors, with bottles in their hands crowded round the scene of their disappointment; but hope as they might, the well remained perfectly dry.

It is thought that building operations in the neighbourhood may have diverted the course of the spring from which the well was filled. Never before has it been known to dry up in this mysterious manner.

The well, which is on land in the occupation of Mr. Edwin Cash, was previously covered, and the water was not used for drinking purposes. It was during the long period of drought last summer that it was uncovered. But it is only comparatively recently that its special virtues became known.

An analysis of the water showed large quantities of the sulphates of sodium, magnesium, and calcium, more moderate quantities of sodium chloride, calcium carbonate and silica, and traces of potassium chloride, iron, zinc, and arsenic.

At a meeting of the Billericay Rural Council, in whose area the well is situated, the medical officer, Dr. Douglas Wells, stated that the water was not peculiar to Vange, as there were similar waters at Downham and Ramsden, adjoining parishes. There is hope for the ailing, therefore, even if the water does not flow into the Vange Well again.

Gloucester Citizen  
October 1922

**VANGE WATER.**

The Company is unable to cope with the huge demand.  
We are making every effort to supply all our orders.

**PAWSEY'S STORES,**  
BURY ST. EDMUND'S.

Bury Free Press October 1922

**"WATERY" SUGGESTION.**

**VANGE WELL PRODUCT FOR MR. BONAR LAW.**

Mr. Edwin Cash, the septuagenarian farmer who discovered and is the owner of the "miracle well" at Vange (Essex), has sent to Mr. Bonar Law, of whom he is an ardent admirer, three bottles of Vange water, because, he says, he feels sure that "the magic water will help him to win the election."

Yorkshire Evening Post  
October 1922

MAGIC WELL LTD

Company takes action against newspaper

In the chancery division yesterday, Mr Justice P O Lawrence had before him a motion by the Vange Water Co Ltd, to restrain the "Westminster Gazette" from publishing statements to the effect that the well known well had dried up.

Mr Jenkins, for the newspaper, said that owing to the political crisis it had been impossible to get information from the newspaper in the time available. He would give an undertaking for a week, and in the mean time would make inquiries.

The motion accordingly stood over for a week.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph October 1922





*The car is a brass radiator ford model T about 1915*

In the early 1929's, there was much talk about Vange Water and there were tales of miraculous cures. The well was near a wood on Brickhouse Farm in Fobbing, but as the site was on Vange Hall Estate, the latter received the notoriety.

The mineral water was first obtained from a well sunk to the rear of Hovells Farm House, Vange in 1899, this farm house still stands, although much altered, is believed to have stood on its present site for around 400 years and a Mr King was the owner in 1899.

The water drawn from the well at this time, although seemingly clear, was found to have a peculiar taste and smell and when boiled left sediment at the bottom of the container. It was decided not to use the water. Evidently Mr King used the water the following year (1900) for his cattle, when there were very dry conditions, the cattle thrived on the water for three months, and at the end of this period they were found to be in exceptional condition.

This news came to the attention of one Mr Edwin Cash who was the owner of a plot of land on higher ground to the south of Hovells Farm house.

Mr Cash was the licensee of "The Friend in Hand " public House in Brompton Road Kensington and Chelsea from 1899-1910. And 1915—1921 at the "Angel Hotel" Islington, and possibly had a future commercial venture in mind as he approached Mr King with the intention of having a sample of the well water tested at his own cost, this was agreed. The water was found to be high in mineral content.

At a later date Mr Cash is reported to have sunk a well on his own land to tap the Hovell's Farm water source. Mr Cash was successful, this well produced water from around 1902.

# Water Cures in Essex

## The New Pilgrims of

### Vange

#### An Earlier Spa

*Pall Mall Gazette September 1922*

*Vange; a small Essex village on a creek of the Thames, about two miles from Pitsea, on the Midland line to Southend, has hitherto been something less even than a sleepy Hollow. For years it only one claim to notice a small fifteenth-century church with a bell turret.*

*Today the fame of Vange has spread far and wide. The announcement of the discovery of a spring yielding water of medicinal value have been brought to Vange people from all parts of the kingdom; and these suffers from rheumatism, chronic dyspepsia, heart, kidney, and other complaints declare they have been miraculously cured. And so flocking to Vange, in the hope of obtaining similar relief.*

*“Vange Water” is finding a ready Sale in Southend at 2s.3d. per quart. This little fact is more astounding to Vangeans than any other episode connected with the fantastic developments of the past few weeks. Locally the discovery arouses no great enthusiasm. The prospect of Vange becoming a spa is not turning anyone’s head; for the locals have had some experience of spas in the neighbourhood; and in these quite Essex villages they have long memories.*

*Eighty years ago Southend became very excited over this very notion of a spa, and indulged in many wonderful castles in the air. In 1838 a Mr and Mrs Clay, after a long residence in Cheltenham, which they found relaxing, determined to build for themselves a cottage on an elevated part of Hockley, another village*

*Essex village, about four miles from Rochford, on the Great Eastern line.*

*A well was sunk for water to supply the cottage. Mrs Clay suffered from asthma but residence in her new home afforded immediate relief.*

*At first attributed her cure to air and situation, but she found out that the water from the well had more to do with it. Thus, it became known that Hockley possessed a spring of medicinal water, and crowds were drawn to it, as they are to Vange.*

*The discovery was followed by the erection of a Hotel, pump room, baths ect. And one way or another a great deal of money was spent on what was called Hockley Spa.*

*But in a year or so the whole scheme collapsed, and those who had speculated lost their money. Yet Hockley's medicinal spring still survives.*

*Vange is about ten or twelve miles distant from Hockley as the crow flies that is a cross country and no doubt the two springs come from a common source.*

*A chemist who has tested the water declares that its chief constituents possessing medicinal value are sulphate of magnesium and salts of potash and soda and a kind of natural Epsom and Glauber salts combined.*

*This spring was first discovered many years ago by Mr Murrell, an octogenarian, who still lives in the neighbourhood, on a hill behind Hovlles Farm, Fobbing, near the Vange boundary. The land was bought twenty-three years ago by Mr E Cash, of Westcliff, a former licensee of the Angel Hotel at Islington, and whose son occupied Brook House farm, adjoining Hovells Farm.*

*Father and son have sunk two wells and erected a corrugated iron pump room and bottling house, fitted with tanks, ect.*

*Dr J D Wells, medical officer of the Billericay Rural Council, says there is nothing extraordinary about the spring. One can get the same water at Downham. It is probably derived from the London Clay. While the water is undoubtedly beneficial to people suffering from dyspepsia, rheumatism, liver, and heart troubles, no one connected with it claims for its miraculous powers.*

*A Day with a Diviner from a (special correspondent Pall Mall Gazette January 1923)*

I noticed interesting developments today, when I accompanied Mr Cash and a water diviner round the farmer's estate in the hopes of finding another well. In the first place, since my last visit, Mr Cash had sunk several other wells, and he states that the water is even stronger than that found in the first well, which created so much sensation.

The ceremony of the water diviner was a curious sight. He held a twig horizontally in front of him in both hands. Mr Cash, on one side, clung to his arm, while his son Arthur clung to the other.

*Cont over*

The three of them, as if in prayer, walked slowly up the Cash estate. Suddenly the twig began to vibrate, and seemed to be drawn towards the earth.

Mr Cash and his son, both powerful men, put all their weight in opposition to the unseen force, but even their combined strength was unable to resist the natural force which impelled the twig towards the earth with so much force that it snapped in two.

"There! Cried the water diviner, triumphantly, here is another well. I asked Mr cash to make the test while I was there, and he called three men to begin to dig a well immediately. After digging seven or eight feet down, there were signs of water. Mr Cash dug out a piece of moistened turf and tested it. "That is true Vange water", he cried with enthusiasm.

#### **THE PILGRIMS AT VANGE.**

The "wonder well" of Vange in Essex is still the scene of a continuous pilgrimage. People are flowing in from all parts of the country, and, viewed from the highway, there is a long trail of the halt, the lame and the blind. One poor fellow, himself in a bad way, and his wife at home, arrived from immortal "Owdham," and near-by was a lady from Eastbourne. She had travelled in a motor-car, and had to be lifted into the building.

Sunday Illustrated  
September 1922

#### **NEW SPA IN THE MAKING.**

The well is by no means inexhaustible. Continuous pumping exceeds the supply, but the water always returns to its old level. Mr. Edwin Cash, the owner of the farm of 200 acres, is, however, anxious to prevent all waste. A large shed has been built around the well, a pump installed, several large vats, and a bottling plant.

A company named "The Vange Water Co., Ltd.," has been registered to put the scheme on a commercial basis, and the free supply, of which more than 10,000 took advantage, is now at an end. A cart road to the well, which is some distance from the highway, has been constructed so that cars can drive close up to the premises.

#### **DOORS BROKEN OPEN.**

Little children, some of them pronounced incurable, are taken to the well by despairing mothers. So keen are some of the visitors that they drink copious quantities of the water, and blow themselves out like barrels. The other day the owner of the well closed the doors during the lunch hour. When he returned, 500 people were awaiting him. On Wednesday locked doors were broken open by the crowd, some of whom helped themselves to the water and wasted much more than they took away.

#### **Cure for Ugliness.**

These are two of innumerable instances. The latest use to which the water has been put is for making plain women beautiful. An enterprising city woman has utilised the properties of the Vange water and has made it into a lot on for the face.

She has asked permission to build a little workshop near the well so that she can manufacture the lotion wholesale. The point is, if Vange Water is able to make these cures, then undoubtedly foreign spas have a rival near London.

The matter is being brought up by the Mayor at a meeting of the General Purposes Committee, when it is hoped that Southend, which is very anxious to do big things, will take a hand in creating this wonderful spa.



It was not until 1919 –1921 ? when he retired from the 'Angel' that he decided to develop his commercial interest and started the Vange water Company.

Mr. Cash sank another well alongside the first, it is believed about this time a large wooden ex-Army Hut, surplus from the Great War, was erected close to the two well heads.

There is evidence that the hut was also used to store glass bottles, and to actually bottle the mineral water for sale.

In 1924, a large advertising board appeared on the north side of the London Road, just past the Vange Bells, which announced ' the Vale Of Health'

The bottled contents, marketed by the Vange Water Company Limited and labelled Farmer Cash's Famous Medicinal Vange Water, sold for 2s 3d (12p) (equivalent value in 2017 is £3.27) and was available on site or from all Chemists and Stores of repute.



*Photo's courtesy of Clive Sinfield  
Laindon & District community archive*



*Yorkshire Post & Leeds Intelligencer April 1923*

**RHEUMATISM**  
**GOUT AND KINDRED AILMENTS**  
**SPEEDILY CURED**

100% success of the famous "Miracle" water from the wonder well at Vange-in Essex. This water has already effected thousands of cures in cases looked upon as in-curable. There is no need now for a journey to the village. You can go to your chemist and get a bottle of

**FARMER CASH'S**  
**VANGE WATER**

Net 2.5 oz. If he does not get stock it, send to us direct --single bottles 5/9 post free or a dozen for 30/- carriage forward.

Please send to your Chemist's Address:  
Universal Distributing Agency, Ltd. (Dept. V.P.),  
14, Great James Street, London, W.C. 1.

*Bury Free press September 1922*

**Join our Christmas Club.**

*We give 18 to the £ Bonus.*

**VANGE WATER.**

Fresh Supply Expected Friday. See Daily Papers for Remarkable Results.

**PAWSEY'S STORES,**

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.



Rich and poor outside the pump house at Vange drinking to the success of Mr Cash. The well water has been analysed by authorities reported upon, health seekers are crowding to Vange, which is rapidly becoming a spa.



Mr Edwin Cash,owner at the well at Vange, Essex, helping a sufferer who is about to take the cure. The waters have valuable health properties.

Edwin Cash (right) and Mr Murrell (Born 1838),The oldest inhabitant Drinking the well water.



## The Secret of Vange Water

NatureAnalysis Reveals Nature

OF Healing Draught

*The "miracle" water of the little Essex village Vange, which has apparently effected cures in several almost hopeless cases, and which has benefited, among others, Mr W W Kelly, has been scientifically tested and found "not wanting"*

*A famous analyst, to whom the London "Daily Express" submitted a sample reported :-*

*"Generally this water resembles many of the aperient continental waters, especially those associated with the names of Franz Josel, Friedrichshall, Hunyadi Janos and Seidlitz, whose equal it would appear to be in many respects.*

*"Magnesium sulphate is present in this water in a considerable amount, and a person drinking a pint would be taking the equivalent of 3.1 grammes of Epsom salts. The usual amount of this substance in the British Pharmacopoeia ranges from 2-3 grammes.*

*With this water the lower amount is exceeded when taking one pint.*

*Another laxative present is sodium sulphate. This occurs in quantity equal to 1.7 grammes per pint.*

*"The slight amount of iron and arsenic present would tend to give a tonic effect to the water." The results of the analysis of the salts present in the water are as follows.*

Parts per 100.000

Total Solids	883.0
Sodium chloride	56.86
Potassium chloride	0.10
Sodium sulphate	307.20
Magnesium sulphate	265.50
Calcium sulphate	175.10
Calcium carbonate	57.10
Iron	0.02
Zinc	0.25
Arsenic	0.002
Silica, alumina and undetermined	26.068

Despite good advertising within a few short years the operation had peaked, and the once going concern folded around the mid 1920s. Reasons are still sketchy as to why the venture ceased. One possible theory put forward cites the former West Ham tuberculosis sanatorium, opened in 1927 and built on higher ground, as the possible cause of water contamination through its septic tank drainage system. Whether there was any truth in that has been hard to prove as the sanatorium closed in 1957 and no records are known to exist linking it with the Vange mineral well. Also, if as thought, the venture had ceased to exist by the mid 1920s this would predate the sanatorium's existence.

*One thing that can be confirmed is that by early 1924 the company was in a state of deep financial trouble. There are two notices recorded in the London Gazette newspaper from February 1924. The first states that on the 22nd January 1924 an Extraordinary General Meeting with members of the Vange Water Company Limited was held. The meeting, which was chaired by Sidney A. Moseley, took place at 2, Foster Lane, Cheapside, London, EC2 where they passed an Extraordinary Resolution stating: "That the Company cannot, by reason of its liabilities, continue its business, and that it is advisable to wind up the same; and that Thomas John McManis, of 2, Foster Lane, Cheapside, EC2, be appointed Liquidator of the Company." In the same edition another entry posted by T.J. McManis, Liquidator, gave notice that a meeting of the creditors of the company would be held at 12 o'clock noon on 11th February at the same Cheapside address.*

*The following year on 29th January T.J. McManis, acting as Liquidator, gave notice of a meeting of the company members to be held at 10 o'clock am on 6th March at Cheapside, London. This meeting, "for the purpose of having an account laid before them, showing the manner in which the winding-up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator; and also, by Extraordinary Resolution, determining the manner in which the books, accounts and other documents of the Company, and of the Liquidator thereof, shall be disposed of" would seem to confirm that the company had probably ceased trading in 1924 or even late 1923.*



Nothing further from the company was reported and the land was later sold. Edwin Cash is believed to have died in 1931. And the land was sold to the proprietors of 'KRUCHEN SALTS'.

Vange Water Company incorporated 1921, company number: 178163.

Was dissolved sometime between 1924 and 1932

Sale catalogue of house of called Brook House Farm in main London Road in Fobbing; numerous plots of building land on the Vange Corner Estate in Vange and Fobbing; the "Celebrated and World-famed" Vange Medicinal Springs and Wells, with pump room, etc. in Fobbing 2 plans 1926 (Essex Records Office).

ESSEX

(To close the estate)

The remaining portion of the

VANGE CORNER ESTATE

Occupying an elevated and healthy position, having extensive frontage to the main London—Southend Road.

MESSERS, TALBOT & WHITE

Will sell by Auction

ELIGIBLE FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND

Comprising of numerous blocks of plots having frontage to main road and estate roads. Several enclosures of pasture land, having potential value for future building development.

Also

VANGE MEDICINCAL SPRINGS & WELLS

With pump room & appurtenances.

The attractive FREEHOLD BUNGALOW

RESIDENCE Known as

“BROOK HOUSE FARM”

orchard and large garden

WITH VACANT POSSESSION



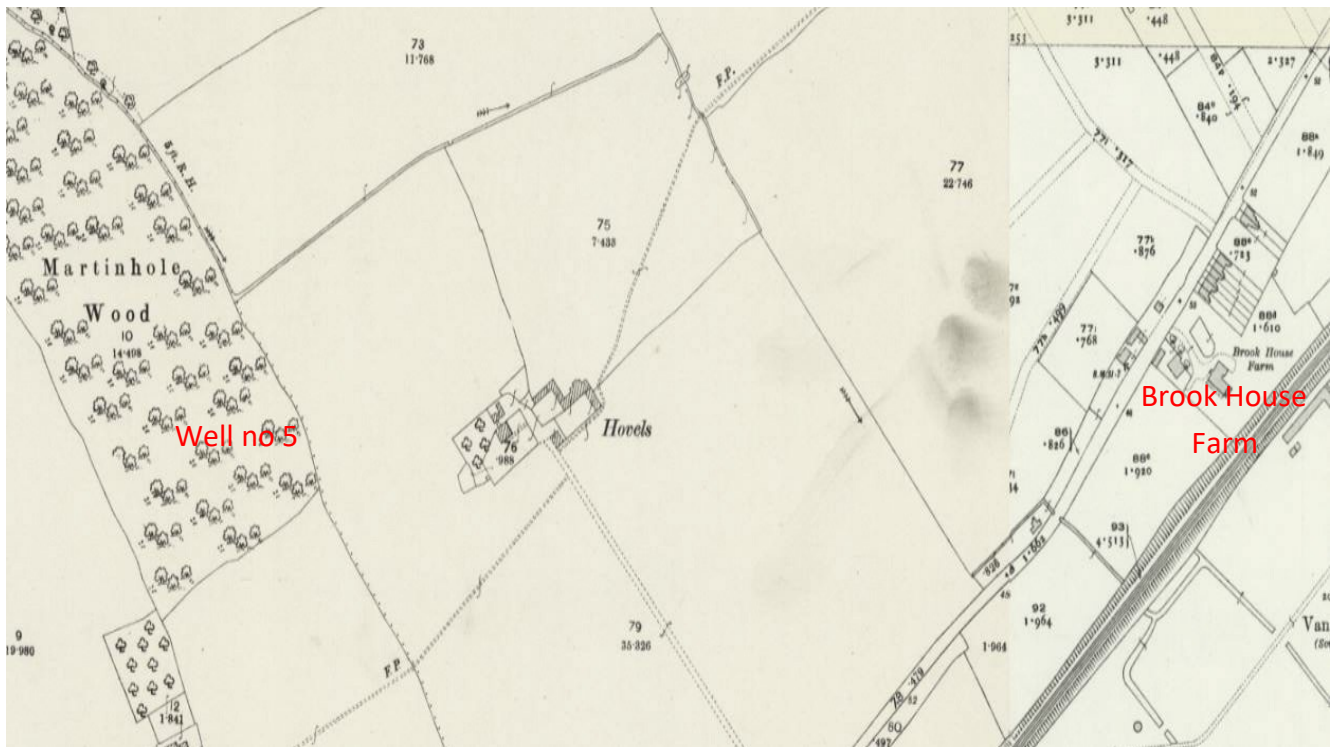
Chelmsford Chronicle

June 1926

Brook House Farm

For sale



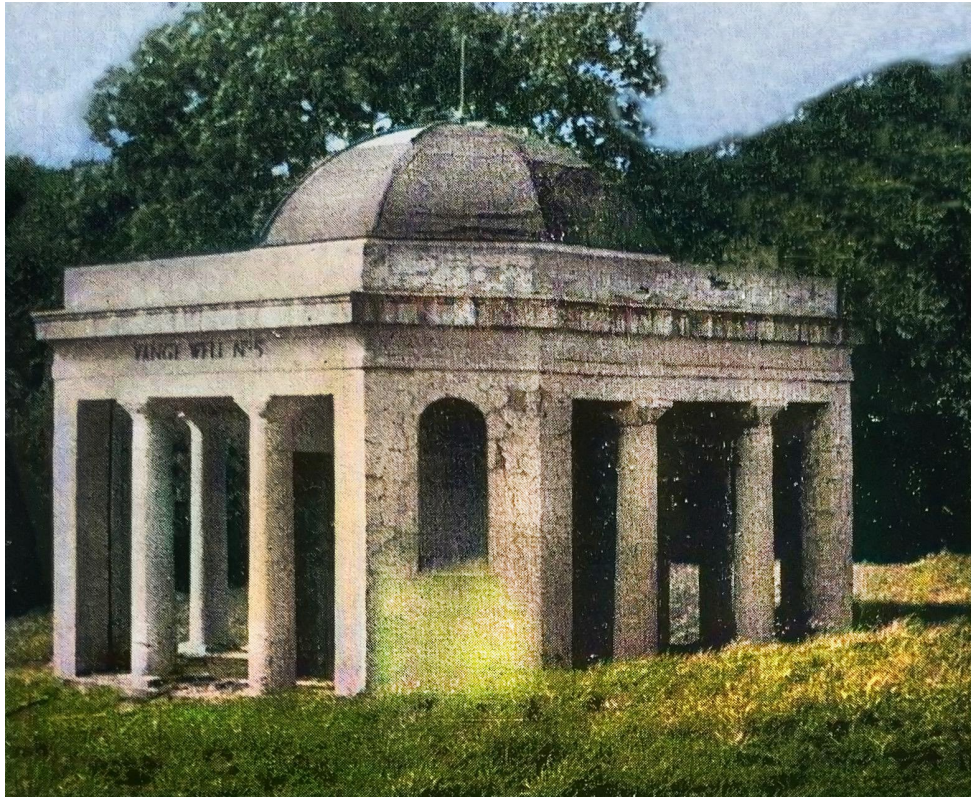


For anyone wishing to visit the former mineral well its best to set off from the car park at One Tree Hill Country Park's visitor centre. After crossing the main road there are paths through the woodland, which might require wellington boots or other suitable footwear to be worn during the winter months. The route is not signposted and should take around 10 minutes





‘Vange Well No. 5’, in Martinhole Wood, One Tree Hill, Basildon,



## VANGE BOOKLETS

All Saints Church Hall 1931 £2.10  
Barges at Vange Wharf £2.10  
Cashes Well No5 £2.10  
John (Paddy) Hemingway £1.50  
The Barge Inn 1832 – 2015 £2.50  
The Bull Public House 1878— 1961 £1.50  
The Vange Crystal Well £1.50  
Vange Board School 1876 £5.80  
Vange Fire Station 1934 – 1962 £3.90  
Vange Hall Brick Works 1886—1921 £3.30  
Vange Reservoir & Southend Water Company £2.00  
Vange Swimming Pool 1933-1952 £2.00  
The Shops of Vange London Road & High Road £5.00  
The 1st Pitsea and Vange Scouts 1913—1970 £4.50  
3rd Battalion Essex Home Guard. Vange and Pitsea. £2.80  
Royal Observer Corps, Monitoring Post, Vange, Essex. £2.10

## BASILDON BOOKLET

Locarno Mecca Dancing £6.00 1961 - 1971

## PITSEA BOOKLETS

W. J. Wager Dairies £1.50  
Tuskite Works Pitsea Hall Lane £1.50  
Broadway Cinema 1930—1970 £3.00  
Pitsea United 1909—1971 £8.70  
The Old Pitsea Market 1924—1969 £2.60



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Wat Tyler Country Park  
Pitsea Hall Lane  
Pitsea, Basildon  
Essex.  
SS16 4UH.

Monday & Wednesday's 10am—12pm

Saturdays 10am—3pm