



Proudly supported by Basildon Council

March 2022

Newsletter No. 43

Well, it is three months into the New Year and slowly things are getting back to normal. We hope that you had a pleasant Christmas and we wish you a happy and prosperous New year. We also hope you stayed healthy and those of you who unfortunately caught covid have fully recovered.

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Update – What have we been up to since the last Newsletter:

Initially we closed down for a few weeks over Christmas, opening again on the 5th January. However, we kept our daily Facebook page going with weekly hits approaching 20,000.

Just prior to that we were involved in two outdoor and two indoor Christmas events. Saturday 27 November we were at the Benbow Club followed by Saturday the 4 December as part of the 'Heart of Pitsea' event, held near the market. The following day, Sunday 5 December at Westley Heights, Langdon Hills as part of their Christmas event. Then on Saturday 11 December we were at the Wat Tyler Centre, Christmas event. On each occasion we met up with people who have been able to supply old photographs of the Borough along with their memories.

Coffee Morning – Saturday 5 February 2022

We held our first coffee morning of the New Year and it was pleasing to see over thirty people during the morning two hours and this did not include our half a dozen volunteers who were kept busy either making tea, talking to people or scanning the many photographs brought in.

In addition to our normal display of photographs and artefacts' we displayed maps, bound newspapers and three screens going showing films of the Borough.

The following are a few comments entered in our visitors' book:

- *Lovely morning, reminiscing*
- *Great Display – Thank you for the memories*
- *Thank you – it was very interesting to see the area, I have grown up in.*

One of the attendees posted the following on Facebook:

"Went to visit the Green Centre at Wat Tyler Country Park. Hadn't realised there was museum, since the days of the Boat Museum days. Basildon has a wealth of cultural past history worth

exploring and friendly information is at hand. Opposite is the New Life Wood Centre which is also a place of interest. The Centres are worth a visit. So much life's enrichment is available and for free."



Our next Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 5 March 10am to 12noon.

Angie Bailey - Author

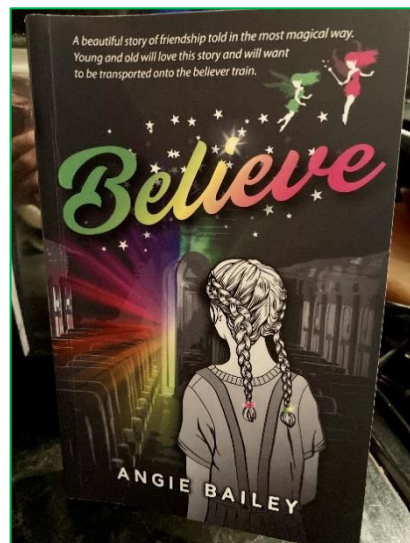
Geraldine Evans J.P. one of our trustees would like to introduce you to her talented daughter Angie Bailey.

Angie gave up pursuing her own career when in 2004 her much adored Dad passed away and I needed her help to run our family business 'The Barge'. Angie holds the distinction at the age of just eighteen, of being one of the youngest ever to gain her Licensee status. This was just the start of Angie's path of amazing achievements. Angie passed her driving test at eight and a half months pregnant, had two very challenging little boys, now not so little, who went on to inspire her first two books. 'The Secret Diary of a Lockdown Mum' much like Bridget Jones does Lockdown but including all the challenges of home schooling and Lockdown life. The money raised from the sales of her first two books went to the NHS and Mental Health Charities.

Whilst bringing up two boys and holding down two jobs, Angie did a university degree, not surprised to tell you she got a First. Another amazing achievement. Unlike many, Angie used the challenge of Lockdown to expand her writing talents and to change her lifestyle and lose three stone. Yet another of her amazing achievements.

Angie has just had her first novel published 'BELIEVE' it tells of the journey of Abigale Johnson from the grey world of a Never-Believer, no colour, no Christmas, no fairies, catapulted into the wonderful, colourful, magical land of a Believer. Angie takes you with Abigale on unforgettable train journey; hold onto your seats as you fly into a new and magical place.

Angie is going to come along to one of our coffee mornings and give a reading from 'BELIEVE' a story awaits you that will become part of your heart for ever.



Peter Hall Collection – Wickford Historian

For the past six months, we have been sorting through an amazing collection of - Photos, Negatives, Newspaper Cuttings etc, of Wickford and surrounding villages, given to us by Peter's Family before they moved as they wanted it to go to a 'safe' organisation. Any material that covers villages/Towns etc outside the Borough we are contacting their local history groups to see if they are interested in receiving them.

In Peter Hall's collection, was a newspaper cutting of poem that appeared in a local paper dated 28 November 1996.

The poem was written well over hundred years ago in 1880 by a policeman called Butcher who was stationed in Wickford: -

The Village of Wickford

***The village of Wickford it stands in the dale
And the sign of the 'Castle' is a drop of good ale***

*The name of the Landlord is Mr. R Dines
Both civil and pleasant he is at all times*

Chorus

*Singing Rye doodle, Rye doodle, Rye Doodle,
Rye Dye*

*There's Belta the grocer likes coffee and tea
But gin he likes better you plainly can see
Go down to the shops, they are all of a flutter
To see the brown snuff sprinkled over the
butter*

Chorus

*There's Carter the builder who shaves at the
deal*

*And Wooliams the wheeler who turns at the
wheel*

*There's Richens the butcher who sharps at the
steel*

*And Sharps people up when they are down at
the heal*

Chorus

*There's Scudda the baker who kneads at the
dough*

*And cracks his old comrades, he does it also
There's Smith at the foundry both courageous
and bold*

And old Harry Nichols who works at the mould

Chorus

*There's Dandy the frosty who stabs at the
leather*

*And Gigney his master who talks of the
weather*

*Thers's Upson the Beedle, the parson does
prate*

He's not very big but he lives by the 'great'

Chorus

*Thers's Mrs Flack both noble and tall
The women of Wickford she's finest of all
The marriage was fruitful to both pigeon pair
With nice little children with nice heads of hair.*

*The Carter the builder mention in the poem is in
fact an ancestor of our web master.*

**Peter and Zephyr resist the winds of
change**

One of our members is Peter Sloper for whom we have produced a small booklet on his life as a milkman in Laindon milk entitled - **The Sloper Story – Laindon Milk Men** and to our surprise we have come across what appears to be a new website – <https://www.adrianflux.co.uk> >**Forever-cars**. It has Peter and his story in particular his love of vintage cars – well worth a look.



Westley Green and Westley Mews Housing developments

Both are Redrow developments. Westley Green is off Dry Street and Westley Mews is an extension of Westley Green off Nethermayne in the area where the college was.

The roads are named after war hero's that we gave to them from local Langdon Hills and Laindon area.

The only exception is that the first road onto the Westley Green development - Dixon Road is named after Stephan Dixon from Vange who was killed at Goose Green during the Falklands conflict He is buried at All Saints Church, Vange.

The other named roads to date are: -

Bebington Drive and Bebington Link – named after two brothers Ernest and John both killed in the Second World war. They were the sons of the Estate Agent in Langdon Hills, Harry Bebington.

Parker Drive – Frederick Parker was killed on 'D' Day on Juno Beach. He was the husband of Lilian Parker who lived in Pound Lane, Laindon.

Llewellyn Drive – Leslie George Llewellyn died

while a P.O.W. with the Japanese. He was the son of Ernest and Esther, Suffolk Road, Laindon.

Burdett Drive – Sergeant John Charles Burdett with Bomber Command was killed on 24 March 1944.

Palmer Way – honours the three brothers who lived in Wash Road, Laindon. Charles, Albert and Edward who were in the Royal Navy.

French Close – Frank Arthur French was killed on 19 March 1917 at the Battle of Bapaume. He was born at Noak Bridge Farm, Laindon.

Judge Drive – Arthur Judge saw action in the Second World War but it was during the Korean conflict at the battle of Imjin River he was killed.

Hammond Close – Reginald Ernest Hammond Was killed in action on the 10 August 1917 in the Third Battle of Ypres. He was the son Thomas and Mary who lived in Dry Street and husband of Charlotte who was living in Walthamstow.

Siggers Crescent – George Siggers died on 8th February 1917. He was the husband of Charlotte (nee Burr) of Dry Street.

The Westley Mews Road names have just been erected: -

Ansell Street – Lieutenant Arnold Edward Ansell – Laindon Flying Ace – He survived the First World War, with five kills which entitled Arnold to achieve the status of ACE.

Clayton Crescent – Captain Harold Robert Clayton, 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers – He was killed at Gallipoli on 4th June 1915. His brother Guy Clayton was rector of St Mary's Church, Langdon Hills.

Ewing Way – Flight Sergeant Leslie Ernest Ewing 207 Squadron. He was shot down over Germany on 6th November 1944 and is buried at Reichswald Forest Cemetery.

More road names are expected soon.

J.K.Payne

We apologise for a small error in our last Newsletter 42 where we said Jessie Payne live at Vange Farm. In fact, she lived at Gouldings Farm, Vange which was next door to Merricks

Farm where her grand-parents lived. It is understood that relations did live at Vange Hall Farm.



Gouldings Farm

To Billericay Market to buy a fat pig. by J.K. Payne

From medieval days until last century, a visit to Billericay Market on Tuesday (19th Century) was an event when the farmer's wife could buy such things as ribbons and gloves, gingerbread, oranges and toys, or, perhaps, fresh fish from Maldon.

Billericay being the only town in the 'Barstable Hundred' it had the privilege of a market. The monks of Stratford Langthorne Abbey who held the manor of Great Burstead had a grant of market rights in the reign of Henry III.

In 1478 a royal charter to hold a weekly market for swine and corn at Billericay was confirmed by Edward IV.

The bell at the chapel (now the parish church) was rung to announce the opening of the market and it was unlawful to buy or sell except in the market and during the market hours. In 1570 widow Whiting had to pay a fine of 2s because she bought a measure of malt on her way to Billericay Market.

Near Chapel Street stood the Market House and there was also a Market Cross.

In 1700, the butchers paid 6d each for their stallage fees, "Gardinors," probably market gardeners or greengrocers, paid 2d. each. Regular traders were a cutler and a lace man from Chelmsford, a shoemaker, and glovers. Other stallholders who were not so regular were a pedlar, an orangeman, a gingerbread woman, a toy seller, pattern maker, potter, glassman,

hardware man, yarn man, stocking man and a man selling fish from Maldon. In 1811 there were stalls for ribbon, gambling and Staffordshire pottery. Sometimes there were as many as twenty stalls, but once, in 1705, there were only three.

In a directory for 1890 Billericay Market was said to be small and chiefly for pigs.

The village of Ramsden Bellhouse also had a market every Thursday in the early part of the 13th Century and in the same century Stock also had a weekly market. The Hundred Rolls (1274) mention markets being held by the Abbot of Bec at Dunton and by the prior of the "New Hospital without Bishopsgate" at Chalvedon, (now Chalvedon Hall), Pitsea. Wickford market is, however not an ancient one.

Overseas Contacts

We have continued to keep in regular Zoom contact with our overseas friends which has included a member of the group giving the following talks: -

To Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society: -

- Notes and Pitfalls in researching British Ancestry
- Animals that served in the First World War
- Film Stars/Propaganda in the First World War
- Zeppelins
- Battle of Benfleet

To Ventura County Genealogical Society: -

- Animals the served in the First World War.
- Film Stars / Propaganda in the First World War.
- Battle of Benfleet
- Zeppelins

Day in History

15th January 1919 – A huge tank of molasses ruptured at the United States Industrial Alcohol Company in the heart of Boston, flooding the streets and killing twenty-one people. The

molasses swept away freight cars, knocked down a local firehouse, and killed five employees at the city Public Works Department. It took weeks to clean up the sticky mess.

16th January 1991 – The first Persian Gulf War began, when a United Nations deadline called for Iraq to withdraw its army from Kuwait ended. The Iraqis invaded Kuwait in August 1990. At 4.30pm. Eastern time, US and British fighters launched from aircraft carriers began bombing runs over Iraq. At 7.00pm., the White House announced that Operation Desert Storm, was under way.

17th January 1893 – American sugar cane producers overthrew Queen Liliuokalani, the ruler of the Hawaiian Islands. The Americans established a new government with sugar planter Sanford Dole as the new president. Hawaii became the fiftieth state in 1959.

Poem

IF

If you can remember when TV was new
With a magnifying glass to enlarge the view,
When Muffin the Mule was attached to strings,
And Lenny the Lion did silly things.

Monday was wash day, you boiled your whites,
We all wore stockings, no one had tights,
Clear, plastic rain hats tied under the chin,
And shopping bags were made out of string.

When lunch was dinner, and dinner was tea,
A balanced diet? Now, what can that be?
We sat in the garden shelling peas,
No one had fridges, there was nothing to freeze.

Christmas arrived in mid-December,
Not in October, or even September.
Glued paper chains were carefully hung,
And traditional carols were always sung.
By Sue Ranford

Radion Project - Update

After a few years of gathering as many suggestions for pieces of past and present heritage within the borough, we have a final

panoramic design, seen below. This visual will be presented on a lenticular screen on the side of the new cinema in the town centre, which is aiming to be installed this April.

A model of the screen can be found at our offices at The Green Centre, Wat Tyler Country Park. As part of the project we are putting together an audio tour to animate the design below, which includes local people sharing stories, memories or histories connected with prominent pieces of heritage past or present within the borough. If you would like to share a story, please email radionproject@gmail.com.

You can listen to some recent heritage recordings on sound cloud here (where you can sign up for a free account to listen): <https://soundcloud.com/user-315315709>



Coming Events

As already stated, our next coffee morning will be on Saturday 5 March 2022 from 10am – 12 noon. It is also intending to give a short talk at around 11.45am.

On the 19 March 2022, at 11am we will be planting a tree in the honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Anniversary. It will be planted just before the gates of Wat Tyler Park. There will

be tea and coffee at the Green Centre afterwards. You are all welcome.

Library Events – over the next few months we will be displaying in Pitsea, Laindon Libraries and possibly Basildon Library.

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall, two-day photographic display 26/27th March.

2nd June we will be involved with the lighting of the beacon here in the park at Wat Tyler 9pm – 10pm in aid of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Anniversary. The Beacon will be lit at 9.45pm-Tea and coffee available. More details later.

Fun Raising

Next year we will need to replace one of our laptops. You can help at no cost to yourselves by nominating Basildon Borough Heritage Society as your charity of choice when you buy on-line through Give as You Live. If you buy through Amazon, use their charity site Amazon Smile. A small percentage of what you spend will then be sent to us.

Booklets

Since the last newsletters we have produced the following booklets:

Harold George Howard
Lieutenant Arnold Edward Ansell
Memories of the Henbest Family
A Poem based on Billericay around 1910
Dry Street Memorial Church
The Sad Life and Death of David Garwell
North Benfleet at War – A Glimpse of the Past
Road Names – Blake Avenue

Future Newsletters

Future Newsletters - If you would like a copy of our future newsletters by email, please let us know by sending in an email or speak to one of our volunteers.

If you know of anybody else who would like a newsletter by email, please let us know. Previous newsletters are on our web site.

WEB Site

Why not check out our web site, we list all the parishes in the Borough and where their names

come from, previous newsletters and links to other Heritage sites -

www.basildonheritage.org.uk.

Facebook

We are still putting on our Facebook page – ‘Basildon Heritage’ – interesting snippets most days so why not have a look and add your comments and memories. So far, we have over 4500 followers.

General Data Protection Regulations. (GDPR)

In accordance with the latest General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) we will not divulge any personal information to third parties without prior approval and you will be able to request at any time removal from our mailing list.

Volunteers-Members

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to help with our research, digitizing our photographs, typing up individual memories, sorting and presenting out displays, helping out at various events etc; why not call in at our Heritage Office in the Green Centre, Wat Tyler Country Park to see what we do. Our opening times are Monday and Wednesday 10am - 12noon and Saturdays 10am – 3.00pm.

You can also become a member - £1 annual membership or £10 life membership.

Who we are?

Just in case you do not know who we are - we are a group of like-minded volunteers who believe that our culture and heritage is central to a sustainable community. We aim to preserve our past for the enjoyment, interest, and benefit of future generations of Basildonians.

We do this by: -

Advancing the education of the public, in history and heritage of Basildon Borough through the collection, preservation of records, materials and artefacts of historical significance. By making available through displays and talks at the society's location and around the Borough.

***Founded March 2007-Registered Charity
No. 1176037***

Email Address

If you would like to contact us our email address is basildonheritage@outlook.com or contact us via the website and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Office Closure

We will be closed over the Easter Weekend – Saturday 16 April and Monday 18 April.

