



Proudly supported by Basildon Council

# December 2023

## Newsletter 49

### MY ODE TO AUTUMN by Sue Ranford

Autumn brings a lacy mist,  
Fruit is ripe and the wasps are pissed.  
The ev'nings draw in, the sun sinks low,  
Casting long shadows with a golden glow.

The harvest is gathered and farmer's toil  
To plough the fields of stony soil.  
He's off to the pub for a well earnt pint,  
Then staggers home through the starry night.

The lanes are lit by a harvest moon,  
Woods fill the valleys with a deepening gloom.  
An owl swoops low on silent wings,  
A stealthy cat freezes ready to spring.

Autumn mornings, cobwebs glistening,  
Creatures searching, alert and listening.  
The fields are left fallow to encourage clover,  
While the farmer recovers from his massive hangover.

### Contents in this issue

- Poem
- Who are we?
- Our Community Involvement
- Overseas Friends
- Day in History

- Booklets
- Facts about April
- New Book Release
- Coming Events
- Volunteers-Members
- Fund Raising
- Future Newsletters
- Web Site
- Facebook
- GDPR
- Email address

### Who are we?

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.

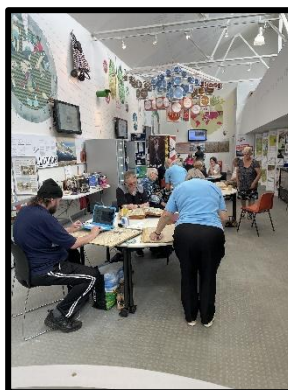
### We do this by: -

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

*Founded March 2007-Registered Charity No. 1176037*

### Our Community Involvement

#### Coffee Morning/Family History



We held our second successful Coffee/Tea and Family History Day on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August. Followed by our third on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and forth on 11<sup>th</sup> November, they all went extremely well. Our next meeting will be in the early new year.

So, suggest you keep an eye open for future dates on our Facebook page.

## Gateway 97.8

The month-long Radio Project was extremely successful and congratulations to the Gateway Radio Presenters for their excellent presentations.



## Ingaway Church

On the Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September we gave talk on Basildon's Famous People and the main individual cover was actor Kellie Bright the currently playing the part of Linda Carter the landlady of the *Queen Vic Public House* in Eastenders.

Kellie was born in Basildon moved to Great Wakering when she was five but five years later the family moved back to Knares, Lee Chapel South

She attended Lee Chapel South Junior school, also attend Basildon College. Her acting career started at the age of eleven. If you would like to read more about her career to date, suggest you get a copy of Basildon's Famous People – Volume two.



*Ingaway Church Members*

## Wickford Carnival

On the hottest day of the year, we were at the Wickford Carnival. As usual it turned out to be a

very successful afternoon with hundreds of visitors and many have promised old photographs of the area etc.



## Talks - Prime Care – Care home

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September we gave a talk to around ten residents, of the care home on the history of Basildon including a few famous people. It was a most enjoyable session with a considerable amount of interaction.



*Just a few of the residents*

## Greensted School, Vange

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November we spent two and half hours with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> year children in talking about local area. It was a enjoyable experience and the children really engaged with the subject. We concentrated more on the Parish of Vange and that it was one of the historical Parishes of the Borough.

You get many surprises when talking to our young children and one young boy 'Archie' a 6<sup>th</sup> form student did not let me down. He turned up with his family tree on the 'Chittock' family, a very old Vange family who have many roads named after them - 'Chittock Gate', Little Chittock, and Chittock Mead'.

I was aware of the family and explained to him that a Great Uncle, Robert Buckham went on to win the Military Medal in the First World War. Also, his Great Grandmother 'Clara' Roberts sister married Percy Robert Chittock at Holy Cross Church in 1920. They had both met at the Kynoch's Explosive factory, Stanford le Hope, during the First World War.

If you would like to know more about their story suggest you obtain a copy of the book, LAINDON IN THE GREAT WAR' it can be obtained from our office at the Green Centre Wat Tyler Park.

### **Fairhouse School, Basildon**

On Wednesday 8th November we were at Fairhouse School and gave a talk to two groups of Year 2 children on Basildon Famous People. The talked covered: -

- Keith Chapman – creator of Bob the Builder
- Eamon Martin – Last British man to win the London Marathon
- Max Whitlock – Olympic, gymnast
- Jilleen Hipsey – Netball Queen
- Stuart Bingham – Snooker Champion
- Joan Rosaire and her Wonder Horse Goldy
- Rodney Wingfield – author and creator of Detective Inspector Frost

Although they were a very young group, we were pleasantly surprised of their knowledge of World-Wide and well-known people.

### **John Baron Fun Walk**

We took part in our Fun Walk around Wat Tyler Park, Pitsea on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Six of our volunteers took part in pleasant hours walk. One of our volunteers was on holiday in Arizona but she and two other members of her family went on their own Fun Walk, and as the organizers have stated the Fun Walk has gone international.

The Fun Walk Trust, is a registered charity, organizes the annual Essex Fun Walk, leaving charities and local causes free to focus on raising sponsorship money. A bonus pot donated by local businesses tops up any monies raised.



We raised £250 and thank all those who donated. We now just wait in anticipation for our portion of the Bonus Pot and obviously thank all those local businesses that donated.

### **Remembrance Day**

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November organized by Basildon Twinning we held a remembrance service at 11am the Empty Chair just outside our offices at the Green Centre.



- This was followed on Sunday with volunteers acting as stewards at the remembrance service in the Basildon Town Centre.



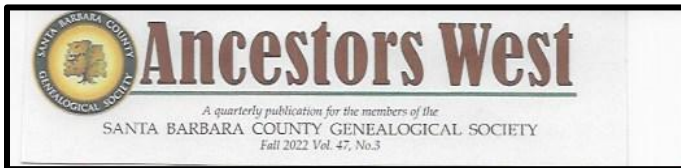
**When you go home, tell them of us and say:  
For your tomorrow we gave our today**



## Bowers Gifford Christmas Event

Pleasant few hours on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Benbow Club, Bowers Gifford Christmas Bazaar, with our display of the area. Several members of the public have promised to bring old photographs of the Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet area to add to our collection.

## Our Overseas Friends



Over these past three months we have attended many Zoom meetings with our American friends in Santa Barbara and Ventura, with one major project completed which was to form into English, a book, previously downloaded book on the Warner family history, but which electronically translated did not present itself as readable.

Once absorbed, there will be another research task to undertake in compiling the demographic social history of some lines of that family.

Their skills are worth mentioning as they test out many of the available web-sites linked to family history, some of which enable our expansion of knowledge of the Americas and both societies have many sessions planned for their respective annual genealogy event month. We have attended, by Zoom, a couple of these.

## Presentation Boards.



Back in May of this year the council erected a Living Landscape Interpretation Board at the top of Langdon Hills Recreation Ground. On one side is the history of the park and information about the wildlife that can be found in and around the park. On the reverse side is a bird box, sheep's wool for birds to use as nesting material and solitary bee nesting tubes.

The history content and some of the photographs were supplied by Basildon heritage in conjunction with the Laindon & District Community archive.

## St Catherines Church – Wickford

We supplied a display of photographs for the church commemorating Remembrance Day and they were on display through out October and November.

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## Basildon Memories – Facebook

In addition to linking into our daily Facebook page we hope you are also linking into the Basildon Memories Facebook page. It is run by Kim Jennings and it is his brother Kevin one of our members who has diligently been going through our bound newspapers supplying him with the photos and historical information. There has also been a spin off with several others joining us to research the papers, resulting them become members.

## New Display at the Green Centre



Home guard Uniform provided by one of our volunteers.

## Day in History

### February 4<sup>th</sup> 2004

Facebook was founded on this day in 2004

### February 5<sup>th</sup> 1989

After being bogged down in an unwinnable war for ten years in Afghanistan, Soviet troops left Kabul, the capital of the country, on this day in 1989

### February 6<sup>th</sup> 1952

Princess Elizabeth of Great Britain, daughter of King George VI became Queen on this day in 1952, after her father died in his sleep at Sandringham.

### February 7<sup>th</sup> 1812

Charles Dickens was born on this day in 1812 in Portsmouth. His full name – Charles John Huffam Dickens.

## Booklets

Booklets since the last newsletter:

- Basildon Hall (update)
- Westley Green, Estate, Dry Street Road Names.
- The First World War – Trauma and Memory
- Demise of Laindon's Fortune-of-War Hotels (pubs)
- History of Krystal Radio
- The Old school House-Langdon Hills

## Facts about May

- May was named after the Greek goddess Maria, the goddess of fertility!
- There are two birth flowers: Lily-of-the-Valley and Hawthorne
- The full moon in May is called the flower Moon!
- The Maypole has been present in history since 1350 AD!
- Queen Victoria, Catherine the Great and Clint Eastwood were all born in May.

## Coming Events

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, we will be at the Heart of Pitsea Christmas event outside Pitsea library.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, in addition to the Green Centre we will display at the main Wat Tyler Centre, along with other groups.

## Christmas Holiday

**We will be closed from Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December (our last open day will be Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December) and returning on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.**

**In the meantime, we wish you all a happy Christmas and an eventful New year.**

## 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 9.30 am -12.30 and Saturdays 9.30am – 3.30pm.

## Fund Raising

We are sure you will appreciate it but cost are continuing to rise. You can help us to mitigate the increase 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'. A small percentage of what you spend will then be sent to us. Also, if you would like a direct donation please link onto our website where you will find a donation button – Thank you.

## Future Newsletters

Future Newsletters - If you would like a copy of our 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, again 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](http://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 regularly get monthly between 30,000 and 50,000 followers and what is pleasing they are coming in from all over the world. In-fact in January we had two from Thailand.

### **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.

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

### **Email Address**

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