



Proudly supported by Basildon Council

June 2023

Newsletter 47

Chaos in Spring

Chestnut leaves gently rustle
In the wake of a silent breeze,
And a cloud of miniature snowflakes,
Released from the blossoming trees
Dance and float in the sunlight
As they slowly fall to the ground,
And the air is alive with insects,
And colourful butterflies abound.

A blackbird sings his heart out,
A beautiful, fluty tune,
And a honeysuckle covers the arch
In a riot of fragrant blooms.
If the chaos theory is true,
Then Australians beware,
For butterflies are abundant
And flying everywhere.

By Sue Ranford

Contents in this issue

- Poem
- Who are we?
- Up dates
- Overseas Friends
- Day in History
- Booklets
- Facts about March
- New Book Release
- Family History Research
- 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

Blue Plaque – Hannah Lake



On the 31st March, The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst, unveiled the Borough's first official Blue Plaque at Wickford Library in honour of Hannah Lake.

The 15-year-old Hannah from a puritan family from the Wickford area sailed to New England in 1635 on the ship Abigail, along with her mother Margret Lake (nee Reade), sister Martha, Aunt Elizabeth Winthrop (nee Reade) and uncle in-law John Winthrop.

In 1643 in Connecticut, she married John Gallop and not only did a later descendant invent the Gallop Poll but later great-grandsons included president Calvin Coolidge and her 7th/8th great-grandsons were the two Bush Presidents.

If you would like to read a little more of her life, please contact us via our website www.basildonheritage.org.uk Cost £2.00 for a small pamphlet plus postage if we have to post.

This will, we hope, be the first of many such over the next few years. To commemorate those who have brought both achievement and recognition for our Borough. The next one is being scheduled for early Summer, in honour of Marian Wilberforce (nee Ogilvie-Forbes) who was one of the first women to help form the Women's Air Transport association to fly wartime aircraft fighter from factory to

airfields. By the end of the war, she was one of the very few women flying bombers. She lived at **Nevendon Manor for fifty years.**



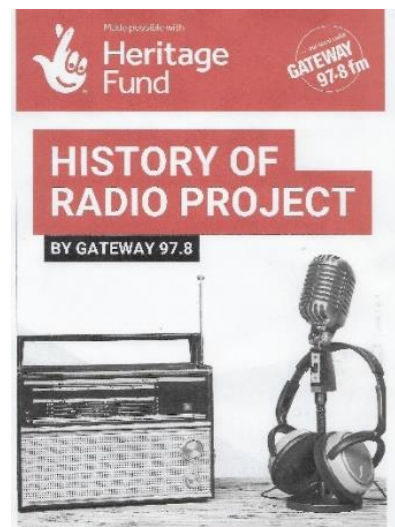
Bromford School, Wickford

In March we had a visit at the Green Centre from four students and their teacher from the school. They spent two hours looking round our displays and discussing Basildon, Plotland era (1891-1949) as part of their coming exams.

Gateway 97.8 Radio Project

Danny Lawrence and Ros Connors at Gateway 97.8 are delighted to be able to offer The History of Radio project at Basildon Heritage Centre in August people of all ages are invited to attend and see how radio all started.

Danny Lawrence





Logan preparing the Cake

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Logan Curtis who is fourteen spent 20 hours volunteering with us as part of his Duke of Edinburgh scheme. He is a member of the Next Gen Twinning Group, he, and other youngsters set up the group so that they could stay in contact with students from Basildon's twinned towns in Germany and France and now Boradyanka, Ukraine.

Becoming aware of a young Ukrainian (named Ilyusha's) birthday treat being a bowl of potatoes he set about to baking a cake. Ilyusha, is the grandson of Laura Voloshyna who is living with a host family in Billericay. She has become a good friend of the Basildon Twinning Association and has been a guest of honour at a number of the twinning events over the past few months.

The birthday cake was delivered along with seven generators, drinks from Gerald MacDonald in Basildon Industrial area courtesy of A.G. Barr in Glasgow, Art Boxes for art therapy sessions at the children's rehabilitation centre from The Royal Opera Houses and boxes of warm winter goods donated by Basildon, Billericay and Wickford CVS.



Ilyusha second from the left.

Following on from the work that Logan did we are more than willing for young persons to volunteer with us.

Picnic in the Park (Westlake Park-Bowers Gifford)

On Bank Holiday Monday 8th May we attended the Coronation Picnic at Westlake Park, the weather held and it turned out to be a very enjoyable afternoon. There were plenty of stalls, Vintage Cars, Childrens entertainment, Live Music and a BBQ.



Mayfest – Town Centre 27th May

Although a very long day, it turnout to be a most successful one with many people visiting our stall and it will prove even more successful if a number of them visit us at the Green Centre to bring along photographs and for us to jot down their memories of Basildon etc.



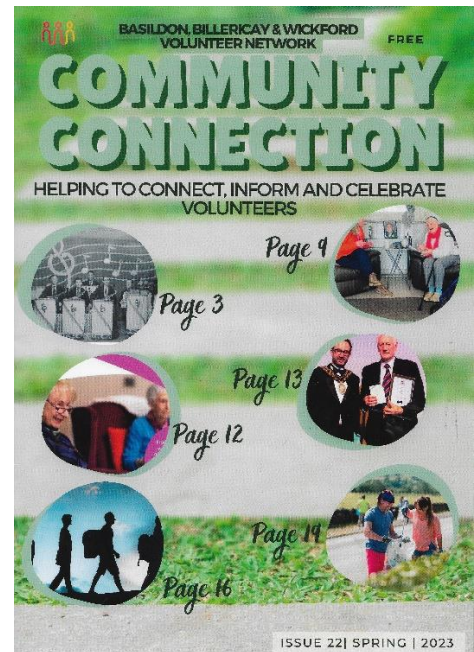
Community Connection

Basildon, Billericay and Wickford CVS (Council for Voluntary Services) formed back in 1979 as an independently registered charity. It exists to promote, develop, support and represent a thriving, effective voluntary and community sector in the Borough.

volunteer@bbwcv.org.uk – 01268 194420

They produce approximately every three months a magazine 'Community Connection' and for the past three years it has included our following articles:

- German P.O.W camp 266 Langdon Hills
- Basildon's Glass Bell Tower
- Nathaniel Woodard Educationist
- 70 years of Royal Visits
- Plotlands parts 1 to 6
- Basildon Twinning
- The Christmas Truce (WWI)
- Pitsea Hall Island
- War Tyler Park-Explosive Factory
- VE & VJ Day in Essex



Overseas Friends.

We are regular attendees at both Santa Barbara and Ventura Genealogical Societies zoom meetings, even with an eight-hour time difference and our presence is much appreciated.

Our involvement generally means helping their members trying to get through “the Brick Walls” associated with the Puritan and Quaker migration in the seventeenth century and, in particular, providing what social history we can establish.

It is particularly pleasing that one of our latest booklets based upon the Iron Age Tribes of Britain has become a source of visiting research for one Ventura family currently based and working in Wales.

Also, the Latest link-up from Ventura required some research into the aristocratic family associated with Heslington Hall in North Yorkshire. This will undoubtedly require our tracing of ancestral lines associated with the families who owned property and associated farm lands from the thirteenth century. The name has transported to modern day Ventura in California.



Heslington Hall- Ancestral Home of Lord Yarbrough

Meanwhile we still work with a member from Santa Barbara on her many lines of similar status and we have made a recent breakthrough into a complicated family on her

paternal line involving newspaper research, murder and adoption etc.

Equally, they share their skills via lectures and we are part of that process. The latest lecture given by Robin McCarthy on 17th May, from the Santa Barbara Society, was for the Special Interest Groups and the use of available technology in data management of information using the “OneTab” system.

Day in history.

28th January 1547 – On this day in 1547, Henry VIII, king of England and Ireland, died. Many people consider Henry VIII one of England’s most colorful and controversial monarchs. His desire to sire a male heir led him to marry six different women. He executed two of those wives, Ann Boleyn and Katharine Howard. It was Henry’s desire to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, that led England to split from the Catholic Church; Henry VIII then formed his own church, the Church of England. The decision led to the English Reformation and centuries and centuries of religious battles.

29th January 1942 – As World War II entered its third year, the Soviet Union and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Alliance with Iran on this day. The Allies viewed Iran as a valuable source of oil, which they needed to defeat the Nazi juggernaut. Great Britain and the Soviets invaded Iran – or Persia, as Winston Churchill preferred to call the country – in August 1941. Once all sides signed the Treaty of Alliance, the Iranians allowed the Allies to move supplies through the country through the “Persian Corridor.” In exchange, the Allies promised to protect Iran and leave within six months after the end of the war.

30th January 1948 – On this day in a move that sent shock waves around the world, a Hindu fanatic assassinated Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the political and spiritual leader of

India's movement for independence from Great Britain.

31st January 1919 – Jackie Robinson, the standout African American baseball player who would integrate major league baseball, was born on this day. In 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers owner Branch Rickey asked Robinson to play for the team. Robinson played his first game for the Dodgers that year and won the National League Rookie of the Year Award.

Booklets.

Since the last newsletter we have produced the following booklets/pamphlets:

Hannah Lake – A Founding Mother of America
Iron Age Tribes in Britain
The shops of Vange High Road
Short History of Basildon
A Tribute to Basildon

Facts about March

1/ In the Roman calendar, March was the first month of the year!

2/ March comes from the Roman god, Mars, the God of War. His Greek equivalent is Ares! (God of War or more properly, the spirit of battle.)

3/ The Saxons had two names for March: - "Hyld monath" (stormy month) and "Hraed monath" (rugged month)!

5/ March's birthstones are aquamarine and bloodstone! – Aquamarine is known as the stone of calm, whereas Bloodstone is stone of courage!

6/ The birth flower of March is a Daffodil!

7/ Every year, March and June finish on the same day of the year!

8/ If your birthday is between March 21st and April 19th, you are Aries! – Aries are bold, optimistic and very loyal!

9/ The first day of Spring is usually between March 19th and March 21st!

10/ The Vernal Equinox occurs around March, 20th or 21st. This is when the sun is directly above the equator and day and night are the same length!

Photographs and Artifacts

Although we have a database of around 40,000 photographs of the Borough we are still looking out for more, for example we have just been given a photograph of Pitsea station of around 1910 that we did not have.

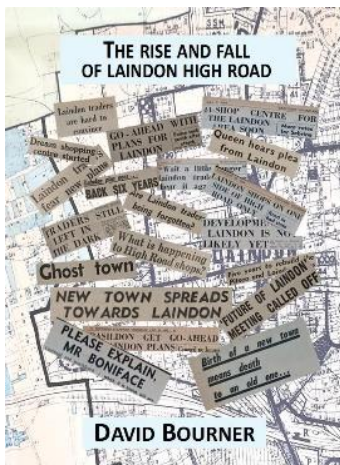


With regards to artifacts that we display at the Green Centre we have also just been given a cross from an individual from Stanstead, it had been in the family for many years but did not know how idea they came to have it. It had been presented to Rev. Reynolds who was Rector of Laindon Cum Basildon in 1948 by Frank Larkins who had made it from wood from the roof of St Andrews-Under-Shaft in the City of London that had been destroyed by Death Watch Beetles.



New Book Release

After several months of researching the newspapers and other documents and books at the heritage centre, volunteer David Bournier has had the following book published – **‘THE RISE AND FALL OF LAINDON HIGH ROAD’**. The book is available for collection from our office at the Green Centre, Wat Tyler Park for £10 plus £2 if we have to post. If you would like us to put one by, please contact us via our email basildonheritage@outlook.com or via our website.



This is the story of the Laindon High Road, from its inception as a shopping hub in the early 1900's through to its trading peak in the 1950's and then its battle for survival against the might of the Basildon New Town developers (and their bulldozers) in the 1960's. It also tells how, out of that struggle, a new shopping centre was created. Then demolished.



Littoral Press
BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
HERITAGE SOCIETY



Coming Events

Talk – 9th June, St Andrews Church, Wickford
7pm – ‘Changing Face of Basildon’

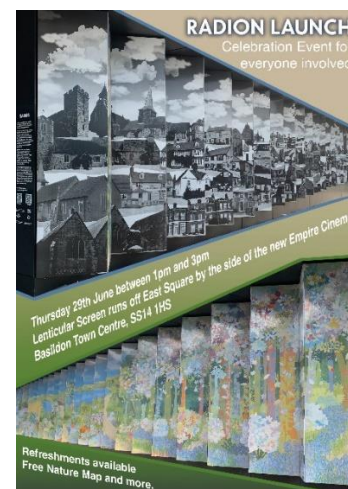
Army's Forces Day – 24th June – Town Centre.

Radion Project Launch– 29th June by the New Cinema in the Town Centre 1 – 3pm

As many of you might be aware, Basildon Heritage has been supporting a project called ‘Radion’ which has included a public lenticular screen in Basildon Town Centre, beside the new Empire Cinema. Many heritage Members and Friends suggested local pieces of heritage past or present which has included everything from buildings, monuments and public art. There are 100 pieces of heritage on the panoramic design and an audion tour showing the history of those pieces, many spoken by Heritage members.

The nature side was a collaboration with ten local primary schools in Basildon including: Ryedene, Lee Chapel, Millhouse, Fairhouse, Pionner, Janet Duke, Noak Bridge, Great Berry, Northlands and Ghyllgrove Primary School. The nature side depicts key natural spaces around the borough with over 2000 custom leaf rubbings digitally inserted, each one from a different local student.

We would like to invite you to a celebration event on Thursday 29th June, between 1pm and 3pm. Pop by anytime between then, refreshments will be available.



All Saints Church Vange – Display of Vange and Pitsea Photographs

AGM - Saturday 15th July at 11am.

All members welcome

Basildon's Carnival -29th July – Northlands Park

Wickford Carnival – 9th September

Blue Plaque to be unveiled for Marion Wilberforce at Nevendon Manor, Wickford – date to be announced.

Family History Research

If you are interested in researching your family history, why not come along and have chat with us. We will be more than willing to help.

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.

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'. If you buy through Amazon, use their charity site Amazon Smile. 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.

John Baron Fund Walk

With fund raising in mind, we have for the past few years taken part in the Fund Walk. The Fund Walk Trust. A registered charity, organizes the annual Essex Fun Walk, leaving charities and local good causes free to focus on raising sponsorship money. A bonus pot donated by local businesses tops up any money raised.

If you are willing to sponsor us you can do so by going to our website 'basildonheritage@outlook.com' – click on research then click on donate – enter amount, then have a choice pf Paypal or pay with credit card – thank you.

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, 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.

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 or contact us via the website and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

