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September 2023 Newsletter 48

A Summer's Day-By Sue Ranford

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day,
With hordes of insects buzzing away.

The sun blazing out from a clear, blue sky,
While an ice-cream van goes chiming by.

Smoke from the barbecue party next door
Stings my eyes, - and what's more

The volume of music is way too high,
I wish that summer would soon pass by.

The temperature is rising, the forecast grim,
Another hot day for us to bake in.

A trip to the beach seems a good idea,
With cans of coke and ice-cold beer.

It's like an oven inside the car,
Turn on the air-con, we're not going far.

The roads are busy, the pace is slow,
We feel disheartened so home we go.

Another day spent in a traffic queue,
Tempers fraying, the air very blue.

Please don't compare me to a summer's day,
Try autumn, winter or springtime in May!

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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:

BBC Essex Quest – 18th June



We were the first location the Quest team of Liana and Barry had to visit on this Sunday their clue was: ***A tealight fuse visited the Ashmolean to borrow non-fiction. Hannah is a presidential ancestor –***

I wonder how many of you can work out where they met us.

(* A tealight is a candle-and fuse is known as a **Wick**)

* The Ashmolean is a museum at the University of Oxford (**Ford**)/Oxford)

* You might borrow a non-fiction book from a **Library**)

Well! It was Wickford Library where we had previously erected a Blue Plaque in honour of ***Hannah Lake – A Founder Mother of America.***



Armed Forces Day – 24th June – Town Centre.

Not only did we have our usually Gazebo there displaying various appropriate pictures etc. but two

of our volunteers acted as stewards for the council when the marches took place.



Radion Project launch – 29th June – Town Centre.

A few days after Armed Forces Day we were back again in the Town Centre for a few hours to launch the Radion Project.

The mayor and several councillors and council official were there mingling among the spectators and children from the various schools who took part in the project



Coffee Morning Saturday 22nd July

We had a very successful coffee morning, the theme being family history. Approximately forty members of the public turned up for coffee, tea, biscuits and a chat and look at our displays or talk to our experts on family history research. Many bought historical articles and artifacts along for us. One such article was the following poem on the old Pitsea, Barge pub, and we love our poems:

The Barge Inn

This is a tale of the old Barge Inn,
A pub you'll always be welcome in.

Ted is the governor of the Barge,
Now there's a fellow whose heart is large.

Lily's the barmaid called 'Tia Maria'
Whose friendly smiles just couldn't be freer.

Amy's the other barmaid here,
She's been known to drink Ginger beer!

Richard's the chap who brings in the beer,
Now there's a lad you'd like to have near!

And then there's Alan who snogs in the 'Off',
No wonder he's always got a bad cough!

Tommy (the potman) without a doubt,
Likes his Mild with a drop of Stout.

And then we have our cleaner Flo,
She says a Guinness makes you "Get up and go".

So now we come to our customers all –
Some thin, some fat, some short, some tall –

Bill the Barber – he often comes in –
He's the chap who likes Gordon's gin.

Harry, Bill's mate, is gay and frisky,
He likes a drop of Teacher's whiskey.

Old Bill Murray the paper man,
Drinks pints of Mild whenever he can.

Then there's Albert – He's a gas fitter –
He wouldn't say no to a Light and Bitter.

Charlie Allen – a man about town,
He prefers Export mixed with Brown.

Dick is the fellow with all the cheek –
He wants a free pint at least once a week!

Wally drinks pints of Mild and Bitter,
He says it makes him feel much fitter.

Mr. Leeks – known to his friends as 'Ted'.
Is always grateful for a pint of 'Red'.

Chris with "Peachey's" across his back,
Says he would prefer a whisky-Mac.

A pint of Ale is Jim Wallace's drink,
It keeps him healthy and in the pink.

Ned drinks Bitter when he comes in
He follows this with a drop of Gin.

So, here's to them all I've mentioned before,
May good luck follow you out of the door.

And here's to the rest whose names I don't know,
May good luck be with you wherever you go.

Author – Unknown

We know Ted the governor was Ted Gahan and father of one of our trustees Geraldine Evans, but does anybody know the others referred to and who the author might have been.

Due to its success, we have decided to have another coffee morning on Saturday 19th August at 10am.

Basildon Carnival 29th July.



Our float with our volunteers dressed in 1950 outfits

We entered the parade for the second year – this year we had several of our volunteers dressed in 1950s outfits. The parade started from De La Salle school and ending in Northlands Park, where we had set up our display gazebo. The parade took over an hour and a half, but was well worth it. Weather held

and it was a most enjoyable day. Congratulations to the organisers.



Peter Sloper who supports us - second prize



The Mayor, escort Milaela Robinson, the mayors cousin, Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Heiligenaus, Germany.

Marion Wilberforce – Blue Plaque



On the 9th August the Chief Executive of the RAF Museum Maggie Appleton unveiled blue plaque in honour of

Marion Wiberforce at Nevendon Manor. In attendance were several members of Marion’s family and a number of other dignitaries including the Mayor Of Basildon, Luke McKenzie, MP for Rayleigh and Wickford, Mark Francois and members of the Womens Commemoration Committee.



Marion Welberforce (1902-1995) was one of the unsung female pilots and one of the first ever members of the Women’s Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA).

She was chosen as 2nd in Command of this new group of women who were tasked with one of the most hazardous jobs in aviation – ferrying brand-new aircraft (Hurricane and Spitfire) to and from factories, to operational RAF stations. By the end of the war , she was one of the few women flying Lancaster and Sterling bombers.

She lived at nevendon Manor for forty years (1931-1971)



Overseas Friends

In recent weeks we have presented the third part of our Trilogy on the History of Freemasonry to Ventura County Genealogical Society, which was very well received and has generated another request from a member to help research her ancestors, and as you may imagine, one family history of this seventeenth- and eighteenth-century period migrates into another already being undertaken and linked to the recent unveiling of the Blue Plaque installed at Wickford Library of Hannah Lake.

We continue to attend their Zoom presentations and, in turn, the name of Basildon Heritage has been transmitted to others who now join on a regular basis because of our being able to research this time period and present more social history.

Day in History

February 1st 1908

On this day in 1908, revolutionist assassinated King Carlos I of Portugal and his eldest son, Louis Filipe, as they rode through the streets of Lisbon, Portugal's capital.

February 2nd 1880

On this day the Brush Electric Light Company of Cleveland installed the first electric streetlight in Walbath, Indiana. The city paid the company \$100 to install the light on top of the courthouse. A month later, the city paid to have four more lights installed.

February 3rd 1468

On this day German inventor Johannes Gutenberg, whose printing press changed history, died.

Booklets:

Due to our heavy work load we have only produced the following booklets/pamphlets since the last newsletter.

Marion Wilberforce

1st Pitsea and Vange Scouts - The early years

Zepplin L32

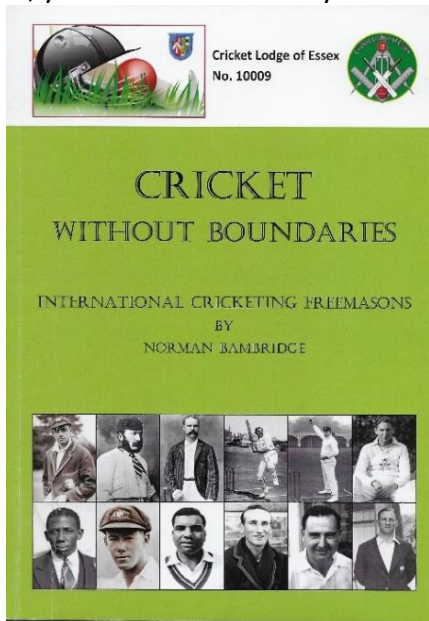
Facts about April

- "April" comes from the verb "Aperire", which means to open or bloom!
- April 1st is All April Fool's Day, believed to have begun in 16th Century France!
- The April birthstone is a diamond!
- The birth flowers for April are Sweet Pea, Tulip, and Daisy!
- The Titanic sank on its maiden voyage on April 12th 1912!
- Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth II were all born in April!
- If you were born between March 20th to April 19th your star sign is Aries! If born between April 20th and May 20th your star sign is Taurus!
- The phrase "April showers bring May flowers" comes from a poem written in the 1500's by Thomas Tusser! He wrote "Sweet April showers do bring May Flowers".
- No one knows why April is called April!



New Book Release -Cricket Without Boundaries by Norman Bambridge

Although the book is not on the Basildon Borough it has been researched by one of our active Volunteers. If you are interested in Freemasonry and Cricket, you will find this a very interesting read.

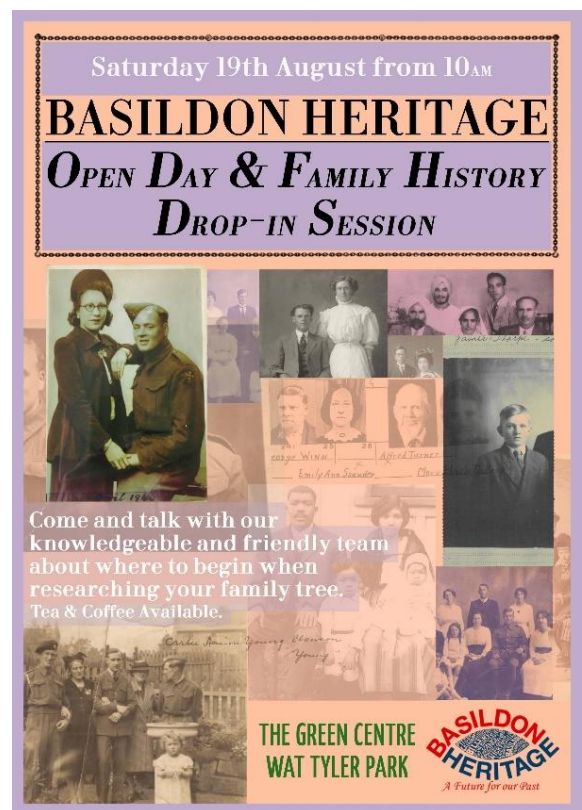


Family History Research

Due to the success of our coffee/family meeting morning on 22nd July we have decided to hold another one on the Saturday 19th August starting at 10am so come along and meet our experts, see our display and meet members of the Radion project.

Coming events

Gateway 97.8 Radio Project. By the time you receive this newsletter the project would have already started, in fact it was launched on Monday 31st July by Stephen Metcalf MP. It will run until the 26th August. So why not come along



Wickford Carnival

We will be at the Wickford Carnival on the 9th September.

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 Fun 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 of PayPal or pay with credit card – thank you.

We will be doing our walk in Wat Tyler Park on the 16th September, commencing 10.30 am.

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.

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.