



Basildon Borough Heritage & Museum Group August 2012 Newsletter

June and July, what a bumper two months....we were run off our feet. We held 17 photographic exhibitions across the Borough, plus manning our permanent display at the Green Centre, Wat Tyler Park.

The main themes were Royal Basildon and Sporting Basildon. We were only able to hold them because of a grant received from the Basildon Jubilee and Olympic funds and the Essex County Council Olympic Fund. This enabled us to purchase extra external and internal display boards, pop up banners, Gazebo (all-weather), digital Camera for us to take videos and photos and necessary consumables.



Even with all this additional equipment we would have struggled to have held them without volunteer help. I personally would like to thank those that gave up their time to help run these events.

In addition our members gave a number of talks on the history of our area and also had a table at St Nicholas Church Quiz night, where we came a respectable joint 2nd.

Ken.

Talks

9th May – United Reform Church, Billericay –
History of St Nicholas Church, Laindon – Ken Porter

9th May – Leigh History Society – History of Plotlands – Ken Porter

20th July - Ingaway Evangelical Church – Coffee Morning –
History of Lee Chapel – Ken Porter

2nd August – Vange Town Women's Guild – History of Vange and Plotlands – Jo Cullen.

All these talks were well attended.

Events

Royal Basildon Display at Wat Tyler Green Centre: We displayed our photo collection of Royal visits, Old Street Parties and events which celebrated this year's Diamond Jubilee up on our new boards and they were well received.

Basildon Market Jubilee Tea Party 2nd June:

A Very wet and windy start to the Jubilee celebrations, the market had its Own Queen for the day and a Diane Moore Show.



St Martin's Church Jubilee Tea Party 3rd June: On the off- chance, I popped into the church before work to see if they would like to have our Royal Basildon Boards for their tea

party that afternoon to which they agreed. I then went over to the tea party during my lunch break, it was unfortunately very poor weather so everybody was making the most of the event in the foyer of the church, it was very busy, with lots of food available and Royal memorabilia on display. Actually I was so busy talking to people, I lost track of time and went back to work 2 hours later (oops).



Bowers Gifford Jubilee fete 4th June: The day dawned and my heart sank, it looked as if it was going to be wet again but no, the sun came out and although not hot it was a dry day. The display was Royal Basildon and old photos of Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet. During busy spells we had to encourage people to come outside to talk, to allow others in. Lots of questions answered and information gathered. If invited next year we will take our new Gazebo, which is twice the size and more robust. Jo.

Paddocks Jubilee Party and Beacon lighting 4th June:

The jubilee day started at 11am and went on to midnight with the Mayor of Basildon, Mo Larkin lighting the beacon at the schedule time. We had our Royal Basildon and Laindon displays on show and several hundred people viewed them and talked about their memories while

soaking up the atmosphere.

There were plenty of refreshments for everybody and activities all day for children.

Those that stayed for the evening were entertained by a Shirley Bassey tribute singer. It was a tremendous day, just proving once again the public's affection for our Queen. Ken.





Holy Trinity Jubilee show 5th June: Now attending my fourth Jubilee party this week, I set up the boards in room at the side of the Church Hall which was decked out for the Diane Moore Jubilee Show.



After a fish and chip supper Diane Moore sung her first set, at the break she posed for photos with the boards and then announced that everyone should look at them, suddenly a surge of people came into the display room. The evening finished with another set of songs and some great dancing from me.

Craylands Activity Zone Jubilee Party 6th June: Many stalls had set up outside the Community Centre in the car park, including a massive climbing wall. Children seemed to be coming into the area from every direction. We had set up our display inside the hall and had interest from the parents throughout the day. There were too many children to all sit down together, so they had to queue for their food. This meant that by the time the hall was full some were finished and just wanted to rush outside making room for the next batch of children. The queue seemed never ending and I applaud the volunteers who kept the food coming and those who were painting faces of the children while they waited. When the last child was served the volunteers emerged from the kitchen with smiles on their faces and a well-earned cup of tea. Jo.

Lee Chapel North Community Centre Jubilee fete 8th June: We intended using our big new gazebo for this event by the shops in Ballards Walk but after we had struggled for half an hour to put it up the wind and the council's Health and Safety folks decided otherwise. Luckily for us we were able to share space in St Paul's Church Hall to display our "Royal Basildon" and "Basildon Past" boards. From 10am until 4pm we had a steady flow of people interested in our photos, many of them stopping to talk about their memories of "old" Basildon. Two of our visitors were Stephen Metcalfe MP and Tony Ball, leader of Basildon Council. A barbeque, tombola, free raffle, refreshments, craft stall, face painting and entertainment for young and old helped everyone visiting have a good day. The event was held to raise money for "Help for Heroes". Denise.



Civic service St Martins' church 11th June: We attended the service with our Royal and Sporting Basildon boards for all the local councillors, the Mayor and Lord Petre to view. The service was led by Esther McCafferty and was very good even though the Mayor of Chelmsford had to step in to play the organ because the organist failed to turn up on time due to traffic problems. Afterwards we all went into the pastoral centre for a buffet tea, which was much appreciated as I had

gone there straight from work.

Vange Church wedding tea party 16th June: A wonderful day with display boards of Vange photos and over 150 visitors. Jo.

St Martins' Church fete 16th June: A Great day with our Royal Basildon boards and plenty of visitors. Val.

James Hornsby High School Open day 23rd June: A good day with Our Royal and Sporting Basildon boards. Jo.

Great Burstead Fete 23rd June: Although very traditional it always generates a great deal of interest. We had over 200 visitors and being sited next to the Cater Museum display was constructive and helpful. With a large variety of participants including a dog show, brass band, karate and produce for sale there was something to appeal to everyone. My favourite was from Chelmsford model railway club, the star being a miniature welder at the dry dock into which a train ran. Little sparks were flying as he diligently worked away. Val



Olympic Torch relay 6th July: Wow, what a fantastic day for Basildon over sixty five thousand people lined the streets to view this historic day for our Borough. We had our Sporting Basildon Boards in a prominent position in the foyer of the Sporting Village. It created a considerable amount of interest for many people of all ages, with the older generation enjoying reminiscing and the younger ones fascinated by how times have changed.

Having a keen interest in all sports this was very enjoyable for me personally with the added bonus of the Olympic flame appearing in the athletic stadium to meet the local dignitaries on one of its many relay legs.

Pictured are all the torch bearers in the relay, Marc Grayson from Basildon with the torch at the Sporting Village and George Jeffrey from Wickford kissing torches with Holly Worthington. Robin



St Martins' Church Olympic service 8th July:

The evening can only be described as absolutely brilliant. The three torchbearers were present, Marc Grayston, George Jeffrey and Tricia Sharpe. They were extremely patient considering all the questions

that were being put to them; they even added a few anecdotes themselves.

Andrew Merchant of BBC Essex introduced everybody including RAF Flight Sergeants Poole and Hepworth who put questions to the Japanese Olympic Swimming Team Coaches. Kander who is 63 years of age has been coaching 30 years and Sasuki who wants to become a PE teacher has already coached one person to a Gold Medal. Our Tim does not speak Japanese and the swimming coaches did not speak any English but this did not stop him getting his photograph taken with them plus the torch bearers, the Mayor and holding the Olympic Torch. Val.



Craylands Activity Zone Cazlympics 27th July:

We attended this children's holiday club event with our Sporting Boards. They had various races and a taster of different foods from various countries.



Lee Chapel North Holiday Club Alternative Olympics 30th July: Another children's club Olympic event which hosted our Sporting Boards. This club had an opening parade with George Jeffrey and his Olympic Torch as special guests and various races.

Pitsea tip

At the end of July five of us had a very interesting tour around the land raised tip (yes it's a land raised tip not a landfill site). Although it was a tight squeeze in the land rover, the driver gave us a full insight into the tremendous amount of work that is going on in an attempt to recreate a wild life site.



Coming events

August various dates: Royal Basildon and Sporting Basildon at various Libraries.

All of August: Sporting Basildon at Wat Tyler Green Centre.

18th August Maru Karate Kai: Open day, Luncies Road Meeting Hall, Sporting Basildon.

26th August Festival of Flame: Wat Tyler Park, Various Borough photos, Sporting Basildon and Royal Basildon.

8/9th September More than Gold Event St Nicholas' Church: Laindon and Sporting Basildon.

8/9th September Barleylands Country show: Photos from all of Basildon Borough.

9-11th Nov St Martins' Church 50th anniversary: photos of the church and surrounding areas.

24th Nov St Martins' Church fete: photos of the church and surrounding areas.

Projects

We are currently working on a number of projects but we will tell you more about them in the next newsletter.

Forth Coming Talks

20th August – St John's, Langdon Hills – Over 50s Club – History of Langdon Hills/Plotlands – Ken Porter

26th September – Forum of Faiths - History of St Nicholas Church, Laindon – Ken Porter

10th October – Breath easy Group – History of Wickford – Jo Cullen

6th November – Kingswood, Basildon Business Ladies – History of Plotlands – Ken Porter.

The Basildon Heritage Team

Ken Porter – Chair and Treasurer

Robin Biddulph – Researcher

Jo Cullen – Manager

Valerie Hurley – Minute/Membership Secretary

Andrew Jagers – Researcher

Eric Lamb – Researcher

Sue Ranford – Design/Researcher

Denise Rowling – Photo Archive/Researcher

Remember we are still on the lookout for more volunteers and researchers; it is great fun why not come along and meet us at the Green Centre Wat Tyler – Monday and Wednesday mornings 10am to 1pm or Saturdays 10am to 4pm.

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