



## Newsletter of Basildon Borough Heritage and Museum Group for **May 2012.**

*A Future for our past*

### **Secretary**

We are sorry to have to report that the group's secretary Sue Randle passed away in early February after a long fight against cancer. She will be sadly missed; she had been the group's secretary since its conception four years ago. She was the group's rock,



we are now benefiting from her enthusiasm and vision and it is so disappointing that she cannot witness the strides that the Group has made in recent months. Our thoughts are with the family who struggle to overcome their loss.

### **The Green Centre**

The new Green Centre at Wat Tyler was officially opened on

the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012 by Bob Neill (Thames Gateway Minister). So in addition to being open on Monday and Wednesday 10am to 1pm we are also open all day Saturday 10am to 4pm. Please call in and talk to our Volunteers and learn about Basildon Heritage. You never know you might like to join us.

### **Current initiatives**

In addition to our general photographic displays on the Borough and the collecting of Basildon Memories, we are this year holding exhibitions around the Borough on 'Royal Basildon' and 'Basildon Sporting Heritage.'

Royal Basildon is about collecting and displaying photographs of Royal visits and the various celebrations that have taken place, such as previous Jubilee

and Royal wedding parties.

Basildon Sporting Heritage is also about the collecting and displaying of photographs of Basildon Sporting History but in addition we are collating a data base of all the sporting and leisure activities in the area.

We have been successful in obtaining three grants from Basildon Council Olympic Fund (£1758), Basildon Council Jubilee Fund (1780) and Essex County Council 2012 Olympic Fund (£400) to help us purchase the necessary equipment to hold the Basildon Sporting Heritage project.

You will find details of the Groups various events throughout the summer and we would be pleased to see you a long at any of them

We are also working on a longer term project 'Roll of Honour'. The initiative is to produce Loose Leaf Leather binders of names and information on those heroes who sacrificed their lives in the various conflicts starting with the First World War. We will produce two volumes:

Volume 1 will cover the parishes of Laindon, Langdon Hills, Lee Chapel, Dunton and Basildon. Volume 2 will cover Pitsea, Vange, Bowers Gifford, North Benfleet, and Nevendon. We are aware that Wickford and Billericay have their own roll of honour publication although we have as yet not established whether they cover the Ramsden's and Burstead's, if not we will produce a third Volume.

We will then supply a binder to all the libraries in the Borough, parish churches, Basildon Council, British Legion and the Essex Record Office.

We intend to have the first Roll of Honour information available for all the parishes by 2014 the 100th anniversary of the First World War and in 2015 information on the Second World War being the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of that War. Later conflicts will be added as and when.



If you believe you might have any information or photographs of those that lost their lives fighting for our country please get in touch, also if you would like to help in the research of this project why not pop in to the Green Centre to see us.

## **Talks**

This year we have given three talks on the History of Basildon. One to the Fobbing Ladies business group and the Leigh History Society on the plotland era and the effect Scottish farmers had on the area. Both these talks were given by Ken who will not do one unless he has tea and biscuits. In fact the Fobbing talk included his lunch. Jo gave a talk on Pitsea to the Rainbow Club (Disabled and partially blind)

All the talks were well attended.

## **Events to date (2012)**

**Vange Library** – Exhibition of Old Vange and Basildon New Town Photographs were on show from the 10<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> January with memory days held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Fairhouse School** – Exhibition of the Old Parish of Basildon photographs was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Fryerns Library** – Exhibition of Nevendon and Basildon photographs were on display from the 14<sup>th</sup> February to the 28<sup>th</sup> February with a memory day being held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Paddocks Hall, Laindon** – Exhibition of Royal Basildon and Basildon Sporting Heritage was held in conjunction with the Laindon & District Community Archive Group on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Manor Mission, Laindon** – Supporting a Laindon and District community archive group exhibition of Laindon Photographs. We supplied the Roll of Honour project and Royal Basildon. It was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Wat Tyler, Green Centre** – General Display of Basildon Borough along side the current projects, Royal Basildon, Basildon Sporting Heritage and Roll of Honour. This was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April as part of Basildon Council St Georges Day celebrations.

## **Coming Events.**

All the coming events will include Royal Basildon and Basildon's Sporting heritage.

**19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May** at the Essex Wild Life Centre Dunton 9am to 5pm in conjunction with the Laindon and District Community Archive Group. – Laindon Plotlands

**24<sup>th</sup> May** at the Basildon Sporting Village – ‘Sparks will Fly’ 3pm to 8pm

**4<sup>th</sup> June** at Westlake Park, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford 9am to 5pm. Bowers Gifford Jubilee Fete - General (Bowers Gifford area).

**4<sup>th</sup> June** at the Paddocks Hall, Pound Lane, Laindon 10am to 5pm. Jubilee Party Day – Local area.

**8<sup>th</sup> June** at Ballards Walk Shops, Lee Chapel North 10am to 4pm. Jubilee Fun Day – Local area.

**16<sup>th</sup> June** at Vange Church – Basildon Sporting Heritage and General

**23<sup>rd</sup> June** at James Hornsby High School – Basildon Sporting Heritage.

**23<sup>rd</sup> June** at Great Burstead Church 9am to 5pm – Summer fete – Royal Basildon – General



**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> September** at St Nicholas Church, Laindon 11/12 noon to 5pm – Bi-annual flower festival (Going for Gold) – In conjunction with the Laindon and District Community Archive Group.

**2<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June** at the Green Centre, Wat Tyler Park – Jubilee exhibition – Royal Basildon – our normal opening hours.

**2<sup>nd</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.** at the Green Centre, Wat Tyler Park – Basildon Sporting Heritage – our normal opening hours.

We are still adding dates to our list so please keep in touch with our web site. [www.basildonheritage.com](http://www.basildonheritage.com) or [basildonheritage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:basildonheritage@hotmail.co.uk) (email) and on facebook Basildon Heritage.

## **Merchandise**

We have on sale various old photo's of the Borough and various books by local

authors. By September we will have available 2012 Calendars of Old Photographs.

## **The Basildon Heritage Team**

Just in case you do not have a computer we have listed below the current team:

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Ken Porter – Chair and Treasurer  
Robin Biddulph - Researcher  
Jo Cullen - Manager  
Tim Edmeades – I.T./Administration  
Valerie Hurley – Minute/Membership Secretary  
Andrew Jagers - Researcher  
Eric Lamb - Researcher  
Sue Ranford – Design/Researcher  
Denise Rowling – Photo Archive/Researcher

As already indicated we are looking for more volunteers, it is great fun why not come along and meet us.

**We wish you a great summer.**

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