

Basildon Borough Heritage

July 2016

Newsletter Number 23



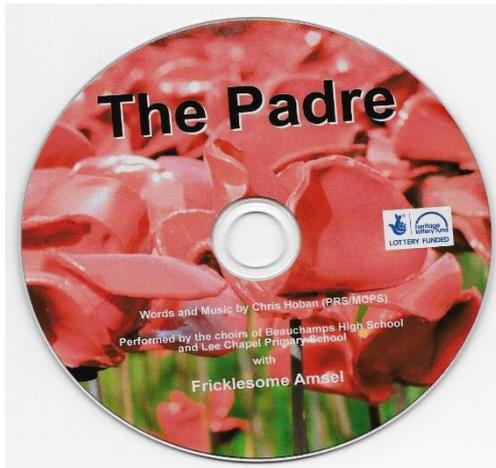
WORLD WAR 1 - FORGET NEVER – THE SOMME

With reference to our May 2016 newsletter (number 22) we have been successful in obtaining another Heritage Lottery Grant to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

We launched our project on the 20th May at the Basildon Centre. At the launch our project patron, Mr Stephen Metcalfe (M.P.) said: *“This project has the potential to build on our previous successes and provide an opportunity for many parts of our community to get a better understanding of what things were like for ordinary men and women in Basildon, Heiligenhaus and Meaux (our twinning partners in Germany and France) 100 years ago.”*



A brief description was then given of the events planned so far:



The program started on 10th/12th June with a visit from Fricklesome Amsel a folk group from Heiligenhaus who performed in our 'Sons of Three Countries Remembered' production in 2014 at St Martins Church and at Heiligenhaus in 2015 and is going to be perform in Meaux, France on the 6th November 2016.

This time they are coming over to record a CD with Lee Chapel South and Beauchamp Schools. The song to be recorded is 'Padre' and will be available from the 1st July at £3.

The recordings were carried out at the Basildon Music Academy. A most enjoyable day involving 120 children.

On Friday 1st July the day the official start of the Battle of the Somme of 100 years ago, we held a Vigil at 7.15am at St Martins Church – It was a short service of about half an hour. We started the proceedings with a muffled Bell, a poem read by the Woodlands School pupils, 2 minute silence and the launch of 'The Padre' CD and followed by breakfast in the Church Hall



Although 1st July is the official start date of the Battle of the Somme, the bombardment by the British actually started on the 24th June. From this date until the 11th November, the final day of the Somme Offensive is 147 days. We have produced a loose leaf book to cover the 147 days with a brief description. This book is on display in St Martins Church and a page is being turned every

day. We have also a film involving 147 children from Beauchamps School with a countdown of daily facts about the Somme to be shown at the Exhibition in November. Each day is being shown on our facebook page.

Wednesday 13th July at 6pm the Basildon All Stars will be playing a cricket match at Wickford against Wickford Cricket Club to remember Richard Bartlett a member of the club who lost his life at the Battle of the Somme. Hopefully relatives of Richard will be in attendance for the presentation. In our side will be ex Essex player Chris Gladwin

On 15/16/17/18 September we will be visiting the Somme with some young folk to film and meet up with a French enthusiast and record a French view of the battle of the Somme. There will also be a visit to the First World War Museum in Meaux

1916 was the year conscription was introduced and Dawn Knox, the author of 'The Sons of Three Countries Remembered' has written a new play 'A Fair Hearing 1916'. The aim is to get local secondary schools to perform the play and film it sometime in September/October. James Hornsby, Woodlands and Beauchamp Schools have so far shown an interest.

On 5th November we are off to Meaux, France to perform the production 'The Sons of Three Countries Remembered' This again will possibly include another visit to the World's largest First World War Museum at Meaux

The visit will be open to families, groups and individuals, we will be completing the tour details in September, so if anybody is interested in attending please let us know.

A Glass memorial is being manufactured to commemorate the 49 Basildon men, 12 Meaux men and 7 Heiligenhaus men who died on the Somme. Identical memorials will be presented to each of the three town Councils.

In November we will be organising the planting of trees with the support of Woodland Trust in various sites around the Borough. The offer is for Schools and Organisations to plant a tree, investigate a man who died on the Somme from the Borough and dedicate the tree to him.

We are also looking into the possibility of planning a Somme 'Avenue of Trees' to remember the 68 men who died in this tragic conflict.

Then on the 19/20th November we will be holding an Exhibition at the Green Centre, Wat Tyler. The theme for this project will centre on Conscription, Women's role in the workforce at the time, nursing at home and

at the front and life in the trenches. We are looking for all groups who are participating in this project to contribute to the exhibition.

We have already booked ‘The Great War Society, who intend to recreate a working front line hospital tent, Cribbs local funeral directors, and a small singing group (Sentimental Journey) will be singing songs of the period.

We still need help, we would like to put on a military drill presentation, a physical fitness display, assault course and for children get them playing the sort of games they played 100 years ago, so if you are aware of any groups who might be interested please get in touch. We are also looking for artefacts

A film will be produced of the entire project, which will be a useful educational resource and help meet one of our obligations ‘to create a legacy for the residents of the Borough of Basildon’, a condition for receiving the generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The following is a list of our partners to date: Lee Chapel South School, Vange school, Woodlands School, Beachamps School, James Hornsby School, Wickford Archive Group, Laindon Archive group, Wickford Cricket Club, Lisa – The Laboratory, Woodlands Trust, Basildon Sea Cadets, Basildon Civil Military Partnership, Papworth Trust, Yellow Advertiser, St Martins Church, Dot production, Tesco, Veolia, Basildon Council and our friends the Basildon Twinning Association.

The following is a translation of the piece placed by Hannes Johannsen in Heiligenhause local paper. – WAZ Newspaper.)

The Blackbirds are chirping in Heiligenhaus - . Twin town Basildon

Heiligenhaus’ band, Fricklesome Amsel‘have recorded a song with 120 school children in Basildon. (frickelig means fiddly so I suppose if you were going to translate the band’s name, it would be the Fiddling blackbirds...)



Of course we were excited, 3 musicians from the band, Peter Klaus, Rieke Ullenbaum and Hannes Johannsen. None of us had rehearsed the song – a song, The Padre, which was in the production “The Sons of Three Countries Remembered” played on 12 November 2015 in a theatre in Heiligenhaus,

4 *Figure 1 Lee Chapel South with Hannes*

and now it was to be recorded in a studio in Basildon with 120 school children. With only a piano piece by Bernd Liffers, recorded in Heiligenhaus, in our luggage, we set off.

You can arrange a lot via email, but you don't get an idea of the general atmosphere, or the excitement or of your own requirements in order to give your of best.

You still feel like an ambassador for your own home town. And then 112 schoolchildren, aged 6 – 15 years of age (Lee Chapel Primary School and Beauchamps High School), arrived at the recording studio by coach in 4 groups one after another, with whom I conducted a short rehearsal in order that I could conduct the choirs in accordance with the band's requests and requirements. In between tuning in my own guitar and singing (backing singer) At the same time the children's questions also had to be answered: "What will happen if I fail? Do you know more songs than this?" etc



In between the mayhem, apart from answering the many questions from the Basildon committee, Pete had to take care of his own voice (he is the lead singer) and keep an eye on the mixer (which records all sounds for the final mix) and Rieke had to bring 2 violins together. And in between all this they were interviewed for a radio programme. (Gateway FM)

Figure 2 Beauchamps school with Hannes

By the time ears were too tired and the last tuner on the mixer was tuned, the day had taken its toll. But we weren't too tired. After a short break an evening on the Thames had been planned. I don't remember what type of beer we drank, but it was most welcome. The next morning we began the journey home – somehow it always seems to take an entire day. Now, several days later, we have had time to reflect on what the last few days brought and we are happy and grateful to have been able to take part in this project. Brexit – in or out – friendships of the best kind have been forged.

WWI GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR

As reported in an early addition of the Newsletter there was at Langdon Hills a WW2 Prisoner of War Camp known as Hut 266. It opened in April 1945 and closed around July 1948. As we know a number of the prisoners stayed

behind and married local girls. Many of those that went home kept in touch for many years with the English families they had befriended. One young man, Hans Nagler who returned to Germany had in fact fathered a daughter who we believe may have been called Marian(ne) and carried a photograph of her in his wallet for the rest of his life.

He married in Germany and had two children (Girl and Boy). The girl, Christa Pusch (nee Nagler) has written to us to see if there is any way that we can trace her half-sister who would be about 70 years of age. Christa only became aware of the possibility of having a half-sister when her father died and found the photograph in his wallet.

One of the problems is that other than being at the Langdon Hills 266 he was registered at several others:

Camp 177 Warth Mills Camp, Bury, Lancashire
Camp 259 Weekly, Kettering, Northampton
Camp 95 Batford Camp, Harpenden, Hertfordshire
Camp 186 Berechurch Hall, Colchester, Essex

The assumption is that he met a lady on a farm, fell in love and fathered Marian(ne). This is obviously a very long shot but is there anybody out there who might remember Hans Nagler, please get in touch.

Other Heritage Events

Current Green Centre Exhibition –
Down Memory Lane – Old A13 in Photographs from Five Bells to Sadlers
Farm

Thursday 7th July 10am – Methodist Church Vange
Townswomen Guild - Talk – Basildon Famous

Saturday 9th July 11am-4pm – Wickford Memorial Park
'Wickford at the Somme' Display...refer leaflet

Saturday 23rd July – Basildon Carnival (Northlands Park)
Basildon Photographic Display

Sunday 21st August – Green Centre
Essex Field Club Open Day
Photographic Display

Saturday/Sunday 10/11th September 10am – 5pm
Barleylands – Local History Photographic Display

Tuesday 25 October 2.30pm – High Ladies Group
High House, Horndon-on-the-Hill
Talk – Changing Face of Basildon over the last 150 years

Saturday/Sunday 19th/20th November 11am -4pm
Green Centre – WWI Commemoration Exhibition
Basildon at the Somme

Friday 25th November –Talk – S E Essex Federation of Towns Women’s Guild
11am
Basildon Civic Centre – Changing face of Basildon over the last 150 years.

Photographs and Memories

Do not forget we are still after your photographs, memories and artefacts of the Borough. Why not call in at the Green Centre at Wat Tyler and have a chat and a cup of tea with us.

Future Newsletters

If you would like a copy of future newsletters by email please let us know by sending in an email or speak to one of our volunteers.

Web site: www.basildonheritage.org.uk. Email Info@basildonheritage.org.uk

We are also on Facebook: Basildon Heritage

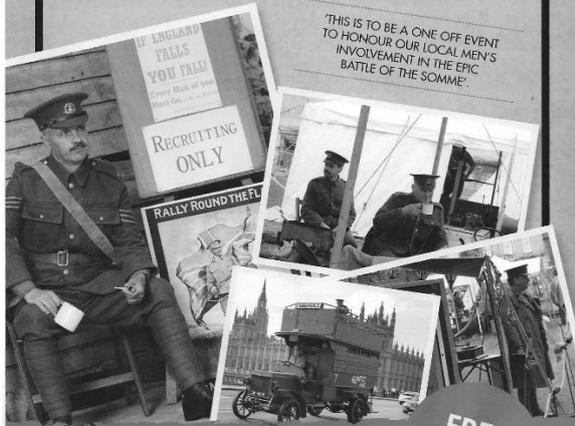
ExxonMobil

BasildonCouncil
BASILDON • BILLERICAY • WICKFORD



1 AT WICKFORD THE SOMME

COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME
THE MEMORIAL PARK - WICKFORD
SATURDAY 9 JULY 2016 - 11am to 4pm



THIS IS TO BE A ONE OFF EVENT
TO HONOUR OUR LOCAL MEN'S
INVOLVEMENT IN THE EPIC
BATTLE OF THE SOMME.

For further information please contact:
www.wickfordmemorial.com

**FREE
ENTRY**

World War I

FORGET NEVER – THE SOMME

Basildon • Heiligenhaus • Meaux

Forget Never, Oublier Jamais, Vergessen Niemals



Programme

- 10th June** Recording CD 'The Padre'
- 1st July** Start of The Somme Assault Vigil St. Martin's Church, Basildon 07.15
- 13th July** Richard Bartlett Memorial Cricket Match at Wickford Cricket Club. Start of play 18.00
- 15th-18th September** Visit to Somme Battlefields and Meaux Museum of The Great War
- 5th November** 'Sons of Three Countries Remembered' performance in Meaux
- 19th/20th November** The Somme Exhibition at Wat Tyler Green Centre 10.00-16.00

The project includes work on Medical advancements and conditions including production of a stop frame animation film.
Exploring Conscription and the role of women at the front and at home
Researching poetry and art and opinions from Britain, France and Germany

Project Patron: **Stephen Metcalfe MP**

To find out more:-

Email: forgetnever1418@outlook.com Blog: www.forgetneverthesomme.wordpress.com
Twitter: #forget_never Instagram: [forgetneverthesomme](https://www.instagram.com/forgetneverthesomme) Facebook: [Forgetnever-The-Somme](https://www.facebook.com/Forgetnever-The-Somme)

