



**BASILDON BOROUGH'S
FOOTBALL CLUBS**



BASILDON

The town of Basildon's oldest football team is Basildon Town F.C.

Formed in 1946 Basildon Town now compete in the Essex Olympian League, Premier Division.

Town played in the Thurrock Combination League and then the Parthenon League before stepping up to join the London League. During the 1950's the club were based at Stacey's Corner on Timberlog Lane until the lease, then held by the Basildon Development Corporation, ran out in 1959.

The club were forced to leave the ground and resign from the London League.

They moved in to a ground on Burnt Mills Lane, taking a lot of the facilities from Stacey's Corner with them. They re-joined the Parthenon League but high rent costs forced them to look for a new home.

In 1964 they merged with Pitsea United and took the name 'Basildon & Pitsea F.C.' and used Pitsea United's ground at Gun Meadow, Bowers Gifford, which was behind the Gun Pub.

In 1966 Basildon & Pitsea were founder members of the Essex Olympian League, finishing 10th during the two seasons the club existed in this guise. Prior to the 1968-69 season the two clubs split with Pitsea going in to Junior football and Basildon staying as members of the Essex Olympian League.

Basildon Town ended the season as Essex Olympian League Champions, finishing above clubs such as Bowers United, Billericay Town, Essex County Police and Essex County Council Staff.





Town were evicted from Gun Meadow in 1971 for allegedly not keeping the ground in a fit state. They joined the Southend & District League and moved to Eversley Road in Pitsea. The club won the Southend & District Premier Division for the 1981-82 season and re-joined the Essex Olympian League, then called the Essex Intermediate League.

Since this time the club have stayed within the first and third division of the Olympian League, not returning to the top level until 2017. They ended the 2014-15 season as Division Two Champions.

The club moved to their current home on Gardiners Way, Basildon in time for the 1995-96 season. This ground is next door to Basildon Rugby Club, and a stone's throw from Basildon United F.C.



The town of Basildon's only senior team is based in Gardiners Lane.

Originally formed as Armada F.C., a youth club, in 1963, they changed their name and became an adult club in 1967 joining the Grays & Thurrock League for the 1967-68 season moving to the Greater London League the following year.

The Bee's moved in to their current ground in 1970 and officially opened the Gardiners Close stadium on 11 August 1970 with a friendly match against West Ham United. Geoff Hurst, scorer of a World Cup Final hat-trick in 1966, was part of the Hammers side which helped attract a 4,000 strong crowd, which still stands as a club record attendance.

The following season, 1971-72, Basildon United were one of 9 teams to be founder members of the Essex Senior League. That season they finished sixth. The next season they finished runners-up to local rivals Billericay Town.

They made their first Essex Senior League Cup Final appearance in 1974, losing to Brentwood.

The Bee's won their first Essex Senior League title at the end of the 1976-77 season. This would be the first of four consecutive league titles. The following season they won both the league and the Essex Senior League Cup, they would go on to repeat this feat in the 1990's and are still the only club to have completed the Essex Senior League double twice.



The club won the Essex Senior Trophy during the 1978-79 season, a tournament they would finish runners-up in five years later.

Basildon United started the 1980's with their fourth consecutive Essex Senior League title and were promoted to the Athenian League. Their stay at this level lasted only one season as they were promoted having finished runners-up, a point behind Windsor & Eton.

It was during the 1980-81 season the United reached the Quarter-Finals of the FA Vase. They beat Whyteleafe in the fifth round to host Irthlingborough Diamonds at Gardiners Lane. The match ended goalless with Diamonds winning the replay 6-4. Before this Basildon had reached the fourth round of the Vase in 1975-76 beating Braintree & Crittall Athletic, Witham Town, Clacton Town before losing to Barton Rovers.

The club's best run in the FA Cup took place during the 1983-84 season when they reached the Third Qualifying Round where they were beaten, 3-1, by Wealdstone.

At the end of the club's third season in the Isthmian 2 North Division they were promoted as champions. They then spent the following five seasons in Isthmian 1 with seventh being their best finishing position.

The Bees were relegated back to Isthmian 2 North in 1989 and after two seasons resigned from the Isthmian League due to the cost of travelling for away fixtures. They re-joined the Essex Senior League for the 1991-92 season.

The success they'd enjoyed just over a decade before briefly returned to Gardiners Close in 1994. United gained the Essex Senior League title for a fifth time, still a league record. They also won the Essex Senior League Cup defeating Sawbridgeworth Town 3-0 in the final.

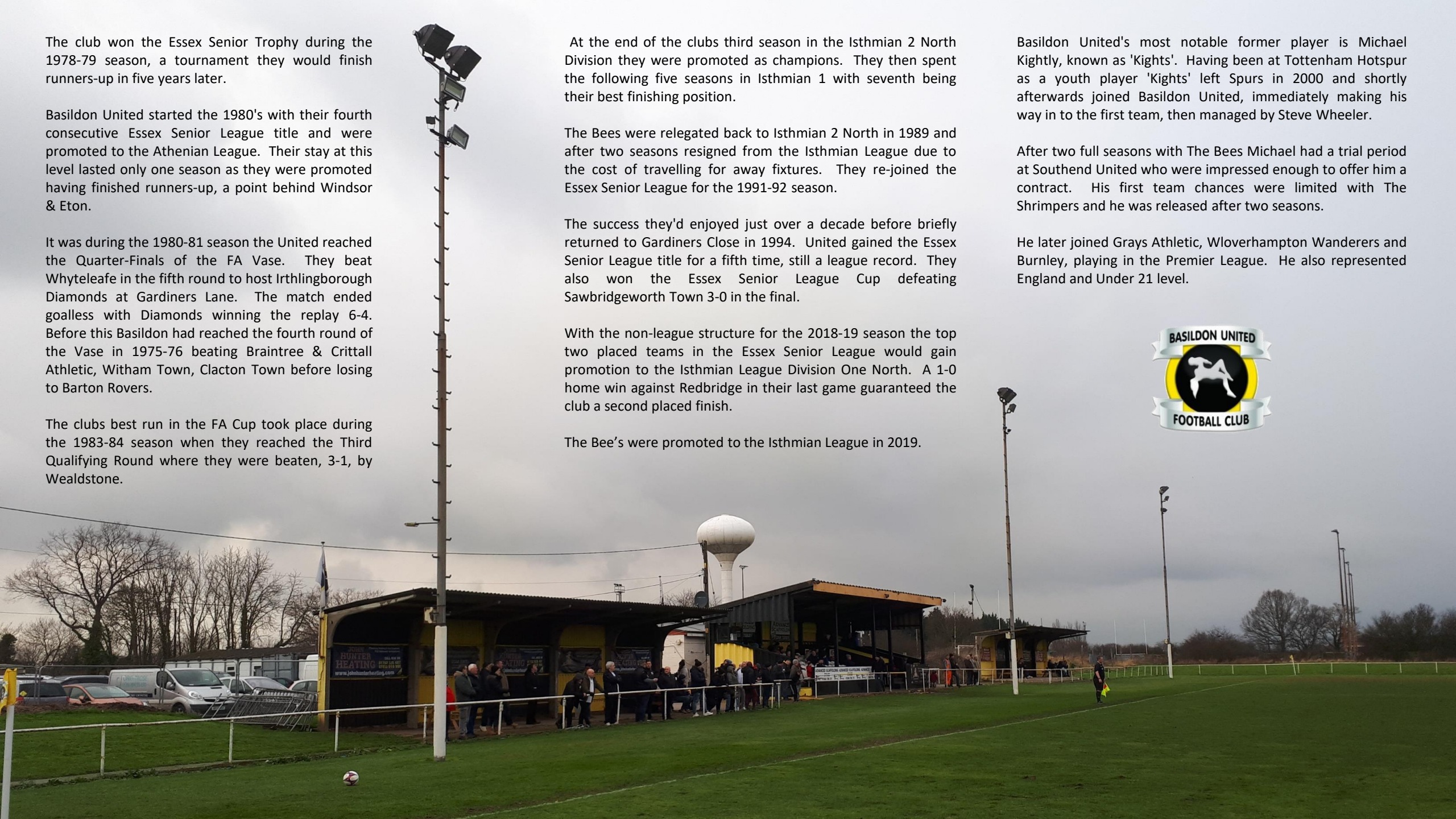
With the non-league structure for the 2018-19 season the top two placed teams in the Essex Senior League would gain promotion to the Isthmian League Division One North. A 1-0 home win against Redbridge in their last game guaranteed the club a second placed finish.

The Bees were promoted to the Isthmian League in 2019.

Basildon United's most notable former player is Michael Kightly, known as 'Kights'. Having been at Tottenham Hotspur as a youth player 'Kights' left Spurs in 2000 and shortly afterwards joined Basildon United, immediately making his way in to the first team, then managed by Steve Wheeler.

After two full seasons with The Bees Michael had a trial period at Southend United who were impressed enough to offer him a contract. His first team chances were limited with The Shrimpers and he was released after two seasons.

He later joined Grays Athletic, Wloverhampton Wanderers and Burnley, playing in the Premier League. He also represented England and Under 21 level.





The Alice

Formed in 2019 The Alice play their home matches at Basildon Sporting Village. The team is named after a pub in London where a few of the players meet after work.

Basildon Sporting Village

This club were formed in 2019 and competed as members of Mid-Essex League. In 2020 they changed their name to Basildon Wanderers.



Basildon Wanderers

Wanderers were formed in 2019 as Basildon Sporting Village, changing their name in 2020. They are members of Mid-Essex League.

Mayne

Members of Basildon & District Sunday League. Play at the Basildon Sporting Village.





Angels Athletic

The Angels were formed in 2018. They are members of Basildon & District Sunday League and play at Holy Cross Recreation Ground.



Fryerns

Members of Southend & Basildon Sunday League. They also play at Holy Cross Recreation Ground.

Kingswood Athletic AFC

KAAFC have been playing since 2015 and are members of the Basildon & District Sunday League. Athletic play their home matches at Holy Cross Recreation Ground.

Basildon N.A.L.G.O.

The Basildon Branch of the National and Local Government Officers Association competed in the Basildon League during the 1950's.



Castlemayne

Castlemayne Football Club were formed in 2017 and play their home matches at Fords Sports and Social Club, Gardiners Close. They compete in the Basildon Sunday League.

Owl

Owl Football Club were formed in 2018 and are members of Southend & Basildon Sunday League. They play their home matches at Basildon Sports and Social Club.

Sparco European

Members of Basildon & District Sunday League. Plays at Basildon Post Office Club.

BASILDON



Bostocke Casuals

Casuals play at Fryerns Open Space and are members of Basildon & District Sunday League.

Fryerns Albion

Fryerns Albion competed in the Basildon League during the 1950's

Fryerns United

Formed 2019. Members of Southend & Basildon Sunday League. Play at Fords Sports and Social Club, Gardiners Close.



FC Frypa Hall

Formed in 2017 and playing near the site the club is named after, FC Frypa are members of the Sceptre Sunday Football League.

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AMERICAN SIGNS

Records held by the Essex F.A. show Billericay F.C. first appearing in 1880.

The club's earliest known fixture was played in 1892, with their first recorded result being a 5-0 defeat against Maldon Reserves in 1893.

During the early years the club competed in the Romford & District League and the Mid-Essex League. By the 1930's Billericay were competing in the Chelmsford & District League, winning Division Three in 1933. The Mid-Essex League, Division Two was also won on another two occasions, along

the Mid-Essex League, Division Two League Cup, also twice.

They joined the South Essex Combination League after the last war until they were founder members of the Essex Olympian League for the 1966-67. Burnham Ramblers were crowned Champions with Town finishing seventh, below Bowers United and Essex Police.

John Newman joined as manager for the 1969-70 season which finally saw Billericay Town topped the Essex Olympian League table, winning the title

goal difference over Chadwell Heath. The following season they retained their title, only losing one match, this triumph was added to with the club lifting the Essex Olympian League Senior Division Cup and Challenge Cup.

In 1971 Billericay Town was one of nine founder members of the Essex Senior League for its inaugural season. They had been granted senior status and moved in to their current home at New Lodge, which had previously been used by Outwood Common F.C.

New Lodge was named after the hospital, which stood at the corner of Blunts Wall Road and Tye Common Road.

They finished that season as runners-up behind Witham Town.

It was also around this time that the club badge, featuring an image of The Mayflower, was designed.





They lifted the Essex Senior League title for the first of three times at the end of the 1972-73 season, also picking up the Essex Senior League Challenge Cup, beating Saffron Walden Town in the final.

The 1974 season saw Town finish second behind Saffron Walden but the title was reclaimed the following season, and reclaimed the season after that. The Essex Senior Cup was added to the Essex Senior League success when Epping Town were beaten 3-2.

The 1975-76 season saw the club make its first trip to the famous twin towers of Wembley Stadium as they competed in the final of the F.A. Vase. This was the second season since the Vase had been created, Billericay were beaten by Hoddesdon Town the previous season as Hoddesdon went on to lift the Vase. Billericay Town played Stamford in the '76 final with Geoff Aslett scoring the only goal of the match. The people of Billericay lined the High Street as the team paraded the Vase from the top deck of an open top bus.

On 5 May 1976 Billericay Town recorded their biggest victory, an 11-0 victory against Stansted.

1976-77 would be Billericay's last season in the Essex Senior League, finishing third but winning another Essex Senior League Cup.

Town made a second trip to Wembley in 1977. They faced Sheffield, the oldest club in the world. On the way to this season's final they played two replays and a 1-1 draw was the outcome of the final, with Freddie Clayden scoring Billericay's goal. The day after the final they won the Phillips

Electrical Floodlit Trophy, a 6-a-side tournament held at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre winning a set of floodlights for the ground.

The following Wednesday the two clubs met again, this time at Nottingham Forest's City Ground. Geoff Aslett scored another F.A. Vase final goal with Paul Woodhouse scoring the eventual winner as Town triumphed 2-1.

To celebrate the installation of the new floodlights a friendly was held with West Ham United. A club record crowd of 3,841 fans turned up.

The following season they switched to the Athenian League and they were crowned champions for the 1977-78 and 1978-79 seasons before joining the Isthmian League. The Athenian League Cup was also lifted at the first attempt.

The 1977-78 season was the first time Billericay Town would compete in the F.A. Cup. Harwich & Parkeston visited New Lodge in the 1st Qualifying Round, earning a draw. Billericay won the replay 4-1.

John Newman left the club and his assistant, Colin Searle, stepped in to the managers' role.

Billericay Town made their third, and final, appearance in an F.A. Vase Final at Wembley in 1979. This time they faced Almondsbury Greenway and they won the match comfortably 4-1 with Freddie Clayden scoring another final goal and Dougie Young scoring a hat-trick.

Dougie Young's hat-trick on Saturday 28 April 1979 was the first at Wembley Stadium since Geoff Hurst's 13 years earlier against West Germany in the World Cup Final.

Success continued in the Isthmian League as the Division Two title was lifted at the first time of asking, earning promotion to Division One. The 1980-81 season ended with the runners-up position, behind Bishop's Stortford, and another promotion.

Five seasons were spent in the Isthmian League Premier Division before Billericay Town suffered their first relegation as a senior club. The Blues wouldn't return to the top levels of the Isthmian League until 1999.

Town reached their second Essex Senior Cup Final in 1986, losing to Chelmsford City 3-0 on aggregate. The season after, 1986-87, the Essex Thameside Trophy was won for the first time.

The Essex Thameside Trophy was won again in 1992. Third place finishes were recorded in the Isthmian League, Division Three in 1991 and Division Two in 1992. Between 1994 and 1996 Billericay lost three consecutive Essex Senior Cup finals.

The 1997-98 season ended with The Blues finishing as runners-up in Isthmian League, Division One. The club also reached the F.A. Cup First Round Proper for the first time, losing out to Wisbech Town.

Another F.A. Cup First Round appearance was made in 2004-05, this time losing out to Stevenage Borough. Three years later the club made their third First Round appearance. They went ahead against League One Swansea City before losing 2-1.

Thirty-five years after the clubs first Essex Senior Cup success the title was won again, this time after a 2-0 victory over Aveley. This was the clubs first trophy win for 19 years. The following season, 2011-12, saw the clubs biggest success since the 1970's. Having led the club to Essex Senior Cup success manager Craig Edwards led his side to the Isthmian League, Premier Division title and promotion to the Conference South.

After one season in the Conference South the club suffered relegation.

A seventh Essex Senior Cup final was reached in 2015 with Town losing 5-0 to Concord Rangers, after The Blues had two players sent off.



The club was bought in December 2017 by Glenn Tamplin who made an immediate impact improving the wage bill as well as the facilities. This culminated in a massive 8-3 victory against Tonbridge Angels in the Isthmian League Cup Final.

Billericay Town went in to the 2017-18 season as favourites to win the Isthmian League Premier Division title. It was during the 2017-18 season that Billericay Town had their first player capped at international level. Ricky Modeste was called up to the Grenada squad for a friendly in Trinidad. Grenada took a 2-0 lead with Ricky scoring their second goal. The match ended 2-2. Ricky would win another cap, during March 2018, and would score again as Grenada lost 4-2 against Belize.

During March 2018 The Blues beat Chelmsford City 2-1 at Colchester United to lift the Essex Senior Cup. The following month Town beat Met Police 5-3 in extra time at Aveyley to become the first club to retain the Isthmian League Cup in 34 years.

On Tuesday 24 April The Blues hosted Harlow Town knowing a win would give them the Isthmian League title and promotion. A Joe Kizzi goal gave them a first half lead and a late goal from Adam Cunningham sealed the win.

Town reached their second Essex Senior Cup Final in 1986, losing to Chelmsford City 3-0 on aggregate. The season after, 1986-87, the Essex Thameside Trophy was won for the first time.

The Blues enjoyed another F.A. Cup run to the First Round Proper during the 2019-20 season. The run looked like it would come to an end in the Fourth Qualifying Round until the dying minutes when Town's goal keeper, Alan Julian, joined the attackers for a free-kick and headed in the equaliser. Billericay won the replay but were beaten by League Two Forest Green Rovers in November 2019.



As well as the men's team Billericay Town has an extensive set-up for the Ladies Team, including several youth teams. The first team compete in the FA Women's National League Division 1 South-East, this is the fourth tier of women's football in England.



Atletico Billericay

Another team formed of Billericay Town fans the club in 2001 joining the Chelmsford Invitational League for the 2001-02 season. They were promoted in their first season and reached the League Cup final.

The club folded in the early 2010's.

Billericay Albion

Albion played on a pitch at Newlands Road, Billericay. They were members of the Chelmsford & District League in the 1920's and competed against Billericay F.C., now known as Billericay Town, during the 1924-25 season.

Billericay Thursday

Sometimes played near the current football ground on New Lodge as well as sharing Archers Field with Billericay F.C either side of the war.

New Lodge

A Sunday team formed in 1987 by Keith Riley and made up of members of the former Billericay Town Supporters Club team. The club were named after the home ground of Billericay Town.

New Lodge played in the Chelmsford Invitational League. They lost the final of the Division One League Cup, in 1991, to Outwood Common.

They folded in 2000.

Norsey Rangers

Formed in the late 1950's by players that couldn't get in to the team at Billericay Town. The club played at Lake Meadows, Billericay and eventually changed their name to Billericay Rangers.

Outwood Common

Formed in 1961 the club had many teams across multiple age ranges. They played on a pitch on Outwood Common Green as well as a pitch now occupied by New Lodge, the home of Billericay Town. They also played on a pitch on Lake Meadows, which the swimming pool was built on.

Their youth teams regularly competed with Billericay Rangers' as members of the Basildon Boys League in the mid-1960's.



FC Redwing

Formed in 2000, FC Redwing manage many teams across several age groups as well as a senior side. They play their home matches on the pitches along Barleylands Road.





CISK Sports

Canvey Island Supporters Klub (it was an unofficial club) were formed in 1995. They play on Southend Road in Crays Hill.

They joined the South East Essex Sunday Football League before switching to the Southend Sceptre League in 2004. They joined the Brentwood Sunday League in 2008.

Dunton Park Rangers

This club competed in the Basildon League during the 1960's.



Dunton Rangers

Dunton Rangers were formed in 2012 and are members of the Mid-Essex League.

Southfields

Were members of South Essex Sunday League.





LAINDON



Noak Bridge is presented by two clubs, Noak Bridge and Noak Bridge United.

Both clubs play in the Sceptre Sunday League.



Bantams

Members of Basildon & District Sunday League, Bantams play at James Hornsby High School.

Imara

Members of Basildon & District Sunday League, Imara were formed in 2011 and play at James Hornsby High School.

Laindon Athletic

Athletic used to play their home matches on Laindon Recreation Ground

Laindon Spartans

Spartans were members of the Romford & District League after the Second World War.

West Laindon United

Formed in 2017 this club play their matches at James Hornsby High School.



Laindon Orient

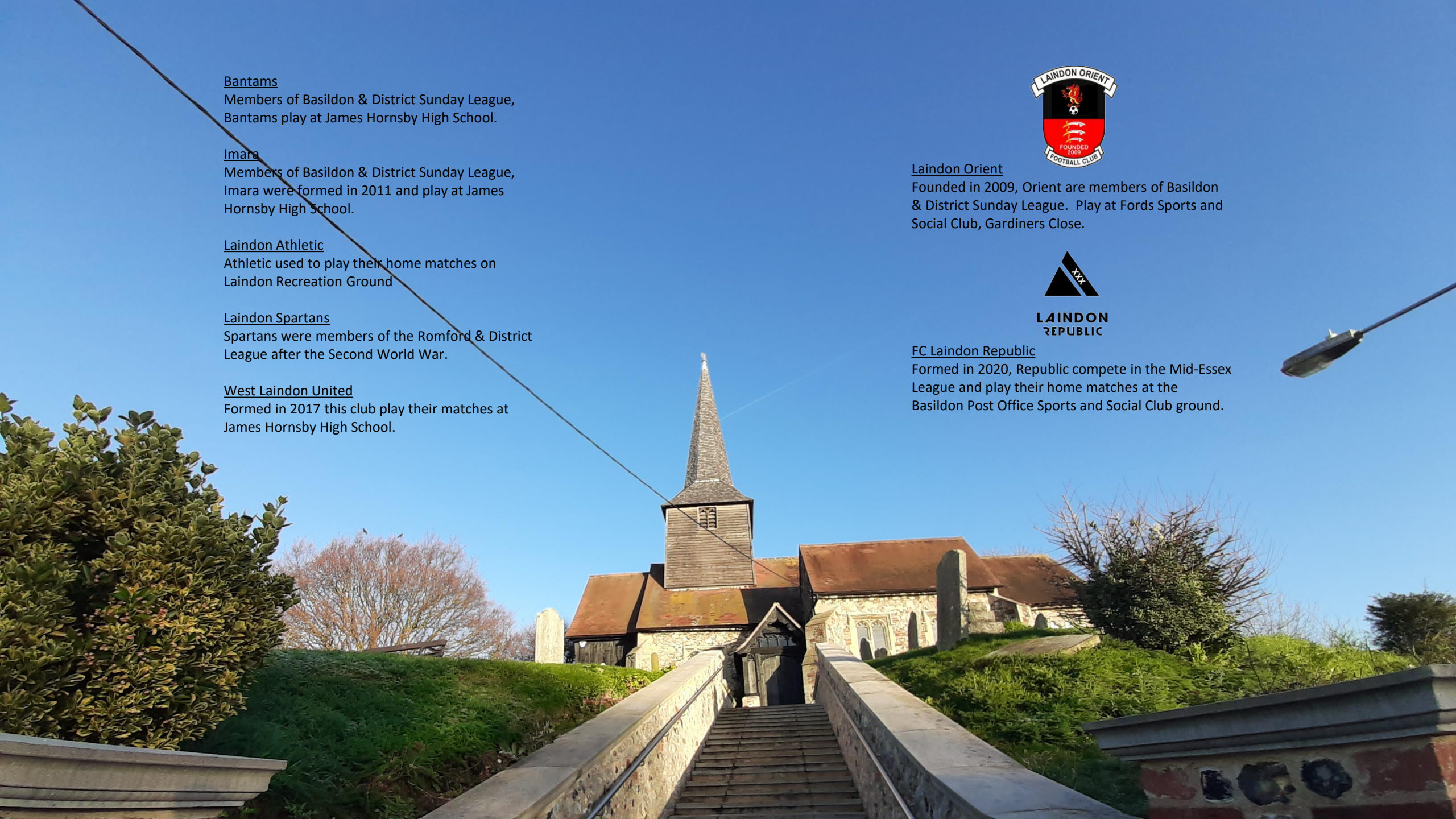
Founded in 2009, Orient are members of Basildon & District Sunday League. Play at Fords Sports and Social Club, Gardiners Close.



**LAINDON
REPUBLIC**

FC Laindon Republic

Formed in 2020, Republic compete in the Mid-Essex League and play their home matches at the Basildon Post Office Sports and Social Club ground.



Laindon United

United used to play on a pitch behind Laindon Hotel.



LANGDON HILLS

Langdon Hills

Langdon Hills F.C. played their home matches on a pitch that was shared with the cricket team, opposite the Crown Hotel.



Mustard Worms

Mustard Worms Football Club were formed in 2015. One of the players had a worm as his Xbox avatar, and the club were supplied with mustard colour shirts for a 6-a-side match by a player's father. They are currently members of Basildon & District Sunday League and play at Langdon Hills Recreation Ground.

Lee Chapel was represented by Lee Chapel United and now has Lee Chapel playing in the Sceptre Sunday League.



LEE CHAPEL



Little Burstead represented the village, probably between the wars, but little is known about them.

LITTLE BURSTEAD



PITSEA

Bowers United Football Club were formed in 1946 moving to a ground where Pitsea Market now is. They later moved to Gun Meadow, which was subject to a compulsory purchase order for the creation of the A13. They then moved to their current ground in Crown Avenue, Pitsea. They first joined the Thurrock and Thameside Combination League, winning the league title in 1959.

In 1966 they became founder members of the Essex Olympian League, finishing sixth at the end of their first season at that level. This would be their best finish in the Olympian League.

In 1975 Bowers were granted senior status and were accepted in to the Essex Senior League for the 1975-76 season.

Bowers made their first appearance in the Essex Senior League Challenge Cup final in 1977. They were beaten 1-0 by Billericay Town. The following season they reached the final again but this time lost 3-0 to Basildon United.

Bowers reached the FA Vase Third Round during the 1979-80 season and hosted Billericay Town. Town won the match 3-0 in front of Bowers record crowd of 1,880.

After four consecutive league titles for local rivals Basildon United The Bees were accepted in to the Athenian League. Bowers United then won their first Essex Senior League title during 1980-81. They'd finished five points clear of Heybridge Swifts having only lost two matches during the league season.

The following season United reached their third League Cup final but finally lifted the trophy, beating Halstead Town 2-0. They reached the final again the following year but lost 4-1 to Heybridge Swifts.

United finished as league runners-up for the 1983-84 season, thirteen points behind Heybridge Swifts.

Bowers finished in third at the end of the 1997-98 season. The following year would see them record their best ever season. They lifted the league title for the first time in almost 20 years. Again, they only lost two matches, finishing four points ahead of Great Wakering Rovers. They also beat Rovers 2-0 in the League Cup final to complete the Essex Senior League double.

Bowers United merged with Pitsea F.C. for the 2004-05 season. Formed in 1970 as Pitsea Young Person's Club they joined the Vange and District Sunday League. Though they were a youth set-up they joined an adult league because of the lack of youth opposition in the area.

They shortly became Pitsea Football Club and progressed to the Basildon Sunday League in 1975-76 and were promoted to the top division twice completing a league treble and one league and cup double.

Bowers made a sixth League Cup final appearance in 2012-13 but were heavily beaten 9-1 by Barkingside, a League Cup final record.



With Rob Small being appointed as First Team Manager, having led Southminster to promotion and then the Essex Olympian League title the previous season, Bowers & Pitsea finished as runners-up and set a new record going 27 games unbeaten.

Small took Bowers & Pitsea in to the Isthmian League in 2016 as Essex Senior League Champions. Bowers had a run in the F.A. Vase which took them to the Semi-Finals. They were only a match away from a trip to Wembley, only to lose 4-3 on aggregate to Morpeth Town.

Three years later and Bowers were promoted again, moving up to the Isthmian League Premier Division.



Pitsea

Formed in 1970 as Pitsea Young Person's Club they joined the Vange and District Sunday League. Though they were a youth set-up they joined an adult league because of the lack of youth opposition in the area.

They shortly became Pitsea Football Club and progressed to the Basildon Sunday League in 1975-76 and were promoted to the top division twice completing a league treble and one league and cup double.

They merged with Bowers United in 2004-05 to form Bowers & Pitsea F.C.



Formed in 1975 Chalvedon are currently members of the Southend & Basildon Sunday League. The club play their home matches at the Basildon Sporting Village.

There have been two clubs operating under the name of Pitsea Athletic.

The original Pitsea Athletic were formed by workers of the British Explosives Syndicate in Pitsea during 1897.

The club played in the South Essex League until around the time of the First World War.



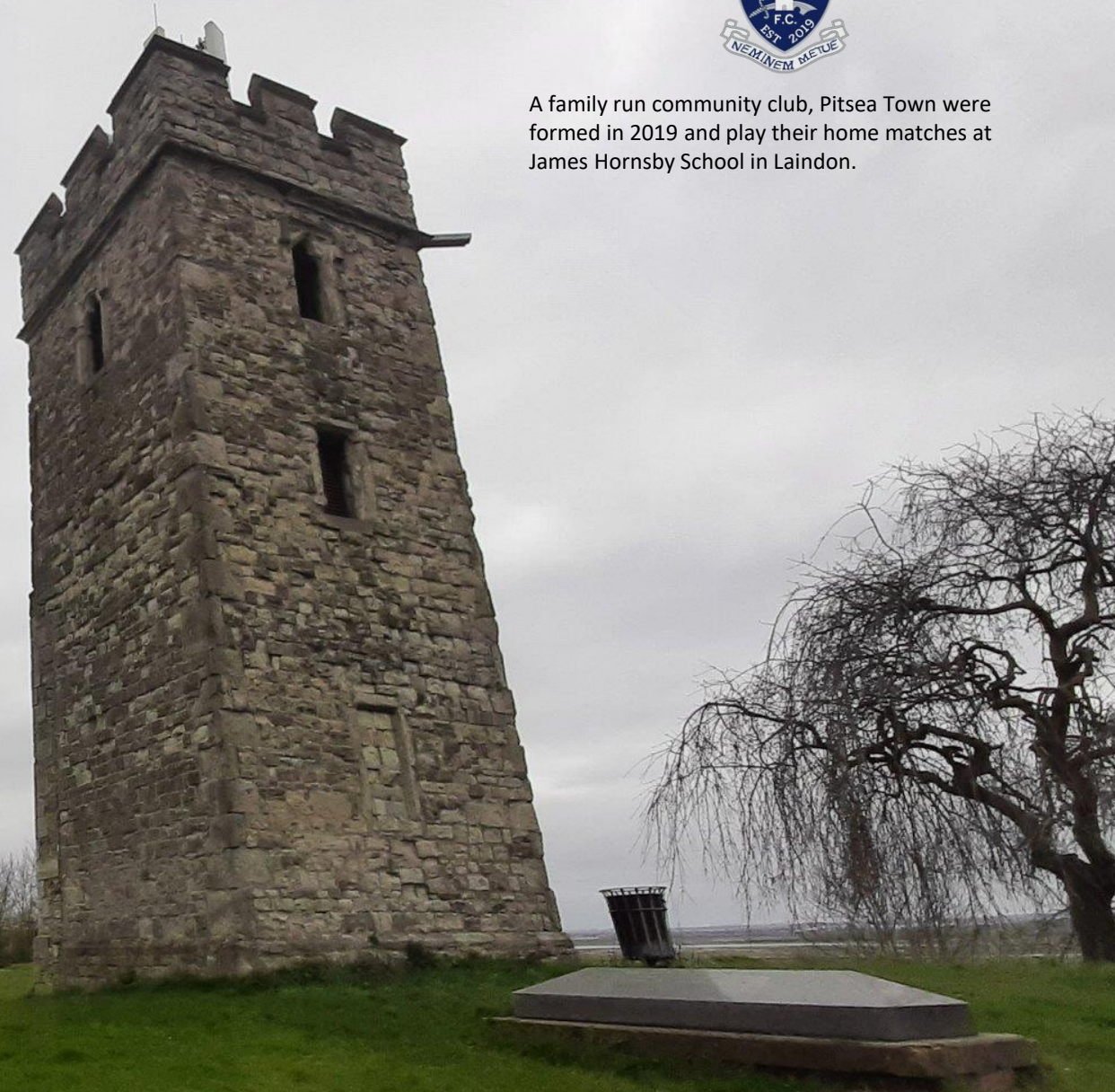
Formed by a group of friends as a Sunday League team, Pitsea Athletic are members of the Mid-Essex League on a Saturday and the Sceptre Sunday League.

Athletic play their home fixtures at the Basildon Sporting Village.

Pitsea Royal British Legion used to run a men's football team and a Pitsea United Football Club was formed in 1920.



A family run community club, Pitsea Town were formed in 2019 and play their home matches at James Hornsby School in Laindon.



As well as Vange United the area is home to Kent View United, who were formed in 2018 and are currently members of Sceptre League. In the early days the team trained on a field along Kent View Road.



VANGE





WICKFORD



Wickford Memorial Park is well used as a football venue during the football season.

Armada Sports have been playing football in Wickford since 1992. They are currently members of Basildon & District Sunday League. Their home matches are played at Wickford Memorial Park.



Power F.C. are members of the Mid-Essex League and also play their home matches in the Memorial Park.

Woodbrook United compete in the Basildon & District Sunday League.

Extreme United

Extreme compete as members of the Mid-Essex League. The club was formed in 2002 and won back-to-back promotions in their second and third season in existence.



Shotgate Rangers

Rangers are members of the Sceptre Sunday League but are based in Southend.

Shotgate United

United are also members of the Sceptre Sunday League.





Wickford Town

Formed in 1969 Wickford Town play at Bartlett Park in Shotgate and have an extensive youth set-up. A club known as Wickford Town were formed in the 1920's and were still in existence in the mid-1960's.



Wickford & Runwell United

Known as Wickford United, the club are also members of the Sceptre Sunday League.

Signet United

Members of Basildon & District Sunday League.
Play at Bromford Sports Centre.

Wickford Rangers

Photos of Wickford Rangers and a youth side, from the 1920's, can be found in local history books and websites.

