

WINTER 2021

BASILDON

OUR BOROUGH



Basildon Council
BASILDON • BILLERICAY • WICKFORD



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CONTACT US

Basildon - Our Borough is produced by the Communications Team at Basildon Council. It is published four times a year and delivered free to almost 80,000 homes across the borough.

Do you have a story about the community or information about an event which you would like to be considered for inclusion in a future edition of the magazine?

Or, for advertising enquires email - jude.mason@basildon.gov.uk

Visit www.basildon.gov.uk/basildonourborough for information on how to download the spoken word version of Basildon - Our Borough, or call 01268 208198 to request an alternative format.

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All information stated in this magazine is correct at time of printing.



USEFUL INFORMATION



COMPASS 24/7 DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

Telephone: 0330 333 7444

STREETLINK

If you find someone sleeping rough, report to Streetlink: www.streetlink.org.uk
Telephone: 0300 500 0914 (24 hour)

NHS 111

Call 111 or go to 111.nhs.uk
They can help if you have an urgent medical problem and you are not sure what to do.

FOOD BANKS

Basildon

info@basildon.foodbank.org.uk
07424 660 862

Billericay

info@billericayfoodbank.org.uk
07707 466262

Helping Hands (Lee Chapel North)

basildonhhfb@hotmail.com
07936 110424

Wickford www.facebook.com/wickfordfoodbank

ESSEX POLICE

101 Emergency 999
www.essex.police.uk

WELCOME

Welcome to the winter edition of our council magazine. This is the final edition of 2021 and it gives me the opportunity to wish all our residents a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

We have achieved a great deal since we took over as the administration in May. We have started our extensive estate programme to create great places for people to live and raise their family; our new public order and enforcement committee extended the wardens in parks and confirmed our SLA with the police to fund three officers and just this week we handed the keys of the new cinema over to Empire for its fitting out. This really does mark the start of the regeneration of Basildon town centre.

For many of us this is the time of year where we get to spend time with our families and enjoy some of the finer things in life. However, I know that this can also be a very tough time, particularly as we overcome the challenges that the pandemic has thrown at us. Inside the magazine are essential contact numbers for anyone that is facing difficulties at this time. These services are all confidential and can provide essential advice, or can act as a crucial listening post.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2022.

Councillor Andrew Baggott
Leader of Basildon Council



‘STOP THE HATE’ WORKSHOPS DELIVERED TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

Preventative workshops have been delivered in the borough’s secondary schools focusing on racism, extremism, and prejudice.

The sessions were delivered by the West Ham United Foundation as part of their ‘Stop the Hate’ project at the Basildon Lower Academy. They have been funded by the Safer Basildon Partnership. Other participating schools include Woodlands School, De La Salle, and James Hornsby.

Workshops were delivered over three days, these were aimed at increasing awareness, understanding and empowering students to be able to safely challenge and refute racist, extremist, and prejudicial ideas.

A key aspect of the programme includes providing teachers and youth leaders with a better understanding of the issues among the young people they work with and provide them with tools to continue to tackle race inequalities amongst their pupils.

Councillor Andrew Baggott, Leader of Basildon Council, said: “The West Ham United Foundation do such great work in our borough and beyond, and it’s fantastic that we’ve been able to fund these sessions through the Safer Basildon Partnership.

“Basildon is a very multi-cultural area, which is something I’m really proud of and something that should be celebrated.”

West Ham United Foundation CEO Joseph Lyons added: “As an organisation we’re committed in our drive for equality, diversity and inclusion.

“Therefore, we are pleased to be able to build on our existing Stop the Hate delivery, by expanding into Essex, with Show Racism the Red Card, Basildon Council and Safer Basildon.”





NEW HOME FOR ADVICE STORE

The new Advice Store opened in Basildon on Tuesday 19 October and continues to provide a space for residents looking for advice, support and opportunities to improve employability. The store continues working with partners such as Clarion Futures, Signpost, South Essex College and Realise Futures.

Since opening its doors in 2019 the Advice Store has received nearly 5,000 referrals from local people. Whether you are looking to change your career and need to update your skills, are currently unemployed and looking for work or leaving full time education and need advice on career options - The Advice Store can help.

Councillor Anthony Hedley, Chairman of the Regeneration and Economic Development Committee, said: "When we opened the Advice Store in 2019 we wanted to create opportunities for local people to learn more about the advice and support available to them. Since then, the Advice Store has become a real community asset - helping thousands of people of all ages from across Basildon to learn new skills, retrain in new sectors of work and find more fulfilling employment opportunities.

The Advice Store is open 10am to 4pm, Monday to Thursday.

5 Market Pavement, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1DD

Alternatively visit www.facebook.com/TheAdviceStore

COUNCIL LEADER WELCOMES KICKSTARTERS

The Leader of Basildon Council joined senior officers to welcome eight successful applicants on their first day with Basildon Council under the government-funded Kickstart scheme.

Each of the eight new starters will complete a six-month placement with Basildon Council, gaining on the job experience and new skills to increase their chances of gaining long-term employment.

The placements are secured through government funding set aside to support young people aged 16-24 currently claiming Universal Credit who have found themselves at risk of long-term unemployment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillor Andrew Baggott, Leader of Basildon Council, said: "The pandemic has had a dramatic effect on the career development of young people in Basildon. We received hundreds of applications for this first intake, which shows just how important this scheme is to local people.

"The Kickstart scheme means we are able to help enthusiastic and passionate young people get back into work, which is exactly where they want to be. We have worked with colleagues across Essex to encourage other businesses to take on Kickstart applicants and I would urge any local business to look into whether they can provide a Kickstart placement for a local young person."

Find more at <https://kickstart.campaign.gov.uk>



GET ACTIVE AND REDISCOVER YOUR BOROUGH

Residents are being encouraged to walk, run or cycle using the Street Tag app to keep track of their physical activity.

Basildon Council has partnered with Street Tag to encourage people to take up physical activity and get local communities moving more. Street Tag is a family friendly app that gives rewards for being active. Residents gain virtual points every time they exercise and move up their local leaderboard.

The Street Tag app has launched with virtual tags all over the borough of Basildon, encouraging people to explore our town centres, parks, neighbourhoods and open spaces every time they go for a walk, run or cycle.

Councillor Anthony Hedley, Chairman of Basildon Council's Regeneration and Economic Development Committee said: "Street Tag offers local people a fantastic opportunity to increase their physical activity while exploring our incredible borough and supporting local businesses all at the same time. Physical activity gives such a boost to our wellbeing and as we head into the winter months it has never been more important to get out and get active whenever you can."

The Street Tag app is free to download from the Google Play Store and Apple Store.

NEWS



LOOK OUT FOR NEWS ON NEXT YEAR'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Next year, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee.

The landmark comes after 70 years of service to the Commonwealth, having acceded to the throne in February 1952.

The celebrations will be an opportunity for communities within the borough to come together, including through a number of council events that will be happening to commemorate the special occasion.

Residents wanting to host street parties in their area can apply to do so - processing may take a considerable time so you are advised to submit your application at least two months before the Jubilee which takes place from 2 June to 5 June 2022.

Councillor Andrew Baggott, Leader of Basildon Council, said: "Next year's Platinum Jubilee will show the best of Basildon, being an opportunity for the whole borough to get together to celebrate as one. "Being the first British Monarch to achieve the milestone tells us how significant an occasion it will be, and means we better mark it in an equally fitting fashion.

"We're currently finalising some exciting plans for events within the borough that I'm sure will be thoroughly enjoyed by residents young and old. Look out for announcements coming soon regarding what we've got planned."

When the day comes, make sure to tag the Basildon Council social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in your goings-on, so we can spread the joy of our borough's celebrations.



BASILDON AT CHRISTMAS EVENT BACK FOR 2021

The festive shopping season was opened with a bang as thousands flocked to the town centre for the much loved Basildon at Christmas event and firework display.

Back after a year's absence due to the coronavirus pandemic, the event featured all the usual favourites.

It was held on Saturday 20 November with activities and entertainment across the whole town centre including the Eastgate Centre, Town Square and St Martin's Square where the event concluded with a fireworks display.

Councillor David Dadds, Mayor of Basildon, said: "It was wonderful that the Basildon at Christmas event was able to return after having to be cancelled last year because of the pandemic. It was an opportunity for the community to come together and get in the Christmas spirit whilst doing some Christmas shopping to boost local trade. There was something for everyone to enjoy."

The event included rides, Santa's grottos in Eastgate and the market, food stalls, festive mini-golf and live performances on the Gateway 97.8 stage in St Martin's Square including a Robbie Williams tribute act. The cast of this year's Towngate Theatre Panto Beauty and the Beast also made an appearance.

In the Eastgate Centre, entertainment included, the Snowball Sprites, Ice Queen and the Elf, the Elvish Presents, and a pair of stilt-walking Christmas Trees.

The event is a partnership between Basildon Council, The Eastgate Centre, Gateway 97.8, Basildon Town Centre Management (BTCM), Basildon Market and Go Trade.



NEW TOWN COUNCIL ESTABLISHED FOR WICKFORD



A Community Governance Reorganisation Order has been made which gives legal effect to the council's recent decision to create a new parish and town council in Wickford.

A copy of the Order is available on the council's website and can be viewed at The Basildon Centre, St Martin's Square, Basildon during normal office hours.

The first elections to the town council will take place on the same day as borough council elections in May 2022 to fill the 20 seats on the town council.

In the interim, a Shadow Wickford Town Council has been established who will assist in laying the foundations for the new council and a grant of £10k has been provided by the borough council to support the shadow council in doing this.

For further information or to arrange to view the Order at the Council offices, please contact Paul Burkinshaw, Director of Strategy and Governance on 01268 207972 or by email at paul.burkinshaw@basildon.gov.uk

YOUNG FOOTBALLERS TAKE PART IN PEACE GAMES

Young people from Basildon schools have once again been competing in football matches as part of the United Nations International Day of Peace.

This year schools including Beauchamps High School, Wickford, Woodlands School, Basildon, Greensted Junior School, Basildon, Lee Chapel North and Northlands Primary schools took part in the event in September.

The trip is organised by the Basildon Borough Twinning Association in conjunction with the borough's twinning partners in Heiligenhaus, Germany and Meaux in France.

The main theme of the 2021 Peace Games was "Hate Won't Win" and this year prior to the event Basildon's Young Twins Group, headed 16-year-old Ryan Donnelly, launched an appeal to Basildon Council to adopt the Remembering Srebrenica's annual memorial week.

He met Chairman of the Wellbeing and Communities Committee Councillor Terri Sargent along with fellow Young Twin Alex Laver to discuss plans for 2022.

Councillor Sargent said: "This is an excellent initiative that has been running for many years and gives our students a fantastic cultural experience that puts them in good stead for their lives. It was good to meet Ryan and Alex to discuss how we can support their plans."

Each year, organisations dedicated to peace education and conflict resolution, are highlighted. The Jonathan Ball/Tim Parry Foundation Peace Centre, The Jo Cox Foundation, Remembering Srebrenica and The FA's Kick it Out campaign are all supported.

NEWS



HOUSING HEROES HELPING THE MOST VULNERABLE INTO HOMES

More than 110 borough rough sleepers have been helped off the streets since March 2020.

Since then, not only have 110 people been saved from sleeping rough but more than 70 have been supported into permanent independent accommodation.

Councillor Andrew Schrader, Chairman of Basildon's Housing and Estate Renewal Committee has heaped praise on the council officers and its commissioned rough sleeper support services who have worked tirelessly since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

He said: "Working closely with partners our officers have gone above and beyond to help people who have found themselves in the most desperate of situations. Everyone deserves a roof over their head and absolutely no one should be sleeping rough on the streets least of all during a global pandemic. It's been a fantastic effort and I am very proud of their achievement."

One example is a British-Chinese gentleman who had been entrenched on the streets of Basildon for over three years. The gentleman was a very visible rough sleeper, typically seen with a large collection of items around him, or accumulated in locations that required clearing by other council services.

In response to the national 'Everyone In' rough sleeper emergency accommodation initiative, an offer was made to this gentleman and he was promptly accommodated in a hotel. Once he had a safe and stable base, a referral was made to the council's in-reach specialist support service provided by Peabody.

Earlier in the pandemic, Michael Clifford (pictured) was assisted by the council after sleeping rough in a tent in Basildon's Gloucester Park.





SMALL BUSINESSES HELPING TO IMPROVE OUR HEALTH

FRIENDLY FACED AFRIM THE MAN FOR ALL YOUR FRESH FISH NEEDS

The passionate Afrim at Daily Super Fresh Fish has been operating his fishmongers at Basildon Market for the last three years.

Every day brings a new delivery from Billingsgate Market, to ensure residents get the freshest fish around. And his prior links to Billingsgate means he gets the best of the best.

“I used to work transporting fish lorries from Billingsgate to all the fish shops, so I’ve got a lot of connections there. All the time I was thinking about becoming a fishmonger, then I heard about a free unit at the market.”

Afrim sells a variety of fresh fish and seafood six days a week, Monday-Saturday. And if you want it, and it’s not on the stall, that’s no problem.

You can find Afrim at Kiosk 10 on Basildon Market, 6 days a week, Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm.

07496 332647

f Seafoods Daily Fish

Email: mersi41uk@live.co.uk

TYLER’S PATCH HERE TO HELP YOU GET CRAFTING



Situated at the fabulous Barleylands Craft Village, Tyler’s Patch is like a sewing sweetshop for all your crafting needs.

Sue’s colourful store is home to over 1000 selections of fabric ideal for patchwork or quilting, plus wadding, threads, and a large selection of buttons. In addition to the items in the store, she holds monthly classes in quilting and lacemaking, as well as one day workshops.

“The classes are good for people to talk about anything and everything so it is very therapeutic. I have had many club members suffering with mental health issues and bereavement, and with the support of the group have felt better.”

07842 244147

f Tylers Patch UK

www.tylerspatch.co.uk

"The best thing about these brilliant local businesses is the people behind them. Their passion for their trades, and their passion for supporting our residents, is what makes our borough so great."

Councillor Anthony Hedley
Chairman of the Regeneration and Economic Development Committee



CYCOOL RIDING THE LOCKDOWN EXERCISE WAVE



When Oscar swapped his daily city commute to start CyCool back in October 2019, it was like he'd predicted the future.

Fast forward six months, and with outdoor exercise being our only form of daily entertainment – CyCool took off!

Based in Wickford, CyCool offer mobile bicycle repairs and servicing, rack hire, bike transportation among other bike related services.

"I purchased a retro race bike, that needed quite a lot of TLC to become road worthy. This then encouraged me to learn myself, taking advice from books, friends and especially YouTube videos, which has fortunately lead me to where I am today!"

CyCool don't just provide a service, it's also a community. With regular open invite bike rides taking place, being an opportunity to keep fit and to socialise with like-minded residents.

07507786738



CyCool Email: cycoolbikes@gmail.com



AN INSPIRATIONAL TOWN CENTRE LOCAL ARTWORK INSPIRED BY LOCAL PEOPLE

Basildon's buildings have become a supersized canvas as local artists took part in a project to decorate the town's skyline. Our Towns is an exciting project from BasildON Creative People & Places that brings incredible works of art to the streets of Basildon. In 2021, eight world-class artists were partnered with local organisations to create murals inspired by Basildon, bringing conversation and colour to the walls of the town.

Our Towns partnered with a range of groups including Peaceful Place, Basildon Young Carers, Crays Hill Primary School, Northgate House residents, Basildon LGBTQIA+ Youth Group and Basildon Pride to deliver local artwork inspired by local people.

But more than just a visual spectacle, these pieces of local art have brought communities together through conversation – encouraging residents to celebrate our local heritage and talk more openly about a range of issues, including diversity, inclusion and equality.

This piece was created by Spanish artist Marina Capdevila in collaboration with Peaceful Place, a Basildon-based charity made up of people of working age who have been diagnosed with dementia. Marina's art celebrates the older generation in all their glory, giving us all cause to reflect on how elderly people are perceived every day. The piece was created through a series of workshops with Peaceful Place members, reflecting on personal experiences and aspirations.

Artwork by @marinacapdevila (Instagram)

www.peacefulplace.co.uk



Through a series of workshops with Basildon Pride and Basildon LGBTQIA+ Youth Group, artist Erin Holly created this artwork to celebrate Basildon's LGBTQIA+ community. As a trans artist herself, Erin is passionate about creating visibility and affecting positive change through her art. The mural reflects on post war suburban life and how we build a community through shared experience.

Artwork by @erinsammiholly

www.basildonpride.co.uk

What is BasildON?

BasildON Creative People and Places is an Arts Council funded programme for people living, working and socialising in the Basildon borough. The programme provides more opportunities for local people to commission, create and participate in cultural activity in Basildon. Having secured almost £1.7million in funding over the next three years, BasildON is working with residents to unleash Basildon's creative spirit and provide cultural opportunities for everyone.

www.creativebasildon.co.uk

Want to learn more about the artworks and the artists? Each of the eight pieces of art have their own unique story. Find out more on Facebook: @thingsmadepublic

"The artwork on display in Basildon Town Centre is a fantastic example of communities coming together to create something wonderful and raise awareness of important issues. That's what Basildon is all about."

Councillor Anthony Hedley

Chairman of the Regeneration and Economic Development Committee



BUSINESSES GOING BIG ON DIVERSITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

WHY LEONARDO VIEWS DIVERSITY AS THE GREAT MULTIPLIER OF INNOVATION

With programmes set to run to 2050 and beyond, aerospace engineering company Leonardo is pushing forward sophisticated technology in the electronics sector, but to be able to achieve its ambitious goals for the future, the company believes that it needs to attract a more diverse pool of job applicants.

This is because the company, which employs over 7,500 people across the UK, firmly believes that the more diverse the backgrounds, skills and perspectives of their team members, the better the innovation produced.

Employees from diverse backgrounds are enhancing the company's innovation, including Arvind Mahendran, Mechanical Industrial Capability Manager at Leonardo's Basildon site. Arvind works with Leonardo's UK mechanical management team to find the optimal approach to mechanical engineering.

Arvind initially became aware of Leonardo when he was a student at Manchester University studying mechanical engineering, taking up the opportunity to work on a summer placement in the industrial engineering department at the company's Basildon site based at Christopher Martin Road.

Arvind said: "Having a variety of people creates diversity of thought, which ends up being more productive for business. If you only employ the same set of individuals and personality types, you miss out on the creative atmosphere created when diverse people from different backgrounds gather together."

Leonardo is actively recruiting now so visit the website to view their full range of current vacancies:

<https://uk.leonardocompany.com/en/people-careers/jobs>



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE THAT PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT AND IMPROVES LIVES

A social enterprise established by Basildon Council and Morgan Sindall Property Services to create learning and employment opportunities for residents is doing that and so much more.

Trainees who join the BasWorx programme learn the transferable skills required to secure an apprenticeship, gain valuable work experience, and if successful employment on completion.

For many of these trainees, the programme has come at a time when an unexpected loss of a job has had a major effect on their mental health and wellbeing, as well as their financial situation.

Samson Rosemond, 22, from Pitsea, joined the BasWorx programme in January 2021, after hearing about it through his local job centre. Samson, an electrical apprentice, lost his job because of the pandemic and became distressed and alienated by his situation.

He said: "I was beginning to feel the effects of spending day after day applying for jobs.

"Having access to a programme like BasWorx has been incredible and has boosted my confidence and outlook. I am learning so much and hopefully within the next two years, I will be a qualified engineer."

If you are interested in applying for the next BasWorx programme contact Morgan Sindall Property Services via email at CSR@morgansindall.com



"Basildon is a business powerhouse, we are very proud of the companies that trade here and put us on the map. It's especially pleasing to see big firms really grasping how diversity and social value can benefit employees, many of whom are residents here."

Councillor David Dadds, Mayor of Basildon





REDISCOVERING LAINDON AND LANGDON HILLS

Although Langdon Hills gets linked with Laindon, it is and has always been a separate parish. It appeared in the Domesday Book as 'Langeduna', being derived from the Anglo Saxon meaning 'Long Hill'. 'Lang' meaning 'Long' and 'Duna' as mentioned means 'Hill'.

Intense erosion by rivers during the Ice Age has considerably modified the landscape of Langdon Hills, carving valleys but leaving outcrops of Bagshot Sand on the high ground.

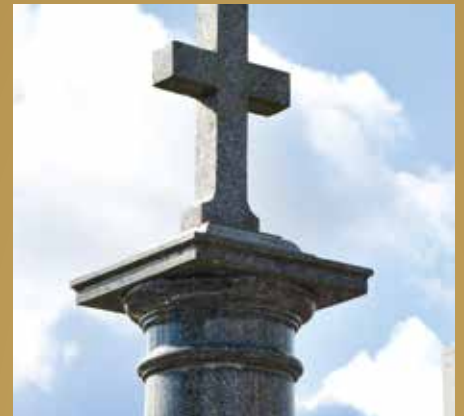
This pattern is typical of many of the hill tops in South Essex, but the Langdon Hills is the best example.

The Grade II church St Mary's has the distinction of being the highest church above sea level in Essex. The Crown Hotel, now known as the Miller and Carter, was to be used as a look out if Napoleons French troops had invaded in the early 1800s with the surrounding tree line lopped. It was felt the hills were a strategic position and if it fell into enemy hands the whole of the low country to the west would be at his disposal.

THE DEFINING MOMENT OF BRITISH HISTORY

Queen Elizabeth I used her power over language to frame the narrative of the Spanish Armada.

It is believed that on Queen Elizabeth I's travels to Tilbury to make the famous and history-changing speech, Elizabeth is said to have stopped off at Laindon. The defeat of the Spanish Armada brought fame, both for England and Queen Elizabeth I. Europe was stunned that such a small island nation had successfully defended itself against such a major aggressor.



LAINDON WAR MEMORIAL WWI & WWII

Due to development works, Laindon War Memorial has been placed in a new, temporary position. Swan Housing have placed a banner on the hoarding next to the memorial depicting all the names of local military personnel that lost their lives in WWI and WWII.

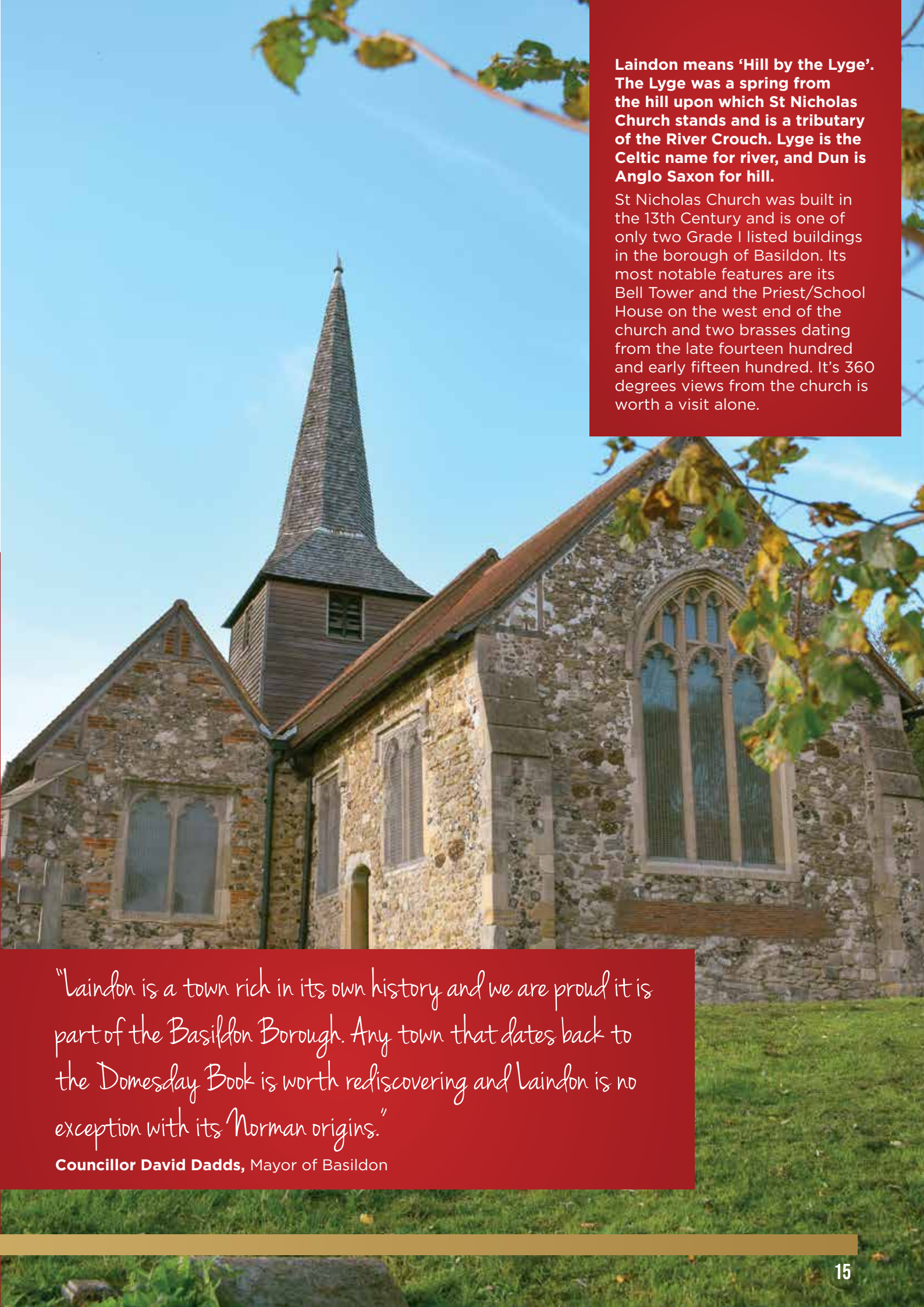
Also on the banner is the poem by Robert Laurence Binyan – 'For the Fallen.' A portion of the poem say:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them."



Laindon means 'Hill by the Lyge'. The Lyge was a spring from the hill upon which St Nicholas Church stands and is a tributary of the River Crouch. Lyge is the Celtic name for river, and Dun is Anglo Saxon for hill.

St Nicholas Church was built in the 13th Century and is one of only two Grade I listed buildings in the borough of Basildon. Its most notable features are its Bell Tower and the Priest/School House on the west end of the church and two brasses dating from the late fourteen hundred and early fifteen hundred. It's 360 degrees views from the church is worth a visit alone.

"Laindon is a town rich in its own history and we are proud it is part of the Basildon Borough. Any town that dates back to the Domesday Book is worth rediscovering and Laindon is no exception with its Norman origins."

Councillor David Dadds, Mayor of Basildon



HAVE FUN AND MAKE FRIENDS IN OUR BOROUGH'S PARKS

GET MOVING IN OUR PARKS WITH THE FANTASTIC AND FREE PARKPLAY!

Every Saturday at 10am in six parks and open spaces across the borough, the brilliant ParkPlay host their free, fun games for everyone to get involved in.

ParkPlay brings local communities together through their play, with a range of games each week including: dodgeball, frisbee, scavenger hunts, quick cricket and many more.

And it's certainly not just for children! Their fully inclusive games really are for everyone. That counts for parents, couples, families, anyone who wants to come and have some nostalgic fun.

We spoke to the participants and the amazing volunteers who help to make it happen, to find out why they ParkPlay.

Claire, volunteer: "I started volunteering about a year ago and was suffering from anxiety before I got involved, but getting out of the house and meeting other families in a fun environment really helped with that. I love playing the games and helping other families to enjoy them too."

Lyla, participant, aged 8: "I love coming to ParkPlay with my mum and dad, I get really excited about it before because the games we play are really fun."

Parkplay run free, fun activities for everyone every Saturday in six locations across the borough (Lake Meadows, Markhams Chase, Vange Primary, Northlands Park, Shotgate Park, Mopsies Park)... just turn up and play at 10am! Register before your first visit at: www.park-play.com/register



"We're really lucky to have Parkplay operating in six open spaces across our borough. Every Saturday without fail, their free activities bring the local community together and show just how simple having fun can be."

Councillor Craig Rimmer
Chairman of Leisure and Environment Committee



GET TO KNOW THE GLOUCESTER PARK COMMUNITY GROUP



Not only are we blessed with fantastic parks and open spaces across the whole borough, we're also lucky to have brilliant community groups that inhabit them, who do their bit to keep them looking beautiful.

From their name, it's not too difficult to work out where The Gloucester Park Community Group cover. Meeting on a weekly basis every Saturday morning, the relatively new group are always looking for more friendly faces to join in their efforts. We spoke to two members of the group to find out about why they enjoy being a part of their local community group.

If you're curious about getting involved or want to know more about the work they do in the park, you can join their Facebook group 'The Gloucester Park Community Group'.

Eileen Brown: "I love that we have this big open space in the centre of town where you can escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. I love volunteering with the group, it gives me a great sense of community and satisfaction to be involved."

Group Chairman, Andrew Buxton: "The group is such a friendly bunch made up of all ages, and we want to welcome anyone from the local community to come and help out. You will be made so welcome, so please come down and get involved."



FREE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES IN OUR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES!

There's lots of free, inclusive activities for you and your families to get involved in at our open spaces across the borough, regardless of ability or experience. We're letting you know about them so you don't miss out!

ParkRun takes place at 9am every Saturday morning in Lake Meadows, Wickford Memorial Park, and Northlands Park. ParkRun's are a free 5K event where participants can run, jog, or walk the distance. Register before your first one at: www.parkrun.com/register

5K your way takes place on the last Saturday of every month at 9am in Lake Meadows, starting outside the café. It's open to anyone living with and beyond cancer, their family and friends, plus health professionals. For more information visit their Facebook page 'Billericay5Kyourway'.

Motivated Minds hold their 'Walk 4 Wellness' sessions at 1pm on a Monday and Thursday in Gloucester Park. The walks provide an opportunity to improve fitness and talk health and wellbeing in a comfortable atmosphere. For more information please call 01268 520 785 or email admin@motivated-minds.co.uk

Basildon MIND run a weekly 'Walk and Talk' session for everyone every Friday at 10am. Meeting at Vange Community Centre, the sessions feature a qualified walk leader and a trained counsellor to provide tips and support to achieve good mental health. For more information please email Pauline@basmind.org or call 01268 289700.

ATF – After a brilliant summer putting on sessions for hundreds of youngsters and adults in our parks, ATF's sessions are now switching to a winter timetable.

For parents:

Monday - 9.30am-11am - Coffee morning at Northlands Park Café

Monday -2pm-2.45pm - Mums Fit Club at Northlands Park

Thursday -2pm-2.45pm - Mums Fit Club at Vange Primary School

Multi-sport sessions for kids:

Monday – 5pm-7pm at James Hornsby School

Tuesday – 6pm-7pm at The Beach Centre for kids aged under 13, 7pm-8pm for 13+

Thursday – 5pm-6pm at Janet Duke Primary School for kids under 13

Friday – 4.30pm-5.30pm also at Janet Duke Primary School for kids 13+



CHIEF EXECUTIVE, KATHY KENTISH CITIZENS ADVICE SOUTH ESSEX

Citizens advice is an independent charity that welcome everybody in offering a confidential and non-judgmental service to those who need it. Don't be afraid to seek help and advice as everybody can face struggles at different stages of life. It's a free service assuring high quality information, advice and guidance tailored to your specific needs and situation.

A CONVERSATION WITH...

What are the financial challenges people face this time of year?

The main financial struggle that people face this time of year is the pressure to provide for Christmas whilst managing an increase in gas and heating bills. This can tend to have long term effects, building up arrears and debt in other areas such as council tax and rent. With furlough coming to an end, jobs being lost and people now claiming benefits, this has meant a reduced income for some and a struggle to provide at this time.

What assistance do you offer for people struggling financially?

We provide people with advice to maximise income and tackle debt. This begins by gathering information on where money is owed, looking at individual circumstances and financial priorities. Each individual situation is different so it's about looking at the pros and cons of each option to suit individual's needs.

What is your long term aim when helping people financially?

Our long term goal is to move the client forward to be able to manage a sustainable household budget and deal with debt issues, looking at emergency action to be taken and long term measures to resolve their issues.

How can people contact Citizens Advice?

There are multiple ways that contact can be made, through a phone call, email, face to face, or online web chat to suit individual needs.

We are also open in the Basildon Centre Monday and Thursday every week, 9am-12pm. For more information please visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

0808 278 7877 www.citizensadvicesouthessex.org

Money Advice Helpline 01277 358082

Email moneyadvice@citizenadvicesouthessex.org

Warm Homes Essex

www.warmhomesessex.org.uk 0300 3033 789



REMEMBRANCE EVENTS TAKE PLACE ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Events took place across the borough on 14 November to commemorate Remembrance Sunday.

The Mayor of Basildon was in attendance at Billericay's remembrance event before attending the afternoon's service in Laindon, as well as visiting the war memorials across the borough's five towns throughout the day too. The Deputy Mayor of Basildon attended Basildon's event in St Martins Square, and other poignant events took place at the war memorials in Vange, Pitsea, and Wickford.

Parades took place on route to the war memorials including current and former members of the armed forces, our emergency services, cadets, and local scouts/cubs groups.

The events included speeches from members of the Armed Forces and council representatives, a march, wreath laying, as well as a minute's silence to remember those that have tragically passed through war.

All the events across the borough were extremely well attended by the local community, with people of all ages coming out to honour our fallen heroes. Road closures were even in place at some to cater for the hundreds in attendance.

The Mayor of Basildon Councillor David Dadds said: "It's a real honour as Mayor that I get to attend Remembrance events and pay my respects to such heroes across the whole Basildon borough.

"To be able to speak at the services in both Billericay and Laindon, as well as visit all the memorials across the borough throughout the day, was really moving. I got to see the many wreaths and read the touching messages left on them in tribute to such amazing soldiers.

"It was fantastic for everyone to be able to come together this year to honour our fallen soldiers properly.

"With every year that passes, our appreciation for their sacrifice remains stronger than ever. We will remember them."





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MAKE SMALL CHANGES TO SAVE ENERGY AND KEEP WARM AND WELL

This summer we launched our Small Changes, Big Impact Campaign in a bid to tackle climate change at a local level and become a carbon net-zero borough by 2050.

There are many small changes we can all make as winter approaches. Saving energy in the home, but still keeping safe and warm is a good place to start.

Energy saving tips for around the home:

Heating

- Only heat the rooms you use
- try turning the thermostat down degree by degree to find a comfortable temperature – each degree can typically save around £80 a year.

Unplugging chargers and standby

- Unplug all chargers when not in use, especially any that have display lights
- turn off tablets, laptops and consoles as soon as you stop using them, and ideally unplug them.

Lighting

- make sure that everyone turns off every light when leaving a room and you can save up to £15 a year
- you can save up to £3 per year for every traditional halogen bulb you switch to a similarly bright LED bulb, equivalent to around 5kg of CO2 emissions.

Hot drinks

- Don't overfill your kettle –boil the amount of water you need for the number of drinks you are making at the time. This small trick can save around £6 a year.

Useful Contacts

For help with employment, accessing benefits, or managing debt speak to Basildon Council's Community Engagement team. Visit www.basildon.gov.uk/communityengagement to arrange a call.

Money Advice Helpline
01277 358082

Email moneyadvice@citizenadvicesouthessex.org

Warm Homes Essex
www.warmhomesessex.org.uk
0300 3033 789
www.citizensadvicesouthessex.org



BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY THIS WINTER

WITH THE FLU VACCINE + COVID-19 BOOSTER

Get vaccinated. Get boosted. Get protected.
nhs.uk/winter-vaccinations



Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership

There for families when they need us the most...



SERVICES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY



WHAT CAN WE OFFER?

- Weekly home-based support
- Supportive Family Groups
- Wellbeing Groups with crèche
- School Readiness Programmes
- Telephone Befriending

Recruiting volunteers now!

www.home-startessex.org.uk

Follow us on Social Media



or call 01245 847410

TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN HELP:

Charity No. 1170940



When Ruby felt unwell

I used the NHS Essex Child Health App for advice



Just search **NHS Essex Child Health** and Download the **FREE** app now





LET'S SPREAD THE GIFT OF conversation this Christmas!

The lead-up to Christmas can be a difficult time for many – whether it be financial, employment, health or companionship problems, we don't want you to suffer in silence.

Basildon Council has teamed up with Basildon-based well-being provider Motivated Minds to raise awareness of the importance of self-care and caring for others, by asking 'Are you ok?'

If you're not ok, it's important to speak to someone and access local support services for help. If you need face-to-face support the Motivated Minds Happy Hub, located in Eastgate shopping centre, is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm.

Motivated Minds are a non-profit mental health and wellbeing organisation who offer a range of services to meet the needs of those suffering from mental health. The Happy hub is run for the community, by the community with not only the communi-tea café but also training and sensory areas, one to one rooms, physical activity space and a community connect area. The Happy Hub are also putting up a Christmas tree this year to support the community at this challenging time and need your help. The Christmas tree tag appeal means you can donate a small amount of money or buy a gift for someone in need of it, See how you can help, **visit www.motivated-minds.co.uk**

**If you are ok, then why not check on your neighbour, make a phone call or if you know someone who would benefit from a call or a letter from a trained volunteer at Motivated Minds visit:
<https://www.motivated-minds.co.uk/Operation-Elf.php>**

Spread the gift of conversation this Christmas.

You can find a list of support services and further information at: www.basildon.gov.uk/areyouok

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

It's important to know that there is support available if you need it. If you are at all concerned about your health or the health of a friend or family member, you may find useful information from the sources on this page.



MOTIVATED MINDS

Looking to enhance your wellbeing? Whether that's meeting new people, learning about mental health, getting active, mindfulness, or giving, we've got something for everyone at Motivated Minds.

01268 520 785

www.motivated-minds.co.uk/whats-on-where



VITA MINDS

In partnership with the NHS to provide mental and physical health services.

01268 977 171

www.vitahealthgroup.co.uk



SOCIABILITY

Offers an alternative to clinical support. Helps with boosting physical and mental wellbeing.

www.sociabilityonline.org



ST LUKE'S HOSPICE

Offering confidential, individual and group support to help cope with the loss of family or loved ones.

01268 524973

www.stlukeshospice.com



SAMARITANS

Whatever you're going through, you can talk to someone at Samaritans 24/7 for free.

116 123



BASILDON MINDS

Supporting mental health in the community.

01268 284130

www.basmind.org



NHS MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Call 111, select option 2, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

www.111.nhs.uk



EWMHS

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service

0300 300 1600

Out-of-hours: 0300 555 1200



KOOTH

Online mental wellbeing support for young people. Free and anonymous, 365 days a year.

www.kooth.com

WHAT'S ON...



BILLERICAY CHRISTMAS MARKET

Get into the spirit at the Billericay Christmas Market 2021! Enjoy festive stalls, food trucks, street performers and Christmas music playing throughout the day. Buy some lovely gifts for your friends and families, and support your neighbours and small businesses in Essex!

Billericay High Street (Use postcode: CM12 9AS). Sunday 5th December 2021 from 11am-5pm. FREE entry but donations are encouraged.



COMMUNITY CONNECT CLUB AT THE PLACE PITSEA

Join us at the free and friendly Community Connect Club at The Place, Pitsea Leisure Centre. It offers a great opportunity for adults to get out of their homes, meet new people, enjoy activities like playing cards, board games and arts and crafts, or to simply sit and have a chat with a free cuppa.

There's no need to book but the maximum number of members is 15. 8 December & 15 December 2021 at 6:30pm-8:30pm.



SCIENCE WEEK AT WAT TYLER COUNTRY PARK

It's an action-packed week of science workshops at Wat Tyler Country Park during the February half term! Celebrate Science Week 2022 with magical illusions, infinity mirrors, pop bottle rockets and giant bubbles!

All sessions are half an hour long and cost £5 per child. Minimum age is 3+. Different events available from Monday 14 - Friday 18 February 2022. Please visit www.wattylercountrypark.org.uk to find out more.



THE ADVICE STORE

The Advice Store runs weekly group CV workshops and job Club for help with searching for jobs. Both are appointment only due to limited places being available. The Advice Store is open from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Thursday and is closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

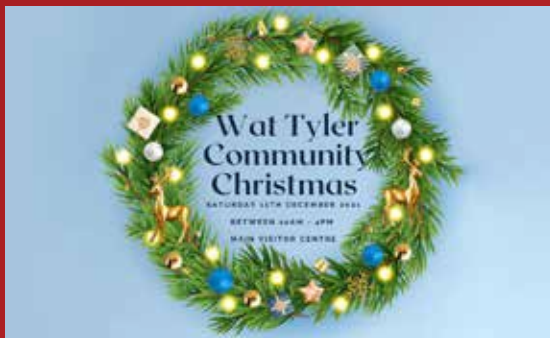
Please email TheAdviceStore@basildon.gov.uk or walk into the store to book a place on either.



WELLNESS WORKSHOP - BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT

Do you want to create a healthy mindset and discover many ways to fit in fitness? To feel empowered with the tools to change from the inside out? Join the "Wellness Workshop Body, Soul and Spirit" at Barleylands Craft Farm from 11am-1pm, Sunday 16 January 2022.

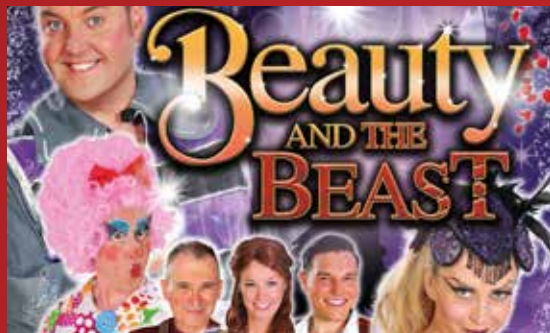
Tickets priced at £29.99. Please contact Jenny at food4thoughtjenny@gmail.com or call 07936 036021.



WAT TYLER COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

This Christmas we invite you to come along and enjoy Wat Tyler Country Park for our Community Christmas Event. Expect a craft market, grotto and elves workshop, stalls and festive refreshments!

Saturday 11 December 2021. The event will run between 10am-4pm.



TOWNGATE THEATRE

Towngate Theatre is back and ready to entertain you this winter with Beauty and the Beast showing from 24 November 2021 – 3 January 2022!

A night at the theatre on your doorstep! To browse upcoming shows and book, please visit: www.towngatetheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01268 205 300.



WOMEN TOGETHER

Women Together support vulnerable women suffering from anxiety, depression or domestic violence issues. Their sessions are not only aimed to promote fitness, but also positive mental health for women who could be feeling isolated and busy supporting their families.

If you would like to find out more, please visit: www.activeesseximpact.org/basildon/women-together



BILLERICAY SEASONAL FAYRE

Putting a spotlight on small businesses! Come along to the Billericay Seasonal Fayre with unique gifts, kids activities, homeware and beauty items, treats and more!

Held at The Chantry Centre, Billericay, CM11 2AP. Saturday 11 December at 10:30am-2:30pm. Indoor Event, FREE entry.



TIME, INVOLVE LIVE SESSIONS

TIME are an Essex based music service, with a concept that allows participants of all ages, abilities and backgrounds the opportunity to express and experiment for their own benefit within a musical environment. With a weekly club night named 'Involve', you can join TIME with lots of great chat, live performances and instrumental quizzes.

Every Monday from 6pm at The Edge, 6-8 High Pavement, Town Square, Basildon, SS14 1EA. To find out more please visit: www.facebook.com/timeessex

BILLERICAY WEST



Anthony Hedley
01277 626198
Deputy leader of the Council
25 Prower Close,
Billericay
CM11 2BU



Daniel Lawrence
01277 657480
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Phil Turner
01277 633918
27 Cranmer Close,
Billericay
CM12 0YQ



David Dadds
01277 631811
Mayor of Basildon
The Farthings,
10 The Square,
Stock CM4 9UH



Andrew Schrader
07769 651708
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Stuart Sullivan
07762 146251
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

BILLERICAY EAST

BURSTEAD



Andrew Baggott
07905 761372
leader of the Council
2 Raven Lane,
Billericay
CM12 0JD



Kevin Blake
01268 470597
66 Walthams,
Pitsea
SS13 3PN



Richard Moore
01277 627266
47 Landon Road,
Billericay
CM12 9LG



Terri Sargent
01268 288766
81 Lower Street,
Noak Bridge,
Basildon
SS15 4BD

LAINDON PARK



John Scarola
01268 533333
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Kevin Wingfield
01268 533333
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Jeff Henry
07733 221362
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Davida Ademuyiwa
07811 137308
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Maryam Yaqub
07393 967607
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

ST. MARTINS

LEE CHAPEL NORTH



Vacant Seat



Alex Harrison
07939 307727
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Elaine McDonald
07507 929073
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

LANGDON HILLS



Christopher Allen
07759 833532
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Val Robbins
01268 533333
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

NETHERMAYNE



Hazel Green
07903 480549
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Pauline Kettle
07484 396209
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

All councillors can be contacted via email:
firstname.surname@members.basildon.gov.uk

For more information regarding councillors please call **01268 533333**

COUNCILLORS OF BASILDON BOROUGH 2021-2022



CROUCH



Stuart Allen
07415 440873
62 The Upway,
Basildon
SS14 2JA

WICKFORD CASTLEDON



Malcolm Buckley
01268 472586
65 Castledon Road,
Wickford SS12 0HB



Don Morris
07960 959689
24 The Hastings,
Wickford
SS11 7EQ



Peter Holliman
07956 395818
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Carole Morris
01268 457488
24 The Hastings,
Wickford, SS11 7EQ



Eunice Brockman
07594 216528
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

WICKFORD NORTH



David Harrison
07305 614967
49 Alicia Avenue
Wickford
SS11 BPH



George Jeffery
07570 282997
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

WICKFORD PARK



Adele Brown
07957 610371
99 Laindon Road
Billericay, Essex
CM12 9LG

FRYERNS



Allan Davies
07932 883014
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



David Kirkman
07887 775083
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Stuart Terson
07723612693
52 St Marys Crescent,
Pitsea, Basildon
SS13 2AS



Patricia Reid
07806 804299
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Jack Ferguson
07803 849145
25 Langford Grove,
Basildon SS13 1NX

PITSEA NORTH WEST

VANGE



Yetunde Adeshile
07956 390797
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Melissa McGeorge
07545 237217
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

Frame colour	Political group	Number of seats
	CONSERVATIVE	25
	LABOUR	10
	INDEPENDENTS	4
	WICKFORD INDEPENDENTS	2

PITSEA SOUTH EAST



Kerry Smith
01268 661812
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Gary Canham
07736 930946
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Luke Mackenzie
07483 276109
Deputy Mayor of Basildon
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



Craig Rimmer
07535 826481
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

Why are GP practices still working differently?

We are sorry to hear experiences of people struggling to get through on the telephone to speak with us.

GP services remain very busy, delivering more appointments than ever before.

We appreciate your patience during this difficult period.

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that GP practices have had to adapt the way they work and how services are provided to keep you and everyone else safe.

For more information visit
www.msehealthandcarepartnership.co.uk/gps

COMMITTEE DATES (all meetings start at 7pm unless stated otherwise)

Planning

15 December, 12 January, 26 January, 9 February, 23 February

Leisure & Environment

27 January

Audit & Risk

7 December, 2 February

Communities & Wellbeing

19 January

Regeneration & Economic Development

13 January, 22 February

Licensing

20 January

Enforcement and Public Order

7 December, 1 February

Joint Standards

16 February

Resources & Commercial

14 December, 8 February

Policy Executive

9 December, 10 February

Scrutiny

25 January

Full Council (starts 7.30pm)

16 December, 24 February

Strategic Planning & Infrastructure

20 December (6:00pm), 3 February

Housing & Estate Renewal

18 January

Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee

12 January (11am), 2 February (11am)

Have you witnessed Anti-social Behaviour in your area?

Please get in touch and report this confidentially to the council's Anti-social Behaviour team by either:

- Calling **01268 533333** option 4 then option 2
- Emailing a report to: asb@basildon.gov.uk
- You can also log a report at:
<https://www5.basildon.gov.uk/report/AntiSocialBehaviour>

Have you witnessed or been a victim of crime?

Report it as quickly as you can by:

- Calling **999** in an emergency or by calling **101** for a non-emergency; or
- Reporting it anonymously via Crimestoppers by calling **0800 555 111** or by doing so online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>



SAVE TIME DO IT ONLINE



Your council –
available at the
click of a button.

- Book a special collection
- Report dumped rubbish
- Pay your bills and charges
- Complete a housing application

These services and more are available right now on our website.

Visit www.basildon.gov.uk/selfserve to pay, book, report or apply and get back to the things you enjoy.

BILLS ARE CHANGING



Council tax and housing benefits are moving online.
No more hunting for paper bills – your information is stored securely on your personal e-Services account.

It's safe, secure and together we are reducing our carbon footprint.

Check your email for details of your personalised e-services account.

e-services – **Check, Change and Apply** all in one place

HAVEN'T HEARD FROM US?

Please visit:
www.basildon.gov.uk/eservices
and set up your account today.

No internet? We'll continue to send paper bills

CHECK CHANGE APPLY