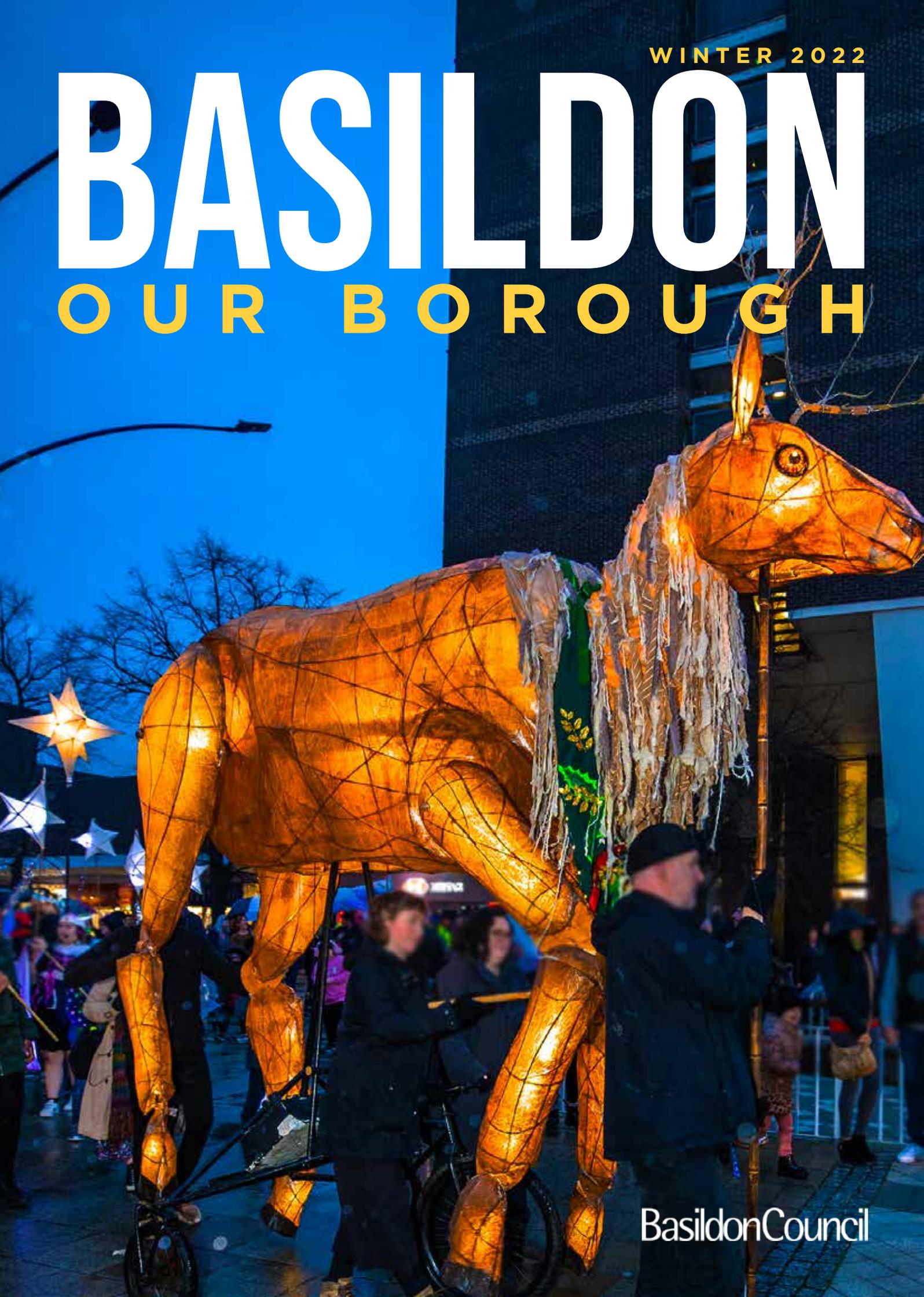


WINTER 2022

BASILDON

OUR BOROUGH



BasildonCouncil



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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 enquiries email - jude.mason@basildon.gov.uk

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

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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USEFUL INFORMATION



SAMARITANS

Telephone: 116123
(free from any phone)

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 MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

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

ONLINE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Kooth - online mental wellbeing support. Free and anonymous, 365 days a year. www.kooth.com

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

WELCOME

Many of us will be looking forward to spending the festive season with our friends and family. But for others this can be a very difficult time. We all know that prices have gone up, and concerns about finances can have a huge impact on our mental health.

As a single parent I have seen the escalating costs on heating, food and travel. Additionally, the council itself is not immune and has seen quite shocking increases to its bills and running costs.

It is because of this that in this edition we launch our 'Are you ok?' campaign. We have created a new digital hub on the council's website highlighting some of the ways that we, and other agencies, can help. There are hints and tips that could save you money this winter as well as help the environment, along with activities and places to go. Please do not feel that you need to struggle in silence. The council and others can help. Speak to us or to one of the charity's charities whose contact details we have listed.

As Leader of the council, I am keen to hear from you on how we can deliver services better in the future. I am holding regular drop-in sessions at my Meet the Leader events across the borough.



A full list can be found on my Facebook page: **@Cllr Andrew Baggott** and on the council's website **www.basildon.gov.uk/meettheleader**

We hold regular consultations on key policies and really want to hear from you on our strategy to help reduce climate change, our

housing strategy and our emerging local plan. Your views really do matter, so please do keep an eye on our consultation hub: **www.basildon.gov.uk/yoursay** and the councils social media pages.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the very best wishes for the new year. Whatever challenges 2023 brings we will rise to them and continue to do our very best for you. We are in this together. I do hope you enjoy this winter issue and the next one will be delivered in the springtime.

Councillor Andrew Baggott
Leader of Basildon Council

YOUR COUNCIL, YOUR SAY

The council is committed to providing genuine opportunities for you to contribute to and inform the decisions we take, the policies we develop and services we deliver to you.

We have recently launched a new consultation and engagement hub on our website to help you find and take part in consultations, surveys and engagement activities of interest to you. The hub makes it easier for everyone to:

- Find out what consultations and engagement activities are coming up
- Take part in live consultations
- Find the results of past consultations and engagement activity

Don't worry if taking part online isn't for you. There are other ways to make your voice heard. All online consultations are supported by our customer services team, who are able to talk you through a survey and record your responses over the phone. We also have a Text Relay service if you require additional assistance when making a call. Our consultations can also be made available in an alternative language.

Issues around climate change are certainly a hot topic, and we want to know what you think.

Complete the short consultation online, visit:

www.basildon.gov.uk/climateconsultation for your chance of winning one of three gift vouchers.



Have your say at:

www.basildon.gov.uk/YourSay

or phone: 01268 533333





INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS HONOURED AT BASILDON ACTIVITY AWARDS

The Basildon Activity Awards have taken place honouring special individuals and groups within our borough.

The awards took place at the Players Lounge in Billericay, and winners included Gymnastics star Courtney Tulloch – who picked up the Sports Personality of the Year award after an amazing year winning World, European, and Commonwealth medals this year.

Other winners on the evening included the Essex Indian Charity who won the Strengthening Communities Award for their run online fitness sessions for all ages and levels of ability, and The Craig Tyler Trust who won the Active Wellbeing Award for their weekly tailored activity sessions for those struggling with mental ill health.

Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts, Culture, and Health, Councillor Jeff Henry, said: “It was a great evening at the Basildon Activity Awards getting to hear all the stories of those who have done brilliant things in our borough.

“Congratulations to all the nominees and winners on the evening and thank you for all that you do.”

The awards are a partnership between Basildon Council and Active Basildon. The winners on the evening across all the categories were:

Active and Inclusive Award – Kool Carers, **Active Club of the Year** – South Essex Gymnastics Club, **Active Education Award** – South Essex College, **Active Workplace of the Year** – Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board Basildon and Brentwood Alliance, **Sports Personality of the Year** – Courtney Tulloch, **Strengthening Communities Award** – Essex Indian Charity, **Unsung Hero** – Dean Bedford, Steve Richardson, Patrick Gomes, Anne-Marie Souster, **Wellbeing Award** – The Craig Tyler Trust, **Young Sports Personality of the Year** – Zowie Dodge

THOUSANDS ATTEND BASILDON AT CHRISTMAS EVENT

Thousands of residents flocked to Basildon Town Centre when our borough came together for the Basildon at Christmas celebrations.

The day was packed full of fun with activities across the town all day including rides, Santa’s grottos in Eastgate and the market, free festive mini-golf, and the famous Bavarian Market with German sausages and mulled wine on offer all day.

The first ever Illuminated winter procession took place in the town centre, the Handmade Parade consisted of beautiful woodland creatures. This was kindly funded by the Arts Council England, organised by Creative Basildon.

There were also live performances on the Gateway 97.8 stage in St Martin’s Square and in Eastgate, with acrobatic shows, dubstepping elves, comedy carol singing, and vintage vocal performances.

The event concluded with a ten-second countdown with this year’s Towngate Theatre cast of Peter Peter.

The Grotto in Eastgate and the Bavarian Market in the town square, which includes various food and drink stands, and the free crazy golf will all be available until Christmas Eve.

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



MULTIPLE AWARD WINS AT PRESTIGIOUS ESSEX HOUSING AWARDS

Basildon Council picked up wins for two separate projects at the prestigious Essex Housing Awards. The annual awards recognise high-quality developments, services, and individuals, and promote best practice across the county from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The first council win was in the 'Delivering Services to Vulnerable People' category for the Nevendon Place development, to provide 16 self-contained accommodation units alongside day-to-day support for the borough's rough sleepers in need.

The second award win was in the 'Meeting Housing Need (Large scheme 51+)' category, won for the project at Acorn House. The scheme was completed back in March, providing ninety-nine one and two-bedroom homes exclusively for residents on the council's housing register.

Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal, Councillor Andrew Schrader, said: "It has been a privilege to watch these award-winning projects being delivered. Each will be life-changing for the local residents who will benefit.

"Be it the ninety-nine local people who are now starting a new life in the much-needed modern new council homes we have delivered at Acorn House, or those residents in need who will be getting so much more than just a bed for the night at Nevendon Place. This brilliant new homeless facility will help transform lives.

"It is great that the hard work of all those who have played a part in delivering these fantastic projects has been properly recognised."



HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS ENJOY FIND YOUR ACTIVE BASILDON FESTIVAL

The Find Your Active Basildon Festival took place back in September where hundreds of residents came to Basildon Sporting Village to get involved in a range of activities, all for free.

The event took place across the athletics stadium and indoors in the sports hall, with a number of 'give it a go' sessions for residents to try activities they may not have tried before, such as Bollywood dance, inflatable basketball, and parkour.

There were also interactive stands at the event from borough partners such as Everyone Active and The Craig Tyler Trust to showcase all the support and opportunities available locally.

The event started with a mass ParkPlay in the athletics stadium – breaking a nationwide record as the highest ever attended ParkPlay. Residents of all ages came together to play the fun nostalgic games before getting involved in the rest of the activities on offer.

The event was delivered by Basildon Council, with support from partner organisations working in the borough and across Essex.

Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing, Leisure, Arts & Culture, Councillor Jeff Henry, said: "This was a really exciting event that gave residents the opportunity to have lots of fun and try sports they may not have before."





GARDENS IN BLOOM COMPETITION PROVES A HIT

Our popular Gardens in Bloom competition for Basildon's sheltered schemes returned earlier this year with judging taking place during the summer months and an award ceremony being held in October.

Being its first year back after the pandemic, the competition brought residents together for a fun, light-hearted gardening competition.

Gardens in Bloom encourages sheltered housing residents to get active, get outdoors, and socialise with their fellow residents.

The categories for the competition included Best Communal Gardens, Best Individual Garden, Best Individual Balcony, and Best Vegetable Garden, and its popularity was proven by the fifty-two entries received from 18 sheltered housing schemes.

The competition was kindly sponsored by Alton Garden Centre, with the winners winning local garden centre vouchers.

Congratulations to all the winners and entrants.

FREE FINANCIAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING COURSES

Responding to the cost-of-living crisis, adult education provider ACL Essex are delivering courses that will help residents to improve their mental wellbeing, reduce their household bills and gain qualifications to boost their career opportunities and earning potential.

The courses cover topics such as managing anxiety, stress awareness, how to save money on your energy bills, low-cost family activities, cooking on a budget, top tips to make your money go further, how to support you and your family during a crisis, building your confidence, and sustainable cost savings.

Residents who would like to improve life and job skills can enrol on free courses in English, Maths, Digital, Family Learning and Mental Health. Residents can also gain fully funded qualifications in a range of subject areas including business and management, accounting, digital, early years, hairdressing and beauty, plus medical health and care. There are also opportunities to 'earn while you learn' to gain valuable skills on a wide range of apprenticeship programmes.

For more information, please visit acessex.com/financial-wellbeing



NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2023 BASILDON BOROUGH VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Nominations for the 2023 Basildon Borough Volunteer Awards are now open.

The awards to recognise the achievements and contributions that volunteers have given across the borough.

There are eight categories to choose from, which are: **The Young Volunteer of the Year Award, Community Star, Inspirational Role Model, Fundraising Champion, Long Service Award, Voluntary Group/Project of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, and the People's Choice Award.**

Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Terri Sargent, said: "It's so important our borough's volunteers get recognition for the valuable support they provide to the community. This is our opportunity to nominate those hard-working individuals.

"I'm looking forward to meeting all of our special nominees at the awards ceremony in February."

To nominate, please visit: **www.basildon.gov.uk/volunteerawards** - full details of the nomination criteria for each award is available on the webpage.

Applications must be received by **Friday 23 December 2022.**



BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY VISITS BASILDON FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER IN 2023

This sensational multi award-winning West End and Broadway show first opened in 1989 and has been thrilling audiences around the world ever since. Now it triumphantly visits the Towngate Theatre as part of its 2023 UK Tour.

Forget feel good, Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story is FEEL GREAT! Experience the drama, passion and excitement as a cast of phenomenally talented actors and musicians tell Buddy Holly’s story, from his meteoric rise to fame, to his final legendary performance at The Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa.

Featuring two terrific hours of the greatest songs ever written, including That’ll Be The Day, Oh Boy, Rave On, La Bamba, Chantilly Lace, Johnny B. Goode, Raining In My Heart, Everyday, Shout and many many more, this show is just Peggy Sue-perb!

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story will be performed at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon over Wednesday 22 - Saturday 25 February 2023. Tickets are priced from £25 - £29.50 with a special Group Offer of Buy 10 tickets, get 1 free! Visit towngatetheatre.co.uk to book now for the most successful Rock & Roll musical of all time!



PITSEA POOL

Construction on a new swimming pool for Pitsea is set to begin in early 2023 as councillors agree to award the construction contract to Morgan Sindall Property Services.

The decision was made at a meeting of Basildon Council’s Cabinet on Thursday 20 October 2022, subject to finalisation of the contract terms.

The swimming pool will be built as an extension to Eversley Leisure Centre in Pitsea and will be operated by Sports and Leisure Management Limited, which currently operates the existing centre. Facilities will include a four-lane 25-metre pool, dedicated changing facilities and an extension to the existing car park, providing 50 additional parking spaces for those using the centre.

Eversley Leisure Centre, owned by Basildon Council and managed by Everyone Active, currently has a 53 station health and fitness suite, workout and spin studios, as well as a 3G football pitch.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Councillor Craig Rimmer, said: “This is an important milestone in the development of a new swimming pool for Pitsea - one which will give residents and pupils in Pitsea access to high quality facilities right on their doorstep. Residents have long asked us for a new pool in Pitsea and I am pleased that we can now look forward to construction.”



COST OF LIVING: ARE YOU OK?

As the cost of fuel, energy, food and other essentials continues to rise, many of us may start to feel under pressure. If you are struggling with money, energy debt or the cost of essential services, you are not alone. It's important to know that support is available. We are here to help.

We have pulled together a series of ideas and tips to help you save money this winter, as well information on other services and organisations providing support.

SMALL CHANGES, BIG IMPACT

Switching to greener alternatives may save you money this winter.

Make a meal plan

Planning your meals for the week ahead is a great way to save money and reduce food waste. Go to the shops with a clear list of what you need and try not to be tempted by special offers or items you don't really need.

Batch cooking

Portion and freeze meals in advance by scaling up quantities. This means you will have something ready when you need it and cooking in larger quantities can often work out cheaper too.

Switch from the oven

Slow cookers, microwaves and even air fryers use significantly less energy than a traditional electric oven – up to 90% less in the case of slow cookers. Plan your meals in advance to use the oven less often and cut down on energy costs.



Leave the car at home

For shorter journeys, consider walking or cycling instead. Active travel will save you money on fuel and it's great for your health. Essex Bicycles offer a variety of services such as bicycle repairs, sales, bespoke wheel building and even customisation.

**www.essexbicycles.com
01268 552484**

Insulate your home

There are some simple changes you can make to help insulate your home and reduce the amount you spend on heating and lighting this winter. Including draught proofing, radiator panels, led light bulbs, water saving shower heads, double or triple glazing, solar panels, hot water systems and lighting.

You may be eligible for grant funding to support with some of these home improvements. Find out more about the Sustainable Warmth Scheme online – **www.essex.gov.uk/cut-energy-costs**



COST OF LIVING: ARE YOU OK?

Personalised support

With expert knowledge of Basildon Council's council tax and benefits and housing services - the Community Engagement team can help with a range of issues. Because our advisors know the services inside out, there's a wide range of support the team can provide.

Talk to us about Employability, Council Tax, Benefits, Universal Credit, Housing and homelessness, Mental health.

To book an informal, private conversation with the team, visit our website - www.basildon.gov.uk/communityengagement

Improve your financial health

Basildon Credit Union is a not-for-profit organisation owned and controlled by members, with no outside shareholders to satisfy. Members save regularly every month, from as little as £5 per month. This forms a pool of money which is lent to members by way of loans at reasonable rates of interest.

To join Basildon Credit Union Limited you need to live and/or work within the County of Essex.

Find out more: www.basildoncu.co.uk

Credit Unions are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority, just like banks and building societies. Our Members' savings are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)

Find the perfect home

For some, downsizing or a mutual exchange could be a suitable option to reduce their overall cost of living.

Downsizing

If you no longer require a multi-bedroom home or simply wish to downsize to a more manageable property, the Downsizing Incentive Scheme could be suitable for you.

Basildon Council will decorate the new property, arrange removals and install new carpets at no cost to you. We will also give you a one-off financial payment to help you settle in to your new home.

Ms. O'Brien shared her thoughts after downsizing through the council's scheme: "I was able to swap from a three-bedroom home to a one-bedroom ground floor home that I could manage much more easily. The whole process was quick and smoother than I ever could have ever imagined and the Downsizing Team have been so helpful every step of the way."

Find out more by contacting the housing team - **01268 533333**, or applying directly via the Housing Register at:

www.basildonchoice.org.uk

MORGAN SINDALL - ENERGY CAFE

These friendly, informal sessions provided by Morgan Sindall Property Services are delivered virtually via Teams on the first Wednesday of each month from 11:00am to 12:30pm.

Those running the sessions have passed a Level 3 qualification in Energy Awareness with the National Energy Action, enabling them to advise residents on the following:

- Making sure your home is energy efficient
- What to do if you're struggling to pay your energy bills
- The best boiler and thermostat controls for heating your home efficiently
- Grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills
- Signposting for extra support to other agencies

If you would like to sign up or discuss alternative locations and times, please get in touch and include your full name and postal code.

CSRbox@morgansindall.com



"Now more than ever it is important to seek help when you need it and we want everyone to feel they can reach out to these services."

Councillor Andrew Baggott
Leader of Basildon Council





AFFORDABLE ACTIVITY CENTRES IN THE BOROUGH

Whether you just want a chinwag and a coffee, or you want to get involved in the wide variety of daily activities, there really is something for everyone at our borough's activity centres.

Our activity centres are open Monday to Friday between 9am-4.30pm, with a wide variety of daily activities from aerobics, to art, to pottery, to flower arranging.

Activities cost between £2.50 to £3 for each session, with the membership rates for each centre being:

£10 per annum - Laindon Activity Centre

£15 per annum- Pitsea Activity Centre, at The Place Pitsea

£52 plus £4 Committee fee per annum - George Hurd Activity Centre

Peggy has been coming to Pitsea Activity Centre for over 20 years and she has no intention of stopping anytime soon.

"This centre is an absolute godsend, it's a really good place to make friends and have a great time, but if you're struggling or have any issues there's always someone to help you too.

"You can try things you wouldn't do anywhere else like art, dancing, pottery, jewellery making, and everyone can have a go. Just walk in, have a cup of tea, and I'm sure you'll find it's the best place to be."



What does a day at our activity centres look like? How about Wednesdays at Laindon

- **Art, bowls, cribbage and darts** 10am to 12pm
- **Line dancing** 10am to 11am
- **Fit steps** 11am to 12pm
- **Seated Exercise** 12pm to 1pm
- **Zumba Gold** 1pm to 2pm
- **Whist** 1:30pm to 4pm
- **Keyboard and marquetry** 2pm to 4pm



FREE ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARKS FOR ALL AGES

Across the borough we have fantastic parks and open spaces, and there is plenty of fun to be had getting out and exploring them. Here are some of the free activities you and your family can enjoy, regardless of ability or experience. Give it a go.

ParkPlay takes place in Gloucester Park, Northlands Park, Mopsies Park, Lame Meadows, Markhams Chase and Eversley every Saturday morning with their fun and free sports and activity sessions for all the family. Play nostalgic games with your local community and enjoy our parks.

At 9am every Saturday morning, you'll see adults, kids, dogs, pushchairs, baby bumps, and every other kind of resident at the inclusive ParkRuns in our borough. ParkRun's are a free 5K event where participants can run, jog, or walk the distance, and they take place in Lake Meadows, Wickford Memorial Park, and Northlands Park. If the youngsters want to run without the adults, junior Parkrun takes place every Sunday morning at 9am in both Lake Meadows and Northlands Park.

Achieve Thrive Flourish have a variety of fun activities in our open spaces on a weekly basis.

- On Mondays at Briscoes Primary School there is a support, games and advice session between 4.30pm to 5.30pm.
- There is a community session on Wednesdays at Briscoes Primary School between 5pm to 6pm, as well as at Vange Community Centre 5pm to 7pm.
- On Thursdays, Janet Duke hosts a community session between 5pm to 6pm.
- On Fridays there's a King Edwards Community Centre session between 5pm to 7pm, as well as the Briscoes Primary Youth Club - open to all primary age children between 6.30pm to 8pm.

Fancy a walk? Motivated Minds hold a 'Walk 4 Wellness' every Monday and Thursday exploring the brilliant Gloucester Park in a comfortable atmosphere. For more information please call **01268 520 785** or email **admin@motivated-minds.co.uk**



LEONARDO EMPOWERS NEXT GENERATION

Leonardo offers the next generation long-term career prospects amidst cost of living crisis.

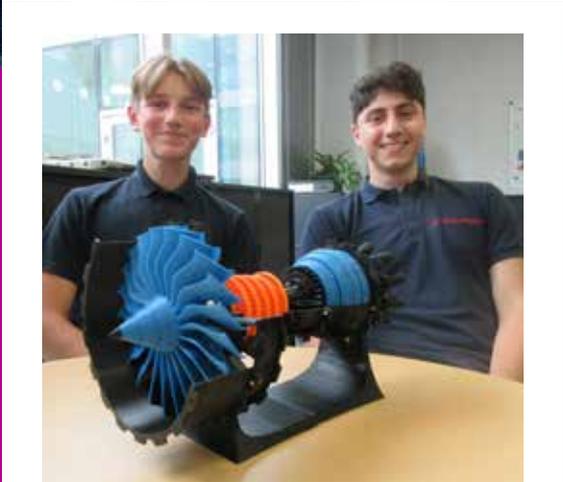
Aerospace engineering company Leonardo is bucking current economic trends by increasing its early careers population by 50% over the coming year, offering long-term stable employment to local Basildon talent.

Across the UK, Leonardo is planning to hire an additional 300 apprentices, industrial placements and graduate scheme starters in 2023. This will bring the total number of young people on early careers schemes to 900, an increase of 50% in a single year.

The company is committed to creating positive career paths for people aged 16+ and while young job seekers in the Basildon region have found that some employers stipulate applicants must be 18 before applying for apprenticeships, young people are able to start their careers at Leonardo from the age of 16.

Joe Bushell, 17, a first year Manufacturing Technical Apprentice, joined Leonardo last September when he was 16 years of age.

Joe said: "I was fresh out of my GCSEs and I never really got along with school. I am a very practical hands-on learner, so I realised I needed to go out and get started. I applied to five or six companies for apprenticeships, but they all came back and said you either needed to be 18 or you needed a drivers licence. Now I'm at Leonardo I'm attending South Essex College in Basildon for my NVQ and BTEC Engineering Technician course while also learning skills on the job. I guess I would have felt trapped if I hadn't found my apprenticeship at Leonardo, as there would only be one option - go back to school for another two years and not enjoy myself."



A GOOD EMPLOYER

Leonardo is one of a number of businesses in Basildon recognised by Basildon Council's Good Employer Charter. The scheme brings together businesses who put Basildon first. Each business is encouraged to put policies and initiatives in place to encourage local recruitment, development opportunities for staff, wellbeing support and more.

Leonardo have been awarded the Gold level of the Good Employer Charter for meeting all four pillars of the scheme.

Find out more, including a full list of businesses who have signed up to the scheme www.basildon.gov.uk/goodemployer



YOUR FOOD WASTE BIN IS **HERE FOR CHRISTMAS**

Christmas is fast approaching and you may have more waste and recycling than usual.

Our separate food waste collection service started in October, and it means you now have a weekly collection specifically for all that extra Christmas grub, including the peelings and bones.

It's important that residents try to reduce the amount of food waste being produced in your household over the Christmas period. Don't overbuy; plan your meals; check use by dates before purchasing; keep leftovers by freezing them and eating them at a later date.

Make sure you recycle all your food waste, so it gets turned into electricity to power our homes, rather than being left to rot in landfill and produce greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently, on average we are collecting over 100 tonnes of food waste a week and we want to thank all residents taking part in the new food waste collection services.

Food waste collections take place weekly on your usual collection day, with garden waste collected fortnightly on the same week as glass.

Collection days will be different over the festive period due to bank holidays. Please look out for your collection calendar coming through your door or quickly and simply on the free 'Our Streets Basildon' app.

To check your collection days and schedule:

Visit: Where I live www.basildon.gov.uk/whereilive

Download: Our Streets App www.basildon.gov.uk/ourstreets



Basildon Council



DELICIOUS DINING OPTIONS AT BASILDON'S EAST SQUARE

Orleto Lounge

Orleto Lounge is a home from home, café/bar combining elements of a restaurant, British pub and coffee shop culture. The family-friendly cosy retreat has been a huge success since opening its doors earlier this year in Basildon Town Centre.

As well as Orleto Lounge's unique dining setting, you can enjoy a quiz night every Monday from 8pm with a team of up to 8 people, while tucking into their delicious Monday deal of any main meal or burger with a free dessert or glass of house wine.

If you fancy something different, you can watch local people perform at the live music night every Thursday at 8pm.

Don't forget - dogs are welcome at Orleto Lounge too.

Visit Orleto Lounge in Basildon's East Square or find out more on their website - www.thelounges.co.uk/orleto



Nando's

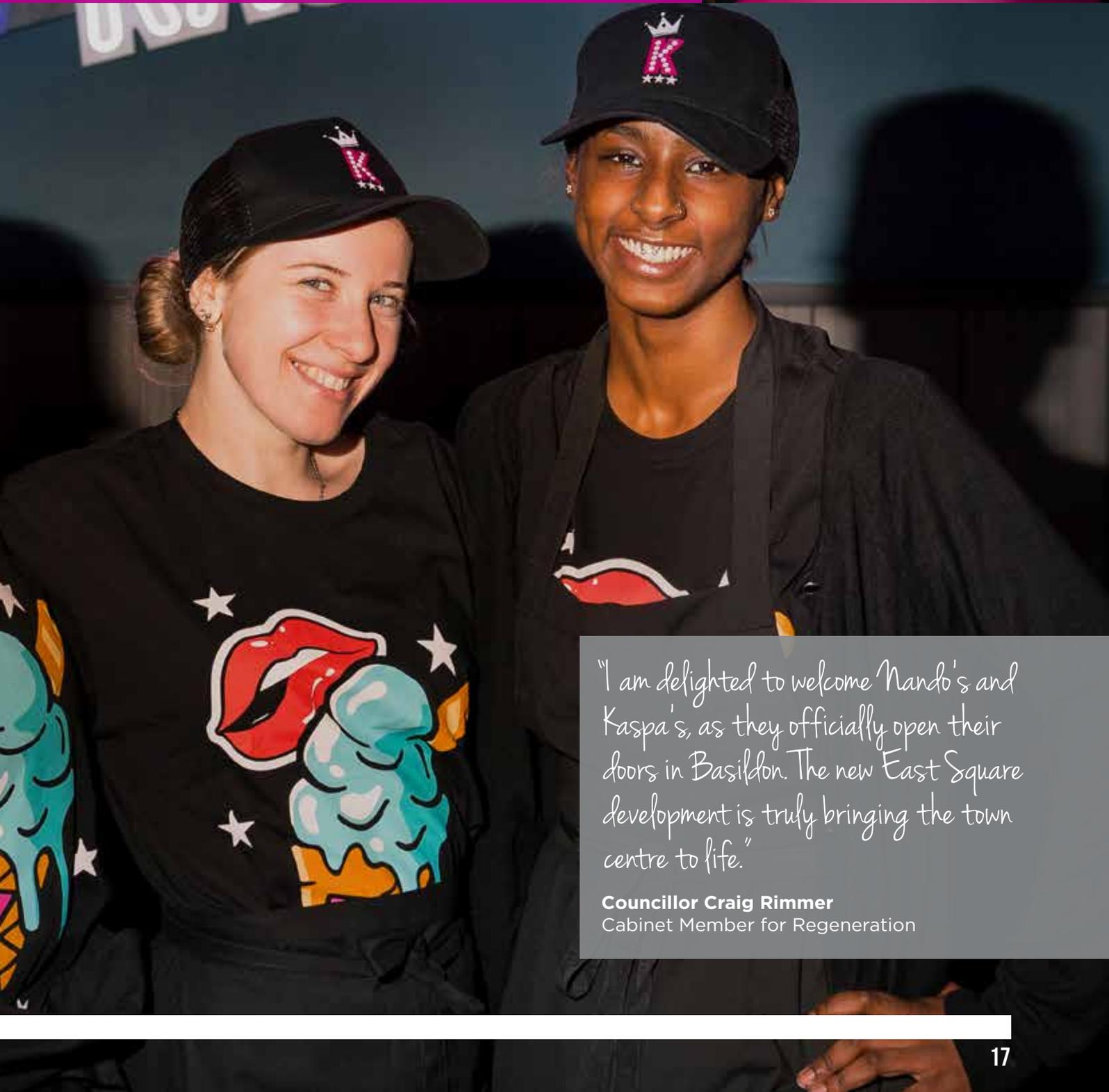
Nando's officially opened the doors to its new home on 6 December. With more than 1,200 restaurants worldwide, Nando's are doing what they do best, offering a delicious menu of peri-peri chicken with a popular range of sides and accompaniments in a uniquely themed setting. A spokesperson from Nando's said: "Nando's is very excited to be open in a new restaurant in East Square. We have relocated after successfully trading in Basildon since 2008 and are excited to be part of the new restaurant and leisure location in the town centre. The new restaurant has 100 covers, a unique Nando's design and will provide the Nando's experience for all of our town centre visitors."

Kaspa's

Kaspa's has proved to be another great hit in Basildon Town Centre as visitors have enjoyed many delicious desserts and milkshakes since it opened its doors on 27 October.

Kaspa's has more than 100 restaurants around the UK, providing a huge range of hot and cold desserts under one roof. Their menu boasts a mouthwatering selection of ice creams, gelatos, waffles, crepes, milkshakes, sundaes, smoothies and more.

A spokesperson from Kaspa's said: "We are really excited about opening our latest Kaspa's store in Basildon! At Kaspa's Desserts, our mission is to create an environment where enjoying authentic desserts with family and friends is an unforgettable experience - so it has been fantastic to bring our mouthwatering selection of artisan gelatos, waffles, crepes, milkshakes, smoothies and sundaes to the people of Basildon. We hope to see you there!"



"I am delighted to welcome Nando's and Kaspa's, as they officially open their doors in Basildon. The new East Square development is truly bringing the town centre to life."

Councillor Craig Rimmer
Cabinet Member for Regeneration



CONVERSATION WITH VITAMINDS



VitaMinds work in partnership with the NHS to provide mental wellbeing support to people facing a range of difficulties in their everyday lives. We spoke to Tracey Johnson, Partnership Liaison Officer at VitaMinds who supports the Basildon area, to find out more.

Who are VitaMinds?

Like any source of overwhelming stress, financial stress, everyday anxieties can take a huge toll on both our mental and physical health, and sadly the two can end up being in a bit of a never-ending cycle.

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, many people have experienced feelings of depression, anxiety, excessive worry and low mood. Home, financial difficulties or changes in working conditions has also added to the strain. The NHS programme, delivered locally by Vita Health Group, offers a range of free treatment options for people who need help.

What services do you provide?

VitaMinds are a FREE and confidential NHS service that offer a range of short-term psychological therapies, known as IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) to adults 16-years and over.

This provides Basildon residents with advice, guidance, and support, we take the time to understand and listen to what you need to get back on track. We provide a range of evidence-based talking therapies as well as guidance and advice on community services that can support you in your local area, to help you with your anxieties and stresses, getting you back on track.



Who could benefit from your services?

Anyone over the age of 16, whatever the reason, can access VitaMinds for free.

We understand the worry that people are feeling for many reasons to include the uncertainty around Cost of Living. We all experience times when we feel like we can't cope, sometimes this can start to affect our everyday lives and prevent us from doing the things we normally do. We are urging local residents who feel they need assistance to get in touch - we have a team of experienced, qualified and friendly professionals ready to help and discuss the most appropriate support.



One in four of us will be affected by a mental health problem at some point in our lives and Vitamins provides easy access to talking therapies near you.

How do people get in touch?

VitaMinds delivers a local NHS talking therapy service, and it is a free service. The best way to get help is by visiting your GP or self-referring online at www.vitahealthgroup.co.uk, or text YOU to 88802 or phone **01268 977171**.

Vita's website also offers a range of self-help resources including useful webinars.

Remember, you matter, and your mental health matters too so please do ask for help if you need it.

ARE YOU OK?

It's important to know that there is support available if you need it.

Basildon Foodbank

07424 660 862
<https://basildon.foodbank.org.uk/>

Billericay Foodbank

07707 466 262
www.billericayfoodbank.org.uk

Citizens Advice

0808 278 7877
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/south-essex

Essex Essential Living Fund

0300 790 0124
www.essex.gov.uk/money-debt-and-benefits/household-support-fund

Essex Wellbeing Service

0300 303 9988
www.essexwellbeingservice.co.uk

National Debtline

0808 808 4000
www.nationaldebtline.org

VitaMinds

01268 977 171
www.vitahealthgroup.co.uk

St Luke's Hospice

01268 524973
www.stlukeshospice.com

Basildon Mind

01268 284130
www.basmind.org

Motivated Minds

01268 520 785
www.motivated-minds.co.uk/whats-on-where

Sociability

www.sociabilityonline.org

Samaritans

24/7 for free. 116 123
www.samaritans.org

NHS Mental Health Crisis

Call 111, select option 2,
24 hours a day, 365 days a year
www.111.nhs.uk

KOOTH

Free and anonymous, 365 days a year.
www.kooth.com



Mid and South Essex
Integrated Care
System



Mid and South Essex

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and flu jabs

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cabinet stocked

Order your repeat
prescriptions in
advance

Think pharmacy or
visit the nhs.uk
website first

Choose the right
NHS service

Keep A&E and 999 for
serious emergencies

For FREE useful local
health advice, scan the
QR code or visit:
essexdoyourbit.nhs.uk

#DoYourBitEssex

ANDY'S MAN CLUB

The lead-up to Christmas can be a difficult time for many, it's important to know you're not alone and there are safe places to talk about your mental health.

Andy's Man Club is a men's suicide prevention charity, offering support groups across the UK and online. Their aim is to end the stigma surrounding Men's mental health and help them through the power of conversation.

The club is available for men aged over 18 and is free to attend every Monday except bank holidays. The group gives men the opportunity to open up about issues affecting their lives in a safe, judgement-free and non-clinical environment. They are free of pressure and there is no obligation to speak, they can simply listen if they wish.

There are over 2000 men using sessions across the UK every week, and an army of 500 volunteers on board.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a listening ear and a community to talk to, not only this winter but all year round, you can find out more about Andy's Man Club here www.andysmanclub.co.uk or visit Basildon's club every Monday at 7pm (excl. bank holidays) at Lincewood Primary School, Berry Lane, Langdon Hills, Basildon SS16 6AZ.

Find us on Facebook: **Andy's Man Club Basildon**
#ITSOKTOTALK





RECONNECT WITH OUR BOROUGH'S NATURE

Planting, rewilding, and restoration projects have taken over our parks, grass verges, and woodland areas, to give residents more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and reconnect with nature.

Over 7,000 trees will be planted across the borough this year, including 400 in Lake Meadows, and 400 in Pleasant Drive to extend the current woodland area.

We have also planted hedgerow in a number of locations, which will provide vital shelter and food sources for our borough's wildlife, as well as be more attractive for our residents to look at when passing by.

150m has been planted as part of our new Legacy Park Nature Zone in Pitsea, 50m's now stretches along Durban Lane in Noak Bridge, and 450m as part of major outdoor improvement works in St Nicholas Lane, Laindon.

Restoration works have taken place to create a diverse habitat around our borough's grass verge areas.

Works have taken place along roads including Nethermayne, Noak Hill Road, and Staneway, to create an effective habitat for wildlife to thrive, as well as allow for an array of wildflowers to form that will provide a food source for pollinators.



Having been left unmown throughout the spring, summer, and early autumn, 50% of the verges have now been mown, cut, and cleared, leaving the other 50% unmown until next year.

Then next autumn, the 50% which has been left uncut will be mown, cut, and cleared, with the other 50% left. By cutting alternating sections, it creates a mosaic of habitats and microclimates that will benefit our plant life, wildlife, and our residents.

Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing, Leisure, Arts and Culture, Councillor Jeff Henry, said "We are making small but significant changes to our green spaces to improve our borough, but also to improve our health and wellbeing. We can all benefit from more time out and enjoying the fantastic spaces right here on our doorstep."

The Advice Store is here to help

- CV writing workshops
- Industry-recognised qualifications
- Local employment opportunities
- Personalised support

5 Market Pavement, Basildon,
Essex, SS14 1DD

theadvicestore@basildon.gov.uk

www.basildon.gov.uk/theadvicestore


theadvicestore
skills and employment advice


Basildon Council



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:

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 crimestoppers-uk.org


SAFER BASILDON
Working together for a safer borough

Basildon Council



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Mid and South Essex

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essexdoyourbit.nhs.uk





REMEMBRANCE EVENTS TAKE PLACE ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Poignant events took place across the borough on Sunday 13 November to commemorate Remembrance Sunday.

The Mayor of Basildon, Councillor Luke MacKenzie, was in attendance to pay his respects at Basildon's event in St Martin's Square, with well attended events also taking place at the War Memorials in Wickford, Billericay, Pitsea, and Laindon.

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.

Mayor of Basildon, Councillor Luke MacKenzie, said: "It's a real privilege of my role that I can attend events like this and pay my respects to such heroes of our country.

"The bravery of our current and former members of the Armed Forces is extraordinary. Our fallen soldiers sacrificed their lives to allow us to be able to live as we do now, and it was great to see our events across the borough so well attended to honour them in the way they deserve."

ACL

ADULT LEARNING

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- ▶ Step Towards Self Confidence
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SCAN FOR A
WINTER GRITTING
QUOTE



YOUR FUTURE CAREERS EVENT

More than 900 attend Your Future Careers Fair to support Basildon's young people

Your Future, held on 18 October at the Towngate Theatre, returned bigger than ever to support young people making decisions on their future.

Basildon Council organised the event, which was sponsored by Gold Sponsor SS&C and our Silver Sponsors ACL Essex, South Essex College and USP College.

The event saw a huge variety of stallholders all available to talk visitors through a variety of industries, from the public sector, finance, tech, construction, health and social care, and many more.

In addition to meeting stallholders, young people were also able to hear talks from providers of further education such as colleges and universities as well as local employers to give them an insight into their future options.

Just a few of the stallholders at the event included BasildON Creative People and Places, Leonardo, The NHS, Morgan Sindall Property Services, Morgan Sindall Construction, Ford, DVR Limited, The Advice Store and many more.

Young people also took up the opportunity to have 1:2:1 appointments with a careers adviser as well as visiting the Digital Skills Unit provided by Balfour Beatty and Flannery.



Councillor Anthony Hedley, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Business Engagement said “Your Future was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to get ahead with making decisions surrounding their future career. There were opportunities to meet a range of employers and further education providers to gain support on different occupation options.”

YEAR-ROUND SUPPORT FROM THE ADVICE STORE

The Advice Store is open year-round, offering advice and support to anyone in the borough looking for help finding work or to gain new skills.

Advice Store Manager David, said: "Whether its CV writing, ongoing one-to-one support for the unemployed to search and apply for work, career guidance, or help to gain a new qualification – we can help.

"We know everyone's situation is unique. We welcome people from all walks of life who may find themselves out of work or looking to learn something new. We provide tailored, personalised support for our residents to help them be successful.

"The increase in the cost of living is affecting many of us. Our services can help. From finding a better paid role, more hours, or support with skills and qualifications. We are here to help you, so please visit the team in store and talk to us about your needs."

You can visit the Advice Store at 5 Market Pavement, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1DD or find out more here

www.basildon.gov.uk/theadvicestore

www.facebook.com/TheAdviceStore



"We are passionate about growing talent in the borough and making it a place to create a future."

Councillor Anthony Hedley

Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Business Engagement

BILLERICAY WEST



Anthony Hedley
01277 626198
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
The Farthings,
10 The Square,
Stock CM4 9LH



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
Deputy Leader of the Council
66 Walthams,
Pitsea
SS13 3PN



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01277 627266
47 Laindon 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



Susanna Caira-Neeson
07976 240459
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL



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



Terry Webb
07305 319340
c/o The Basildon Centre,
St Martin's Sq, Basildon
SS14 1DL

LANGDON HILLS



Walter Brown
07833 335164
c/o The Basildon Centre,
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SS14 1DL



Val Robbins
07761 753718
c/o The Basildon Centre,
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SS14 1DL

NETHERMAYNE



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



Mo Larkin
01268 413936
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 COUNCIL 2022-2023



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07415 440873
62 The Upway,
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WICKFORD CASTLEDON



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VANGE



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PITSEA SOUTH EAST



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



Luke Mackenzie
07483 276109
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

Frame colour	Political group	Number of seats
	CONSERVATIVE	25
	LABOUR	10
	INDEPENDENTS	5
	WICKFORD INDEPENDENTS	2

WHAT'S ON...



THE LUMINARIUM AT BARLEYLANDS

New for Christmas 2022 at Barleylands Farm Park.

The Luminarium – a magical winter outdoor light trail adventure for the whole family.

Thursday 1 December 2022 – Sunday 1 January 2023.

Head to www.TheLuminarium.co.uk to book your tickets now.



CREATIVE BASILDON'S YOUNG PIONEERS 16-25 YEAR OLDS

Creative Basildon's Young Pioneers launch their creative community projects across the borough. Look out for a youth art fair, local documentary, creative college showcase, music competition, community mental health zine, and new creative collective. Get involved with workshops, events, activities.

Monday 13 February – Sunday 19 February.

www.creativebasildon.co.uk/young-pioneers



WAT TYLER COUNTRY PARK

Head down to Wat Tyler Country Park to enjoy fun filled activities with the children. To find out more visit

www.wattylercountrypark.org.uk for more information.



NOAH'S PARK - BARLEYLANDS PARK

Noah's Park Adventure Golf is an 18-hole course designed to take crazy golf to a whole new level of family entertainment.

Adults: £9.50 and Child: £7. Family of 4 (2 Adults, 2 Children: £27.50). 10am to 7pm (last tee off 6pm) 7 days a week.

Please contact 01277 282600 or visit

www.barleylands.co.uk/noahs-park for more information.



BASILDON BOROUGH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

If you are aged between 12 - 24 and interested in learning a new language and meeting young people from Basildon's twin towns of Heiligenhaus in Germany and Meaux in France, then why not get involved with Basildon Borough town twinning. The project aims to create friendships across international borders.

Please email: BasildonTwin@gmail.com

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