



# War Memorials

## In Basildon Borough

# Foreword

War Memorials serve as a physical reminder of the sacrifice of those who fought for their country in conflicts throughout history. This booklet is designed to raise awareness of different memorial sites which provide a link to the past and method of remembrance in the Basildon Borough.

This booklet provides a guide to the borough's war memorials including locations, photographs, the design and materials used and information on who initiated and funded them.

Remembering those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and providing loved ones with somewhere they can pay tribute to the fallen is not just important in the present.

We must continue to preserve these sites for future generations so they too can learn about the darkest of times in our history and the sacrifices made by those who did not live to see the freedom we enjoy today.

**Cllr Kevin Blake**

Deputy Leader and cabinet member for leisure and arts at Basildon Council,  
Basildon Borough Council 2014

# Introduction

In addition to those mentioned in this booklet, there are many more Memorials around the Borough from both World Wars to be found in Churches as Rolls of Honours, Plaques and Memorial stones either inside the Churches, on the outside walls or in the grave yards.

There are also Memorial Halls around the Borough which were built as memorials to the local fallen, these were an alternative to stone memorials as they could be used by the community to make friends and to hold celebrations. Plaques and names can usually be found within the Memorial Hall buildings.

The whole of Wickford Memorial Park is a memorial, one of a few around the country designed as a living memorial for all to enjoy and remember.

The War Memorial at Ramsden Heath does cover the Ramsden Bellhouse area as well. Bellhouse being in the Borough of Basildon., but the memorial location is in the Chelmsford City Council area.

Much of the information found in this booklet has been sourced from documents, history and personal recollection, books, on line and web sites, local historians and in libraries.

Local History members and web sites have much more information on Memorials around the Borough and further reading is easily found.

**Nick Sears**

Senior Development and Horticultural Officer, Basildon Borough Council 2014

# Laindon

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## Location:

On grass in front of the Laindon Centre on High Road, Laindon, postcode SS15 5TE

## Description:

A Blue Pear Aberdeen granite stone column topped with a cross. Gold coloured lettering cut into base.

## Inscription:

*TO THE GLORIOUS DEAD  
1914 – 1918  
LAINDON AND DISTRICT  
1939 – 1945*

*"AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN, AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"*

No names are inscribed on the memorial but St. Nicholas Church, Laindon and St. Marys Church at Langdon Hills have tablet memorials inside the churches and the Baptist Church has engraved stones on the external walls.

## Responsibility:

Basildon Borough Council

## Brief History:

The War Memorial was presented as a gift to the people of the district by Mr. Albert Symes of Primrose Hill, Brentwood and Stratford.

It was unveiled on 19th September 1935 attended by one of Mr. Symes daughters, Mrs. Ivy McLachlan, also the Rector of Laindon, Rev. Michael Lake and Rev. Tom Shepherd of Laindon Baptist Church. Buglers from Warley Barracks sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

The Memorial originally stood in the grounds of a hall used by The British Legion in High Road, Laindon near to the Laindon High Road School. Around 1975 it was moved to its current site due to the redevelopment of the hall site.



# Little Burstead

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## Location:

On a grass island at the junction of Rectory Road, Clockhouse Road and Laindon Common Road, Little Burstead, post code CM12 9TJ

## Description:

White Chilmark Stone Octagonal 3 tiered base with octagonal pillar with capital and cross on top, Lettering cut into stone. Grass area with a seat and flower tubs. Small wooden posts with chain fence around the site.

## Inscription:

*SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEN OF LITTLE BURSTEAD WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN TWO WORLD WARS THAT WE MIGHT LIVE IN PEACE AND FREEDOM THEIR NAMES WILL LIVE ON FOREVER*

On one side of the tiered base it has engraved: 1914 -1918 with 8 names inscribed into stone, and on the other side it has 1939 – 1945 with another 8 names carved into the stone.

There is also a brass plaque mounted in the last few years onto the base repeating the names again as some of the names on the stone have become eroded.

## Responsibility:

Little Burstead Parish Council and falls within Little Burstead conservation area.

## Brief History:

The War Memorial was unveiled by Major Bowen, D.S.O., commandant of the Depot, Essex Regiment, Warley on Saturday 18th. June 1921, along with a Guard of honour and buglers who sounded the Last Post.

A simple dedication ceremony was by led by the Rev. Lennard Payne and ended with the Reveille, the National Anthem and the Blessing.

Afterwards the guard and other persons present were entertained at Hope House by Mr. and Mrs. Johnson.

The Memorial was made and erected by Mr. A. P. Gething of Chilmark, near Salisbury and made of the same stone as Salisbury Cathedral.



# Billericay High Street

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## Location:

At the junction of Chapel Street and Billericay High Street, post code CM12 9BQ

## Description:

The First World War memorial is white stone square tapering monument with a stone Celtic cross on top, and a Crusader's sword in relief. Sitting on a two tiered base with raised garden area. Lettering cut into stone. The stone weighs over two tons. The memorial is 12' (3.65m) high and covers an area of 12 square feet. (1.1 m<sup>2</sup>). The whole design was the work of Mr R. J W Leyland, District Surveyor and constructed by J.B. Slythe and Company, builder. The cost of the memorial was about £250 which was raised entirely by public subscription. Slab area with two large Lime trees with Tree Preservation Orders. On all four sides of the tiered base it has engraved the names of 62 men.

The Second World War memorial is a white stone plaque in four panels. It has the date 1939 – 1945 cut into the stone with 54 names engraved below. It is set in a red brick wall capped with stone and small planters on each side.

## Inscription:

*TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEN FROM THIS  
DISTRICT WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918.*

*On the front kerb is inscribed:*

*GREAT LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS*

## Responsibility:

Billericay Town Council and falls within Billericay High Street conservation area.

## Brief History:

The First World War Memorial was erected in 1921 and was dedicated on the afternoon of Sunday 16th October 1921 by Major-General Sir William Thwaites KCMG CB. The Rev S L Brown RD, rector of Fryerning performed the dedication service. The Second World War Memorial was built in 1957 behind the first war memorial. The area was originally enclosed by iron railings but these were taken down and used for the war effort in the Second World War.





TO THE  
GLORY  
OF GOD  
AND SACRIFICE  
OF THE SOLDIERS  
OF THE KINGDOM  
OF GREAT BRITAIN  
WHO LIVED  
IN THE  
GREAT WAR  
1914-1918

Evangelical  
Free Church

# Crays Hill

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## Location:

On a grass area in London Road near the junction of Corner Road. Ramsden Crays, post code CM11 2UX.

## Description:

A recently erected polished Grey Granite slab sitting on a base with matching sides and top. A First World War White marble tablet is inset with 5 names. One Second World War name is engraved into the stone below the marble tablet.

## Inscription:

*1914 – 1919 IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THE FALLEN OF THIS PARISH THIS TABLET  
AND GARDEN ARE DEDICATED*

## Responsibility:

Ramsden Crays Parish Council

## Brief History:

The memorial slab was originally set in the outside front wall of the Church Hall on Crays Hill, but was moved to its current location in June 2013 due to the planned redevelopment of the hall.

The Rotary Club of Wickford donated £800 towards the cost and the Parish Council arranged the relocation of the new memorial on land donated by a local businessman and Rotarian.



IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE  
OF THE FALLEN OF THIS PARISH  
THIS TABLET AND GARDEN  
ARE DEDICATED.

E. J. ALLEN *4<sup>TH</sup> ESSEX REG<sup>T</sup>*  
W. C. BATES *LON RIFLE BRIGADE*  
J. FRENCH *H.M.S. FORNIDABLE*  
D. VIEWEG *10<sup>TH</sup> ARTILLERY CO.*  
C. WEST. *1<sup>ST</sup> ESSEX REG<sup>T</sup>.*



1939 - 1945

R. J. TERRY *R.A.F. 106. 857. 626 500N.*

# Wickford Memorial Park

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## Location:

On a grass area in Memorial Approach, Wickford, in front of the gates to Wickford Memorial Park, post code SS11 7HR.

## Description:

Large grey polished granite memorial with three inset marble tablets and two wall inscriptions, erected in 2011. In front of the memorial is a parade ground laid out in the pattern of the original Nurses home floor plan upon which the tablets were first erected.

The First World War tablet has an inscription and the names of 15 men. The Second World War tablet has an inscription and the names of 41 men and 11 civilians.

There are also another 43 names cut into the stone from 1914 – 1919 and another 14 names from 1939 – 1945.

The Nurses Home tablet has the details of the original building.

Behind the memorial are the gates to the Memorial Park with a Memorial Avenue of trees and name plaques. Just before the bridge is the Wickford Heroes Arboretum with each tree representing a Battle or Campaign in which the men of Wickford fell in the First World War.

There is a flag pole with the Union Flag flying at all times.



## **Inscription:**

### **The Great War tablet:**

*ERECTED TO THE HONOURED MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCAL MEN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918 AND ALSO AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO SERVED IN THE SAME JUST CAUSE.*

*BUILT WITH THEIR LIVES AND DIED THAT LIFE MAY LIVE*

### **The second world war tablet:**

*IN MEMORY OF THE CITIZENS OF WICKFORD WHO DIED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 – 1945.*

*THEIR SACRIFICE GAVE US OUR FREEDOM*

### **The Nurses Home tablet:**

*THIS NURSES HOME WAS PURCHASED AND FURNISHED BY THE INHABITANTS OF WICKFORD AS A MEMORIAL TO THE LOCAL MEN WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918*

*TO LIVE IN HEARTS WE LEAVE BEHIND IS NOT TO DIE.*

*OPENED BY THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD LAMBOURNE C.V.O  
LORD LIEUTENANT OF ESSEX JULY 19TH. 1922*

## **Responsibility:**

Basildon Borough Council and the Royal British Legion.

## **Brief History:**

A proposal was received by the Council in 1946 for a properly equipped recreation ground that would provide a most suitable war memorial in the locality. This was the start of Wickford Memorial Park, but took a few years before it finally took shape.

In January 1947 a proposal from the Wickford War Memorial Fund Committee included planting trees for an avenue of Remembrance in the autumn 1949, and a set of Memorial Gates, designed by Douglas Percy and dedicated in 1953, both of which are still present near to the new memorial.

The Great War memorial tablet was originally fitted to the front wall of the Nurses home in Southend Road and was dedicated in 1922 by Lord Lambourne C.V.O the then Lord Lieutenant of Essex.

In 1976 the tablets were relocated to a new site behind the memorial gates in the park when the nurses' home was demolished to make way for the Wickford Inner Relief road. This new site consisted of two concrete structures specially constructed to take these tablets along with flag pole.

These were then demolished in 2011 and the tablets fitted to the newest memorial which was opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Petre and attended by many other dignitaries on Friday 4th. November 2011. The flag pole was relocated to the rear of the new memorial as it is today.

# Hodgson Way Airman Second World War Memorial - Shotgate

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## Location:

On the verge in Hodgson Way, opposite Blake Hall Drive, Shotgate, Wickford, post code SS11 8XJ

## Description:

A red brick structure inset with a white marble tablet, brick path approach. The marble tablet has the inscription below and the badge of 85 Squadron and its motto NOOTU DIUQUE VENAMUR

## Inscription:

*IN THE PROUD AND AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF PILOT OFFICER W.H.HODGSON DFC, A  
19 YEAR OLD NEW ZEALANDER IN NO. 85 SQUADRON WHO NARROWLY MISSED THE  
VILLAGE OF SHOTGATE WHILST CRASH LANDING HIS BURNING HURRICANE ON THIS  
SITE AFTER COMBAT OVER LONDON ON 31ST. AUGUST 1940.*

*PER ARDUA AD ASTRA*

## Responsibility:

Shotgate Parish Council

## Brief History:

William Henry Hodgson, a New Zealander who joined the R.A.F on 25th. May 1940. He was based at 85 Squadron, Debden and over a few months shot down several enemy aircraft.

He was then hit himself on 31st. August 1940 and with damage to his oil lines and the engine on fire he was about to bale out when noticed he was over a populated area, so managed to fly his Hurricane to fields in Shotgate where he crash landed.

He survived this crash and was eventually awarded the D.F.C.



In grateful and affectionate remembrance  
of  
Plat Officer W H Hodgson DFC  
a 19 year old New Zealander in  
No 83 Squadron who narrowly  
avoided the village of Singapore  
whilst crash landing his burning  
Hurricane on this site after combat  
over London on 31st August 1940  
PER ARDUA AD ASTRA



# Howard Park Pitsea

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## Location:

Situated in North East corner of Howard Park, Pitsea, post code SS13 2AB

## Description:

A square Cornish Granite base with sandstone monument topped with a bronze statue of a Greek Maiden holding an olive branch and a torch of truth. The monument has four faces and set with lead letters. A bronze wreath set onto the granite base. Standing on a tarmac area with metal post and chain fence surround.

## Inscription:

### North side

*TO THE GLORIOUS MEMORY OF THE MEN OF PITSEA AND BOWERS GIFFORD WHO FELL  
IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.*

*THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE*

*IN REMEMBRANCE OF LOCAL COMRADES WHO FELL IN THE 1939 – 1945 CONFLICT  
AND ALL SUBSEQUENT CONFLICTS*

### East side

*BOWERS GIFFORD AND 7 NAMES*

### South side

*THIS MEMORIAL WAS ERECTED BY H.G. HOWARD OF BLUEHOUSE, PITSEA. 1928  
ALSO TO THE MEMORY OF 3 MORE NAMES WHO FELL IN ACTION 1914-1918*

### West side

*PITSEA AND 9 NAMES*

## Responsibility:

Basildon Borough Council



## **Brief History:**

The War Memorial was funded by Mr. Harold George Howard a generous benefactor to the community, a local businessman and founder of Howards Dairies.

The unveiling ceremony, on 18th November 1928 was attended by Sir Beachcroft Towse V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E. and the Revds. Ernest William Grevatt, Joseph B. Brightman and H. Stevens.

The Memorial was originally sited at the junction of Station Lane and London Road, Pitsea, but was moved to its current location in Howard Park due to the redevelopment of the High Road area around 1968-1969.

The park in which the memorial now stands was also dedicated by Mr. Howard as open space in 1947 and was handed to Billericay Urban District Council in 1951; it then passed to Basildon Urban District Council when the new town was developed.



# Basildon Town Centre

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## **Location:**

In the garden area adjacent to St. Martins Church, St. Martins Square, Basildon, post code SS14 1DX

## **Description:**

A granite multi faceted Memorial on a granite base. Surrounded by a seated enclosure and black metal fencing. Inscription cut into granite with gold letters.

## **Inscription:**

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*

## **Responsibility:**

St. Martins of Tours Church.

## **Brief History:**

The structure is an undedicated memorial stone. The idea was driven by the Rev. Lionel Webber at the instigation of the British Legion during the 1990's.

The memorial stone was sculptured by the notable sculptor and artist Peter Foster in 1997.

THE WILL  
REMEMBER  
THEIR

# St. Peter's Church, Nevendon

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## Location:

In the graveyard in front of St.Peter's Church, Church Lane, Nevendon, Basildon, post code SS13 1BZ.

## Description:

A Sand Stone plain cross in a laying down position but raised slightly at the rear. Inscription cut into the stone, surrounded by a post and chain fence and small garden area.

There are 11 names engraved into the stone below the inscription.

## Inscription:

*IN MEMORY OF THE MEN OF NEVENDON WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES  
IN THE 1939 – 1945 WAR.*

## Responsibility:

St. Peter's Church, Nevendon.

## Brief History:

The East window of the Church was damaged by a mine in World War 2, it was originally of the Decorated Period and is now of a detailed stained glass.

There is also a memorial in the church with 6 names and one in the grave yard.



# St Chad's Church, Vange

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## Location:

On grass in front of the Rectory 782, Clay Hill Road, Vange, Basildon, post code SS16 4NG

## Description:

Cornish Granite rough finish Stone Column with a cross on top in the form of a wayside cross, standing on a two tiered granite base.

Lead lettering set into the granite.

There are 21 names set in lead on the base of the memorial. It has since been established that 35 lost their lives from this Parish.

## Inscription:

*TO THE HONOURED MEMORY OF THE MEN OF THIS PARISH WHO FELL IN THE GREAT  
WAR  
1914 – 1919.*

*THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE*

*IN MEMORY OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY*

## Responsibility:

St Chad's Church

## Brief History:

The War Memorial originally stood in Paynters Hill, Vange and was unveiled on 26th. November 1922 by The High Sheriff of Essex, Col. Francis Whitmore, C.M.G., D.S.O., J.P. of Orsett Hall.

The Dedication Service was performed by the First Bishop of Chelmsford, The Rt. Rev. John Edwin Watts-Ditchfield, attended by relatives of the fallen.

The Memorial was moved to its present location in the early 1960's after St. Chad's church was built in 1958.



TO THE HONOURED MEMORY OF  
THE MEN OF THIS PARISH WHO  
FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

A. W. HENRY	J. HARRIS
M. WILKIN	P. H. J. COOKE
C. BLAKE	J. MOULRY
W. S. GIBSON	A. VILL
S. J. BURNHAM M.M.	E. J. GILL
J. LUTON M.M.	L. P. J. GIBSON
J. CLARKE	P. W. GIBSON
E. J. BURNHAM	E. W. L. GIBSON M.M.
L. W. GIBSON M.M.	W. J. GIBSON M.M.
W. J. GIBSON	A. HENRY

F. L. COOKE



THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

# All Saints Church, Vange

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## Location:

Inside the Church on the North Wall of All Saints Church, London Road, Vange, post code SS16 4PX

## Description:

Bronze plaque on oak mount inscribed with 21 names the same as the memorial at St Chad's Church. Small shelf below.

## Inscription:

*TO THE HONOURED MEMORY OF THE MEN OF THIS PARISH WHO FELL  
IN THE GREAT WAR  
1914 – 1919*

*THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE*

*IN THY LIGHT SHALL WE SEE LIGHT*

## Responsibility:

The Churches Conservation trust – Grade 2 listed.

## Brief History:

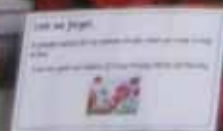
Originally the main church for the area, but was declared pastorally redundant in 1996 and because of its antiquity was passed to The Churches Conservation Trust to be cared for.



TO THE HONOURED MEMORY  
OF THE MEN OF THIS PARISH  
WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR  
1914-1919

E. W. AVERY	T. HARRIS
T. BLAKE	I. HESCON
C. BLANKS	J. HOOKER
W. BROWN	A. HILL
E. J. BROWN JOHN B. N.	J. J. HIGGINS
J. CARTER M.M.	E. JOHNSON
J. CLARKE	J. JOHNSON
R. J. CRANFIELD	M. MELACHLAN M.M.
L. W. DOE R.	M. MATHIEN
W. J. EDWARDS	J. MART

+ The lives of these men are remembered +



WE SHALL WE SUE

# Dollymans Farm - Rawreth

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## Location:

The two Monuments are situated on privately owned farm land at Dollymans farm, Rawreth. There is no public right of way, but the deeds provide limited access. The monuments can be found near to the railway line and by the embankment on the A130 by Monument Bridge. Dollymans Farm post code SS11 8UD

## Description:

Two small granite tablets surrounded by white post and rail fence, one has wooden post with a propeller attached and a post and rail fence. The other is a simple stone with concrete posts and metal rail. Both memorials are in a poor state of repair.

## Inscription:

*THIS SPOT IS SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF CAPT. HENRY CLIFFORD STROUD, NCR AND RFC. KILLED IN ACTION AT MIDNIGHT 7TH. MARCH 1918. FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH.*

*SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF CAPT. ALEXANDER BRUCE KYNOCK RAF, WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION HERE ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 7TH. 1918 AGED 24 YEARS.*

## Responsibility:

The two memorials were erected by Mr. Wilson who farmed the land at the time of the accident, but since the land was sold, no maintenance has been carried out and the present farmer is not required to do so. One of the memorials was maintained by Rayleigh Toc H until the early 70's.

## Brief History:

Two pilots left different air fields on the night of 7th. March 1918, they were Captain Henry Clifford Stroud No.61 Squadron who was flying a SE5a and Captain Alexander Bruce Kynock, flying a BE12. Both were flying in the defence of London that was being raided by Gothas G.V., a heavy German bomber principally used at night.

It is assumed they probably hit each other whilst climbing through clouds over Rayleigh, and crashed into adjacent fields in Wickford. Capt Kynock's body was found some distance from his machine.

The memorials are marking the spot where each fell.

Capt. Stroud is buried at St. Andrews Church, Rochford, and Capt. Kynock is buried in North Finchley cemetery.



