

Year 5

History Knowledge Organiser - Bassingbourn Boundaries

Key Enquiry Questions:	
What was the quality of life like for people in Bassingbourn and how has it changed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Bassingbourn's primary industry was coprolite mining (fossilised dung). Thereafter cobblers, haberdashery, barbers, saddlers, blacksmiths and wheelwrights, an agricultural engineering yard, wood yard and watermill were the focus of trade. The mill was still grinding corn in the late 1960s. The people lived simply, but fairly happily, and, compared with the present day, life was very slow indeed. Nowadays farming is still a main occupation along with Kneesworth Hospital, garages, hairdressers and beauticians, a pharmacy and food stores. The village has developed with much more housing and amenities over time and subsequent changes in lifestyle and standards saw the end of rural trades and industries replaced and progressed with more modern pursuits and occupations.
What significant events occurred in Bassingbourn and its surrounding areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wars with France, Bad harvests (In 1800s there was hardship and expensive grain and many emigrated), Coprolite industry (this brought prosperity to the village), WW1, The Depression, WW2. Opening of the Barracks Media Events
How did the role of Bassingbourn Barracks impact the village?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the village as a key base for training and housing of air force and army recruits to support efforts in different wars. Generated media interest with filming situated in the barracks, The Dambusters, Full Metal Jacket and in local pubs – The Hoops is featured in the film The Battle of Britain.

Key Vocabulary	
agriculture	Farming – crops and animals.
barracks	A large building or group of buildings used to house soldiers.
bankrupt	Declared in law as unable to pay debts.
blacksmith	Someone who makes or repairs items made from iron or steel.
bomber	An aircraft designed to carry and drop bombs.
cobbler	Someone who mends shoes.
coprolite	Fossilised dung.
descendant	Successor, offspring.
Domesday book	A manuscript record of the "Great Survey" of much of England and parts of Wales completed in 1086 by order of King William the Conqueror.
dwelling	A place where someone lives.
emigrate	Leave a country and live permanently in another.
listed building	It recognises that a building is special in a national context and brings with it controls over alteration, extension and demolition.
memorial	A statue or structure erected to serve as a reminder of a particular event.
mill	A building equipped with machinery to grind grain into flour.
parish	A part of a village or town which usually has its own church.
RAF	Royal Air Force
rebellion	An act of armed resistance against an established authority.
squadron	An operational unit in an air force.
saddler	Someone who makes, repairs or sells saddles.
trade	The action of buying and selling goods

Important Events and Achievements	
	1200 years ago it is said that an Anglo Saxon with his band settled by the bourn (stream), his name was Bassa and thus Bassingbourn became the name of the village.
1086	Domesday book listing of Basingborne.
1400	Completion of the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul.
1511	Grand Miracle Play a performance of a Mystery Play about St George and the Dragon organised by the guild priest, John Hubbard.
1791	United Reformed Church created their own congregation.
1795	The Red Lion (now the Yuva restaurant) was originally recorded as a farmhouse. It is a two storey building, has a long jetty which overhangs the street, with three eighteenth century first floor iron casement windows with leaded lights.
1860s	Coprolite industry.
1866	The Bassingbourn Gas Company formed.
1877	The School House in the High Street was built. Until 1912 there were separate departments for Infants, Boys and Girls.

1894	Bassingbourn Parish Council formed.
1896	Last mining of coprolite.
1896	The Bassingbourn Gas Company went bankrupt and lamps were changed to oil.
1919	The war memorial, which is made of Portland stone and stands at the crossroads in the village, was erected in November 1919. There are 28 names of Bassingbourn men and 14 names of Kneesworth men from that war carved on the Cross.
1938	Bassingbourn Barracks opened and was used for three years for bomber training. Between 1942 and 1945 it was home to a USAF heavy bomber squadron, followed by an RAF air transport squadron, and between 1951 and 1969 by two R.A.F. training squadrons.
1942	Aircraft from Bassingbourn participated in the "Thousand Bomber" raid on Cologne.
1943	During 1943, RAF Bassingbourn was the focus of a number of media events. The station and its locality were featured in the documentary film <i>Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress</i> . One of the <i>Memphis Belle</i> 's propellers stands to greet you at the gatehouse on entering the Army Training Regiment.
1954	Bassingbourn Village College opened
1955	RAF Bassingbourn was also the setting for the Airfield-based shots in the 1955 film, <i>The Dambusters</i>
1963	In 1963, when the new Junior School was built in Brook Road, the old school was used only by the Infants.
1966	The neighbouring parish of Kneesworth was added to the parish to form Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth, a total area of 4,302 acres
1969	Bassingbourn Barracks became training depot for the Queen's Division. It subsequently served as a base for the Army Training Regiment.
1974	The Tower Museum opened. Located in the original pre-war air traffic control (ATC) tower (watch office) of RAF Bassingbourn. It contains the history of the airfield during the Second World War and the men and women of the RAF and USAAF who trained and worked there during that war. Exhibits include photographs, documents and military artefacts about the RAF, USAAF and the <u>91st Bombardment Group</u> .
1986-87	Stanley Kubrick used the barracks as a lot (Paris Island) in his film, <i>Full Metal Jacket</i> .
2014	Bassingbourn Barracks closed.
2018	Bassingbourn Barracks were reopened in December 2018 as home to Mission Training Mobilisation Centre (MTMC), a unit responsible for training troops for operations abroad.

Key People	
Bassa	An Anglo Saxon who settled 1200 years ago.
Warin De Bassingbourne	Supporter of King John in the rebellion of 1212 and as a reward gained much land, making the De Bassingbournes important within the village for many generations until 1420.
Margaret Beaufort	Mother of Henry V11 owned Richmond Manor (the desirable manor of Bassingbourn) in the early 1500s.
Lynne Family	1400s to 1600s bought or married into owning most of the village.
Sir Christopher Hatton	From 1600s to the 20 th century most of Bassingbourn owned by Sir Christopher Hatton and his descendants.

Additional Websites:

Bassingbourn.org :Early History

Old School House 1911



Recreation Ground in late 1930s

