

BLAŻOWA



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BLAZOWA'S Past and Present *News and Historical Notes*

Compiled by the Municipal and Communal Library in Blazowa



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News from Błazowa

Golden Jubilees of Married Couples

Fifty years of life together is not just time – it is a true testament to a love that is mature, enduring and unshakeable. In the assembly hall of the King Władysław Jagiełło and Anna Jenke Primary School in Błazowa, a ceremony was held to present the Medals for Long-Standing Marriage to the distinguished celebrants. Those honoured were:



Fifty years of life together is not just time – it is a true testament to a love that is mature

Elżbieta and Stanisław Antkiewicz,
Alicja and Zdzisław Bober,
Halina and Stanisław Brzęk,
Maria and Tadeusz Karnas,
Bronisława and Tadeusz Kociubiński,

Helena and Adam Maciołek,
Danuta and Henryk Nawłoka,
Teofila and Józef Paściak,
Romana and Stanisław Pinkowicz,
Maria and Stanisław Salamon,
Janina and Franciszek Wójcik.

In the presence of distinguished guests, with performances by the Children's Folk Ensemble „Błazowiczek” and pupils of the Music School in Błazowa, on behalf of the Błazowa Commune local authority, we expressed our recognition, deep respect and admiration for their contribution to building family values.

Training Camp for the Polish Para-Athletics National Team

From 7 to 19 April 2026, a sports training camp for the Polish Para-Athletics National Team was held at the 650th Anniversary Stadium (named after Ryszard Ksieniewicz) in Słupsk. Athletes from Frame Running and Wheelchair Racing took part, representing sports clubs from Gorzów Wielkopolski, Wrocław, Poznań, Rzeszów and Zamość. National team coach Grzegorz Dorszyński supervised the athletes. Filip Hamerla, a pupil at the Primary School in Piątkowa, also took part in this training camp. He described his experience as follows: „The camp began with a festive lunch and a chance to get to know all the athletes, coaches and physiotherapists. Every day of the camp, after breakfast, there was a warm-up followed by the first training session, either an endurance or running session, where we worked on fitness and stamina. The next training session took place after lunch: timed sprints around the stadium, along with skipping drills and rhythm exercises. After the second session, each athlete had exercises with a physiotherapist and stretching. At the end of the day, after

dinner, all the athletes could relax their muscles in the sauna. The camp came to an end after thirteen days.

It was an unforgettable experience. I met new athletes and coaches there, and I saw what a professional athlete's training really looks like. Going on this camp gave me even greater motivation to work towards better form.”

„The Taste and Charm of Old Dishes” – Tradition, Music and Regional Flavours in a Jubilee Edition

On 24 May 2026, Błazowa once again became a meeting place for tradition, folk music, regional flavours and people devoted to preserving the cultural heritage of Podkarpacie.

This year's edition of „The Taste and Charm of Old Dishes – Provincial Folk Band Competition” had a particularly special character, however. It was the 30th jubilee edition of the event, which over three decades has firmly established itself in the cultural calendar not only of the Błazowa Commune, but of the whole region. For years, this event has brought together everything most precious in folk culture: music passed down from generation to generation, old melodies and songs, regional dishes prepared according to traditional recipes, and a gathering of people who passionately care for the preservation of local identity. The jubilee edition was an occasion not only for competitive rivalry, but also for reminiscing, taking stock, and expressing gratitude to all those who, over the years, helped co-create this exceptional undertaking. „The Taste and Charm of Old Dishes” is not merely a competition, but above all a celebration of community, tradition and the memory of everything that has shaped our region's culture over generations. Folk bands from various corners of



Magdalena Kowalska
-Cheffey

Golden Jubilees of Married Couples





Tradition, Music and Regional Flavours



Podkarpacie took to the stage, and their performances were a true journey through the richness of the region's musical folklore. The audience could hear authentic melodies, old songs, lively rhythms and distinctive sounds that still move listeners and show that folk music remains a living part of our culture. An inseparable part of the event was also the culinary competition, Podkarpacie Regional Product „Dish of the Year.” This year, too, it showed that traditional cuisine still holds enormous appeal. The aromas of home-baked goods, dishes prepared according to old recipes, regional specialities and flavours familiar from family tables were a reminder that culinary heritage is one of the most beautiful ways of telling the story of a place and its people. At the stalls, visitors could see not only culinary skill, but also the great effort, heart and dedication of the participants. A special place during the jubilee edition was given to the figure of Czesław Drąg – the initiator of the event. It was thanks to his passion, dedication and love for folk culture that, thirty years ago, an initiative was born which, over time, became one of the most important folklore events in the region. The event's programme also featured artistic performances, which enriched the jubilee edition of the event. The audience was able to admire, among others, the Rzeszów University of Technology's „Połoniny” Student Song and Dance Ensemble, which delighted with its colourful costumes, music and dance, as well as a concert by the Młoda Harta Folk Band. An important part of the day was also the announcement of results and the presentation of awards to the competition winners.

Author Meeting with Joanna Parasiewicz at the Błazowa Library

On 29 May 2026, the Municipal and Communal Public Library in Błazowa hosted the remarkable writer Joanna Parasiewicz. Director Anna Heller led the author meeting, which drew a large gathering of literature enthusiasts, who filled

the library's reading room. A huge surprise for the author was the arrival of her mother and sister at the



Joanna Parasiewicz

meeting. Joanna Parasiewicz – a graduate of the University of Warsaw, a specialist in international law, a Francophile, a passionate enthusiast of aviation and history, and a great lover of plants – won over the hearts of the audience with her openness, erudition and warm sense of humour. Participants of the meeting had the opportunity to learn about the origins of the author's fascination with the Belle Époque and aviation pioneers, which resulted in her novel „Uskrzydleni” („Winged”), how she weaves historical threads together with contemporary stories, and why she so often reaches for themes of mystery, mystification and strong female protagonists. Joanna also spoke with great passion about the role of literature in uncovering the past and understanding the present. There was no shortage of lively discussion, questions from readers,

as well as an autograph session and photographs together.

5th Annual May Picnic at Wilczak in Błazowa

On the last Sunday of May, Wilczak hosted the fifth annual May picnic under the slogan „Let's Live It Again”. The event opened with a litany and Holy Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Adam Szal. After Mass, the Chapel was solemnly blessed, and the keys were handed over to Dean Jacek Rawski. Following the official part, performances began on stage, where guests were welcomed by Stanisław Cag, chairman of the Wilczak Friends'



Association, who wished everyone an enjoyable time and a pleasant rest in our charming corner of the world. Next, children from schools and nurseries across the commune performed, along with the „Mażonetki” and „Błazowiaczek” ensembles, singing and dancing to folk tunes. The star of the programme was Anika Dąbrowska, winner of the second series of „The Voice Kids”. The Opa-Cupa band also kept those attending the picnic entertained with their music and singing. A special attraction was the „History of the Chapel” show, painted in sand by Katarzyna Perkowska, which drew

5th Annual May Picnic at Wilczak in Błażowa



a great deal of interest. To close the day, the band Vivo-Henryk Przybyło invited everyone onto the dance floor for a final round of festivities. There was something for everyone at the picnic. In the children's zone, youngsters could enjoy bouncy castles, a play corner for toddlers, children's entertainment, face painting and temporary tattoos. Adults, meanwhile, could browse a wide range of handicraft stalls offering wooden and wicker items, crepe-paper decorations, macramé, crochet work, jewellery, ceramics and lavender products. For those who brought their appetites, local rural women's circles offered their own produce, along with cold meats, cheeses, bread and honey. All proceeds from the event were donated towards furnishing the Chapel.

News from the Music School in Błazowa

The end of May 2026 was a busy time at our music school, filled with numerous artistic events, class recitals and student successes. It was a period of intensive work, stage performances and participation in music competitions of both national and international scope. A music video project for the song „Muzyka to skarb” („Music Is a Treasure”), written by Jadwiga Basista-Janda, was also carried out at the school. Pupils and teachers took part in the project, and the work on set was a great opportunity for joint activity and integration. The song can be listened to and watched on the school's YouTube channel.

2nd Exhibition of Medal-Winning Trophies and Interesting Hunting Clubs of the Strug Valley

On 20 June 2026, the hospitable premises of the BIELIK Budziwój Hunting Club at Wilczak in Błazowa played host to the second edition of the Exhibition of Medal-Winning Trophies and Interesting Hunting Clubs of the Strug Valley, combined with a family picnic for hunters and hunting enthusiasts. The event was organised by four hunting clubs: Bielik Budziwój, Sarenka Błazowa, Szarak Błazowa and Sarenka Harta, in cooperation with

the Collector's and Hunting Culture Club of the Polish Hunting Association (PZŁ) in Rzeszów. The ceremony was opened by the main organiser, Wojciech Kryda, chairman of the BIELIK Budziwój Hunting Club, who welcomed the numerous participants and guests in attendance. In his address, he emphasised the unique character of the event, which was created to bring together people and various organisations in joint activities and initiatives. The exhibition brought together not only people, but also times past and present. Collectors presented rich collections of beautiful exhibits from both the near and distant past. Historical re-enactors staged a re-enactment of hunts of old. The beautiful setting of the Potoki Museum at Wilczak rounded off the whole. All of this illustrated the tradition and history of hunting and showed its rich heritage. The main point of the official part was the awarding of the Medal of Merit for Hunting of the Krosno District of the Polish Hunting Association (PZŁ) to the Standard of the Szarak Błazowa Hunting Club. Later on, Chairman Wojciech Kryda presented awards to the most distinguished and active hunters and hunting enthusiasts. To close the official part, the renowned BORSUKI Musical Ensemble from Zakopane, who were guests at the event, performed the „Hymn of St Hubert”. An ensemble of hunting horn players also provided musical accompaniment for the exhibition. The exhibition, staged on a grand scale at the headquarters of the BIELIK Club, featured magnificent hunting trophies and displays of hunting-related artefacts from around the world.

Rounding off the exhibition was a collection of black-powder weapons, which can be owned and used without a licence, prepared by the ORZEŁ Shooting Fraternity. The entire collection drew a great deal of interest from visitors. Thanks to the help and kindness of Augustyn Rybka, part of the family picnic took place in his open-air museum of a historic village – the Potoki Museum, neighbouring the

BIELIK Club's headquarters. Amid the historic cottages and the „Ostatni Grosz” („Last Penny”) inn, a re-enactment of an old hunt was staged by Jacek Ważny's re-enactment group from a riding stables near Lubaczów. The assembled guests admired the beautiful horses, the re-enactors dressed in costumes from a bygone era, and a display of their riding and hunting skills. After touring the Potoki Museum, the young visitors had the chance to feed bread to the enormous carp inhabiting the pond in the middle of the open-air museum. The whole event was rounded off with a delicious and highly varied spread prepared by the hunters organising the exhibition.

National Success for the Children's Folk Ensemble „Błazowiaczek”

On 21 June 2026, the Children's Folk Ensemble „Błazowiaczek” took part for the first time in the 32nd National Festival of Children's Folklore Creativity „A Child in Folklore” in Baranów Sandomierski. The ensemble's debut at such an important event proved remarkably successful – the young artists won 2nd place, as well as the „Mały Klepok” award, in the custom and ritual ensembles category. On the stage of the MGOK (Municipal and Communal Cultural Centre) in Baranów Sandomierski, „Błazowiaczek” presented a performance entitled „Pasionka,” showcasing selected genres of verbal-musical folklore from our area. The performance drew on the everyday life of a village child of days gone by, whose duty it was to graze the animals. From dawn, the child would lead them to pasture, often through the whole village, watch over them during the day, and return home with them in the evening. The performance depicted not only the hardships of a child's daily life, but also how the youngest villagers organised their time while grazing. There were games, pastimes, rhymes, riddles, dances and songs, as well as texts spoken in dialect. Winning 2nd place is a huge success for the whole ensemble, all the more so as this was

2nd Exhibition of Medal-Winning Trophies and Interesting Hunting Clubs of the Strug Valley





„Błażowiaczek's” first participation in this national festival. For the children, it was not only a competitive performance, but also a wonderful adventure, a chance to encounter children's folklore from various parts of Poland, and a valuable lesson in the importance of preserving tradition.

The Diamond Jubilee of the Priesthood of Msgr Kazimierz Bator

On 28 June 2026, an extraordinary

son of Paweł and Maria née Pomykała. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1966 by Bishop Bolesław Tabor-ski. The first parish to which the newly ordained Fr Kazimierz was assigned was Hyżne, and the second was Ropienka. In 1971, he arrived in Kąkolówka, where, as curate, he supported the pastoral and catechetical ministry of the parish priest, Fr Stanisław Lityński. From his very first days in the parish, he made a name for

of children and young people. A visible fruit of his formative work includes, among other things, five priestly vocations and one religious vocation. As befits a good steward, he also paid no less attention to the care of the church building, which he thoroughly modernised and continually beautified, so that it might delight successive generations of parishioners. Fr Kazimierz currently serves as chaplain at the St John of Dukla Care Home for the Elderly in Kąkolówka, which belongs to Caritas of the Archdiocese of Przemyśl. The jubilee thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by the parish priest, Fr Adam Chrzęszcz, in thanksgiving to God for the gift of Msgr Kazimierz's priesthood, his beautiful service to God and his following of Christ's path, as well as for blessing and health for the years still ahead of him. The Jubilarian priest, in turn, offered the Mass for the intentions of his parishioners, among whom he spent the greater part of his life, and for all those gathered. The Distinguished Jubilarian, thanking God for the gift of a long life, remarked with his characteristic humour that God must still have some tasks in store for him, since He had granted him the grace of long life and good health, for out of his ordination class, in which 38 priests were ordained in Przemyśl, only 7 are still living.

Exploring Błażowa's History on Foot

On the same day, as part of the „Open Gate of the Jewish Cemetery,” part of the Galicianer Sztetl festival – Days of Remembrance for Galician Jews – we



The Jubilarian with members of the Kąkolówka Rural Women's Circle.

jubilee ceremony took place in the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Matka Boża Szkaplerzna) in Kąkolówka: the 60th anniversary of the priestly ordination of the Reverend Monsignor Kazimierz Bator. The thanksgiving Mass, as well as the jubilee celebrations themselves, came as a surprise to the Distinguished Jubilarian, prepared by an organising committee made up of all the communities active in the parish, namely the Parish Council, the Marian Sodality of the „Margaretki” prayer movement, Catholic Action, the Rosary Circles, as well as associations and organisations operating in the village, such as the Kąkolowianki Rural Women's Circle, the Village Council, the Volunteer Fire Brigade and others, under the leadership of the current parish priest, Fr Adam Chrzęszcz. Private individuals, former students of the Jubilarian, and friends also joined in organising the celebrations. Kazimierz Bator was born in the neighbouring village of Wesola, the

himself as an exceptionally energetic priest, active on many fronts: involved in running prayer groups, religious confraternities, a youth theatre and a schola, organising pilgrimages, and supporting the parish orchestra. His kindness towards people, sense of humour, energy and charisma in his pastoral work earned him the respect and gratitude of the entire parish community. He quickly came to know the whole sprawling parish. He accompanied parishioners in their joys, as well as supporting them in times of sorrow. In 1977, he was appointed parish priest, a role he held until 2011. A hallmark of his pastoral ministry was his care for families, his help for single mothers, and the religious formation



It was our pleasure to show visitors from Rzeszów around Błażowa.



had the pleasure of guiding visitors from Rzeszów around Błazowa. We set off from the Municipal and Communal Public Library in Błazowa, where a Jewish inn once stood. Along the way, we spoke about the history of Błazowa and the people, places, and events of the past. We also visited Błazowa's parish church of St Martin. We ended our walk at Błazowa's Jewish cemetery, located in the north-western part of the town, at the end of Mickiewicz Street. The necropolis occupies a plot of 5,455 square metres, in a shape resembling a right-angled trapezoid. There is no information on the date the cemetery was established. Still, it certainly already existed in the first half of the 19th century.

The 19th Futoma Days: A Day to Remember

On the first Sunday of July, the residents of Futoma marked the nineteenth edition of their annual event, Futoma Days. This year it took on a patriotic-historical theme, alongside a promotional-culinary one. Just over six months ago, we celebrated the posthumous promotion of Corporal Adolf Mierzwa to the rank of

Second Lieutenant of the Polish Army, and the inclusion of the family grave of Julia and Adolf Mierzwa among the graves of veterans of the struggle for Poland's freedom and independence. The next step in commemorating the heroic Mierzwa family was the unveiling, on the building of the St John Cantius Primary School in Futoma, of a commemorative plaque dedicated to 2nd Lt A. Mierzwa – participant in the September Campaign, Sybi-

a wonderful biography about her parents' lives, their wartime fate, their post-war life and their passing. She had been preparing it for several years, gathering documents, photographs and memories, visiting numerous archives and institutes, and searching for the families of her father's comrades. The fruit of this five years of work is an engrossing biography, „Z Przemyśla do Szczecina przez trzy kontynenty. Wojenny szlak kaprała



rak (Siberian deportee) and prisoner of Soviet gulags, soldier of Anders' Army and General Stanisław Maczek's Armoured Division – and to his wife Julia, a liaison officer and medic in the Home Army during the Second World War. On the occasion of the plaque's unveiling, Zofia Wieczorek, daughter of Julia and Adolf Mierzwa and a friend of the school, published

Adolfa Mierzwy” („From Przemyśl to Szczecin Across Three Continents: The Wartime Path of Corporal Adolf Mierzwa”). Following the official proceedings, village head Małgorzata Drewniak welcomed, on behalf of the organisers, all the guests and those attending the 19th Futoma Days – an event whose main focus, alongside the unveiling and blessing of



Walk participants.

the commemorative plaque, was „20 Years of Promoting the Futoma Bulwiok.” Bulwiok is a traditional savoury pie from Futoma made of yeast dough

schoolchildren, organised culinary workshops. The baked bulwioks, prozioks and other regional dishes prepared were distributed to the

filled with potato, cheese and mint, traditionally baked in a wood-fired oven. Art teacher Lucy-na Baj, together with pupils from Years 4 and 5, developed and prepared the comic strip „Futomski Bulwiok.” As part of further promoting the bulwiok, the ladies, together with the

participants of Futoma Days. Those present had the opportunity to see for themselves how bulwiok is made and baked in a wood-fired bread oven. The bulwiok jubilee coincided with the twentieth anniversary of Małgorzata Drewniak's service as village head and councillor. The co-organisers of the event and the guests did not miss this opportunity to thank her for her many years of dedicated work for Futoma and to wish her all the very best for the years to come.

In the next issue, we'll share the summer events that have already taken place in July and those still ahead of us in August. We wish all our readers a sunny, safe summer full of adventures.

Magdalena Kowalska-Cheffey

The 19th Futoma Days





Jakub Heller

Old Photos Tell Their Story

The importance of collecting and preserving old photographs

Old photographs are not just pieces of paper with a recorded image. They can safely be compared to time capsules that preserve memories, family histories, the faces of our ancestors, and landscapes now forgotten. In today's era of digitisation, when we take hundreds of photos with our phones every day, it's easy to forget how valuable these analogue reflections of the past are – often fragile, faded, and curled from the sun.

Why are they worth protecting?

First, so that family memory survives. Every old photograph is a bridge between generations, allowing the younger generation to see what grandma looked like as a young girl, how grandpa worked the land, or what the family home looked like in the past. Without these photos, stories lose their personal touch and emotional depth, becoming just dry facts.

Second, cultural and historical value. Old photographs document social change, fashion, architecture, customs, and important events. Many events found in chronicles, when combined with an old photograph, become a very vivid history lesson. Photos show how our ancestors really lived; their hard work, holidays, sorrows and joys, everyday life. They are an invaluable source for historians, ethnographers, and genealogists.

Third, it's worth saving old photographs because they hold emotional and therapeutic power. Looking through them often brings feelings of nostalgia. It can sometimes aid in the grieving process or help create a clearer picture of those years. In a world where everything passes quickly, photographs give a sense of continuity and roots.

Unfortunately, old photographs are very susceptible to damage. Paper yellows, dyes fade under the influence of light, moisture causes mould, and high temperature and dry air make photos brittle and fragile.



Kindergarten staff.

The greatest enemies are time and our own carelessness. Photos end up in attics, basements, and old shoeboxes, often kept in terrible conditions.

I think that nowadays digitisation is the most effective way to protect the analogue past. High-resolution scanning allows the image to be preserved forever, even if the original is destroyed. Properly stored original photographs should be kept in a cool, dark, and dry place.

If older family members are still with us, it's worth asking them to help identify the people, dates, and places in the photos – noting this on the back or in a digital file. In a few years, no one will remember this anymore. Shared scans can also be added to family albums.

Preserving old photographs is not a sentimental whim. It is an act of responsibility toward the past and the future; a way to keep the faces, places, and moments that shaped us as families and as a nation from disappearing forever. Every one of us has at least a few such photos at home. It's worth devoting some time to them before it's too late, because when a photograph disappears, a part of our history disappears with it.

This is one of the reasons why, for years, I have been

collecting, digitising, and restoring old, often badly damaged photographs, which can be viewed, among other places, in „Kurier Błażowski” and on the Facebook page „Błażowa na starej i współczesnej fotografii”.

This time I'd like to share photographs from the Błażowa kindergarten. I think they'll bring you joy, especially if you spot your own children – or yourselves – among the kids.

As always, I appeal to everyone who would like to share their family stories – both spoken ones and those in the form of photographs – to get in touch with the Błażowa Library. Let's save them from being forgotten, so that time doesn't take away what matters most. For those who came before us, and for those who will come after – because memory is our greatest legacy.

Jakub Heller





A walk through Błazowa. The road surface is still cobbled. The teacher Irena Dołoszycka.









Zdzisław Chlebek

The History of Education in Futoma from 1888 to 2025. Part V

In 1996–98, a student of our school, Roman Karnas, achieved significant success in the National Philatelic Competition, organised under the names „Along the Vistula” and „Along the Oder.” He demonstrated extensive knowledge of history and geography. The student’s supervisor was Stanisław Najda.

In 1997, students of our school presented an exhibition of embroidery and lace-making under the theme „The Needle Danced with the Thread” at the Regional Education Authority (Kuratorium Oświaty) in Rzeszów. The students prepared the exhibition under the guidance of Ewa Skawińska.

In 1997, I was appointed head of the school through another democratically conducted competition, and I held this position until 2024.

In 1997, a canteen was opened at the school, offering students a hot one-course meal in place of a glass of tea.

In the School Mission, which I developed drawing on the Catholic press and literature, I included the following words, accepted by the Teachers’ Council, the Parents’ Association, and the Student Council:

„A family-oriented school – integrating all generations.

A school nurturing timeless Christian traditions.

A school of respect, attachment, and love for its Little Homeland – its local community and region: its customs, traditions, folk culture, and patriotic attitudes from the past.

A school sensitive to the beauty of nature and living in harmony with it.

A school open to cooperation with others.”

In the educational programme adopted jointly with the Parents’ Association and the Student Council, we included at its beginning, as

a motto, the words of Saint John Paul II:

„What does education consist of? It seems that to answer this question accurately, two fundamental truths cannot be overlooked: first, that man is called to live in truth and love; second, that everyone fulfils themselves through a selfless gift of themselves – this applies both to those who educate and to those who are being educated.”

Our great compatriot, speaking on the subject of nation, patriotism, and homeland, uttered these memorable words:

Nation, Homeland, Patriotism – these are sacred words. „The term „nation” designates a community based in a given territory and distinguished from other nations by its culture. Patriotism means love for everything that makes up the homeland: its history, traditions, language, even its landscapes. This love also extends to the works of compatriots and the fruits of their genius. Any danger that threatens the great good of the homeland becomes an opportunity to test this love” (John Paul II, *Memory and Identity: Conversations at the Dawn of a Millennium*).

And it is these values – contained in the mission, the pastoral care and prevention programme, and the school’s development concept – that we have strived to uphold for years.

In carrying out the school’s mission, we actively cooperate with the Parents’ Association, various organisations, students’ parents, and seniors in raising the young generation through the cyclically organised Mother’s and Father’s Day, and Grandmother’s and Grandfather’s Day events. Through the Student Volunteer Corps operating at the school since 2004, the John Paul II–Barka Foundation, the Inspiration Generator Foundation, and the Youth Science Centre, we strive to reach out to our graduates and students of post-primary schools,

for whom the school – with its library, computer lab, and sports facilities – is always open.

We actively participated in the competitions organised by the current parish priest, Fr. Jan Czaja, for the most beautiful Nativity Scene (Szopka), roadside shrine (Kapliczka), and Easter Palm. We stage Nativity plays (Jasełka) and celebrate a shared Christmas Eve (Wigilia) with the reception of the Bethlehem Peace Light. The school’s Caritas Club visits sick and lonely people every year. It is also involved in long-distance child adoption, using funds collected to finance the education of a poor child in Africa. We take part in pilgrimages to well-known shrines both in Poland and abroad.

In 1998, we repainted the school corridors and cloakrooms, and renovated the toilets in the teaching building, with very substantial support from the Parents’ Association, the Municipality of Błazowa, and numerous sponsors.

In 1998, our students, teachers, and school management took part in the unveiling of a plaque honouring the community activist, village mayor (sołtys), and chairman of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, Ferdynand Wyskiel, on the building of the fire station. A promotion and sale of Andrzej Mnich’s valuable local publication, „Notes on the History of Futoma” (Zapiski z dziejów Futomy), took place at the school.

We were co-organisers of the unveiling of commemorative plaques and display cases in honour of Ferdynand Wyskiel in 1998, and Lt. Col. Józef Maciołek in 2011. Our students take care of graves: that of a Serbian wandering soldier of the First World War, the collective grave of Home Army (AK) soldiers, the commemorative plaques honouring Lt. Col. J. Maciołek and F. Wyskiel, and the monument dedicated to local Home Army (AK)

and Freedom and Independence (WiN) heroes.

We instil respect for the past and tradition through the Regional Memory and Tradition Room, opened at the school in 2000 in cooperation with the unforgettable Aniela Wielgos – founding director of the „Futomianie” Ceremonial Folk Ensemble – and the family of Lt. Col. Józef Maciołek.

In 2009, the Room was enlarged and moved to the Fire Station. We actively cooperate with village head (sołtys) Małgorzata Drewniak, the Association for the Cultivation of the Culture and Tradition of the Futoma Region (founded in 2007), the „Futomianie” Ceremonial Folk Ensemble (active since 1989), the Futoma folk band, which has been bringing renown to our region and village since 1990, and the

Rural Women's Circle and the „Babski Młyn” („Women's Mill”) Association, both founded a year ago, in organising community celebrations, regional events, EU, national, and local government projects and programmes, and artistic activities. Friendly groups and organisations add lustre to our school celebrations.

T.B.C.

Zdzisław Chlebek

The Silber Family of Rzeszów and Their Connections with Błazowa



In one issue of Kurier Błazowski, I described „Salomon Zweig's Traces in Rzeszów” and my fascination with Salomon and his family. By way of reminder, Salomon Zweig was a well-known industrialist in Rzeszów

and the owner of the „Machines, Steam and Water Pumps Factory, Iron and Metal Foundry.” To this day, while walking around Rzeszów, one can still come across items produced in his factory before the outbreak of World War II. These include water and sewage manhole covers embedded in the cobblestones of Rzeszów's streets. Next to a

tenement house on Jagiellońska Street, vertical downpipes from a rainwater drainage system have survived to this day. Meanwhile, on the wall of one of the buildings on 3 Maja Street, there is a commemorative plaque dedicated to Marcin Borelowski, manufactured in Zweig's factory.

The fate of the plaque itself is incredibly fascinating. It was embedded in the wall of the building belonging to the „Sokół” Gymnastic Society in

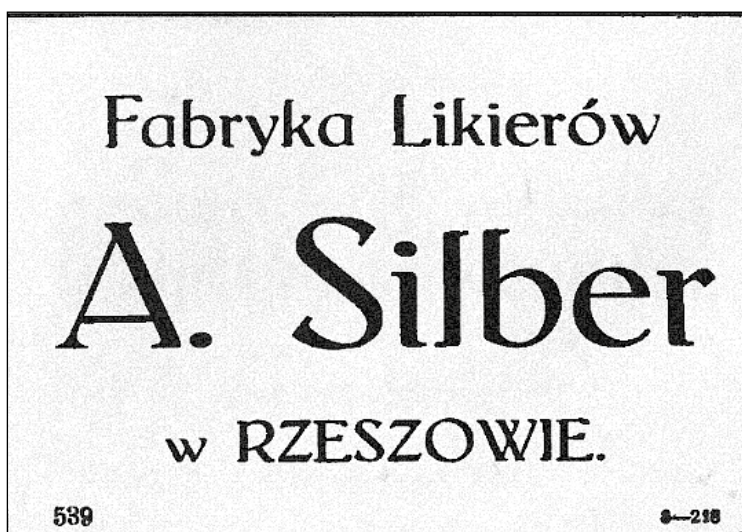
Rzeszów in 1913. During World War II, along with other similar metal objects, it was looted by the German occupiers and slated to be melted down. It miraculously survived because two Rzeszów residents bought it from a

technical manager at his father's factory; a daughter named Gustawa; and the youngest son, Marceli. Through her marriage to Salomon Silber - the son of another well-known Rzeszów resident of Jewish descent - Gustawa united two prominent Rzeszów families.

Salomon Silber was born in Rzeszów on 24 April 1906, as the son of Ascher Silber and his wife Dwora. The Silber family was very large, incredibly wealthy, and known to all residents of Rzeszów.

Ascher Silber served for many years as the chairman of the Jewish community in Rzeszów. He was also a deeply religious man who represented the Rzeszów Hasidic community. To this day, numerous archival photographs have

survived, capturing Ascher Silber among a group of Hasidic men on their way to daily prayer at the Rzeszów synagogue. He was also a member of the traditional Chevra Kadisha brotherhood, which performed the final rites for the Jewish residents of Rzeszów, namely preparing the deceased for burial. In addition, Ascher Silber owned an alcohol factory that produced liqueurs and other spirits. Today, many labels and bottles from



Ascher Silber's Liqueur Factory in Rzeszów. The Rzeszów Yizkor Book.

German gendarme for... alcohol. Under the cover of night, the men hid the plaque near one of their homes and placed a dog kennel over the hiding spot. After World War II, the plaque was dug up and placed on the wall of the tenement house where Marcin Borelowski had owned his tinsmith workshop in the mid-19th century.

Let us return, however, to the main theme. Salomon Zweig had three children: Henryk, who served as the

this factory - which once operated in Rzeszów and whose products were well-known throughout our region - survive in private collections. This was also true for Błażowa, a topic I have discussed numerous times with Kamil Zagórski from the Błażowa Municipal Culture Centre. Ascher passed his business on to his three sons - Samuel,

archival documents, the enterprise was highly prosperous, and „the company's solvency was impeccable”. The

38 Silber Asche, właśc. dóbr, Gałęziowskiego 4

Excerpt from a telephone directory, 1939.

wholesale business employed seven workers and two clerks, and its annual turnover in 1935 was estimated at 900,000 zlotys.

The wealth of the Silber family is further evidenced by the fact

belonged to Józef Blim and Natan Känner. At the time of purchase in 1918, the estate comprised 701 hectares of land, including 319 hectares of arable fields, 298 hectares of forests, 57 hectares of pastures, 21 hectares of meadows, and 1.5 hectares of land designated for construction or development. Up until the outbreak of World War II, this estate decreased in size due to parcelation or sales, so that before September 1939, it covered a much smaller area of 298 hectares.



The residence in Błażowa was owned by Silber before the war.

Arnold, and Salomon. The latter was the husband of Gustawa, the daughter of Salomon Zweig, whom I mentioned earlier in this article.

The Silber brothers took over the alcohol factory from their father around 1933. At that time, they also established a beer wholesale business in Rzeszów. According to surviving

that its head, A s c h e r , owned two landed estates. One of them was located in Błażowa. In 1918, following the end of World War I, Ascher Silber purchased a landed estate in Błażowa that had previously

The example of the Zweig and Silber families is one of many where prominent, wealthy local clans united through marriage. This specific case of Ascher Silber's family also demonstrates how these families expanded their lives and businesses into other towns across the region. Thanks to examples like the Rzeszów-Błażowa traces of the Silber family, we can discover our unique local history, a heritage we should be proud of. Together with the Błażowa Informal Historical Group „To Save From Obscurity”, we aim to uncover more stories that connect Błażowa and Rzeszów.

I look forward to the results of our cooperation and to the moment we share our research findings with the residents of both Błażowa and Rzeszów.



Ascher Silber, first from the right. Franciszek Kotula, Tamten Rzeszów.

Marta Wójcik

Grandparents' Farmstead in Mokłuczka

(Agata and Franciszek Woźniak, Parents of My Mother Maria)

The largest farmstead in the village. For it was also the wealthiest farm. House, cowshed, stable with pigsties, barn, a horse-driven mill. Situated where the forest track from Mokłuczka meets the road to Łańcut – also known as St Anthony's road, after his statue, or as „the road to Słony Potok”. It was the last farmstead in the village, at its eastern edge. Beyond it, and also to the south of it, lay forests...

When did the grandparents build it? Aunt Antka, their youngest daughter, used to recall that she was four when they moved into the new house. And she was born in 1907. So the farmstead was most likely built around the turn of 1910/1911. To this day (2026) – though after several renovations – only the house has survived. It's easy to work out that it's now 115 years old.

My grandparents' farmstead, my mother Maria's parents, is especially important to me. For it was here that my mother gave birth to me, and here I spent the first three years of my life growing up – until my father built our own house. Throughout all the years of my life, my grandparents' farmstead has drawn me like a magnet. And to this day – I'm now in my 103rd year – I recall it with fondness. And that is why I wish to set down what my memory has kept.

THE MAIN HOUSE. Built of wood, roofed with red tile. The front wall faced south. The front entrance was on that side. Up the steps, onto the porch, onto the „little gallery” (as it was called at the time), and then, through a high threshold, into the hallway. And in the hallway – doors to the izba (the kitchen), the small room, and the

pantry. The izba was large, taking up half the floor area of the house's living space. The floor was wooden throughout – unlike most houses, where it was beaten clay – and the windows, too, were somewhat larger than in most of the local farmsteads.

IZBA. To the right of the door, as you come in from the hallway – a great stove with an oven, a hob (nalepa) and a canopy above it, a range with hotplates, and a zapiecek (the space behind/beside the stove used for warmth or storage). In the middle of the izba, a large table. Along its sides, benches and stools – plenty of seating, since the household ate together with the farmhands here, and guests, too, were received in this room. To the left of the door from the hallway, right in the corner, was a sort of kitchen annex: buckets of clean water, a tub for washing dishes, a slop bucket (used to water the cattle), and cast-iron pots and other cookware. Smaller items – cups, bowls, plates, cutlery – were kept on shelves that served as a makeshift wall cupboard, in that same corner.

Beyond this „women's corner”, along the left-hand wall, under the window, stood a bench, and behind it – in the other corner – Grandfather Franciszek's wide bed. Above it hung a great picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The second holy picture, of the Blessed Virgin, hung on the opposite wall.

In this large izba – I remember – there was something unusual. Something not found in other cottages. Something that created the illusion that it wasn't one room, but two – that it was an izba with a little side-room attached. For



it had a window, and beneath it a second table, or rather a small one. On it there was always a decorative cloth runner and flowers. During my infancy, my cradle stood in this pseudo-side-room, and later my little bed. After we moved out, a bed was placed there.

Where did this illusion come from – that part of the great izba formed a kind of separate little room? There was no partition wall, yet one was cleverly suggested. On one side, a wall panel had been built from ceiling to floor, two to three metres wide. On the other, the partition was suggested by the zapiecek, built up high, almost to the ceiling itself. And there was one more trick: the floor in this pseudo-side-room was laid slightly higher. Stepping into it, one had the impression of crossing a threshold – of entering another room altogether.

There was one more curiosity in this large izba. By the door leading out to the hallway, built into the wall along the entire length of the left-hand door frame, was a small cupboard with shelves. My grandmother kept in it, among other things, cabbage with peas – a delicacy favoured by her son Władysław, a judge living in Rzeszów. She would prepare the dish a few days before his announced arrival and place it in that cupboard, on the lowest shelf, where the chill rising from the ground was strongest. There the food would quietly „settle” and „mature” – and that, my grandmother would say, was why everyone found it so tasty.

Now about the IZDEBKA – the ordinary one, entered from the hallway. With a window onto the „little gallery.” Whitewashed with lime, like the izba. A bed, a divan, a wardrobe for linen, bedding and

clothes. By the window, a small table, with flowers on it. This izdebka was known as the women's corner. Here „important papers” were kept, along with keepsakes and prayer books. Near the door, right by the threshold, within arm's reach, hung a coat rack – reachable from the hallway itself. This mattered: when the women came back from the field, they were caked in mud.

In this izdebka, Grandmother Agata kept, like a relic, a letter from her youngest son, Stanisław – a letter from the front, the last one before his death as a soldier. Here she would show me the letter, here she would weep over it. Stanisław wrote: „Where wood is chopped, splinters fly...” He was preparing his parents for the worst. It came to pass.

The third room entered from the hallway. THE PANTRY. Spacious, cluttered, dim. Great chests took up most of the space in it. In them, grain, flour – rye and wheat, groats – barley and millet, as well as meal and bran. Here, too, was the equipment for baking bread, flatbreads, and cakes: kneading troughs and bowls for working the dough, baskets and small baskets, tins and straw moulds. And there was a peel for putting loaves into the oven and taking them out. There was also a poker, useful for kindling the fire in the oven and later for regulating it. And a shelf-board, on which the bread was laid out once baked. At my grandparents' bread was baked more often than at other farmsteads, because the farmhands sat down to meals too, and during the busiest periods of fieldwork so did extra help, usually neighbours. For instance, during the harvest, the potato-digging, the threshing. At such times bread was baked as often as once a week, whereas in most other households it was usually once a month. There were also cords hanging from the ceiling in the pantry, with poles fastened to some of them. What were they

for? On them – usually after the pig slaughter – sausage, smoked ham, cured pork fat, and lard were hung, and in winter, meat too. Last on this list: just past the threshold, by the entrance door to the pantry, stood a squat barrel of sauerkraut. It was kept „within reach,” since it was reached for very often – for cabbage, groats and root vegetables, I should mention, made up our everyday menu in those days.

STAIRS TO THE LOFT. There is one more room in this house – on the east wing, with its own entrance from the natonie (the yard). From it lead the STAIRS TO THE LOFT, the only ones in the house. Sturdy stairs, made of planks, not some ordinary ladder. In this room there is also a quern: a large, heavy stone, and a roomy hopper. Rarely used, it seems, since the farm has the kierat (the horse-driven mill). Various tools are also stored here: hoes, pitchforks, rakes, spades, shovels and the like – tools essential for work in the garden and in the field.

THE LOFT. Wide and long, like the house itself. At its two gable ends, east and west, small windows. It is full of all sorts of junk here: broken-down odds and ends, old clothing. But also washing lines for drying laundry, which make it hard to move about, since they hang low and one has to duck beneath them, back bent. Here, in the loft, oat chaff was also stored. The farmhands grumbled, since they had to come for it every day – being an ingredient that enriched the pigs' feed – and had to contend with those lines.

THE NATONIE. This is what the yard was called; a small space between the house and the cowshed, paved with stone slabs, sandstone most likely, and probably hand-split, since they were not squares or rectangles but shaped however nature had made them. Each slab was appealing for its different colouring and coloured veining, and in summer there was

green too – each one overgrown with tufts of grass.

In the natonie stood two objects very important to the farm. The first was the well – what a convenience that was, literally a dozen or so steps from the doorstep. And the second convenience: right beside the well, literally within arm's reach, a trough for watering the livestock. Water was drawn from the well „by the crank” and poured straight into the trough, without any extra effort – an unusual trough, made of concrete, but roomy, for in Grandfather's cowshed there were a dozen or so head of cattle, and in the stable a pair of horses, sometimes a foal too. How many buckets of that water were needed to quench the thirst of the whole herd! Anyone who has ever had a brush with farming will understand.

THE COWSHED. Also roofed with red tile – a rarity in the area – and house-sized in its own volume. Two entrances: one directly opposite the way out of the house, from that same hallway, the other in the east wall. This was practically thought through, since the barn, with the cattle's feed, stood on that side. Above this entrance, by putting up a ladder, one could also climb into the cowshed's loft, where the bedding for the cattle was kept, usually straw left over from machine threshing, so-called mierzwa (chopped litter-straw). Behind the cowshed was the dung-heap, and also the privy (called, in the interwar period, a „ślawojka”) – entirely out of sight from the house, from the natonie.

In the cowshed, along two walls, ran mangers their full length, for the cows and calves. Also, in the north wall, facing the dung-heap, were two hatches for throwing out the manure. In the rest of the space there was no livestock at all; instead, in one corner, we had something like a hen coop: little ladders, shelves, nesting boxes, feed troughs, drinking bowls. In

this livestock-free space there was also a spot where various items used about the cowshed were gathered: pitchforks, brooms, lanterns, tubs, milk cans. And right by the cowshed's entrance on the natonie side stood a bed. The servant girl slept there, not only when keeping watch over a cow about to calve. This was her... permanent bedroom, even in winter. It was warm in the cowshed, since the cows warmed it like a radiator. The farmhand – in my time, Sobczyk („Deaf One”), father of Leon, a boy my own age, and later Leon himself – went home for the night. He lived very close by.

THE COURTYARD. Several times larger than the natonie, overgrown with grass, yet smooth – without ruts, without potholes – despite being constantly „trampled” by horses' hooves and the iron rims of cart wheels, often heavily laden ones, since it was by this route that manure was carted out to the fields from the dung-heap, and, during harvest and haymaking, wagons piled high with sheaves of grain and hay were brought in. Vehicles belonging to Grandfather's visitors also parked in this yard – and there were quite a few of them, in the years when he managed the Count's forests, and later the forests belonging to the Błażowa parish.

Now for the buildings enclosing the courtyard. Only its southern side was left open. To the east it was closed off by THE BARN. The front wall was long, since a cartshed had been added at each end. In one of them, once the threshing season was over, the threshing machine usually „rested.”

In the barn, as everywhere, there was a threshing floor – the middle section of the barn, a beaten-earth space between the two grain bays, that is, the klepisko. And above, over the threshing floor and the grain bays, was the bont, a kind of ceiling made of loosely laid planks. When needed, sheaves could also

be piled up on these planks during the harvest.

On the threshing floor, the chaff-cutter and the „mill” (a rather grand name for it) took up a fair amount of space, and after the harvest the threshing machine joined them. They were all connected to the kierat. Thanks to this, at Grandfather's, horses did the heavy work in place of people. Only rye was threshed with flails, since evenly threshed straw was needed for chaff for the horses; and in that „mill,” mainly barley was ground, for feed for the pigs. Grain for bread, flatbreads and noodles the grandparents had ground at proper mills. This mill in the barn should really be called a „horse-quern.”

THE KIERAT. A building of an unusual kind, rarely seen in these parts – round, with a tall, pointed roof. It captivated with its charming, beautiful shape, visible from afar, resembling an upturned funnel. Inside was the mechanism that drove those machines set up on the threshing floor. This mechanism, powered by horses, was itself called the kierat, and from it the name came to be used for the whole building. Built onto the back of the barn, it seemed almost stuck to it – it had no separate entrance; one could only enter the kierat through the threshing floor. The ground floor of the kierat resembled a circus ring: this was where the horses worked, driving the whole assembly of gear wheels and the drive shaft. Above this „ring,” as in the barn, was a bont, usually filled with hay for the horses.

In 1944, at the turn of spring and summer, shortly before Operation „Tempest,” a secret radio station of the Home Army operated on this bont. The spot had been chosen for it partly because of the kierat's proximity to the forest – so close, it was joked, that pine cones fell onto that funnel-shaped roof.

Finally, the last building on the farmstead – one might call it THE MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING.

Also thatched, like the barn and the kierat, it closed off the courtyard on the north side. Beyond it, the forest ended, and the fields began. It was lower than the other buildings, single-storey, but fairly long, since under its roof were the pigsties, the stable, the woodshed, and storage for farm tools such as ploughs and harrows.

As in every peasant holding, so too at the grandparents' there was a cellar – in fact, two, close together, behind the house, on the west side. A short hop from the hallway, across the natonie, a stretch of lawn, and we were there. These were vaulted chambers set into a deep excavation, covered with a thick layer of earth – looking like two great humps, green in summer like the rest of the garden. In one cellar, potatoes, beetroot, swedes, turnips and whole heads of cabbage were kept over winter. In the other, much the same, but right at the front there was a little nook where, in the warmer months, milk, butter, cheese, cold soups, and... cold sour groats were kept.

Both cellars were dark, cold, and locked with a padlock.

Finally, a few words about the small pond – a natural one, fed by rainfall, near the barn. Today there is no trace of it left. Hemp, tied into sheaves, used to be soaked in it; after a few weeks it would be pulled out and dried. This was work for strong men, since the hemp, soaked through with water, was very heavy. And it once happened that my mother had to do this work herself. It took place before the eyes of Aunt Antka, then still a child – helpless, she burst into tears. Telling me about it, years later, she couldn't hold back her tears either.

Stefan – grandson

P.S. I find myself convinced once again that describing what is far in the past, especially at my age, is a great effort.

Andrzej Kazimierowicz

Chapels in Wilczak

Wilczak – a picturesque hamlet situated between forests and hills – mostly belongs to the parish of Błazowa (part of Wilczak belongs to the parish of Lecka). The faith of Wilczak's residents is evi-

made for an unfortunate sight that the chapel lay at a much lower level than the new road. Cyclists heading toward Wilczak thus came upon the chapel in a deplorable state, deteriorating and

in urgent need of renovation. In connection with this, the Society of Friends of Wilczak (Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Wilczaka) was formed, which decided to renovate the chapel and place in it an image of the Patroness of Cyclists known as the Madonna del Ghisallo (Italy). Her image was therefore painted and placed in a small wooden shrine standing next to the old chapel. On 29 May 2022, Archbishop Adam Szal

the chapel stood on land belonging to the State Treasury. Thanks to the efforts of the parish priest, the District Office (Starostwo Powiatowe) transferred ownership of the plot to the parish of Błazowa. And since the chapel had at one point been entered into the register of municipal historic monuments, after the parish priest's long and difficult efforts over the course of a year, the historic preservation officer (konserwator zabytków) from Rzeszów removed this religious structure from the register of monuments (it had been built in 1964, so it wasn't even 100 years old!). The existing chapel was therefore demolished. Worth noting is that Ryszard Kopiec and his mother Maria Kopiec donated part of their plot free of charge to widen the construction site for the new chapel. To build this chapel – enlarged and modelled on the old one, but at a higher level than the road – about a hundred truckloads of soil were brought in, carried out by Mieczysław Jamioł's company from Białka. Thanks



Chapel before renovation.

denced by three mass chapels built one after another.

This piece is a much-expanded version of my article titled „Consecration of the Chapel,” *Niedziela Przemyska*, no. 26/28.06.2026, p. III.

In 1950, the first one was erected, situated on a meadow near the intersection of the road with a stream. Over time, this chapel began to crack at the foundation because a large linden tree was growing next to it. Therefore, in 1964, a larger chapel was built. This one, too, began to deteriorate over time and fell into ruin. A leaky roof, rotten rafters and roof battens, lack of proper insulation between the stone foundations and the wall; mould on the walls, which had crumbled to a height of about 60 cm, decayed windows and doors. In 2021, the road from Białka to Wilczak was paved with asphalt, since it became a section of the Green Velo bicycle route, which passes by the chapel in question. It also



consecrated the image of Our Lady, Patroness of Cyclists.

Given the condition of the existing chapel, a building expert assessment showed that it would be better to erect a new one on the site than to try to save the old one. While exploring the construction possibilities, it turned out that

to this, the new chapel could be erected at an appropriate height. This valuable religious structure was constructed in the years 2023–2026, under the supervision of Sebastian Czarnik's company from Białka. The new chapel is impressive, beautiful, larger, able to accommodate a sizable group of the faithful, and stands about 10 meters back from the road (the previous one was too close to the road).

On 31 May 2026, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity,

Archbishop Adam Szal, Metropolitan Archbishop of Przemyśl, came to Wilczak, where he was warmly welcomed. At 1:30 in the afternoon, at the outdoor altar, he presided over a concelebrated Holy Mass, together with a group of priests, among whom were native sons of Wilczak, the brothers Fr Jan and Fr

Andrzej Cag. The Archbishop delivered a beautiful sermon on the mystery of the day and pointed to the significance of the chapel in the life of the faithful. After the Mass, a procession moved to the chapel, which the Archbishop consecrated both inside and outside. The patroness of the chapel is Our Lady, Help of Christians, whose image is in the altar.

festival was held, with an artistic program. Children from nearby schools performed with songs and dance. It was another May Day picnic at Wilczak.

It should be noted that during the construction of the chapel, every year on the last Sunday of May, a May devotion with Holy Mass was held, followed by a May Day picnic featuring performances by children and various

fourth religious structure that he has surrounded with special care: first the beautifully restored parish church in Błazowa, then the construction of a new church in Błazowa Dolna, and in turn the restoration of the Chapel of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Old Cemetery in Błazowa. Heartfelt thanks are also owed to the numerous donors and to those who dedicated their skills and put in great effort and hard work into the construction of the new chapel, namely: Stanisław Cag, Wojciech Piwek, Marcin Gaska, Bogdan Kopiec, Ryszard Kopiec, Andrzej Legęć, Konrad Nosal, Łukasz Pałka, Henryk Pleśniak, Paweł Rzeźnik, Stanisław Sowa, Wawrzyniec Synoś, and Bogdan Wyszkievicz.

To all those thanks to whom a beautiful chapel now stands at Wilczak, and who have inscribed themselves in golden letters into this holy work, we wish God's blessing and the unce-



During the May Day picnic at Wilczak in 2024.

This title for the chapel was introduced by Fr Dr Władysław Bartoń, a Salesian. From 1950, for many years, on one Sunday each summer, he celebrated Holy Mass in the chapel for the faithful of Wilczak and the surrounding area, who gathered there in large numbers. The third chapel is under the patronage of a newly painted image of Our Lady, Help of Christians. Meanwhile, the previous, smaller image will find its place in the Museum of the Błazowa Land (Muzeum Ziemi Błazowskiej).

The first Holy Mass in the new chapel was celebrated on 23 June 2026 by the Błazowa vicar, Fr Adrian Wołoszyn, together with the Oasis of the Children of God (Oaza Dzieci Bożych) from the parish of Błazowa, and the second Mass, on 28 June of the same year, was celebrated by a native son of Wilczak, Fr. Andrzej Cag. Many of the faithful took part in the ceremony consecrating the new chapel – as evidenced, among other things, by two large parking areas that were full. In the afternoon, a great

groups, as well as competitions. During one of these picnics, hunters gave an engaging talk about hunting, and thanks to them, visitors could sample game meat cold cuts. The second picnic had an agricultural theme, with talks about farm work in bygone times and displays of period farming tools, such as sickles, flails, scythes, and the like. The proceeds from these events were dedicated to the construction of the new chapel.

We thank the dean, Fr. Jacek Rawski, M.A., for his inventiveness, tremendous effort, material support, and dedication invested in the construction of the new chapel. This is already the



asing protection of Our Lady, Help of Christians. May we be united by the hymn: „We journey toward Your chapel, which awaits us from the shore [...]. That we may ever press onward and never lose our way. Mary, Mary, O Mary, shine!”

Fr Jan Twardy

Senior Club Trip to Vilnius

On June 16-18, the Błażowa Senior Club „Pogodna Jesień” („Sunny Autumn”) went on a trip with a very packed and, at the same time, very interesting program.



and set off to tour the region. The program was truly packed. Among other things, we visited:

- the viaducts in Stańczyki, called the aqueducts in the Romincka Forest,
- the tripoint of the Polish, Lithuanian, and Russian borders,
- Suwałki Landscape Park,
- the „Pan Tadeusz” viewpoint in Smolniki,
- Wigry – the monastery on the lake.

At 07:00 that evening we arrived at the hotel in Sejny, where a late dinner was waiting for us. We ended the day tired, but full of new experiences.

On Saturday, 17 June, we set off for Vilnius and Trakai. We toured Vilnius in great detail, seeing, among others:

- the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Antakalnis,
- the Rasos Cemetery,
- the Vilnius Old Town,



- the Gate of Dawn,
- the Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit,
- the Basilian Gate,
- the Town Hall Square and the

The trip began on Thursday, 15 June, at 11:00 in the evening, from Błażowa. The overnight journey passed peacefully, and by 7:30 the next morning we had arrived in Sokółka. There we started the day with Holy Mass with adoration at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Anthony of Padua. Afterwards, at the pilgrim's house, we watched a short film about the Eucharistic Miracle of Sokółka.

On Friday, 16 June, the Suwałki region was waiting for us. At 10:00 in the morning, we met our guide

Town Hall,

- the Divine Mercy Sanctuary with the miraculous image painted in Vilnius,
- the Vilnius Cathedral,
- Jewish Street (Žydų gatvė).

After touring Vilnius, we went to Trakai. There we took a break for a traditional Karaite cuisine meal – delicious kibinai and soup. Then we



strolled along Karaimų Street, admiring the distinctive architecture, until we reached the Castle of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. In the evening, at 7 o'clock, we returned to the hotel for dinner. Afterwards, a successful party with music took place, which lasted until... late, let's say.

On Sunday, 18 June, we visited Augustów, our guide's hometown. After breakfast and checking out, we started with a visit to the basilica in Sejny with the miraculous figure of Our Lady of Sejny. Next, we stopped in Studzieniczna, where we visited the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Studzieniczna at Grądzik. Then we went to Augustów, where the biggest attraction of the day awaited us: a cruise on the ship „Jaćwież,” styled after a Yotvingian boat, across Lake Necko and the Rospuda River, during which we saw the monument of the „naked Zośka.” After the cruise, we had lunch at the „Albatros” in Augustów. After lunch, we started our journey home, during which our seniors shared their snacks and treats with everyone on the bus, all the way to Błażowa.

Our seniors proved that age is just a number, while spirit is a who-

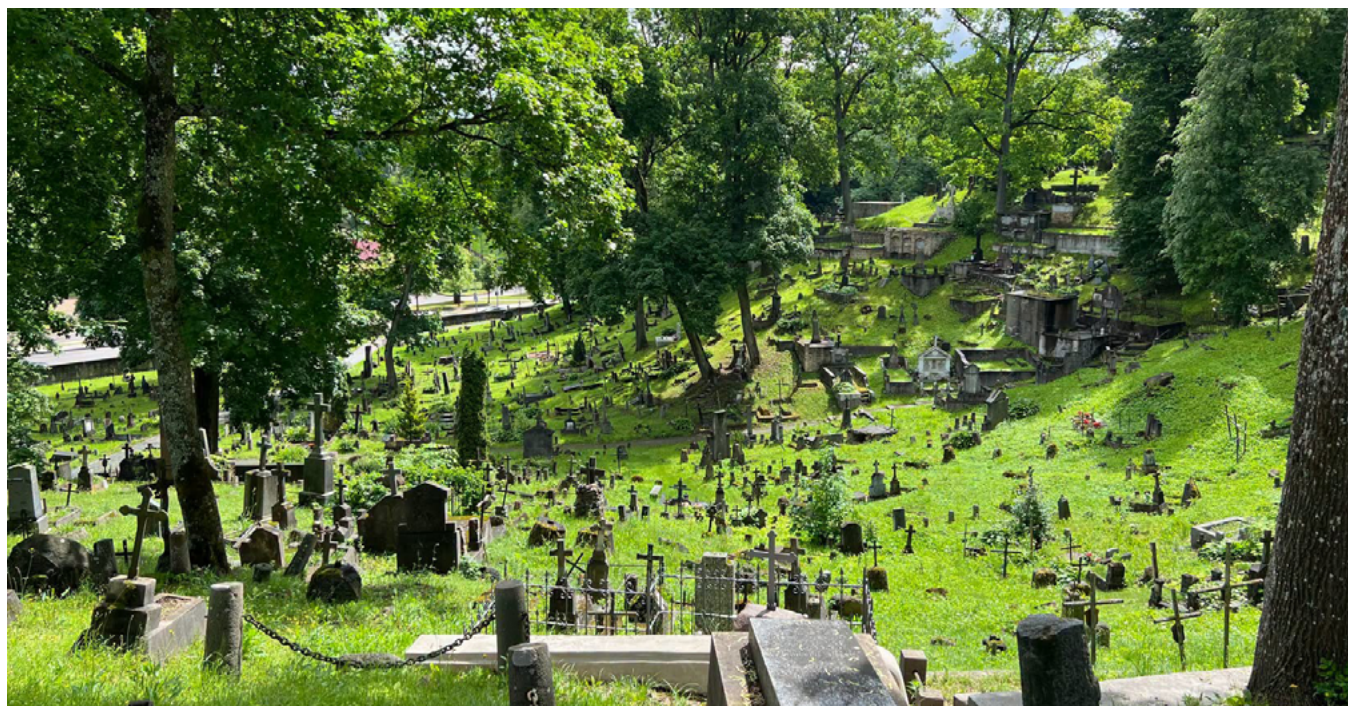


le different league. Some people are 30 years old and act as if they were 80. And some 80-year-olds are so young at heart, they're an inspiration for us all.

It was a very intense but beautiful three-day pilgrimage and sightseeing trip. We visited the most important places in the Suwałki region, Vilnius, and Trakai, learned about the history, Karaite and Lithuanian culture, and the beauty of the Augustów Lake District. The weather held up, and the program was very varied and well-planned.

On behalf of Błazowa's future seniors

Anna and Jakub Heller



On June 16-18, the Błazowa Senior Club „Pogodna Jesień” went on a trip to Vilnius. The Rasos Cemetery.



The centre of Vilnius – the Old Town.

„It's a horse, of course!" - part III. Thermoregulation and its mechanisms

A particularly timely subject, given the heatwave that swept across our country recently. It triggered a wave of reactions and interventions in defence of animal welfare – some more justified than others. The cornerstone



of such actions should be knowledge, not a misguided empathy that imposes human standards.

Frost, heat, snow, rain and wind – the wild horse copes with every situation. Nature has equipped it with mechanisms of thermoregulation, underpinned by anatomy, physiology and behaviour. For these to function properly, a horse needs freedom of movement, constant access to food, and shelter. Wherever horses live, they must contend with temperature fluctuations governed by the daily cycle and the changing seasons.

A healthy horse's temperature is around 38°C. It should surprise no one that domesticated horses have the same needs as wild ones. Yet when we fall prey to anthropomorphism, we shut them in stables, ration their meals, rug them and clip them. The thermoregulation mechanism is made up of many components. Skin and coat provide insulation and prevent heat loss. Because of a horse's substantial muscle mass, it's easier

for it to warm itself up through movement in winter than to cool down after exertion in summer. We should therefore avoid working horses hard at the hottest times of day. A horse living in conditions close to natural

ones is governed by the rules of photoperiodism, whereby it begins growing its winter coat right after the summer solstice. In contrast, the winter solstice triggers the switch to a summer coat,



causing intensive shedding. Ambient temperature affects the length and density of the hair. Diet and breed matter too. Piloerection (hair standing on end) can increase the depth of the coat by as much as 30%, acting rather like the polystyrene used to insulate buildings. The hair is coated in an oily substance called sebum, which counteracts water absorption. The longer the coat, therefore, the better the insulation. Washing, frequent grooming, and clipping in particular disrupt this complex system.



Another mechanism is the fine arterial vessels found in the skin. Vasoconstriction prevents heat loss, while vasodilation allows it to be released. A horse's sweat glands play no small role, and horses sweat far more intensively than humans do. This causes a rapid loss of excess heat through evaporation, but if the process continues unchecked, it can result in the body becoming chilled – so in the wild, a horse seeks out breezy spots to dry off quickly. Fatty tissue provides three times better protection against heat loss than other tissues. Healthy horses gain 20% of their body weight ahead of winter. Consequently, obese and cold-blooded horses cope worse with heat. So when we see horses of similar size, breed and age, in the same conditions, differing in coat length,

we might assume that the one with the sparser coat has a thicker layer of fat. How does a horse's size affect its heat regulation? According to Bergman's rule, a larger body surface area helps an animal retain heat better. A larger body has proportionally

less surface area – via the outer covering, i.e. the skin – through which to release heat relative to its volume.

And how does constant access to hay in winter tie into this? A significant amount of heat is released as a by-product during the digestion of fibre. In winter, we'll also observe reduced physical activity, presumably limiting additional energy expenditure. In sharp frosts, however, activity may temporarily increase. Low temperatures cause horses to stay close together, huddled tightly, allowing them to retain more heat. They employ a similar

strategy to shelter from wind, rain, snowstorms, or troublesome insects. I often see my own horses basking in the warm rays of the sun in winter, spring or autumn. They clearly love these pleasantly warming sunbathing sessions. A shivering horse should give us cause for concern – it's a reaction to significant chilling. Don't be surprised by a sweaty, trembling horse either; that too is a sign of the body cooling down.

Coming back to heat. Although horses cope better with cold, and the optimal temperature range for their functioning is from -7 to +25 degrees Celsius, they still manage reasonably well even above +30. The risk of overheating arises when they're exposed to direct sunlight, combined with intense exertion and high humidity. Providing horses with a shaded, breezy spot with access to cooled water will help them get through even the worst heat in good

condition. Let's not forget mineral licks, either – intensive sweating promotes electrolyte loss.

The use of air conditioning in stables, cooling rugs or winter rugs, and certainly clipping, impairs this whole complex, natural process of thermoregulation that nature has equipped horses with.

Observe your animals, armed with knowledge, and the chances of achieving welfare on both sides will increase.

Dagmara Wichlacz



Dariusz Ziobro

Through the Eyes of a Hunter

A few thoughts on passion, nature, hunting ethics, and tradition.

ASF and What Next...

Darz Bór!

Happy hunting!

Watching from the outside, it might seem that a hunter's life flows to an unchanging rhythm. We begin in spring by watching over and fencing off crops. This is also when we start hunting. Through the summer and autumn we hunt and work in the hunting grounds. And so it goes throughout the year, right up to the next spring.... In this way, year after year, time passes quietly. Indeed, until recently, that's more or less how it looked. Everything changed overnight, however, at the start of January 2026.

My colleagues woke to a bitterly cold morning on 21 January 2026. Snow lay around 40cm deep, with deeper drifts in places. The frost was about 14 degrees below zero. They met at Dylągówka. They knew a very hard day lay ahead of them. They knew the terrain intimately. They knew what conditions to expect. They also knew just how hard the work

ahead would be. It was a fine company of people – though sadly, this time, not out on a hunt. Among those present were colleagues Jan, Krzysiek, Jarek, Ola, Dawid, Janusz, Łukasz... and there were a good many others besides. This time they were joined by soldiers from the Territorial Defence Force (WOT), along with representatives of the District

Veterinary Officer. There was one aim – to search the designated area for dead wild boar thoroughly.

They worked hard all day, moving through forest, dense thickets, deep gullies and wooded ravines. They advanced in

a line abreast, so there was no question of skirting round difficult terrain. Some helped themselves over obstacles by leaning on a stick. In the thickets, snow worked its way down their collars; in the drifts, it worked its way down into the tops of their high boots. Now and again someone would slide down a steep forest slope on their backside, then dust themselves off and get back up. What they saw upon standing did little to lift their



spirits: ahead lay another steep, slippery slope to climb, with snow, leaves and tree roots underfoot.

They finished at around 3 pm. Thoroughly exhausted, soaked through and frozen, they went home – some of them heading straight off to a second work shift that same day. Fortunately, they did not find a single dead boar.

Further searches took place the following day, and were repeated several more times after that. Only the weather changed – the snow eventually gave way to the mud of the thaw.

You're probably wondering, dear readers, what I want to write about today? ASF – African Swine Fever. A disease which, in the winter of 2026, reached our hunting districts and changed a very great deal.

Just a few years ago, most of us associated ASF only with media reports. It seemed a distant problem, affecting other regions of the country. Everything changed the moment the disease appeared in the vicinity of Jawornik Polski. ASF, or African Swine Fever, is a fatal viral disease affecting wild boar and domestic pigs. It poses no threat to humans, but its consequences for agriculture are enormous. The appearance of the virus means not only a fight against the disease itself, but also a raft of restrictions, obligations, and measures that affect the everyday lives



of farmers, veterinary services, and hunters alike.

Straight after New Year's Eve, in January 2026, dead wild boar were found in the vicinity of Hadle Kańczuckie. Part of hunting district 141 (covering the villages of Piątkowa, Harta, Szklary and Dylągówka) was closed to hunting entirely. Epidemiological risk zones were introduced. As I mentioned, back in January 2026, fellow huntsmen and huntswomen, together with WOT soldiers, were already searching for dead boar. To make the search more effective, a designated group of hunters with specially trained dogs was also formed. To date, several hundred dead boar have been found. The purpose of these searches was to locate – and, where found, dispose of – dead animals, thereby limiting the spread of the virus.

The introduction of ASF risk zones has also meant the introduction of sanitary restrictions within those zones. When going out hunting, we now have to carry mats, tubs and disinfectants with us. We have to comply with biosecurity rules. As hunters, we've had to switch over to a different way of operating in the hunting grounds – and beyond.

The outbreak of ASF in our area also meant that we hunters were obliged to carry out so-called sanitary culls of wild boar in our territory. On top of that, until 1 June 2026, three-quarters of district 141 – the villages I've already mentioned, Piątkowa,

Harta, Szklary and Dylągówka – were excluded from any hunting whatsoever. This brought yet another problem: how to protect crops from wild boar effectively. On the one hand, we couldn't hunt in these areas; on the other, we still have to pay compensation for damage caused by the boar.



ASF has meant that hunting in our area has stopped being solely about caring for game and the hunting grounds. It has become part of the fight for the safety of farms and farmers. Increasingly, I get the impression that today's hunter has to reconcile mutually contradictory duties. He is obliged to manage the hunting grounds,

while simultaneously carrying out sanitary culls; he must guard crops, even though he isn't allowed to hunt (a hunting ban is in place). At the same time, heading out into the hunting grounds nowadays means setting off with kit whose essential elements are no longer just a firearm, binoculars and identification/permit documents. Now it also means disinfectant, disposable gloves, blood-sample tubes for ASF testing, mats or plastic sheeting, containers, and numbered carcass tags.

The life of a hunter in our area has thus changed radically since January 2026. From my own perspective, the one joyful thing is that, after nearly six months' break, I can finally set off straight from home into the hunting grounds. I can step out at any moment and be there within minutes. And then, sitting in the high seat, watch as at eight o'clock in the evening a hare comes out of the meadow onto the track. A few minutes later, against the backdrop of the setting sun, a herd of roe deer appears. So once again I'll be quietly admiring these sights, while counting on the generosity of St Hubert amid the fields and forests of Piątkowa. At this point I'd like to end this article, leaving you, dear readers, with this optimistic note, while also encouraging you to reflect on the role that today's hunters play in our society.

Dariusz Ziobro

