RESIDENTS PROBE INTO SECESSION FROM BASILDON

Following general discussion on the Boundaries Commission it was decided at a meeting of Buttsbury Residents Association last Monday week at Buttsbury School, it was decided to get as much information as possible, particularly regarding the financial aspect, of Billericay breaking away from the Basildon Urban District. The findings will be reported back to the next General Meeting when they will be discussed.

Regarding a future Buttsbury Community Centre, it was felt that there was a definite need for this, in view of the large and growing teenage population in the Buttsbury area. A special Sub-Committee was set up to decide on the constitution of a Community Association. It was agreed to invite all local organisations to a meeting to form a Buttsbury Community Association.

On the question of closer ties with Billericay Residents Association, it was felt that Buttsbury Residents Association should keep its identity as a separate Association. However, all members were in favour of forming a Joint Committee with the Billericay Association, and any other similar Associations in the area.

It was agreed to form a Joint Committee with Billericay Residents' Association to decide on the question of putting up a Candidate in the Council Elections. It was announced that this Committee would meet in late March. Members felt that one Resident Councillor would not upset the balance of power, but would be worth his weight in gold in asking questions, in view of the fact that some matters in the Urban District were carried out in a frivolous manner and constituted a waste of money.

The Secretary said that several letters asking for improved railway services had met with no satisfactory response. It looked as if the Fenchurch St. line would not be electrified on time, and as a result the appalling conditions would continue.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.

COUNCILLOR RESIGNS - ANOTHER FORMS NEW GROUP

Mr. Peter Condon of Reyside, Basildon, Labour Councillor for Barstable Ward since last May, has announced his resignation from Basildon U.D.C. Council. Councillor Hollands, Labour for Central Ward since 1958, has resigned from the Council's Labour Group, does not intend to renew his subscription with the Labour Party, and in forming a "Socialist" Group on the Council. Three Labour Area Secretaries have resigned, and one or two ordinary members, Barstable Ward Labour Party have threatened not to put up a candidate to replace Mr. Condon, and not to fight the election. All this trouble arises from the fact that the Billericay Constituency Labour Party refused to pass a motion expelling Cllr. Curtis from the Council Labour Group, which had come from the Group.

In an interview with the "Observer" Cllr. Hollands said that he was quite confident that certain Labour Councillors would join his "Socialist" Group, despite efforts to prevent them from doing so. Cllr. Hollands said that his resignation was nothing to do with Civil Defence. He had resigned because the Group had endorsed Cllr. Curtis's brand of Socialism, who preferred to be an Independent anti-Tory, and he couldn't accept that. The Group had failed to discipline Cllr. Curtis for not voting with them in Council, and if there was no discipline in the Group, there might not as well be a Group.

Cllr. Curtis, in an interview with the "Observer" said that he would always vote as he thought, in favour of official Labour policy, in favour of Civil Defence. Cllr. Curtis (also a County Councillor) said that he thought he knew more about official policy than Cllr. Hollands and "the left" to put it mildly.
BUTTSBURY SCHOOL: PROMISE BROKEN.
Continued From Page 1.

The Secretary, Mr. H. E. Wilkins, said that there was no sign of work starting on the Buttsbury School permanent improvements scheme, although the County had promised that it would be done in the current financial year, which ended in a few weeks. It looked as if the County had broken their promise, and put the scheme back a year.

Following complaints about delay in coal deliveries the Association had written to the coal merchants. A representative attended the meeting yesterday, he was the next best.

RATEPAYERS FEDERATION MEET IN BILLERICAY.

Delegates from residents associations in Thurrock, Elm Park, Billericay, Hornchurch, Halstead, Clacton, St. Hornchurch, Upminster & Cranham, Billericay, and Wanstead & Woodford attended the Annual General Meeting of the Essex Federation of Ratepayers' and Kindred Associations at the Council Chamber, Billericay on Saturday. They were welcomed by Cllr. W. H. Davies J.P., Chairman of Basildon Council. The meeting was organised by Billericay Residents' Association.

In the Secretary's Report Mr. Saunders of Thurrock drew attention to the Greater London Plan, whereby Essex would lose 54% of its rateable value, 50% of its population, and 7% of its area.

Cllr. Davies addressed the delegates.

It was decided to hold Committee meetings on Saturday afternoons, in order to allow delegates from Clacton to attend. It was also decided to hold the quarterly meetings around the County, and away from the Romford area. It was decided to contact all the Residents', Ratepayers', and Tenants' Associations in the County with a view to their joining. Commented one member: "No matter how long we've had a revival for many years". It was generally agreed that party politics were a bad thing in local government.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:
Mr. Sackville-Hulkes, President, Mr. V. Ireland (Billericay), Vice-President, Mr. Forshaw (Elm Park), Chairman, Mr. Teskey (Elm Park) Vice-Chairman, Mr. Robinson (St. Hornchurch) Treasurer, Mr. Lunt (Billericay), Secretary, Mr. Bird (Billericay), Asst. Secretary, plus 10 members on Executive Committee.

ROUND AND ABOUT
by "WANDERER"

I thought and sincerely hoped that all the Council rows and splits had ended with the orderly debate at the last Council Meeting. Now, however, the Labour Group is split. This is indeed alarming for it means that they will devote a great deal of their time to internal arguments, instead of providing an effective opposition. Then the "Socialists" will probably argue with the Labour Group, and there's no knowing what the attitude of the "Socialist Group" will be towards the Conservatives. We can only hope!

It looks as if we will have to wait even longer for the promised "relief" when the Penchurch Street is electrified, on our crowded line. It is estimated that about 1,500 passengers a day will travel on this line, upon the completion of the Penchurch St. scheme. Yet the Council anticipate a population increase of 9,000 in both Wickford and Billericay, and most of this increase will take place in a few years. In a matter of months any improvement will be swallowed up, and then things will begin to get worse, yet we are already at saturation point. Most of the people who live in Billericay are not artisans, and have to travel to London. It is no good telling them to work on the Billericay Industrial Estate, unless they are manufacturing chemists or expert at making garden sheds. The Industrial Estate is just an eyesore; it does nothing to solve the problem. Even if there were jobs in Basildon they would be no use, for the bus service is practically non-existent. And the bus service to Chelmsford is also overcrowded and reaching saturation point, as I well know from personal experience.

I am pleased to note the "revival" of the Essex Federation of Ratepayers' Associations in Billericay. Now that it is extending its range, so as to include more associations outside the Romford-Upminster area, it will no doubt become more of a force in County and Local affairs.

I am glad to see that the Buttsbury Residents' Association looking into ascension from Basildon. Billericay and Wickford are different from Basildon, with its mosaics, super sports centre, and New Town "neurosis". By the way, why is the Basildon Urban District Sports Council now called the Basildon Sports Council? What has happened to the "Urban District"
SOUTHEAST ESSEX DIVISIONAL Education Executive have given in to parents of children in South Green who attend Billerica Primary School who backed by Billericay Residents' Association, threatened to keep their children away from school, unless their demands were met. They have agreed to provide a school bus from South Green to Billericay for infants, in the 5 to 7 age group.

The Residents' Assn., have organised a public meeting for today (Tuesday) at the South Green Memorial Hall to discuss the matter, and decide on future action.

The Billericay Council have made arrangements for footway works to be carried out in order that the majority of children attending South Green Primary School may have a safe access. These works provide for a length of temporary footpath near the junction of Church Street and Kenaal Lane to give access to Trinity Road; a length of temporary footpath in Hickstara Lane on the housing site entrance road along the school frontage on land made available by the Education Committee; two lengths of permanent footway in Grange Road to give continuous access from Trinity Road to Kennells Road.

PLANS FOR CARNIVAL.

Billerica Carnival Committee hope that they will receive many entries for their youth band competition which they are staging on Friday, June 24th.

Reporting to the Committee last week, Mr. K. Fearn said that there would be a challenge cup and £10 prize for the best turned out band, and in the judging discipline and playing would be taken into account. The runners-up would receive £7.

The competition, he added, would be open to any youth band throughout the country.

Mr. Alec Bryant, Chairman, stated that the Ladies' Circle would be running the Carnival Queen competition, and the selection dance would be at the Archer Memorial Hall on May 20th.

The meeting agreed that the fairground rights should go to a firm of amusement caterers offering £180, and who would also provide a firework display.

RESIDENTS ATTACK LIBERAL.

Mr. Rosier, the prospective Liberal candidate for the Billericay ward in this year's Council elections, is criticised in issue No. 3 of "The Mayflower", official magazine of the Billericay Residents' Association now out. The magazine says that Mr. Rosier has been at pains to belittle the Residents' Association recently. It criticises him for saying that the Liberals could gain more effective representation on the Council than the Residents and emphasises that there should be no party politics in local government.

The article ends: "If Mr. Rosier were really honest with himself he would have to agree that the Liberal party is in the local election field for the same reason as the other two parties, i.e. to keep the party machine good shape between general elections and if he really wishes to serve the interests of the Residents of Billericay, it would hardly seem the way to achieve this by attacking their own Association with the very weapons he affects to despise in his political adversaries."

The magazine goes on to deal with lack of helpers for the Association, Transport, and to attack the Council for poor public relations. These articles are followed by ones on Private Street Works, Romney Road Lighting, and Education.

Then under News & Views, under Billericay it attacks the "Essex Weekly News" referring to an article on Hill House Drive by Joseph Billio. The magazine states: "This article is full of inaccuracies, describing a visit which was seemingly imaginary as an incorrect name is given for the road, and is also wrong on such points as costs to frontagers, real reasons for delay and present state of road etc, and is unfair both to the Council and the road's residents. Such inaccuracies about local affairs are unfortunately an all too common feature of some E.W.N. articles and it is surely time their reporters got down to the job, and approached someone with a real knowledge of the facts. Despite invitations to attend they have ignored our Committee meetings."

The magazine is well supported by advertisers and consists of an attractive cover with adverts and title page, and eight inside pages.
EDITOR'S NOTES.

This issue is a 10-page one, on account of the full-page B.B.C. advert on Page 9. It is also intended that the next issue (3rd Birthday Issue) will be a 10-page one. After that the issues will be 8 pages, with occasional 10-page ones.

While material is being prepared for the new series of "Billericay In The Past" articles on the back page will be replaced by news, and "Around The Town" articles, featuring aspects of life in Billericay today, mainly local organisations and institutions.

I am still using Mr. Hillyard's typewriter, by kind permission. In view of the difficulty of repairing the "09" typewriter, and its great age, preliminary investigations are being made regarding the purchase of a new (good second-hand) typewriter. As an experiment the Editor will sell copies of the "Observer" outside Billericay Station on Friday February 17th and Friday March 3rd. If sufficient copies are sold this will become a selling point.

--- The Editor.

LIVE WELL.

1st YEAR HENS WILL ROAST OR BOIL! ONLY 2/6 per 1 lb - CHEAPER THAN SAUSAGES!

PREPARED FOR OVEN!

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THE BILLERICAY WOMEN'S CO-OP GUILD MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 2.30 to 4 p.m. IN THE CO-OP HALL. ON 15TH FEBRUARY MRS. WARWICK WILL CONCLUDE THE ACCOUNT OF HER VISIT TO POLAND.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events in Billericay.

February 23rd - Basildon Council Meeting, 6.30 p.m., at Timberlog Lane Secondary School, Timberlog Lane, Basildon.

February 25th - Annual General Meeting of Billericay Group Council for the Preservation of Rural England, W.I. Hall, 3 p.m.

Congregational Church Arts & Crafts Exhibition, Mayflower Hall, Chapel St., on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March from 3 p.m. Prize giving 16th March. Music & Elocution Festival, from 10 a.m., Mayflower Hall, Saturday 18th March. Prize winners' concert, 25th March. Mayflower Hall, at 6.30 p.m.

COUNCIL CONCERRED ABOUT UNAUTHORISED TAXIS.

Basildon Council are concerned that unlicensed vehicles are being used as taxis. Only vehicles which have a hackney carriage licence issued by the Council are authorised to ply for hire, and it is an offence for any other vehicle to do this work.

RESIDENTS COMPLAIN ABOUT FOOTPATH.

In conjunction with Billericay C.P.R.E. Billericay Residents Association have lodged a complaint with the Council about Footpath No. 8 from Summer Lea (Western Road) to Gooseberry Green. The footpath has been impassable to pedestrians for a number of months.

Mr. Schofield, a member of the C.P.R.E. Committee has spent six months walking the footpaths of the area, and the result is a detailed list which has been distributed to C.P.R.E. members with an appeal to them to use the footpaths. A 6" map showing the footpaths is to be displayed in the Gater Museum.
Regular Service from SOUTHAMPTON to MADEIRA, TENERIFFE, LAS PALMAS, and CASABLANCA (with occasional calls at LISBON and TANGERI).

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JOHN E.KIMBER
67, HIGH STREET,
BILLERICAY.
Phone:- 1055.

A RECORD OF EVERY OCCASION

BILLERICAY O.A.P.'S.

1st February.

-----

There was a very good attendance. It appeared that there was still a long list of sick Members and all were wished a speedy recovery.

Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. W. Speller, the Secretary enumerated details in connection with the week's holiday in Yarmouth, which was on the 27th May to 3rd June inclusive. He asked if any more Members desired to avail themselves on this holiday would they kindly hand in their names. Entertainment was given by Mrs. Henon who showed a film of a Continental Tour through France, Belgium, and Holland. While the equipment was being prepared Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Riches played a duet on the piano. Tea hostesses were Ediths Horne, Crisp, Delgarno, and Graham.

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No report has been received for the meeting of February 8th. It is intended to publish a summary in the next issue.

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The "Billericay Observer" is published by the "Billericay Observer Press" at 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Sundays:- February 13th, Holy Communion 9.30 a.m., February 20th, Family Matins, 9.30 a.m.

Young Wives Fellowship:- February 14th, 8 p.m. "Marriage Guidance". February 28th, 2.15 p.m., Mr. Curtis on "Shoes".

GOOD SPEEDS

1, CHAPEL STREET
(Opposite War Memorial).

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FISH CATERER.

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EXPERT FISH FRYER.

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"SPORTS OBSERVER".
Billerica Town S.C. results.
Saturday February 4th - 1st XI lost at home to Chelmsford Swifts 2-7. CMEP 2nd XI lost away to Dock Sports 1-6 in CMEP.
Saturday February 11th - 1st XI lost at home to Critalls 3-4 in CMEP.
2nd XI lost away to Ongar 1-4 in CME2. The 1st XI are fourth from bottom in CMEP.
The 2nd XI are fourth from bottom in CME2.
CMEP = Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, Premier Division.
CME2 = Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, Second Division.

CINEMA DIARY, RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL ST., BILLERICAY.
Monday February 13th, 3 Days, Anton Diffring, Erika Remberg in "CIRCUS OF HORRORS" (X). Also Patrick Barr, Ruth Dunning in "URGE TO KILL" (A).
Thursday February 16th, 3 Days, Burt Lancaster, Audrey Hepburn in "THE UNFORGIVEN" (A) plus full supporting programme. Special Matinee Saturday afternoon at 2.15 p.m. All "U" programme - "Port Massacre" and "3 Sundays To Live".
Monday February 20th, 3 Days, Terrence Morgan in "PICADILLY THIRD STOP" (A).
Also "THREE MOVES TO FREEDOM" (A).
Thursday February 23rd, 3 Days, Cecil Parker, Agnes Lauret in "A FRENCH MISTRESS" (A). Also "DEPTH CHARGE" (U). Special Matinee at 2.15 p.m. All "U" programme - "Privates Progress" plus supporting features.
Coming - Monday 27th Feb., 3 Days, Norman Wisdom in "THERE WAS A CROOKED MAN" (U).
Full Sunday Programmes.

NEWS OF THE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.
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The February meeting of the Billericay Floral Arrangement Group was held on Wednesday February 1st at the Women's Institute Hall. The meeting was very well attended, and members enjoyed a demonstration on the use of Winter Flowers in the Home, given by Mrs. J. Cook of Purliegh, Essex. The members competition was won by Miss Needham, second Mrs. Willamis, third Mrs. Oldham, fourth Mrs. Clayton.

On February 1st members of Billericay Women's Co-operative Guild heard a report from Mr. Jaydon on a debate organised by the Education Department of the London Co-op. Mrs. Morris had attended a District Conference and described the Public Speaking Contest.

The February meeting of the Billericay Horticultural Society will take place on Monday the 20th at 8 p.m. at the W.I. Hall. The Speaker will be Fred Morris of Chelmsford on Chrysanthemums whose talk last year proved very useful to members. A hearty welcome is extended to all, particularly new residents.

The Women's Co-op Guild has sent letters to the Minister of Health and Mr. Gardner Q.C., M.P. protesting against the increase in price of welfare milk and foods and the proposal to double prescription charges. At the meeting on 8th February resolutions for the Annual Congress of Women's Co-op Guilds were discussed but no amendments submitted.

If you would like reports of your Association's activities in this column contact the Editor.

MATTHEWS
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THE OFFERS PUBLISHED IN THE LAST ISSUE ARE AVAILABLE UNTIL FEBRUARY 18th.

OFFERS AVAILABLE FEB. 20th - MARCH 4th.

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AMBROSIA CREAMED RICE ------------ 1/3d REDUCED TO 11½d - SAVE 3d.
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SPAR COFFEE --------------------- SPECIAL, 1/10d.
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THROUGH THE POST

Letters from "Observer" readers.

Dear Sir,

With regard to your question (Council Press Conference, last issue) to Councillor Mrs. Gadson about Lake Avenue being made up, and her reply to the effect, that the reason was to make it up before the reasonable surface deteriorated.

Can I remind Mrs. Gadson that over the past five or six years, the same road surface has carried thousands of cars and motor cycles, also at least one hundred double deck buses.

Now that there are no vehicles allowed in the park, it means that only tradesmen will be using the road.

No Mrs. Gadson, that excuse will not do, so why not let us know the real reason for having the road made up.

----- "LAKE AVENUE RESIDENT", (name and address supplied).

EDITOR: I am at a loss to understand the Council's attitude. Apart from a short stretch at the end Lake Avenue has a very good surface. Yet we have roads like Central Avenue, and Bellevue Road which are just stretches of mud. With the small volume of traffic the surface is not likely to deteriorate, and I expect the residents would be willing to share the costs of any minor repairs and maintenance works. Lake Avenue is a very pleasant road, and I would not like to see the disappearance of its grass verges, and blending road surface, to be replaced by a concrete monstrosity. I hope the Council listen and take notice of what the frontagers think about it being made up.

U.S.A. LINK RE-ESTABLISHED.

In recent years, links between Billericay and our sister town in Massachusetts, U.S.A., Billerica have, unfortunately, not been maintained. Readers are probably aware of Billericay's strong links with "The Mayflower", on which five Billericay men sailed. Among the first citizens of Billerica was Ralph Hill and his son, both of Billericay. There are many other towns named after Essex ones in this part of New England, about thirty, one of which is Chelmsford, a few miles from Billericay.

With a view to establishing contacts between the towns' newspapers, and thus the people of the two towns, the "Billericay Observer" wrote to the Billericay Publishing Company, who publish the local weekly, "Billerica News".

We have now received a reply from Stanley J. Bocko, President of the Billericay Publishing Co., Inc. In his letter Mr. Bocko says that Billericay has a population of about 18,000 (15,500 in Billericay), and like our town hundreds of new homes have been built to satisfy the need of people moving in from the city.

In order to maintain contacts the "Billerica News" will send us a copy of every issue, and in return we will send them every issue of the "Billerica Observer". It is intended that both papers will print news of each other's towns. It is also intended that letters will be exchanged frequently. I hope that with these exchanges a new sphere of relations between Billericay and Billerica will be entered on.

--- The Editor.

HUTTON PLAYERS PRESENT

"THE RAPE OF THE BELT"

A COMEDY BY BENN W. LEVY.

AT HUTTON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ON

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Friday 24th February at 8 p.m.
Saturday 25th February at 7.30 p.m.

TICKETS 4/- (reserved); 3/- (unreserved).
Phone Brentwood 4296 to reserve yours.
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THE B.B.C. T.V PROGRAMME
IN WHICH CHILDREN FROM
ALL OVER GREAT BRITAIN ARE
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NEXT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19TH
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SPECIALY FEATURED IN THIS
EDITION A WELL-KNOWN
BILLERICAY CHARACTER!

FUTURE EDITIONS OF "ALL YOUR OWN"

AROUND THE TOWN
by W.P.G.

No. 1 - THE CATER MUSEUM.

As has been revealed in the various history series on this page, Billericay has a long and very interesting history. Mr. Nicholls, a former Librarian in the town, thought that it would be a good idea to preserve relics of Billericay in the past, and keep records (notes and photographs) of changes in the town, in the hope that one day Billericay might have a Museum. Thus the Nicholls Collection was started.

A little later, Mr. Harry Richman also started a collection of bygones and records, and began to draw up buildings of the district. From these two sources - the Nicholls and Town collections - came many of the exhibits now in the Cater Museum.

Mr. Richman began to show his exhibits at the Model Engineers' Club Exhibitions, and later he incorporated the collection of Mr. Nicholls into the Town Collection. Then between the end of the last war and 1955 Mr. Richman staged several of his own exhibitions of Billericay records and bygones at the W.I. Hall.

Meanwhile Billericay Council for the Preservation of Rural Environments indicated their interest in a local Museum. Enquiries with the Essex County Council and Billericay and District Council met with no response.

Then in 1958, Mrs. Cater, C.P.R.E., President, purchased 74 High Street, a Georgian building with Tudor doorways, and home of Mr. Eales, last saddler and harness maker in the locality, known as "the grand old man of Billericay". It was intended to use the property as a Museum if it should ever become vacant. In October of the same year, Mr. Eales died, and Mrs. Eales decided to go into an old people's home.

At last a building was available for a Billericay Museum. Plans were drawn up for the conversion of the building into two shops, and a corridor entrance to the Museum, which would be in the upper two stories. However, everything did not go smoothly. The Council refused to pass the downstairs frontage, and although an appeal to the Minister of Housing & Local Government was successful, the project was held up for several months. However, at last, in January, 1960, building operations started.

CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN.