

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday December 19th, 1961.

Number 101.
(Christmas Issue).



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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

89 FLATS PROPOSED FOR CHAPEL STREET AND MORE FOR WESTERN RD. CORNER

Basildon Council have announced that they have received an application for outline planning approval for a block of 89 flats and garages in Chapel Street, Billericay, and for planning approval for the erection of shops and flats at the junction of Western Road and High Street, Billericay. They state that detailed plans of the proposed development may be inspected at the Council Offices until Friday 22nd December, and that all objections should be in writing on the same date.

This announcement coincides with the news that Billericay Residents' Association are to issue a long memoranda on the subject of the erection of flats in Billericay. They also intend to distribute 4,000 leaflets on the subject, announcing a Public Meeting to be held in the near future. At their recent Committee Meeting members felt very strongly about the Council's handling of the Radford Way flats. Members felt that the degree of publicity given was grossly inadequate, and that the Council's decision not to hold a Public Meeting after assurances was a breach of faith, and that the Council had failed in its duty to the public. It was pointed out that although the matter was brought before the Consultative Panel in February, it was several months before the planning application was made public.

A spokesman for the Association said over the weekend; "Our memorandum will deal with the whole matter in detail from start to finish. We hope that people will not take the attitude 'that it is too late to do anything about it now'. It is vital that people should know the way that the Council have treated this affair. We also understand that there are proposals for flats behind Western Road".

Footnote; Outline planning permission was given in October, 1960, for the erection of 18 flats and garages in Chapel Street, Billericay, but the scheme was later dropped. The land involved in the new application is the waste ground between the Cinema and the W.V.S. office on the corner of Hillside Road. Plans have already been passed for a seven-storey block of flats opposite Billericay Station, and for flats on the Bush Hall Estate.

CHRISTMAS CHEER.

Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee will be sending Christmas Parcels to over 100 old folk this year, and some local schools will be sending parcels independently. Distribution will be carried out by the Round Table. Commented Committee Secretary, Mrs B. Barr; "We have had as much money this year, but not so many goods" All old folk on the Committee's lists who do not receive a parcel will receive a Christmas Card. In Christmas Week the Rest Room in the High Street will be closed on Tuesday morning (Boxing Day) but will be open on Thursday and Friday morning as usual.

St. Andrews' Hospital League of Friends are giving presents to all patients and staff at the Hospital on Christmas Day. They have also purchased Christmas Trees, and have bought a record player for Christmas for the old people at the Annexe. In addition all babies born on Christmas Day will be presented with silver spoons.

As usual, the Ford Motor Co., instead of sending Christmas cards to their many friends, have presented the Council Chairman with a cheque for £50 for distribution to elderly people of restricted means in the area. This is being organised by the Basildon U.D. Old Peoples' Welfare Committee.

During the past few weeks a Christmas Tree with lights has stood in the booking hall of Billericay Station. Money placed in the box at the foot of the tree will go to the St. Andrews' Hospital Chest Care Committee.

The following greetings message has been issued by the Basildon Urban District Council; "To all residents of the Basildon Urban District. The Chairman and Members of the Council send Christmas greetings to all residents of the District and express the hope that the coming year may bring joy, happiness, and prosperity to every home in the district".

INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION FORMED.

At a recent Rotary Club luncheon in Billericay attended by representatives of firms on the Billericay Industrial Estate an Industrial Association was formed. Provisional officers have been elected.

BILLERICAY PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS.

Most of Billericay was plunged into darkness for over an hour-and-a-half on Tuesday evening, together with other parts of Mid-Essex, after a high-voltage power line between Ramsden Bellhouse and South Hanningfield failed.

COUNCILLOR TURNS COMMUNIST.

Councillor R.K. Hollands of Central Ward, has decided to resign from the Council's Labour Group and form a one-man Communist group. Earlier this year Cllr. Hollands, who works for the Soviet news agency Tass in London, broke away from the Labour Group and formed a Socialist Group, but later re-joined the Labour Group.

Councillor Hollands, who is due for re-election next May, has decided not to resign and cause a by-election, but to stay on for the rest of his term of office.

LIBRARIAN RETIRES.

Miss M. Cohen A.L.A., Billericay's Branch Librarian for nearly fourteen years, retires on Thursday. She told the "Observer" "The people of Billericay have been very kind to me during my stay".

Her successor is Mr. Norman Humphries F.L.A., who has been Assistant Branch Librarian for the past two years.

WORK ON NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL UNLIKELY TO START BEFORE JUNE.

At their recent meeting, the Schools Sub-Committee of Basildon Education Committee were informed that work on the erection of the new Mayflower County Secondary School, scheduled for the current year, was unlikely to start before June, 1962. The school is to be built off Stock Road.

It was decided to recommend to the Education Committee, that in view of the pressure on Billericay and Wickford Secondary Schools, that the school be erected by a contractor experienced in using a special and rapid type of construction. It was also decided, after examination of the sketch plan, that vehicular access only be provided to Stock Road, and that a pedestrian access be provided from Grove Road (a road leading from Stock Road towards Norsey Road).

COUNCIL DECIDE NOT TO HAVE ANY MORE COUNCILLORS - FOR TIME BEING,

At last Wednesday week's Basildon Council Meeting a move to get an additional Councillor in Basildon's Central Ward by Labour Leader Cllr. A.T. Dove, was defeated by a clear majority. Cllr. Dove said that Central Ward was badly under-represented - they hadn't had an election for three years.

For the Conservatives Cllr. A.P. Phelps suggested that the matter be considered again in a year's time. Cllr. Phelps referred to the difficulty of seating members at meetings even now.

Commenting on the subject Mr. A. Hatt, Town Clerk, said that he felt there should always be an odd number on the Council, so that one side would always have a majority (at present there are 28 councillors). Mr. Hatt stated that the estimated figures for the Billericay register in 1962 would be 12,032, and 12,700 to 12,800, in 1963. On these figures, working on an approved scheme of one Councillor per 2,100 electors, Billericay and Central would be seriously understrengthened. Mr. Hatt warned members that any attempt to secure extra members in a year's time would not become effective before 1964.

Mr. Hatt reminded members; "When membership was considered in 1958, and a case presented to the County Council, you foresaw your ultimate development, and proposed to try and contain the Council to 42 members, with 14 alderman if Borough status was obtained. To keep to 42 members you would have to have 2,500 electors per member, and on that proportion Billericay would only just adequately be represented and Central Ward under-represented".

Cllr. Phelps's suggestion that the matter be deferred for a year was carried by a clear majority.

SALE OF WORK.

Billericay Residents' Association held a successful Sale of Work in the Recreation Rooms on Saturday morning and afternoon. Money raised will go towards the Association's funds.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE ASK FOR TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS.

At the recent meeting of the Schools Sub-Committee of the Basildon Committee for Education a request was received from the Managers of Sunnymede School for four temporary classrooms, as there were more than 330 children in the school, and there were only 320 places. The Schools Sub-Committee decided to recommend the Education Committee to ask the County Education Committee to expedite the erection of four temporary classrooms.

At the same meeting the Committee considered a request from parents of six junior children in the area of the Outwood Common Estate, Billericay that special transport be provided to South Green County Primary School on the grounds of road safety, since the Sunnymede School is very full. They stated that the $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road to the School were very narrow, and at present used by a very considerable amount of traffic.

Although the School Attendance Panel had supported the request, the Schools Sub-Committee felt that regard should be given to the general situation in the area, and that a number of children living in the South Green area had not been allowed to attend the South Green County Primary School owing to lack of places. Having regard to all the circumstances the Sub-Committee decided not to provide any special transport, and that for the time being, the Billericay County Primary School in Laindon Road should be used to relieve the accommodation problem on the Outwood Common Estate.

GUIDE BAZAAR WAS A BIG SUCCESS.

Billericay Guide Bazaar, held at the W.I. Hall last Saturday week was a big success, over £30 being raised. The organisers were very pleased with the result of this, the first Guide and Ranger joint Bazaar held in Billericay for several years. Proceeds will go towards the funds of the various local groups.

The Bazaar was opened by Mrs. A.J. Jarman, President of the Trefoil Guild.

EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

"Billericay Observer",
143, Perry Street,
Billericay,
Essex.

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

.....
Best wishes for a Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year to all
readers of the "Billericay
Observer".

.....
I would like to take this
opportunity of thanking all the
people who have helped me in one
way or another since I started the
"Observer". In particular thanks
are due to Mr. P. Hession and the
staff of the Gestetner Branch at
Chelmsford, the Editors of the
"Daily Express", "Daily Herald",
"Daily Mirror", "Daily Sketch",
and "Daily Telegraph", and B.B.C.
television and radio, and last
but not least, the advertisers -
please support them. Thank you
all.

Details of the "Observer"
appearance on "Tonight" (last
Tuesday week) were not known in
time for inclusion in the last
issue. Everything went off very
well, except when the Editor of
the film unit got stuck in
Buttsbury Ford, and had to be
towed out by a breakdown lorry.
Since the last issue I have given
a hand with the editing of part of
the "Daily Mirror", and have been
featured in the "Daily Herald".

Sales are still over the
1,000 mark.

----- The Editor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

Thursday January 11th:- Basildon
Council Meeting, Council Chamber,
High Street, 6.50 p.m.

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.....
ADVERTISING RATES from the Editor.

.....
STOP PRESS NEWS.

FOR THE OLD FOLK

Special best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Editor to all elderly readers of the "Billericay Observer".

.....

Billericay O.A.P. - 6th December.

There was an excellent attendance. Sick members were wished a speedy recovery to good health. Mrs.Candler, Mrs.F.Horne, and Mr.Gill were all improving, Mrs.August was welcomed back after her absence through illness in hospital. Entertainment was provided by the "Odds and Ends" Concert Party from Laindon. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Lewis, Joseph, Lamb, and Hill.

Billericay O.A.P. - 13th December.

There was a better attendance than anticipated on account of the very adverse weather. On sick members it was stated that Mr.Pierce was entering hospital for an operation, and that Mr. Dawkins was not at all well. Mr.Gill was welcomed back after absence through illness. Birthday honours were accorded Mr.Gill and Mr.Lewis. The Secretary gave out full details of the Christmas Party to be held on the 20th December, and further details of the Pantomime. The Branch's own Concert Party provided the entertainment. Those taking part were Mesdames Plumridge and Horne, Messrs. Wiltshire, Plumridge, and Joseph. Mrs.Dawkins was the Compere and Pianist. Tea hostesses were Mesdames McCarthy, Riches, Hill, and Cayser. On Thursday the 14th 20 members went to the Wembley Studios for a special Matinee Performance of the Hughie Green show, "Double Your Money".

Buttsbury Monday Club.

Last Saturday week Cllr.H.E.Wilkins (Ind.,Billericay) gave a talk on the work of the Council in the area. Members asked several questions about the development of the area. On Friday 50 members attended the Christmas Party, which was a highly enjoyable event. Mrs.Simpson entertained with recitations, and Mrs.Butcher with songs, with Mrs.Dawkins at the piano. For the Community Singing Mrs.Tidmarsh was at the Piano. Food was provided by the Committee and friends. On Saturday members spent an enjoyable informal afternoon.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club.

On the 1st the Secretary, Mrs.Morrison, gave an interesting talk on Vienna and Austria. Last Friday week a most enjoyable evening was spent in playing a few games of Bingo, and Community Singing with Mrs.Edwards at the Piano, as Mrs.Brett was unable to attend.

W I N T E R S U N S H I N E.

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BILLY FURY GIVE HIS VIEWS ON A

COFFEE BAR - I'm starting off the series on whether Billericay should have a Coffee Bar with the views of a famous "pop" singer - Billy Fury. Writing on behalf of Billy his Manager Larry Parnes says; "Billy says that he thinks it would be a very good idea for your town to have a Coffee Bar, as the way he sees it this is not necessarily a place just to get a cup of coffee and listen to a juke box, but can be an important social gathering place which enables young people to meet in a pleasant atmosphere and most certainly keeps them off the street corners. If a coffee bar were opened he feels that it would give the young people a sort of head-quarters which they are obviously going to enjoy and respect rather than destroy, therefore he personally sees no reason why there should be any opposition to this proposal, and asks me to wish you the very best of luck in your venture. He admires your spirit in fighting this on behalf of the young people. He also asked me to tell you that if you succeed in winning your battle to let him know, and he will send you a large autographed photo framed so that it can be put up in the Coffee Bar, and signed to all the teenagers of Billericay".

Your views on a Coffee Bar are welcome - send them in now - I will endeavour to publish all letters sent in.

SOCIAL WAS A BIG SUCCESS - A Social for young people held by the Junior Section of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England at the Recreation Rooms last Saturday week was a big success. During the evening about twenty-five teenagers enjoyed Table Tennis, Darts, Dominoes, Bagatelle, Chess, and refreshments. Said Chairman Alan Jubb; "It was a rush job, and we made a loss, but it was worth it. Several people said they wished we held them more often. We are considering holding another one in the near future".

THIS TIME'S TOP TEN - Based on sales of records at the High Street, Billericay Branch of Stanwood Radio Ltd.:-

1. POP932 - Moon River (Danny Williams).
2. H.L.9438 - Take Good Care of My Baby (Bobby Vee).
3. D.B.4738 - Toy Balloons (Russ Conway).
4. D.B.4715 - Walking Back to Happiness (Helen Shapiro).
5. 7N5.2049 - Midnight in Moscow (Kenny Ball).
6. PB.1195 - Tower of Strength (Frankie Vaughan).
7. HLP.9466 - Let There Be Drums (Sandy Nelson).
8. HLX.9462 - So Long Baby (Del Shannon).
9. DB.4726 - The Savage (The Shadows).
10. PB.1193 - Tall Dark Stranger (Rose Brennan).

That's all for this week. Don't miss "Teenagers' Page" in the next "Observer" - out on January 2nd.

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LOCAL GHOSTS.

by the Editor.

This is an appropriate time of year to review the various local ghost stories, whether you believe in ghosts or not.

The best-known local ghost story is of the lady in the green gown, who is supposed to haunt Burghstead Lodge (the Civil Defence H.Q.) The story goes that an old nurse was employed to look after at nights a young gentleman who was desperately ill. There was nobody else in residence at the time. The chamber he occupied was dark and gloomy. On the first evening, at about midnight, the nurse was reading a book, when the young man's breathing began to be very uneasy. On looking up she saw that an attractive young lady in an elegant glittering green gown was watching over him. The nurse got up, but was motioned down by a wave of the lady's hand. After some minutes nurse let her thoughts wander for a minute, and the young lady disappeared. On the second night the events of the first were repeated. The next night once again the mysterious young lady appeared, and brought about the suffering in the patient. As the young lady advanced towards the door, the nurse put her hand on the latch, and with the other lifted the lady's veil. A peal of laughter rang through the room, as the nurse saw that a death's head filled the bonnet, its vacant sockets and ghastly teeth were all that could be seen. The next morning the young man was found dead, and the nurse senseless. Within three months she was dead. The great oak chamber was never used again, save as a lumber room, and a strange feeling of awe and coldness is said to fall on those who have attempted to occupy it since the mysterious death.

Once the occupier of a house on the site of Stanwood Radio Ltd. saw a young lady going up the stairs in front of her. She thought it was her daughter, but she found her daughter in bed, where she had been for some time. A white horse was said to haunt Norsey View, which once stood on the corner of Western Road and High Street, but no reason is given for its appearance

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Kopenhagen	24/-	
Old J Tawny Gilbeys	20/-	
Clubland White	18/6	
Gilbeys Triple Crown	16/6	8/9
Sandermans Ruby	16/6	
" Tawny	16/6	
Cockburn Crescendo Port	16/-	
Koppenhagens Old Councillor	15/6	
Pint Club White	15/-	

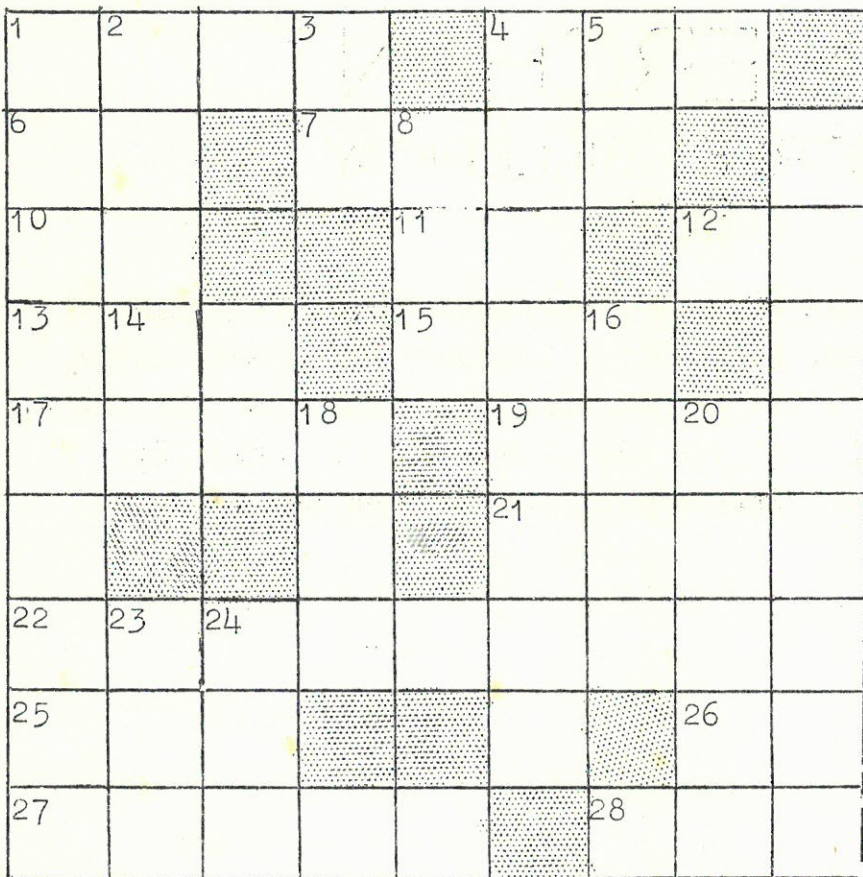
SHERRIES

Harveys Bristol Cream	25/6	13/3
Dry Sack	21/6	10/9
Tio Pepe	22/-	
Celebration Cream Domecq	20/-	10/6
Dry Fly	18/6	9/9
Double Century Domecq	16/6	8/9
Cuesta Amontillado	16/-	8/6
Cuesta Oloroso Melisa	15/3	8/-
Duval Velvet Cream	14/9	7/9
" Parchment Dry	14/9	

CYPRUS WINES

Commandria St. John	9/9	
Olympus	9/3	4/9
Cyprello	8/9	4/9
Cyprello Golden	7/9	

CHRISTMAS PRIZE CROSSWORD (NO.2).



CLUES ACROSS.

1. Pearl _____ sings with Teddy Johnson (4)
4. Christian name of famous "pop" singer (3)
6. House of Commons (Abb.)
7. Word related to Christmas (4)
10. Recto (Abb.)
11. Alternating Current (Abb.)
12. Old English (Abb.)
13. Bored (3).
15. Not many (3).
17. It falls in Winter (4).
19. Chief (4).
21. It flies (4)
22. One kisses under it (4).
25. Fuss (3)
26. North-East (Abb.)
27. He comes at Christmas (5).
28. Town in S.Scotland (3).

CLUES DOWN.

1. A happy time for everyone (9).
2. It is the fruit of an oak tree (5).
3. Royal Navy (Abb.)
4. Christmas is in this month (8).
5. _____ Dorado is a fictitious country (2).
8. Awkward lout (3).
9. They pulled Santa's sleigh (8).
14. Knock Out (Abb.)
16. To stay (4).
18. Sudden (3).
20. Speech expressing a sense contrary to its literal meaning.
23. Girl's name (3).
24. Male child (3).

Compiled by Barrie Hay (as on B.B.C.T.V. "All Your Own".) A prize of 7/6d will be given for the first correct solution opened, from a reader under the age of 18. Send yours in now! Solution in next issue.

Solution of No 1:- Down, 1. Moslem, 2. In-Out, 3. Lent, 4. Catamaran, 5. O.S.A., 6. Date, 7. Yield, 9. M.S., 13. Esteem, 17. A.R., 18. Eton, 19. So, 20. Hand, 21. Tow, 23. Me. Across:- 1. Mile, 4. Cody, 8. One, 9. Masai, 10. Son, 11. State, 12. Lute, 14. El, 15. Et, 16. Same, 19. Strath, 21. Toe, 22. Roam, 24. Go, 25. Anne, 26. Female Sex.

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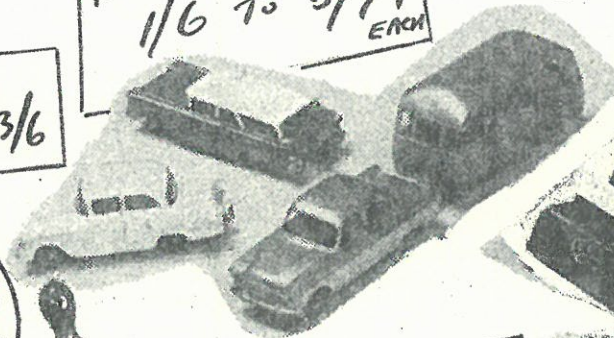


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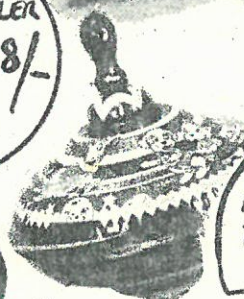
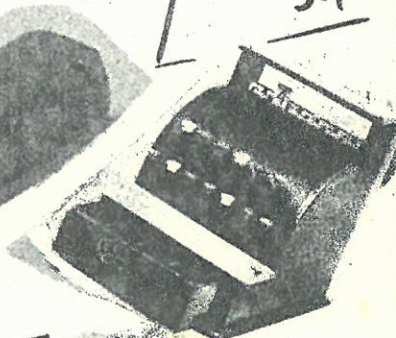


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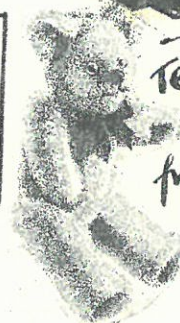
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WHAT'S ON AT THE CINEMA?

Ritz, Billericay.

Monday December 18th:- (3 Days),
Doris Day, Howard Keel in
"CALAMITY JANE" (U). Also "CHASE
A CROOKED SHADOW" (U).

Thursday December 21st:- (3 Days),
Glen Ford, Maria Schell in
"CIMARRON" (U). Full S.Prog.

Tuesday December 26th:- (Closed
Christmas Day), Robert Mitchum,
Jack Webb in "LAST TIME I SAW
ARCHIE" (U). Also "YOU HAVE TO
RUN FAST" (U).

Thursday December 28th:- (3 Days)
Esther Williams, Cliff Robertson
in "THE BIG SHOW" (U). Also "THE
LONG ROPE" (U). Matinees on
Thursday and Saturday.

FRONTAGERS ANGRY WITH COUNCIL.

Frontagers of Hillside Road, Chapel Street, Billericay, have sent a four-page, closely-typed letter to Basildon Council, about the "irksome and intolerable inconveniences", resulting from the lack of liaison between the Council and contractors, during the making-up of their road.

They complain of the laterals in the roadway, and the fact that part of the footpath has not yet been completed. They also claim that the amount of traffic which will eventually use the road has increased almost beyond anything that could be anticipated, as the road is being used as a main link serving the whole of the residential sector of the eastern part of the town.

They claim that hundreds of vehicles now use the road every day, and the majority of them with complete disregard for pedestrians, and that the slope of the hill encourages vehicles to speed. In view of these facts they urge the Council to make a very substantial contribution to the making-up of the road.

EXPERT HAIR TRIMMING IN YOUR OWN HOME. Phone Billericay 228 for appointment.

BOOKING NOW!

Christmas Young Cockerels. White Fledged. Cream of the Farm, 4/6d per lb. Prepared for the oven free. Limited number. 5/- deposit secures a bird. Last day for booking Thursday.

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ROUND AND ABOUT

by

"WANDERER".

Christmas Time is here once more. For most people this will be a time of happy family parties, presents, and good food, and in some cases a visit to Church.

However, not all people are as fortunate. For many old folk Christmas will be a lonely time with no family parties or festivities. However, in Billericay the lonely old folk will have a happier time than in many other parts of the country. Thanks to the work of the Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee these lonely old folk's Christmas will be happier than it might have been. Billericay is extremely lucky to have such a hardworking group of people, and they deserve even wider local support for their excellent work. They really do get things done - they are always trying to make the old people's lot a happier one, especially the lonely ones. Keep up the good work!

Those in hospital may feel depressed at Christmas. However, those in St. Andrew's, Billericay are more fortunate, for another group of Good Samaritans - the St. Andrews' Hospital League of Friends - make sure that their Christmas is as happy as it could possibly be. Nor do they forget the staff who work on Christmas Day - each one receives a present. Their work is really to be commended.

This sort of work is in the true spirit of Christmas - helping those less fortunate than yourself. Throughout the year these organisations are pushed in the background a little by the various local controversies - important as they are. Once a year, at Christmas, it is a pleasure to write an article that does not touch on some local row or bitter political controversy. The sort of people that work for the Old Peoples' Welfare Committee etc. are rarely in the limelight, but they are the backbone of a town like Billericay. May their good work prosper! A Merry Christmas to you all - but please don't forget the sick and the old.

----- "Wanderer".