

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday January 2nd, 1962.

Number 102.



1 1/2D

© "BILLERICAY OBSERVER"

"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

## COUNCIL ACCUSED OF DISREGARDING PROMISES

Basildon Council are accused of disregarding promises made over the erection of flats in Radford Way, Billericay, in a three-page statement issued by Billericay Residents' Association on Saturday, on the subject of the erection of flats in Billericay. During the weekend officials of the Association have been distributing 5,000 leaflets announcing a Public Meeting on Flats, to be held in the Archer Hall on Thursday January 4th at 8.0 p.m. The leaflets state that the Council must be made to realise that public opinion will not tolerate a repetition of the policy adopted by them for the Radford Way project, and urges residents to strongly declare their dislike of the Council's attitude.

The statement issued by the Residents' Association outlines the events leading up to the passing by Basildon Council of a plan for the erection of seven-storey flats, and a row of terraced houses, off Radford Way (near Billericay Station), and adjacent to bungalow development in Cromwell Avenue. The statement states that a sketch plan was submitted by the developers to the Council in March of 1961, and that outline planning permission was given sometime in the Summer. Following test borings on the site, a committee member of the Residents' Association made enquiries with the Council regarding the nature of the proposed development, and it was then that details of the development were first discovered. Acting on this knowledge the member in question contacted the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Cllr. Quirk), suggesting that a meeting be held with affected persons. Subsequently a letter was received from the Clerk of the Council stating that it was very doubtful if any purpose would be served by such a meeting. Eventually the Clerk wrote a further letter in which he referred to letters from "numerous other residents" and stated that the plans were still the subject of discussion. On the evening of the Council Meeting of the 12th October an unequivocal verbal promise was given by two Councillors on the Planning Committee - one of whom was Councillor Quirk - that it had been agreed at the previous meeting of the Planning Committee to hold a meeting with affected residents. Councillor Quirk also indicated that the seven-storey block of flats would probably be reduced to five storeys. The Residents' Association, on being informed of this undertaking, decided to be represented at this meeting when details of the date etc. were made known. On Wednesday 25th October a small advertisement appeared in the "Billericay Times", stating that the plans would be on show in Basildon until the following Tuesday, all objections to be in by the following Wednesday. No other form of advertisement was used, and no local organisations were informed.

Continued On Page 2.

Page 1.



## WAS FAILURE TO HOLD MEETING A CALCULATED DISCOURTESY?

From Page 1.

Giving their comments on these events the Residents state; "What happened to the meeting with affected residents? Why was it that the Council saw fit to dishonour a firm undertaking to meet residents? Was this failure a calculated discourtesy to gain time so that residents could be presented with a fait accompli?"

In view of Cllr. Quirk's allegation that only two letters of objection were received following the advertisement, why was it that he did not refer to the numerous letters sent in before the advertisement appeared?

With regard to the actual method by which the Council sought to obtain public opinion, we should like to ask these additional questions:- The advertisement appeared inconspicuously placed in the "Billericay Times" only. This newspaper enjoys a local circulation we believe to be around 1,500, as against the "Southend Standard" 5,000, "Billericay Observer" 1,200, and the "Essex Weekly News" 900. In other words approximately 18% of residents could possibly have seen the advertisement. Who told the other 82%. Even the fortunate 18%, if they saw the advertisement straight away, which is unlikely, they were only given a mere five days in which to ask for time off work at short notice, travel to Basildon, inspect the plans, and send in an objection, if inclined. Why should residents be put to the difficulty of consulting their employers, and often losing wages because an advertisement is not precise.

Why were the plans not made available for inspection in Billericay, if possible on Saturday morning? Why were residents expected to act at such breathtaking speed when the Council had known of the plans since the previous March? If the Council really sought public opinion, in view of the unprecedented type of development, why did they not seek the co-operation of the local press in publicising the scheme? It was certainly news, judging from the publicity given after the plans had been approved.

Continued In Next Column.

## RADFORD WAY FLATS CREATE PRECEDENT From Previous Column.

The Council recently argued at a Public Inquiry against the erection of a small number of chalet bungalows in Tylers Avenue, Billericay, and gave as their main reason that the gables were 'too high', and the chalets 'out of keeping' with the road. How do they reconcile this with their agreement to a seven-storey block of flats and a 153-foot block of terraced houses among detached houses and bungalows?

Most residents are probably unaware that the Council have delegated power to approve such schemes, and residents have no right of appeal whatever! On the other hand a builder refused permission by the Council in respect of a plan submitted, can appeal to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, for a Public Inquiry. Billericay residents are represented on the Planning Committee (twelve members) by only one local Councillor, the Chairman, Cllr. Quirk."

The leaflet concludes; "The Government recently issued a circular, to local authorities inviting them to consult local opinion, and keep the public informed of proposed development. Are the Council asking us to believe that they acted within the spirit of the circular?"

The Council have created a precedent in allowing a large block of flats, in our opinion, utterly out of keeping with their surroundings. We understand that Cllr. Phelps has indicated to a resident that further tall blocks of flats are to be erected behind Western Road. Local residents are very concerned at the possibility of indiscriminate buildings of this type in positions at variance with the neighbourhood. We would argue that such development would not only spoil the character and appearance of our Town, but would add considerably to our overburdened amenities.

This Association does not oppose the erection of flats because they are flats, but we strongly object to the method adopted by the Council which gives cause for apprehension that similar development could take place in any other part of the town, without the residents knowing about it.

Continued On Page 3.

Page 2.



RESIDENTS HOPE IT IS NOT TOO LATE  
FOR PUBLIC OPINION TO PREVAIL.

From Page 2.

The statement ends; "We earnestly hope it is not yet too late for public opinion to prevail and for the Council to give further consideration to the Radford Way scheme".

Footnote:- The position as regards Flats in Billericay at the moment is:-

- + Radford Way Scheme, seven-storey block of flats on stilts, passed in November.
- + Bush Hall Estate Scheme, three-storey block of flats, passed early in 1961.
- + Chapel Street Scheme, 89 flats and garages, now being considered by Council.
- + Western Road/High Street junction Scheme, flats and shops, now being considered by Council.
- + Western Road Scheme, tall block behind Western Road, no approach yet made to Council.

#### 256 BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS.

I understand that the Eastern National Bus Company are to introduce a 15-minute frequency for most of the day on the Billericay Town Service (Route 256), following complaints from local residents.

The service, introduced two years ago, runs from Outwood Common Estate through Sunnymede to Billericay High Street, then to Billericay Station via Gooseberry Green and Perry Street. At present there are buses every half-hour during the day, and every hour in the evening, in both directions, with relief services between Billericay and Outwood Common at peak periods.

#### RESIDENTS PRESS FOR "NO CYCLING" NOTICES.

Billericay Residents' Association are continuing to press Basildon Council to erect "No Cycling" notices on Lake Meadows Path, between Billericay Station and Perry Street, following complaints from a large number of members regarding cycles travelling at speed on this path, and causing a safety hazard to pedestrians.

#### BILLERICAY HAS NEW STATIONMASTER.

32-year old Mr.C.Turner has been appointed as Billericay's new Stationmaster. He will be moving to Billericay, with his wife and three children, early in the New Year.

Mr.Turner, who is very keen on railway operating told the "Observer"; "This line has had its teething troubles, but it is now one of the most modern in the country, and it is improving all the time. The increase in the number of people using Billericay Station, and the number of season-ticket holders is quite fantastic".

#### BABIES WILL BE PRESENTED WITH SILVER SPOON.

Two babies - both boys - born over Christmas at St.Andrew's Hospital Billericay will be presented with silver spoons by the St.Andrews' Hospital League of Friends. The first boy was born to Mrs.Jill Pagett of Langdon Hills just before midnight on Christmas Eve, and the second on Christmas Day afternoon to Mrs.Patricia Gower of Laandon.

All wards at the hospital were decorated, and all patients and staff on duty on Christmas Day at St.Andrew's and the Annexe received a present from the League of Friends.

#### RESIDENTS WANT LIMITED CAR PARKING.

Billericay Residents' Assn. have asked Basildon Council, when making "No Parking" orders for the High Street to consider allowing Car Parking on one side of the High Street between Laylands and the Old Council Chamber for periods of up to twenty minutes. They consider that this would not interfere with the traffic flow, as this is the widest part of the High Street, and would save people with large sums of money walking from the Car Park to the Banks, and would help shoppers generally.

#### CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR OLD FOLK

During the week preceding Christmas members of Billericay Round Table distributed over 100 parcels to lonely and housebound Old Folk in Billericay, for the Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee. All pensioners on the Committee's lists received a card (purchased from a charity for old people), and some local schools also distributed parcels.



# EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

The Crossword Competition in the last issue was so successful, that it has been decided to run a further one in this issue. So turn to Page 10 for details!

The winner of the Christmas contest was Master B. Robinson, aged 14, of 31, Ganel's Road, South Green, Billericay. He receives a prize of 7/6d.

News at this time of year is scarce - no doubt there will be more in the next issue.

As you will see on Page 8, this week's local history article is on Billericay as it was in 1738. The next few articles will be on Billericay as it was in 1765, also based on the Petre rentals. After that a new series of articles will start, material for which is now being collected at the Essex Records Office. These articles will be about Tudor Billericay, and will not only include surveys of Billericay around 1500 - 1600, but will also include items on the life of the people, including excerpts from the Manor Court Roll, and the Quarter Sessions records. A great deal of the material to be used in the articles has not been used before.

In addition to the publicity on Independent Television the "Billericay Observer" was featured in Saturday's edition of "The Children's Newspaper".

Best wishes for the New Year

----- The Editor.

The "Billericay Observer" is Printed & Published by Wynford P. Grant Ltd. at their Registered Offices at 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex. © Wynford P. Grant Ltd.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

## SPIRELLA RESIDENT CORSETIERE

MRS. W. LENNON

"Danwyn", Beaufort Road, Billericay  
Phone Billericay 1827.

MADE-TO-MEASURE FOUNDATIONS AND  
SWIMSUITS.

My advice on your corsetry problems is always available without any obligation.

### W. SAMPSON --- ELECTRICIAN.

25, Gordon Close, Billericay (Off Perry Street).

ALL KINDS OF ELECTRICAL WORK.

EXTRA LIGHTING & POWER POINTS.  
COMPLETE INSTALLATIONS.

ESTIMATES FREE. NO JOB TOO SMALL.

Phone Bil. 2116.

### LIVE WELL!

1st YEAR HENS WILL ROAST OR BOIL!  
ONLY 2/2d per lb.

CHEAPER THAN SAUSAGES!

PREPARED FOR THE OVEN FREE!

Also ---- RABBITS FOR PETS  
---- NEW LAID EGGS

Apply:- "MOSS BANK", WOODSIDE ROAD,  
PERRY STREET, BILLERICAY.  
(Between Stores and School).

### GOODSPEEDS.

1, CHAPEL STREET.  
(Opp. War Memorial).

Established 35 years.

EXPERT FISH FRYER.

SMOKED HADDOCK A SPECIALITY.

FROZEN FOODS STOCKED.

OPEN ON FRIDAYS AND  
SATURDAYS UNTIL 9.0 p.m.

Phone Billericay 280.

### CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- Sundays at 9.30 a.m.,  
1st & 3rd Holy Communion, other  
Sundays, Matins.

Young Wives Fellowship:- Alternate  
Tuesdays, 8-9 p.m., at Christ  
Church.

.....  
ADVERTISING RATES from the Editor.  
.....



# FOR THE OLD FOLK

## Billericay O.A.P's - Christmas Party.

The Billericay Old Age Pensioners Association held their Xmas Tea Party at the Rose Hall on Wednesday 20th December, when there were over 100 members present. Mr. Joseph presided. All sick members were wished a very speedy recovery. Mr. Pierce was in hospital and not quite so well. Mr. Dawkins and Mrs. Candler were still not well enough to come to the meetings, Mrs. Wakeling had had the misfortune to have a fall the day before the Party, and had been taken to hospital. Birthday honours were accorded to Mr. Plumridge.

The Xmas Party was very gay, and all had a very good time. The highlights of the afternoon were when several members paraded in Fancy Dress, and when Mrs. Law, the Branch's President, presented a parcel of groceries to Mr & Mrs. Plumridge of Bootham Road, on the celebration of their Golden Wedding, on behalf of the Branch. Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Steel, Butcher, of Perry Street who presented two chickens for the Raffle, and Mr. Matthews of High Street (Confectioner) for presenting the Branch with a cheque for £2-2-0 towards expenses. Refreshments were served by the lady workers of the High Street Rest Room - Mrs. Casson, Mrs. York, Mrs. Chapman, and Mrs. Ireland - and a vote of thanks was accorded to them for their hard work. All members received a little Christmas parcel from the Branch. The Party ended with the communal singing of Carols, and concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne". There was no meeting on the 27th, because of the Christmas holidays.

## Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club.

There was a fair attendance at the first Christmas Party of the Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club at Sunnymede School on the 15th, considering that the evening was a foggy one. The evening started with an enjoyable tea, after which everybody had a good old singsong, with various members at the piano. After the singsong a very good raffle was held. There will be no meetings during the school holidays, but once they are over, meetings will be held at Sunnymede School every Friday evening, when new members will be welcome.

## Buttsbury Monday Club.

No meetings will be held during the school holidays. The first meeting of the New Year will be on Saturday January 13th, at Buttsbury School, at 2.30 p.m., followed by the Pantomime Visit the next Saturday. New members, particularly men, welcome.

If any housebound pensioner would like to attend the Old People's Welfare Committee party in February, they should get in touch with the Committee's Secretary, Mrs. B. Barr, at 273, Mountnessing Road Billericay, or telephone Billericay 522.

---

## W I N T E R   S U N S H I N E.

Regular Service from SOUTHAMPTON to MADERIA, TENERIFFE, LAS PALMAS, and CASABLANCA (with occasional calls at LISBON and TANGIER).

by S.S. "A R K A D I A". (20,260 tons).

Sailing from SOUTHAMPTON every twelve or thirteen days from December, 1961, to April, 1962.

ROUND VOYAGE FARES FROM £75-0-0.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION HELD AT ALL PORTS FOR IMMEDIATE OFFER.

Apply:- FRED HUNTER LIMITED, 87, Bishopgate, London, E.C.2.  
Phone AVENUE 5524 or Billericay 1457.



SHOULD BILLERICAY HAVE A COFFEE BAR?

Last week we started off with the views of famous "pop" singer Billy Fury, who was definitely in favour of a Coffee Bar in the town.

He is strongly opposed by 18-year old Chairman of Billericay Group for the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Junior Section, Alan Jubb, who heads his letter "Not in Billericay - please!" He says; "Billy Fury thinks it is a good idea for our town to have a Coffee Bar. So do many other people, and the question of whether we are to have one of these establishments remains, as yet, unanswered. A Coffee Bar would be the ruination of Billericay. It would undoubtedly attract the undesirable element of modern youth from outside the immediate vicinity of the town. Billericay is an old town and retains much of its old character and antiquity despite the inevitable modernisation of the High Street. The town is often described as being "dead". Nonsense! Billericay has plenty to offer the teenager if he only cares to make a little effort to find out. There are many youth organisations such as the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (Junior Section), which a member can put something into, instead of having everything done for him. Therefore I say wake up all you dozy Billericay teenagers! Join a club or something worthwhile, and become a useful member of society. A Coffee Bar for Billericay? I sincerely hope not.

A different point of view is put by local Independent Councillor Mr.H.E.Wilkins who says; "Billericay needs somewhere for the teenagers to go after 7 or 8 at night. There just is nowhere. I don't think a Coffee Bar is the ideal answer, but it would keep young people off the streets. I think the answer is a properly-run Community Centre with a Coffee Bar in it, which would keep open until 10.30 at night. This has been done successfully in London".

Last of all the view of an ordinary teenager, Andy Roberts of Perry Street; "I think there should be somewhere in town to go, and I think a Coffee Bar may be the answer".

Send your views in now !!!

DANCE PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS YOUTH CLUB FUND - The proceeds of a Dance held by Brian Richardson of Mountnessing Road at the Archer Hall on Saturday will go towards the Billericay Youth Club Fund. 21-year old Brian hopes to form a non-denominational Youth Club with the money he raises, together with County Council grants. Brian, who is also President of the Parish Church Pilgrims, has plans for a Jumble Sale on the 13th, and Dances every two months at the Archer Hall throughout the year. Music at the Dance was provided by Group Five.

YOUNG LIBERALS RE-FORMED - Billericay Young Liberals have been re-formed, and they now have plans for serious discussions every Monday at the Recreation Rooms, High Street, with informal socials on Saturdays. All teenagers are welcome.

THIS TIME'S TOP TEN - Based on sales of records at the High Street branch of Stanwood Radio Ltd. Last time's positions in brackets.

1. HLP.9466 - Let There Be Drums (Sandy Nelson) (7).
2. 7NJ.2049 - Midnight In Moscow (Kenny Ball) (5).
3. HLG.9438 - Take Good Care of My Baby (Bobby Vee) (2).
4. HLK.9474 - Multiplication (Bobby Darin) (-).
5. POP.932 - Moon River (Danny Williams) (1).
6. DB.4716 - When The Girl In Your Arms Is The Girl In Your Heart (Cliff Richard)(-).
7. DB.4715 - Walking Back To Happiness (Helen Shapiro) (4).
8. HLD.9461 - Johnny Will (Pat Boone) (-).
9. F.11409 - I'll Never Find Another You (Billy Fury) (-).
10. PB.1195 - Tower of Strength (Frankie Vaughan) (6).

.....

BILLERICAY YOUNG LIBERALS.

Monday 8th January .... Evening Social ..... 8.15 p.m.  
Monday 15th January .... Billericay Footpaths .... Mr.Schofield  
8.15 p.m. All meetings at Billericay Recreation Rooms.



# The Woolpack

3 Chapel Street

(Off High Street)

Billericay



TRADE MARK

TELEPHONE: BILLERICAY 1757

Wool Specialists For:

DONBROS

LISTER

EMU

MARY MAXIM

LAINES Du PINGOUIN

SIRDAR

LEE TARGET

WENDY

Agents for:

KAISER BONDOR STOCKINGS

BERLEI FOUNDATIONS

PASSAP KNITTING MACHINES

VIKING SEWING MACHINES

HABERDASHERY & DRESSMAKING ACCESSORIES

Personal Service and Advice Assured



### BILLERICAY IN 1738.

The next Petre rent record in the archives of the Essex Records Office after that of 1706 (which has formed the basis for the past few articles) is that of 1718. However, this document is in such a torn and mutilated condition as to make a comprehensive survey impossible. The next rental is that of 1738, which is in a comparatively good condition.

Billericay in 1738 differed little from Billericay of 1706. Most of the population was concentrated on the centre of the town - probably somewhere about 800 people - quite a number for those days. The High Street (then called Billerica Street) was built up for most of its length, and the lower end of Chapel Street (Wellfield Lane in 1738) was fully developed. There were quite a number of houses between Norsey Road and Stock Road, including the local workhouse. In 1706 the Overseers of the Poor had these premises, and a cottage in Great Burstead, but by 1738 they had acquired an additional property at the Sun Corner end of the High Street - a sign of declining prosperity. Development was starting in Newe Street (later Back Lane and now Western Road). Standing at the junction of Chapel Street and High Street below the Chapel (not the Parish Church until the 19th Century) stood the Market House (pulled down about 1832), which was used every Tuesday for the weekly market. Lining each side of the street were the Inns - eight in all.

One of the main features at this time were the various Commons, whose names still remain in various parts of Billericay. Tye Common was a real Common in 1738 - extending on either side of Tye Common Road for a considerable distance. Tye Common disappeared sometime in the 19th Century. Outwood Common extended on either side of Outwood Common Road from the bottom of Norsey Woods to near the junction with Outwood Farm Road. During the 19th Century it grew smaller, until it finally disappeared just before the beginning of the present Century. The green at South Green was far larger than the present Recreation Ground. Where Hickstars Lane now joins the Southend Road, there was a crossroads, the Southend Road proceeding by way of the track by Oak Farm. The Southend Road joined Outwood Common Road near Beams Way, and then ran just in front of Grimshill Farm (now reached by a long footpath) to rejoin its modern course by the old cottage near the "Duke of York". Grange Road ran on its present course, and all the land in between, together with an extension at the Memorial Hall end formed Southwood Green. The twenty or so cottages and the "Royal Oak" Inn clustered round the Green.

Billericay Windmill was active on Bell Hill, and mention is made of land in Hobsters Lane "formerly Kemps's Mill". Hobsters Lane is now Mill Road, so perhaps this old Mill (not known of before), had something to do with its present name.

Thus was Billericay in 1738 ... a prosperous small town with a weekly market and two annual fairs, a number of inns, and a total population with Great Burstead of about 1,000 ... a town (as is shown by the extra workhouse) just beginning to decline.

---

## H. O. ILES & CO.

Incorporated Surveyors, Valuers, & Estate Agents.  
88, HIGH STREET, BILLERICAY. Tel: 659.

The Profession's Longest Established Firm in the Town.  
Sales by Private Treaty or Auction. Property Management.  
Valuations for Probate, Mortgage, Compulsory Purchase,  
Insurance etc.

LOCAL AGENTS FOR

ABBEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY.  
NORWICH UNION LIFE & FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.



# STOP! LOOK!

AT OUR

COMPETITIVE PRICES IN LADIES WEAR AT

## DEVAUX FASHIONS

THE NEWEST GOWN SHOP IN TOWN

### 2 HOLLY COURT

HIGH ST., BILLERICAY, ESSEX

### NEAR NEW CAR PARK

---

## LANDSCAPE GARDENERS

### H. KEENE & CO. LTD.

103B HIGH STREET, BILLERICAY

TELEPHONE BILLERICAY 742.

GARDENS DESIGNED AND LAID OUT.

ALL GARDEN REQUIREMENTS SUPPLIED.

SHEDS, GREENHOUSES, GARAGES, SPECIALISTS IN ORNAMENTAL STONE  
WORK, SAND, BALLAST, CEMENT SUPPLIED, STONE & TURF MERCHANTS.

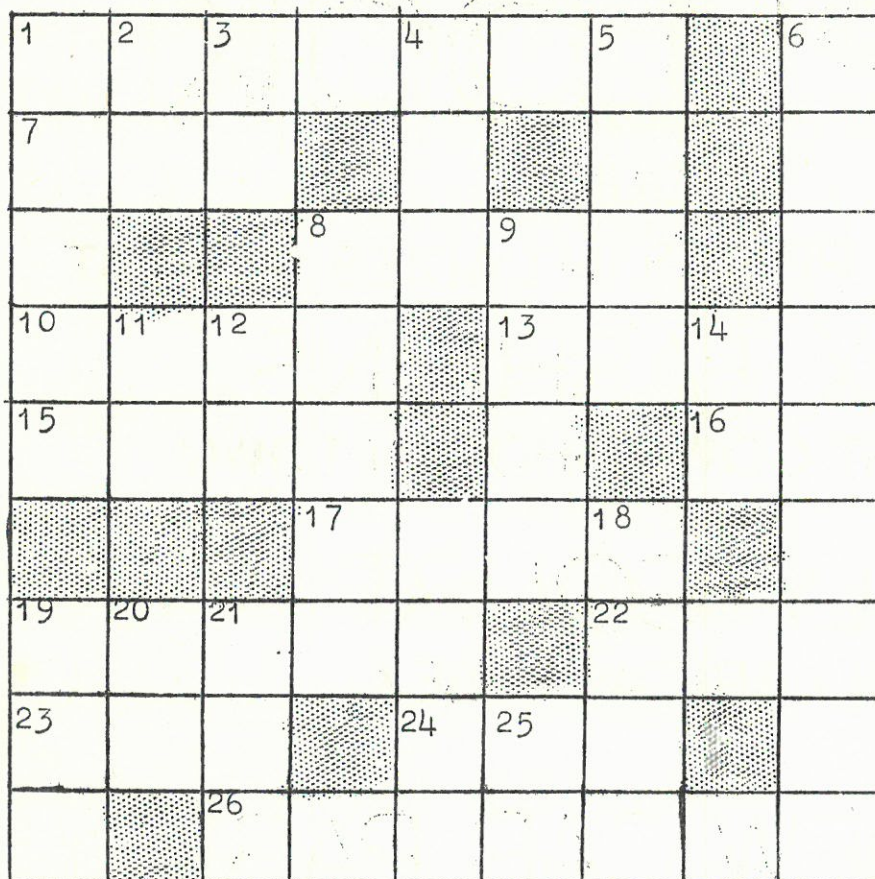
### CONTINUOUS GARDEN MAINTENANCE

### H.P. TERMS ARRANGED FOR ALL SUPPLIES AND WORK CARRIED OUT

ESTIMATES FREE.



# PRIZE CROSSWORD (NO.3).



## CLUES DOWN.

1. Surname of famous comedian. (5).
2. Royal Academy (Abb.)
3. Civil Defence (Abb.)
4. Epoch (3).
5. Selling goods at reduced prices (4).
6. Southern land (9).
8. Island republic in the Caribbean (5).
9. Bird related to the stork (4).
14. Two-letter adverb.
18. Children fly this (4).
19. Painting, sculpture and architecture are all No.19 (3).
24. Negative (2).
25. Order of Merit (Abb.)

Compiled by Barrie Hay  
(as featured on B.B.C.  
T.V. "All Your Own".)

## CLUES ACROSS.

1. Well-known radio programme. (7)
7. Unhappy (3).
8. Ice from the sky (4).
10. Girls' name (4).
13. Superlative of good (4).
15. Legendary animal (4).
16. Two-letter conjunction.
17. Job (4).
19. Act i e (5).
22. Unwell (3).
23. Grande (3).
24. Negative (3).
26. Rocket testing base in Australian desert (7).

A prize of 7/6d will be given for the first correct solution drawn out of the hat from a reader under the age of 18. Closing date, January 12th, so send your entry in now! If you weren't lucky last time, you may be this time!

Solution of Christmas Prize Crossword (No.2):- Down, 1.Christmas 2. Acorn, 3. R.N., 4.December, 5.El, 8.Oaf, 14.K.O., 18.Wet, 20.Irony, 23. Ida, 24.Son, Across:- 1.Carr, 4.Del (not "Des" as most contestants wrote), 6.H.C., 7.Noel, 10.R.O., 11.A.C., 12.O.E., 13.Irk, 15.Few, 17.Snow, 19.Main, 21.Bird, 22.Mistketoe, 25.Ado, 26, N.E., 27.Santa, 28.Ayr. Solution of this week's puzzle in the next issue of the "Billericay Observer".

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

Thursday January 4th:- Billericay Residents' Association, Multi-Storey Flats in Billericay, Public Meeting, Archer Hall, 8p.m.

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

## F O R S A L E.

BEAUTIFUL SILVER POODLE PUPPIES.

Phone Billericay 1020 or apply "Tensing", Norsey View Drive, Billericay.

.....

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

## WHAT'S ON AT THE CINEMA?

Ritz, Billericay.

All programmes last 3 days.

Monday January 1st:- Hayley Mills in "WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND" (U) and John Crawford in "THE LONG SHADOW".

Thursday January 4th:- Stephen Boyd in "THE BIG GAMBLE" (U). Also Charlie Chaplin and other old laughter films.

Monday January 8th:- "SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING" (X).

Thursday January 11th:- Michael Redgrave, Michael Craig in "NO, MY DARLING DAUGHTER!" Also "MURDER IN EDEN" (U).



# ★ EXCITING NEWS!

FOR GIRLS & BOYS

Toddlers (and "grown ups" too)

BILLERICAY'S

## New TOY SHOP

# Playthings

No.1, HOLLY COURT,  
HIGH STREET,  
BILLERICAY.

(in the new parade of shops by the car park)



CALL & INSPECT OUR WONDERFUL RANGE OF

## TOYS AND GAMES

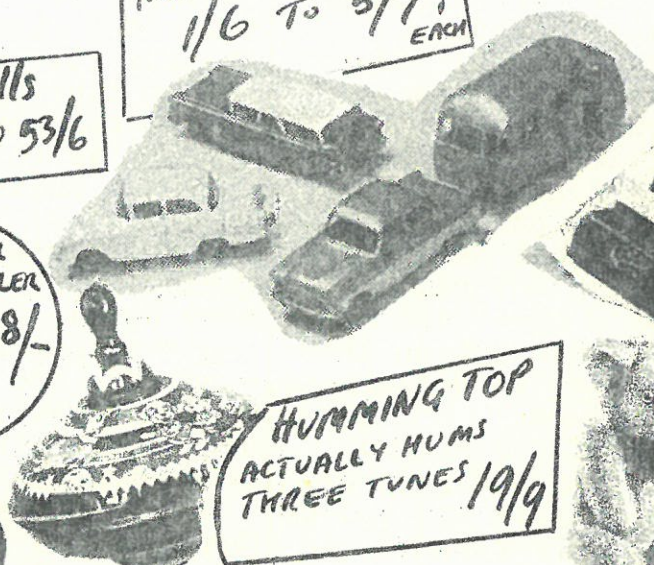


Rosebud Dolls  
from 1/11 to 53/6



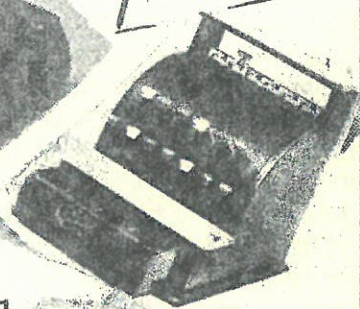
TRACTOR  
& TRAILER  
48/-

MATCHBOX Series  
1/6 To 5/7  
EACH



HUMMING TOP  
ACTUALLY HUMS  
THREE TUNES 19/9

CASH  
REGISTER  
35/6



Teddy  
Bears  
from 17/6  
to 89/11



ESSEX

# Playthings

Ltd. Tel. Billericay 742

No 1, HOLLY COURT, HIGH STREET, BILLERICAY.



## ROUND AND ABOUT

by  
"WANDERER".

### "WANDERER'S" NEW YEAR REVIEW.

Flats and Community Centres, Coffee Bars and Recreation Grounds, Elections and Museums, Railways and Car Parks, these are but a few of the many diverse topics I have dealt with in the past year.

It is my opinion that the early 60's have and will be the most important years in the history of Billericay. They will shape the town for the next hundred years or so .... for better or worse ....

In my opinion, as far as 1960 and 1961 have been concerned, it has been to a great extent for the worse. Housing estates have been built with little attention to landscaping, and all this development has gone ahead with little improvement in such public amenities as the railways, fire services, Community Centres, phones, electricity etc. etc. Development is by far outpacing this amenities, and most of all the educational facilities.

1962 will be a vital year for Billericay, for then the final plans for the County Development Plan will be formulated. This will decide whether Billericay will be a pleasant, well-planned town, or a semi-industrial sprawl.

Local residents must be given every opportunity to express their views. The Public Relations of Basildon Council have improved during the past year - for example, the introduction of Public Forums - but there is still room for a great deal of improvement. For example, I consider that the Radford Way flats were not adequately advertised. Also I consider that residents were not given enough time to put in their objections (the Council had known of the proposals for several months), and that a model and the plans should have been put on show in the Public Library at Billericay instead of at Basildon.

I consider that flats should not be erected on any odd plot of land, but should only be erected as part of some carefully-planned development away from the town centre. Flats are out of character with the central area of the town, which is also the highest part of the town.

Continued In Next Column.

### "WANDERER'S" NEW YEAR REVIEW.

The Council must not allow a rash of flats to develop on any odd plot of land in Billericay. This would ruin the town altogether.

When considering the future of the town, they must remember that the railway services are hopelessly overloaded during the peak hours. Extra trains and longer trains would help a little, but the basic problem remains. Most of the people who live in Billericay are office workers, and the erection of Billericay Industrial Estate has done very little to alleviate overcrowding on the railways. As I have said many times before, the only thing that would help would be office development.

The High Street is now a rather unpleasant mixture of new and old .... of completely modern shops .... of Tudor buildings .... of shops with modern fronts downstairs and of mock Georgian tops .... and of vacant sites with ugly hoardings pasted with posters in various states of decay. These eyesores must be built on quickly! And the Council must remember that it is not only the outstanding historical buildings that make up the charm of the High Street, but the pleasant Georgian properties as well.

I am glad that the last year has seen the Lake Meadows dispute settled. Thanks to the Council's efforts, a new Car Park in a safer position is to be provided, and I hope that this arrangement will satisfy all concerned. I am sorry though that the Council decided not to buy the woodland in Perry Street, as this would have made a pleasant addition to the park, and the field at the back could have been converted into a playing field. Billericay urgently needs more Public Open Space. I suggest that Norsey Wood be acquired, and that an additional small recreation ground be provided in the South Green/ Great Burstead area.

I hope that in 1962 the Council will do their utmost to make Billericay a pleasanter place to live in. Remember, 1962 will decide the Billericay for many years to come.

----- "Wanderer".