

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

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Tuesday January 16th, 1962.

Number 103.



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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

## COUNCIL TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON PLANNING OF BILLERICAY

### RESIDENTS' "NO CONFIDENCE" VOTE IN COUNCIL'S PLANNING POLICY

Basildon Council are to hold a meeting on "The Development of Billericay" at the Archer Hall on Friday 26th January at 7.30 p.m. All residents and Councillors are invited. This was announced by the Council Chairman, Mrs.C.J.Gadson, at Thursday's Council Meeting.

This news follows the Public Meeting on Flats, held by Billericay Residents' Association in the Archer Hall last Thursday week, when 238 people approved a motion expressing loss of confidence in the Council's Planning Committee, and asking the Essex County Council to take away their delegated powers, until such time as they were able to exercise them properly. A further motion asked the Council to rescind permission for the Radford Way flats, and hold a Public Meeting, and a third reminded the Council that they were elected to serve the people of the area, and that wider publicity should be given to important projects, before planning approvals were given.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of Billericay Residents' Association, Mr.R.Cox, and the Association's memorandum on Flats was read by Mr.K.Cook, Chairman of Buttsbury Residents' Association.

A reply to an invitation for Councillors and the Planning Officer to attend the meeting, from Mr.A.Hatt was read out. Mr.Hatt said that the notice given was far too short for the Councillors and officers, some of whom were booked up for 18 months ahead. Their time was very fully occupied, and they would probably be involved in Council business on the evening on the meeting. Members could attend unofficially if they wished (in fact the only Councillor who attend was Cllr.H.E.Wilkins, Independent). Mr.Hatt explained how the Association should go about arranging a meeting with the Council. Mr.Hatt added that the Council did not wish to comment objectively on the memorandum at the present, but would do so at the present time. He emphasised that people may not be able to judge fairly from the information provided by the Residents' Association.

Cllr.Quirk (Chairman of the Development & Planning Committee) apologised for his non-attendance, but said that the notice given was too breathtakingly short. (Laughter).

Continued On Page 2.

Page 1.

## FLATS MEETING.

Continued from Page 1.

Mr. Cox stated that Cllr. Quirk's stated that Cllr. Quirk's dismay at the short notice given to him, contrasted oddly with the short time given to residents to make their objections. Mr. Cox explained the procedure by which planning approvals were given, and said that the Planning Panel had the effect of concealment, as no minutes were published. The general Minutes were not informative either. Mr. Cox said that from the facts before them, they were not able to tell whether the scheme was a good one or a bad one. However, he suspected that it was not a good scheme. The Association were asking the Council to demonstrate by their actions, a genuine feeling for public opinion. They did not know whether the Council accepted the argument that flats were of wide general interest. "But I think that is self-evident", added Mr. Cox.

Cllr. Wilkins said that the whole question reflected back to the old problem of good or bad public relations between local Councils and residents. In most places it was usual to give 21 days' notice of planning proposals out of the normal run of things. In his view Billericay was a pleasant town, and they had to guard against the spoilation of existing amenities. Building land was very scarce, and flats were the order of the day, but they brought problems of estate management not experienced with other types of development. Public relations were very important in Planning. A planning decision was given for a building that might be there for a 100 years, and the amenities would be gone for ever.

Continued Cllr. Wilkins; "There is a body of people in the town who want to increase the population to 20,000. I think we must have a breathing space in development for some years - a "standstill" policy. We ought to consolidate and improve what we have, and re-consider development plans in three to five years' time. I think that all clear-thinking people subscribe to this view".

Continued In Next Column.

## FLATS MEETING.

From Column 1.

Asked Cllr. Wilkins; "If this development continues where will the future generation work, how will they get to London, where will their children go to school, where will they get their water from?"

The meeting was then thrown open to the floor. Said Mr. Lunt; "We have the 1972 population today. We must not allow this increase in population, before the amenities are improved. We must fight this increase". (loud applause).

Stated Mrs. Power; "In 1960, at an Election Meeting, Cllr. Quirk told me that I could rest assured that lengthy publicity would be given to any unusual development. I think it is absolutely shocking that a public official of this town should betray a promise like that".

Commented Mr. Cox; "There is no place on the Council for someone who is obviously rather dishonest".

Asked Mr. Chapman, "Why the unseemly hurry to pass the plans?"

Replied Mr. Cox; "I would have to take legal advice before I answered that. It is probably coincidence that the Chairman of the Development & Planning Committee (Cllr. Quirk) has an Estate Agent's office in the High Street. It is a pity that we have to speak of people who cannot reply because they are not here".

Asked Mr. Brennan; "When are the next Council elections?" (Cheers and laughter).

Mr. T. M. Thomas, Chairman of the Billericay Conservatives said; "We are 99% behind you. We are disgusted by the lack of consultation by the Council with the local residents. As far as the Western Road flats go I think they have been denied".

Mrs. Rammage sprang to her feet and said; "Cllr. Phelps told me there were flats going up behind his house in Western Road".

Said Mr. Thomas; "I don't know if it's been denied or not".

The meeting ended at 10 p.m., the three motions being passed.

At Friday's Committee Meeting of the Residents' Association it was decided to seek a private meeting on the subject with the Council.

## NEW VICAR WELCOMED.

On Monday 8th January, the Archdeacon of Southend, the Venerable W.N.Welch M.A. instituted and the Rural Dean, the Rev.J.S. Willard M.A. inducted the Rev. David R.Greaves A.L.C.D. into the Churches of St.Mary Magdalen and Christ Church, Billericay.

After the service of institution and induction, held at St.Mary Magdalen at 7.30 p.m., the congregation went to the Archer Hall, where after a speech of welcome, the Vicar met many of his new parishoners and their friends.

The Rev.Greaves became an Associate of the London College of Divinity in 1949. He was ordained Deacon in the same year, and Priest in 1950. After the curacies of St.Matthew, Bayswater, and Bromley, Kent, he was made Vicar of Green Street Green in 1955, and has administered this Parish from then until Christmas this year. At Green St.Green he has had the job of building a new Church, and extending the Parish Hall, experience which will be useful in Billericay, with the plans for a new Church in Perry Street, and the possibility of further extensions to St.Mary Magdalen. The Rev.Greaves is married, and has a family. He replaces the Rev.S.Powley, who retired in October, and now lives at 17, Colbert Avenue, Thoppe Bay.

Writing in the January issue of the Parish Magazine, the Rev. Greaves states; "Please stop and introduce yourselves to us if we meet in the street. We can't possibly remember so many new names and faces at first, but we do want to get to know you all as soon as possible".

A coach load from Green St. Green, and a large number of clergy from the Billericay area were present at the reception.

## COUNCILLOR URGES: "MEET FRONTAGERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE".

Speaking at Thursday's Council Meeting, Cllr.Quirk stated; "The frontagers of Hillside Road, Billericay are very anxious and concerned about the way their road has been made up. We must meet them - also the Lake Avenue frontagers - as soon as possible. Cllr.Wilkins supported Cllr.Quirk. It was decided to meet the two groups of frontagers to discuss problems as soon as possible.

## COUNCILLOR'S LETTER TO "OBSERVER".

Advised that statements were slanderous and defamatory.

The "Billericay Observer" has received the following letter from Cllr.Quirk, Chairman of the Development & Planning Committee of Basildon Council -

Dear Sir, ---- I have always subscribed to the view that there can be no "bad" publicity and if one embarks on local politics, attacks, criticism, and innuendoes must be accepted.

Last evening at the Residents' meeting, which my Council duties prevented me from attending, many irresponsible accusations and statements were made by the Chairman, the platform, and from the floor of the hall, which, from reports received, were in the nature of a personal attack on me as Tory Chairman of the Development & Planning Committee of Basildon Council. These statements, I am advised, were defamatory and slanderous, and I may pursue the matter elsewhere.

If your reporter was present and it is your intention to publish an account of the proceedings, no doubt you will do your best to check and corroborate the assertions before going to press - Cllr.Quirk, Norsey Road, Billericay.

## BY-PASS LATEST.

At their recent meeting the Development & Planning Committee of Basildon Council considered the Engineer & Surveyor's report on a system of one-way working for traffic in Billericay Town Centre as an alternative to the scheme for a By-Pass. Under the scheme northbound traffic would use the High Street, and southbound traffic Chapel Street. Following a lengthy discussion it was decided to arrange a meeting with the County Council on the subject.

## COUNCIL PRESS FOR NORSEY WOODS TO BE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.

Basildon Council are to hold a site meeting with officials of the Forestry Commission and Essex County Council, to discuss alleged contravention of Tree Preservation Orders for the protection of the woodland. The Council are to make a further approach to the County Council for the acquisition of Norsey Woods as a Public Open Space.

## 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 won by Master D. Edwards of Beams Way, South Green, Billericay. He receives 7/6d.

Circulation continues to increase.

----- The Editor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.  
Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

Wednesday January 24th:- Rotary Club, Public Meeting Archer Hall at 7.30 p.m., on the Common Market.

Friday January 26th:- Basildon U.D. Council, meeting on Development of Billericay, Archer Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

## F O R S A L E.

BEAUTIFUL SILVER POODLE PUPPIES.

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

## BILLERICAY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP

Next Meeting, Wednesday February 7th at the W.I. Hall, 8 p.m.

"Fun With A Few".

Demonstrator, Mrs. Rush.  
Members arrangement - "Small arrangement for a breakfast tray". Tray and accessories to be included. Members 2/-, Visitors 2/6d.

.....  
The A.G.M. of the Group was held at the W.I. Hall on Wed. January 3rd. The Secretary reported a very successful year, and the Chairman, Mrs. Ryan, thanked the Committee for their help during the year. After the meeting members were entertained by colour slides of the 1959 Festival of British Floral Arrangement Societies.

## PRESSURE OF WORK.

Billericay Residents' Assn. have so much work to deal with nowadays, that in future their Executive Committee will meet twice a month, instead of once a month as at present.

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## CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

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

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

## BILLERICAY YOUNG LIBERALS.

Every Monday at the Recreation  
Rooms, starting at 8.15 prompt.

Jan. 22nd - "Advertising, The  
Inside Story" by Peter Lusher of  
Shenfield.

Jan. 27th (Saturday) - A candlelit  
Social, 8 p.m.

Jan. 29th - Billericay Communist  
Party answers your questions.

.....  
ADVERTISEMENT RATES from the Editor.

.....  
STOP PRESS NEWS.

RESIDENTS TO CONTEST COUNCIL  
ELECTIONS WITH TWO CANDIDATES IN  
MAY. NOMINATIONS INVITED.  
COUNCIL TURN DOWN CHAPEL Page 4.  
ST. FLATS BECAUSE OF  
OBJECTIONS FROM RESIDENTS. ASSN.  
WESTERN RD. APPROVED (Over shops)

# FOR THE OLD FOLK

## Billericay O.A.P. Club.

At the meeting held at the Rose Hall on January 3rd there was a very good attendance. There were still quite a number of members away sick and they were all wished a very speedy recovery. Mrs. Gill, Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Candler, Mrs. Wiltshire, Mr. Arney, and Mr. Dawkins were still ill. Several members were welcomed back after a long absence through illness, particularly Mr. Pierce who had been in Hospital for an operation, and Mrs. Wakeling after her accident.

The Chairman and Secretary wished all members a very Happy and Healthy New Year. The Secretary reminded members that there were still one or two places for the Pantomine; also for the week's holiday. The afternoon's entertainment was provided by Fred Sawyer and his Concert Party. Tea hostesses were Mesdames McCarthy, Hill, and Cayser.

## Buttsbury Monday Club.

Meetings have now started once more, every Saturday at Buttsbury School, where new members are most welcome. Next Saturday (the 20th) the members will be going to the Pantomine at Westcliffe, and on the 22nd (Monday) 12 members will be going to see "This Is Your Life" in London.

### FUTURE OF ESTATE ASSOCIATION.

Last Friday week's meeting of the Executive Committee of Billericay Residents' Assn. was attended by a representative of the Romney Hall Residents' Assn.

He stated that the Association was originally formed because of trouble with estate developers. Many of the earlier members had left the district, and membership had dropped considerably, and the Association was now defunct, although it had about £120 in the bank.

It was agreed to hold a meeting to wind-up the Romney Hall Association and form it into an Area Committee of the Billericay Residents' Assn.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir, ---- I feel I must congratulate you on your excellent little paper, and if you continue to improve as you have done in 1961 it will be a marvel. To anyone like myself interested in local affairs, and formerly taking my share in them, it is good to read such good accounts. It is quite obvious that insufficient publicity is given to local projects, and I do hope that more and more residents will take an interest in local affairs - "REGULAR READER".

ANNUAL PANTOMINE - Presenting their Annual Pantomine at the Archer Hall this week are the Mala School of Dancing. This year's Pantomine is "Cinderella".

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

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SHOULD BILLERICAY HAVE A COFFEE BAR? - C.G. Prentice Esqre. of Hounslow, Middx. writes; "I am following with great interest correspondence concerning the proposed Coffee Bar at which young people can meet. It does appear that those who write for and against this suggestion leave out a very important fact and that is the art of growing up. Childhood can be a concentration camp, but that it is a concentration camp from which it is better not to try to escape until the releasing arms at the end of the war of adolescence are battering at the barbed wire. Meanwhile one must get on with the other inmates.

It must really be appreciated that if you live in what these youngsters refer to as "the graveyard deserts of the new housing estates" you will probably seek for "kicks" in spare time by getting out of home first. "Home is a good place to sleep in but that is all", is the attitude typical of such teenagers. If possible they prefer to get right away from the dispiriting neighbourhood either on motor bikes or scooters (probably acquired on hire purchase) or if they cannot afford their own means of transport then they stay after work in the nearby town for their fun and catch the late bus back to the "dormitory". Sometimes this may not be possible, and then it is the streets. There they can meet "the chaps" and the girls of similar age and outlook. This is quite impossible at home with grown-ups about. More often than not there is nowhere at all in which to meet late at night, not even for a cup of coffee at any time. Often that is how gangs start. Do those who oppose such a meeting place as a Coffee Bar want this?"

Some letters have been held over to the next issue because of lack of space, and late arrival. Send yours in now!

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

1. DB.4761 - The Young Ones (Cliff Richard) (-).
2. DB.4750 - Stranger on the Shore (Acker Bilk) (-).
3. F.11409 - I'll Never Find Another You (Billy Fury) (9).
4. 7NJ.2049 - Midnight in Moscow (Kenny Ball) (2).
5. HLD.9461 - Johnny Will (Pat Boone) (8).
6. RCA.1263 - The Lion Sleeps Tonight (The Tokens) (-).
7. HLX.9462 - So Long Baby (Del Shannon). (-)
8. HLG.9470 - Run To Him (Bobby Vee) (-).
9. HLK.9474 - Multiplication (Bobby Darin) (4).
10. DB.4691 - Let's Twist Again (Chubby Checker) (-).

LIBERALS SOCIAL - Billericay Young Liberals held a wandalit social at the Recreation Rooms last Monday week, with music, records, games, and table tennis. Over 30 young people attended. For details of future meetings see Page 4.

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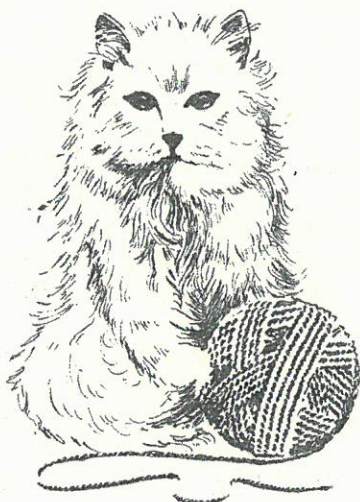
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## BILLERICAY IN 1765.

by the Editor.

The next few articles in this series will be on Billericay as it was in 1765 ... 197 years ago in the time of George III. These articles will be based on the Petre rent records of Billericay now in the Essex Records Office. The earlier articles in this series have been based on the rentals of 1706 and 1738. The writing in these is difficult to read, they are set out rather untidily, and the pages are yellowing. The 1765 rental is the exact opposite. It is in neat book form in good condition, and is neatly divided into four columns - Owner of property, Occupier, date when owner obtained property, description of property. The writing is beautiful and easy to read. All this makes research far easier, although the excitement of new discoveries is still there.

Billericay in 1765 differed little in shape or size from the Billericay of 1718 and 1738. The total population was still around 1,000, and most of the population was still concentrated around the High Street (BillERICA Street) and South Green. The names of the roads have changed very little either - Chapel Street is still shown as Wellfield Lane for instance, and Western Road as Newe Street.

However, although the buildings may not have altered to any large extent between 1706 and 1765, entirely different people were living in the houses, in some cases their uses had changed. The town in 1706 was dominated by two major families - the Fishpooles and the Threshers, who both owned large amounts of land in and around the town, as well as all the major Inns. By 1765 all trace of the Threshers and the Fishpooles had practically disappeared, and no other great family had stepped in to take their place.

In the next few articles it is my intention to discuss the differences between Billericay in 1796 and the Billericay of 1706, as mentioned in the Petre rental.

"Billericay in 1765" No.2 in the "Observer" of January 30th.

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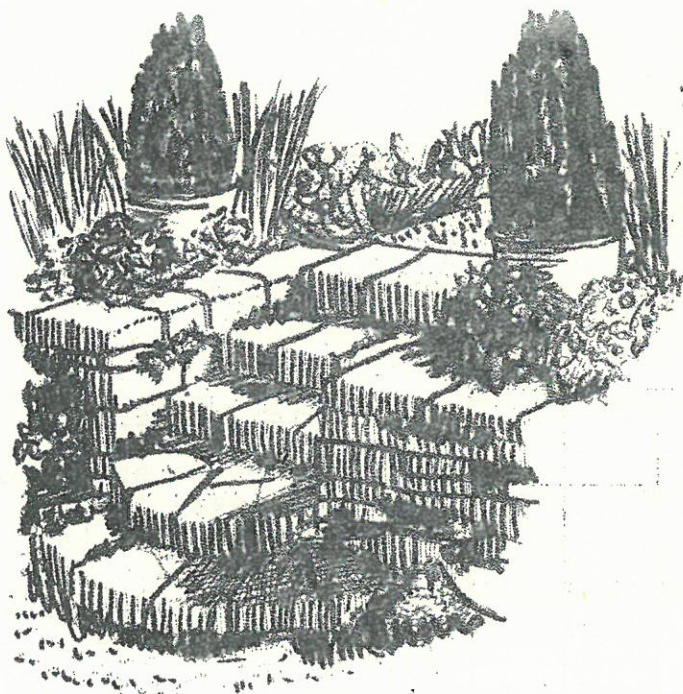
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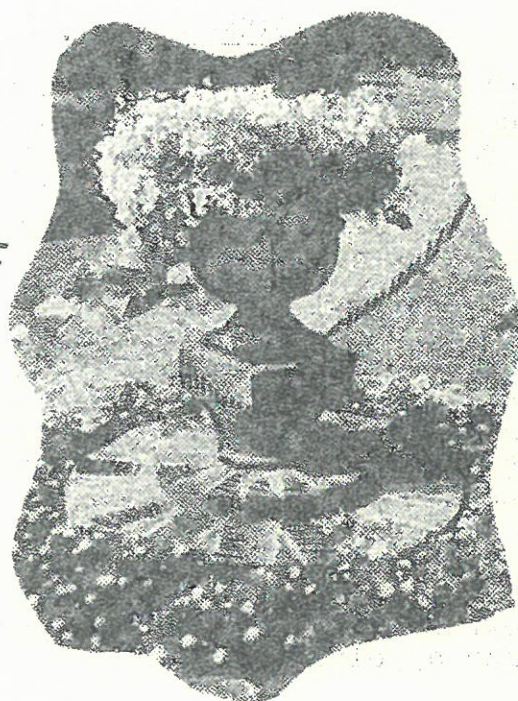
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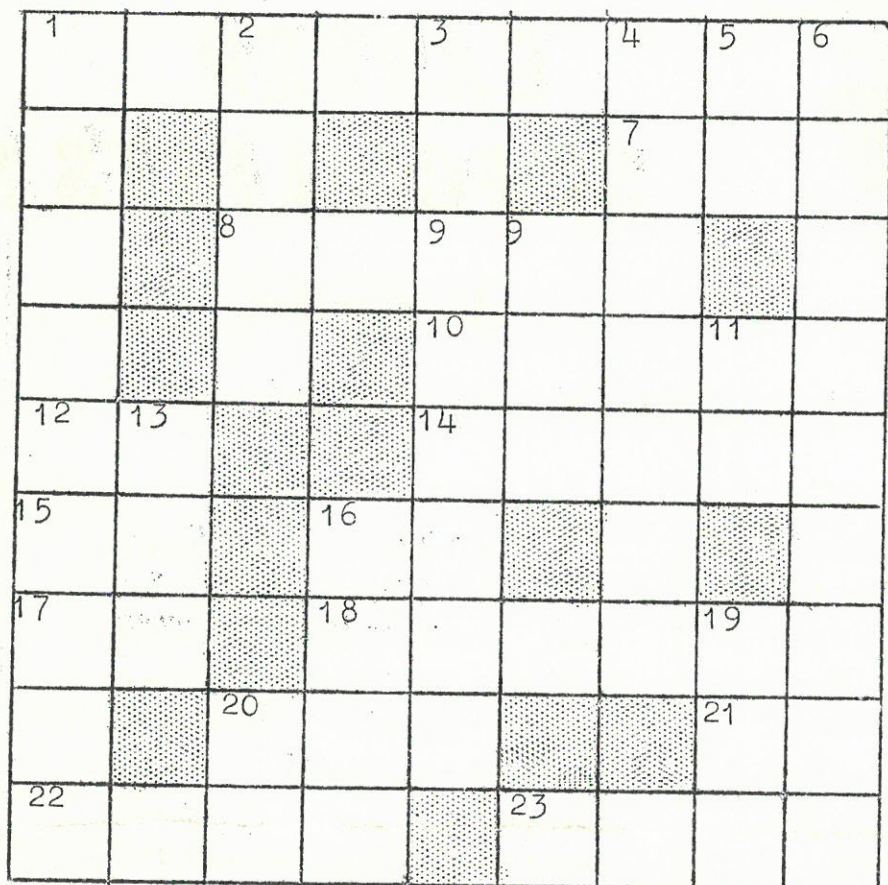
**Tel: Billericay 742**



# "OBSERVER" CROSSWORD

NO.4.

Compiled by Barrie Hay (featured on "All Your Own", B.B.C.T.V.)  
Solution in the next issue of the "Billericay Observer".



## CLUES ACROSS.

1. It is used to speak to people far away (9).
7. He says "In-Out" (3).
8. To hem in (5).
10. An enclosed fire (5).
12. To rise is to go — (2).
14. A part of the eye (5).
15. Old English (Abb. 2.)
16. In that way (2).
17. Inclusion (2).
18. The surname of a castaway (6).
20. A baby's bed (3).
21. One (2).
22. Give out (4).
23. German Christian name (4).

## CLUES DOWN.

1. A colour (9).
2. A part of the ear (4).
3. An official document showing a person's identity for abroad (8).

4. A dangerous sea animal (7). 5. Negative (2). 6. Very good indeed (9). 9. Electrical Trades Union (Abb. 3.) 11. Shortened form of a girl's name (2). 13. A writing implement (3). 16. Inhabitant of Scotland (4). 19. It is used to row (3). 20. Channel Islands (Abb.)

Solution to Number 3:- Down, 1. Askey, 2. R.A., 3. C.D., 4. Era, 5. Sale, 6. Australia, 7. Haiti, 9. Ibis, 14. So, 18. Kite, 19. Art, 24. No, 25. O.M. Across, 1. Archers, 7. Sad, 8. Hail, 10. Esta, 13. Best, 15. Yeti, 16. Or, 17. Task, 22. Ill, 23. Rio, 24. Not, 26. Woomera.

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2) Electric Washer, £10. "Electrix" clothes drier, £4. 45, Bush Hall Road.

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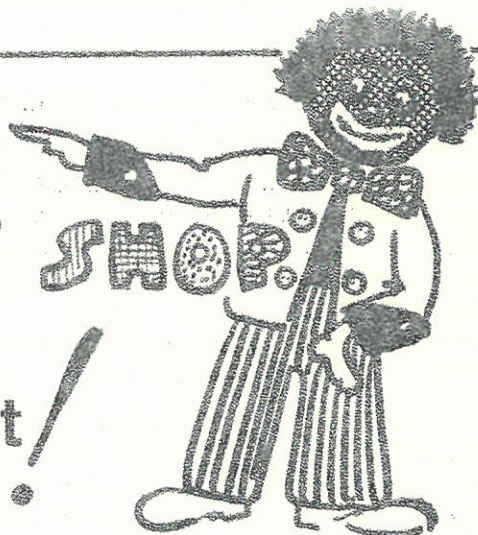
3) A good wood tea trolley, not modern, in good condition, details and price, to Box.No.2. c/o "Observer".

### NOAK HILL TENDERS OPENED.

Basildon Council have opened tenders for the improvement of Noak Hill Road, Billericay. (B1007). The Council are also preparing an "A"-class lighting scheme for Noak Hill Road.

BILLERICAY'S

# New TOY SHOP



is well worth a visit!

ESPECIALLY NEXT WEEK BECAUSE WE  
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29/11



19/11



22/6

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20/3

17/11

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OFFICE 6/3

5/3

and many others besides

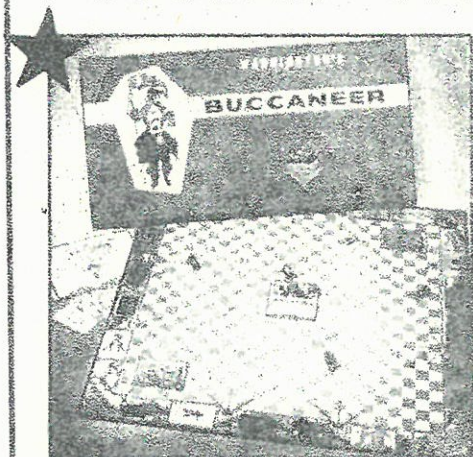
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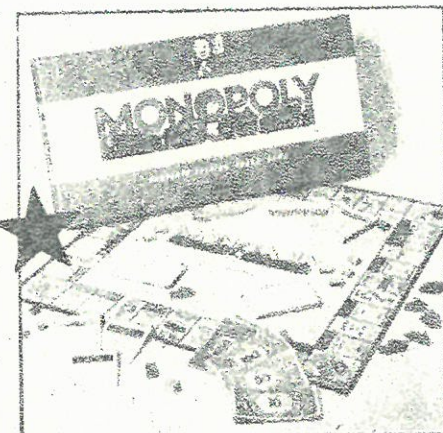
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LTD.

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

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

#### POSTAL WORK-TO-RULE DELAYS MAIL.

The work-to-rule of Post Office workers, has made mail to and from Billericay up to four days late. Long delays have been experienced on the phone on some occasions.

#### SNOW CANCELS TRAINS AND BUSES.

Nearly 6" of snow fell in the Billericay area last Sunday week. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday train services to and from Liverpool Street were severely disrupted, and some cancellations were necessary. Some workers arrived at work two hours late.

Local bus services were also severely disrupted, and on Sunday afternoon and evening the 256 (Billericay Town Service) bus service was cancelled. Taxis also stopped running.

On Sunday morning a 251 double-decker bus travelling down Bell Hill (a sheet of ice at the time) skidded, and ended up at right-angles to the road, with the back in the hedge. It was one hour before it could be moved.

#### TWO BANDS BOOKED FOR CARNIVAL.

Two bands had been booked for Billericay Carnival, and seven local organisations had stated their willingness to run stalls at the Fete. This was stated by Mr. J.A. Dodd, Secretary of Billericay Carnival Association, at a meeting held last Tuesday.

Billericay Town Sports Club had granted permission for the use of their ground for the Carnival Fete. However, the Club pointed out they had proposals for ground improvements, and almost the whole playing area would be cropped off.

It was stated that bands had been booked for the Carnival Queen Selection Dance at the Archer Hall on May 25th. Once again there will be a shop window dressing competition, in the spirit of Carnival, for which a shield would be awarded.

After the meeting several people came forward to fill various unoccupied posts in the Carnival administration.

Proceeds of this year's Carnival will go to the Billericay Recreation Rooms, which are badly in need of re-decoration and repair (they are used for the Old People's Rest Room and other functions. At Thursday's meeting Basildon Council voted an annual grant of £25.

#### ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER".

It has been remarked by many people that the Residents' meeting on the flats will be just another "Industrial Estate", and that all the Residents are doing is to bar the stable door after the horse has bolted.

Certainly, the meeting was late in the day, as was the Industrial Estate meeting. But in both cases this was due to the poor Public Relations of the Council. In both cases the news was not revealed until the last minute, and naturally by the time the Residents had protested, the plans had been passed.

Why did the Council not reveal the Flats plan until August (and then only after an inquiry from a local resident), when they had apparently known of them since Marsh. And why were residents given five days only to inspect the plans and make their objections, instead of the customary 21 days, especially since the Council had known of the proposals for such a long time? The Council will have a lot to answer for at their Public Meeting. This is a step in the right direction by the Council which I welcome. It also meets one of the requests made by the Residents' meeting - for a Public Meeting. I sincerely hope that something useful will come out of it.

It was a great pity that Cllr. Quirk was unable to attend the meeting, so that residents could hear the other side of the story. Also, certain allegations were made at the meeting regarding Cllr. Quirk's honour. It is a pity that he was not there to defend himself.

I think that it is wrong that any Estate Agent - of however high principles - should be Chairman of a Planning Committee, let alone member of a Planning Committee. I am not casting any aspersions on Cllr. Quirk, as a person. I just believe that NO Estate Agent should be a member of a Planning Committee.

I am pleased that the Council are keeping a careful watch on tree felling in Norsey Woods. These beautiful Woods should be preserved as a Public Open Space.

---- "Wanderer".