

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday January 30th, 1962.

Number 104.



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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

UPROAR AT COUNCIL'S PUBLIC MEETING

Basildon Council's Public Meeting on the Development of Billericay (including flats) held at the Archer Hall on Friday, degenerated into uproar several times during the evening. Labour Councillor, Mr. A. T. Dove of Basildon, was shouted off the platform.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of Basildon Urban District Council, Mrs. C. J. Gadson J.P., who referred to the recent meeting held on the subject of Flats by Billericay Residents' Assn., and pointed out that the Council had only received two days' notice of this meeting. She continued; "As the Council had only two days to prepare the facts, I would question the value and effect of that meeting, as the full story was not available. The memorandum issued by the Residents' Association contains suggestions that are baseless and that the Council utterly refutes. The Council could have no possible purpose in covering up development unless national security was involved. As for consultation with local organisations the Council must bear in mind the standards of the respective organisations".

Cllr. A. F. Quirk, Chairman of the Development & Planning Committee then spoke. Cllr. Quirk stated that Billericay was in the Outer Country Ring, and from 1944 it had been proposed that Billericay should be urbanised, in 1949 Billericay was officially named as an expanded town, and the 1957 County Development Plan specific areas for development in Billericay had been mentioned. Cllr. Quirk continued; "The 1971 population estimate has now been passed. Development has increased beyond that anticipated. The Minister has stated, that because of the pressure on land in Great Britain, there should be higher-density development and development of non-developed areas. The Council must play their part in the national and County policy. We have exercised our right under law to act as the Delegate of the County, and that right has been granted by law, and cannot be taken away unless the Minister of Housing & Local Government makes some change in the law. All proposed development is carefully considered, to see that it fits in with the Development Plan, and at the Planning Panel meetings, the members are advised by the Council's technical and legal advisers. Details of all planning applications are available at the Council Offices. We are only obliged to publish the plans in the case of some public building e.g. Skating Rink, Cinema, Theatre, Sewage Farm etc. Otherwise the plans are the developer's copyright, and we cannot publish them without his permission".

Continued On Page 2.

Page 1.

COUNCIL'S PUBLIC MEETING.
Continued from Page 1.

Explaining the procedure of passing the Radford Way flats scheme Cllr. Quirk said; "Informal consultations took place between the Council and the developer in February/March, 1961, and the Planning Panel saw an informal sketch on the 3rd May. Before this the High Street Consultative Panel considered the scheme and gave their go-ahead. I might mention that this is composed of two architects and two C.P.R.E. members, and in this respect we are on of the most go-ahead Councils in the country, for I do not know of any other Council in the country which has such a Panel. On the 29th May outline permission was given by the Planning Panel, the official decision being taken on the 16th June. On the 7th September detailed plans were submitted, and final plans on 11th October. On the 18th October the advertisement was approved, and appeared on the 25th October. In order that approval could be given within the required two months of plans being submitted, the Council had to name November 1st as the closing date for objections. As only one was received, the period was extended to 9th November. One more objection was received, and the plans were finally approved on the 16th November, for there was no significant public concern, and readers of "The Mayflower" (the Residents' magazine) and of the "Billericay Observer" knew of the plans in September. It is not true that Residents had only four days' notice, for they knew of the plans in September."

Referring to the Residents' Assn. memorandum Cllr. Quirk said; "Quite irresponsible statements were made in the broadsheet. They stated that the advertisement in the "Billericay Times" was inadequate as that paper only had a circulation of 1,500; in fact its audited circulation is 4,200. (Some shouting from the floor).

Added Mrs. Gadson; "The proposed 1971 population was 16,700. It is now 18,500. In 1981 it is now proposed to be 24,000. In 1945 it was 7,000, in 1955, 8,500, and in 1960, 14,500. These figures are quite astronomical. The Council have received 794 planning applications, approved 476 and refused 348".

Continued In Next Column,

COUNCIL'S PUBLIC MEETING.
Continued from Column 1.

The meeting was then thrown open to the floor.

Mr. Ransome asked three questions. The first was; "Surely the 4,200 circulation figures for the 'Billericay Times', include Wickford? (loud applause)."

In reply Mrs. Gadson repeated the figures, and said that they were for Billericay alone.

Mr. Ransome then asked if the Council had no powers to publish the builder's plans. In reply Town Clerk Mr. A. Hatt said; "We have no powers to let the plans be inspected by the public, without the applicant's consent, except in the case of public buildings. Shouted Mr. Ransome; "That's no answer" (Loud applause, shouts of "Hear, hear!")

Mr. Ransome finally asked why the height had been increased from the original 5 to 7 stories (loud boos and shouting). In reply, Mr. Wadsworth, Engineer & Surveyor, said this was perfectly legal as long as the plan followed the outline application.

The Editors and Proprietors of the "Billericay Observer" wish to make it quite clear that the remarks reflecting upon the personal integrity of Councillor A.F. Quirk at a Public Meeting of the Billericay Residents' Association and reported in the issue of this newspaper for January 16th, 1962 in no way represent their opinion and are quite unjustified. They regret any distress that he has been caused.

Mr. Taylor then stated; "I am a member of the Consultative Panel. I and an Architect thought the plan that was before us was for a office block. Our view was 'It's a all right as a plan, but why have it there'. We never said it was a good plan" (At this the audience stamped their feet for some time, also loud cheering and loud applause). Commented Mrs. Gadson; "Stamping your feet won't get you anywhere".

The Planning Assistant to the Council said, in reply, that it was his job to place the plans before the Panel. As far as he could remember the general opinion was that it was a good plan.

Continued on Page 3.

NOT SUFFICIENT INTEREST TAKEN IN
RESIDENTS' VIEWS CLAIMS RESIDENT.
Continued from Page 2.

Commented Mr. London; "Does the planning procedure justify the ends - look at the Industrial Estate. We have to live here, and not sufficient interest is paid to the views of local residents. Publicity is not given. It is an absolute shambles (Shouts of "Hear! Hear!" and loud applause).

Commented Cllr. Quirk; "It is not fair to allege that the Planning is a shambles. You are here to stop development (shouts of "Hear! Hear!"). If there had been no population increase you wouldn't be here (applause).

Next speaker from the floor was Brian Edwards of Billericay Conservative Assn. who said; "There is a feeling in Billericay now 'Bless you old chap, I'm all right, keep out everybody else'. We have a very small island, and we can't go building on the fields. (Mr. Edwards was interrupted by angry shouts of "Keep to the point", "What's this got to do with the meeting", "Travel up 3rd class on the railways", to which he retorted "I do"). I think we are lucky to have a developer who will tackle such an uneconomical proposition".

Commented Mr. Horsey; "It's bad enough getting up and down by train as it is" (loud applause).

Replied Cllr. Quirk; "Of course it's difficult. The object of the Industrial Estate is to provide local employment. (Shouts of derision). Many artisans have found a job in these factories".

Stated Mr. Hillyard; "You are asking us to believe that 4 out of 5 houses in Billericay take the "Billericay Times". Audited circulation figures or not, I just can't accept that, 90% of local people work in London, and had five working days, to read the notice, get time off work, and go to Basildon and inspect the plans. If you think that is fair and sufficient notice I can't accept it. Only you knew of the extension. 7-storey flats are completely out of proportion with bungalows (loud stamping and cheers for some time). I was firmly assured by Cllrs. Quirk and Redbond at the October Council Meeting that a meeting would be held with affected residents. This has not been done. And I have very serious doubts about the circulation of the "Billericay Times" (shouts)

Continued In Next Column.

COUNCILLOR SHOUTED DOWN.
From Column 1.

Cllr. Quirk pointed out that there was nearly 230 feet between the bungalows in Cromwell Avenue and the proposed terraced houses. He then read part of a letter from Mr. Hillyard, thanking Cllr. Quirk for his help.

Shouted Mr. Hillyard; "You haven't answered my question" (Chorus of "Answer", "Answer", and booing).

Mrs. Gadson then asked Cllr. Redbond if he had promised Mr. Hillyard a meeting. Cllr. Redbond said that he had promised publicity that was all.

Commented Cllr. Quirk; "This is degenerating into an election meeting" (Chorus of "No! No! No!" and loud boos).

Said Mr. Sprong; "I am an Architect and a member of the Consultative Panel and I thought the plan was a very good one". (Derisive cheers and laughter).

After various other speakers had made points, Mrs. Gadson announced her intention of letting Cllr. Dove, Labour Opposition Leader on the Council speak. Mr. Hillyard rose to his feet to speak and there were shouts of "Why shouldn't he speak?".

Continued Mr. Dove; "I agree that this is developing into an electioneering meeting (shouts of "Rubbish"), I am in complete agreement with the Conservatives on Flats. I am all for them. Don't let's be toffee-nosed. (Stamping of feet, boos, shouts of "Go away", "Get off", "Throw him off", "Sit down", "You've missed the point", "Let Mr. Hillyard speak".

Appealed Cllr. Dove to Mrs. Gadson; "Tell Mr. Hillyard to sit down. I'm speaking now". However, the stamping and boos increased in volume, so Cllr. Dove threw up his hands in despair and walked off.

Mrs. Gadson summed up, and said that she would bring up the matter at the next Council Meeting of plans being available in Billericay. She then closed the meeting among shouts of "Let Mr. Hillyard speak".

After the meeting, which was attended by over 300 people, many of the audience surged forward to view the model of the proposed scheme at the front of the hall.

Commented Mr. Hillyard to the "Observer"; "I am absolutely disgusted. I challenge Cllr. Quirk to release the full text of my letter to the Press."

EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

As from February 23th the "Observer" will not be on sale in Matthews in the High Street, as that shop is closing. Readers are reminded that they can buy the "Observer" at Howards and Marshalls in the High Street, Shuttleworth Stores and Queens Park Stores in Perry Street, and Weedon's at South Green and at Newman's at Outwood Common, also at the Station on alternate Fridays.

---- The Editor.

THE "OBSERVER" CINEMA GUIDE, RITZ CINEMA, BILLERICAY.

All programmes last 3 days.

Monday Jan. 29th:- Burt Lancaster in "THE YOUNG SAVAGES" (X). Also "MIDDLE COURSE" (U).

Thursday Feb. 1st:- Gordon Macrae, Shirley Jones in "CAROUSEL" (U) and "CARMEN JONES" (A). One programme a night. "CAROUSEL" only Sat. afternoon.

Monday Feb. 5th:- Ingrid Bergman in "GOODBYE AGAIN" (A).

Thursday Feb. 8th:- Walt Disney's "NIKKI, WILD DOG OF THE NORTH" and "BINNOCHIO".

ELECTION CANDIDATES.

Conservative Candidates for Billericay in this May's Council elections are Dr. F.W.B. Rilstone and Captain Tesoriere. Captain Tesoriere has been a local Councillor for three years. This news is announced in the new twice-yearly newsheet issued by the Conservative Association, for they claim that "the case for the defence" is not being put by the local press.

Yesterday the two committees of Buttsbury and Billericay Residents' Association met to discuss their plans for this year's Council Elections, when they intend to nominate two candidates. Nominations are to be invited through their magazine "The Mayflower", and leaflets issued by Buttsbury Residents' Assn.

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.....
ADVERTISMENT RATES from the Editor.

.....
STOP PRESS NEWS.

FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P. Club.

At the meeting on the 17th January there was a fairly good attendance. Sick members were wished a very speedy recovery. Mr. & Mrs. Gill were both ill; Mrs. F. Smith was improving; Mr. Arney, Mr. Dawkins, Mrs. Wiltshire, and Mrs. Vivash were all ill, Mr. Goodchild had been taken to Rochford Hospital. Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Lamb were both welcomed back after absence through illness. The afternoon's entertainment was by the Langdon Hall (Over-60's) Concert Party.

On the 24th there was an excellent attendance. Mr. Dawkins, Mrs. Candler, Mrs. F. Smith, Mrs. Horne, and Mr. & Mrs. Gill were still away sick and were all wished a speedy recovery. Mrs. Wiltshire, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Arney, Mrs. Kitsell, and Mrs. Vivash were all welcomed back after absence through illness. The Secretary asked who wanted to go to "Chu-Chin-Chow", and asked them to put their names down as soon as possible. Entertainment was by the Branch Concert Party. Taking part were Mesdames Horne and Plumridge, Messrs. Joseph, Wiltshire, Plumridge, with Mrs. Dawkins at the Piano.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

On Saturday January 20th a party went to the Palace Theatre at Westcliffe-on-Sea, to see the Pantomime "Robinson Crusoe". Among the party was Mrs. B. Barr, Secretary, of the Old People's Welfare Committee. Refreshments were taken during the interval, and the Secretary, Mr. Bond, was thanked for organising the party. On Monday a party of 28 went by coach to the B.B.C. studios at Sheperds Bush to see a recording of "This Is Your Life" with Eamon Andrews. Tickets and a donation of 30/- towards costs were given by the "Billericay Observer". On Saturday Mr. Hansford gave an interesting talk on "Lloyds Shipping".

South Green Thursday Club.

The 11th was a Quarterly Meeting Day, when policy matters were discussed. Names of eight seaside resorts were put forward by members, and after a ballot, it was decided to visit four during the Summer. It was announced that Mrs. Hall (Treasurer) and other sick members were progressing. Mr. Moore reported on the successful visit of 70 members to the Palace Theatre at Westcliffe to see "Robinson Crusoe". On the 18th there was a large attendance, as many sick members returned. Others had been visited. Competitions were run by Mr. Warner and Mr. Marciott. A sale of goods brought in £1-6-0d for club funds.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club.

A most enjoyable evening was had on the 13th. After tea, members played a game devised by the Secretary, which caused a few laughs, and finished with some of the old songs, with Mrs. Brett at the Piano. On the 6th the residents of Outwood Common Estate gave the local pensioners a coach outing to the Victoria Palace to see the Crazy Gang.

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TEENAGERS' PAGE by W.P.G.

SHOULD BILLERICAY HAVE A COFFEE BAR? - Marilyn Stevenson of Lake Avenue, Billericay has very definite views. Aged 15½ she writes; "Alan Jubb is right. The youth of Billericay do not want a Coffee Bar, if by that you mean a smoky haunt with "pop" music gushing from a juke box. No self respecting parent would allow their children to spend their evenings in such places, and no self respecting teenager would want to.

Let us rather improve the facilities which exist. There are organisations sponsored by the Church and by junior sections of several associations, but these are not well-organised. Let's have some active leadership!

It would not cost much to set up a Youth Club with an imaginative paid part-time warden. There could be Table Tennis, Dancing, and Dramatic Groups etc. Could not the Education Committee of the Basildon Urban District Council consider this as coming within their scope, and give a hand?"

14½-year old Barbara Whitelaw of Cavell Road, Sunnymede holds a similar view. She writes; "Disputing the news article that appeared in your last edition of the 'Billericay Observer', I feel I am speaking on behalf of many of the Billericay teenagers. Surely a Coffee Bar sponsored by such a celebrity as Billy Fury will attract many people who will give our growing town a bad reputation.

Why not give people their fair share; the people of Billericay have given a considerable sum of money by way of the Carnival, various funds, and personal contributions for a Swimming Pool at Billericay Secondary School, only to be refused the right to use it, unless they belong to the School. Can't the Council do something about building a Swimming Pool instead of a Coffee Bar, which very few approve of".

What do you think? Send your views in now!

NEW YOUTH CLUB TO BE FORMED - For some months, 21-year old Brian Richardson of Mountnessing Road has been organising Dances and a Jumble Sale for the formation of a new Youth Club in Billericay. There is now enough money in the "Billericay Youth Club Fund" to purchase some equipment. The first venture will be the formation of a new Youth Club in connection with the Parish Church (Brian is president of the Parish Church "Pilgrims"). In conjunction with the new Vicar (the Rev.D.R.Greaves) Brian intends to devote some of the fund to equipment for the Club, for those over 15. It will be a Church Youth Club, but open to all young people, who are willing to join in the varied activities of the Club - to be called "The Twenteens". Table tennis, badmington, darts, films, and dancing will be available. A preliminary meeting is to be held in the Archer Hall Annexe today (Tuesday). Meetings will eventually be held in the main hall on Wednesdays. The next function that Brian Richardson is putting on is a Dance at the Archer Hall on the 17th February. Two bands have been booked.

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

1. DB.4691 - Let's Twist Again (Chubby Checker) (10).
2. DB.4761 - The Young Ones (Cliff Richard) (1).
3. F.11418 - Forget Me Not (Eden Kane) (-).
4. AME.1166 - Walk On By (Leroy van Dyke) (-).
5. HLP.9466 - Let There Be Drums (Sandy Nelson) (-).
6. F.11409 - I'll Never Find Another You (Billy Fury) (3).
7. F.11419 - D-Darling (Anthony Newley) (-).
8. RCA.1266 - Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen (Neil Sedaka) (-).
9. DB.4750 - Stranger On The Shore (Acker Bilk) (2).
10. 7NJ.2049 - Midnight In Moscow (Kenny Ball Jazzmen) (4).

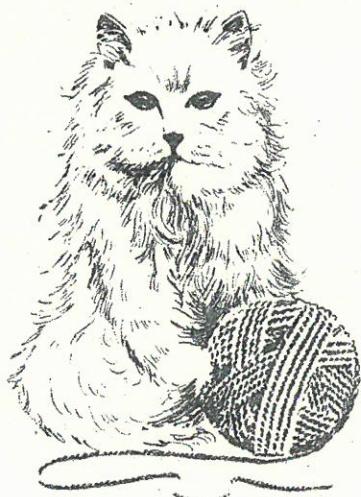
PERHAPS IT'S AS WELL ... At Monday's meeting of Billericay Young Liberals Peter Lusher of Shenfield showed them how to sell "A million tins of Sprezzo, an instant coffee". When they had finished dreaming they were the directors of Sprezzo, they counted their subscriptions - 12/6d. Perhaps it's as well they're not selling Sprezzo after all. Last Monday week only three members and a visitor heard Mr. Schofield give an interesting talk on "The Footpaths of Billericay". Page 6.

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"THE PLOUGH" AT TYE COMMON.

(There is no "Billericay In 1765" article this week, as owing to the removal of 1,000,000 documents at the Essex Records Office, it has not been possible to obtain the document on which the articles are based. Instead, I am going to answer a question from Mr. Prow of Tye Common Road, who asks about the history of the derelict Public House at the corner of Tye Common Road and Frithwood Lane, now being demolished).

The "Plough" (as the Public House was called) was erected sometime in the 1840's - in 1848 Edward Ager is mentioned in an Essex Directory as running the "Plough" Beerhouse at Tye Common. The building is a typical Early Victorian type. Tye Common actually existed at that time, and gave its name to the small hamlet of Great Burstead Parish, which was built around the Common. There would certainly have been some local demand for a "Beerhouse", but there could have been little through traffic, and the establishment was probably never a very profitable one.

According to the various Essex Directories, the landlords seemed to change once every few years! To state all their names would be monotonous, although these rapid changes further indicate that the "Plough" could never have been very profitable. However, by 1886 it had graduated from a "Beerhouse" to the status of a Public House.

The last landlord was Frederick Cowles. Sometime between 1926 and 1929, the licence was transferred to a new "Plough", which had been erected at Hutton, and still stands - the first landlord there was Arch. Wilson. I have been unable to definitely establish whether the licence was transferred because the "Plough" was losing money, and Hutton was growing, and a main road site would be profitable, or because the building itself was becoming dangerous, or a combination of both. - The Editor.

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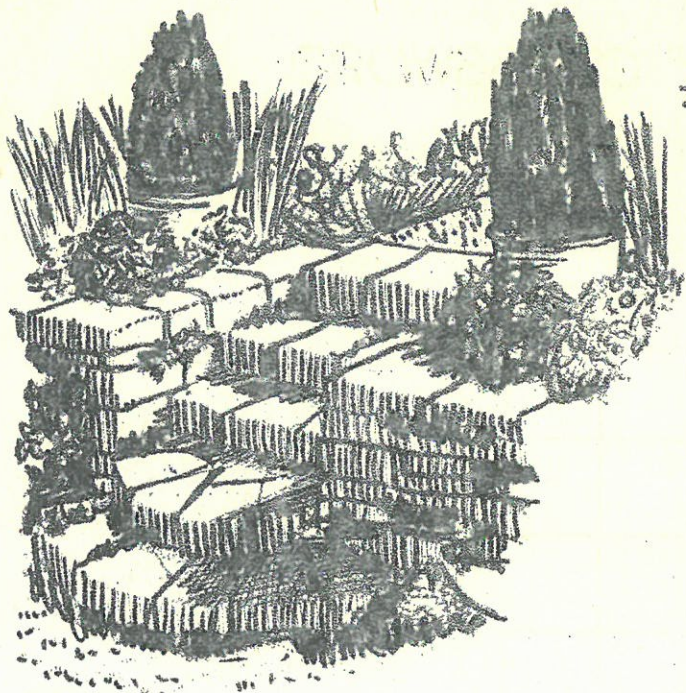
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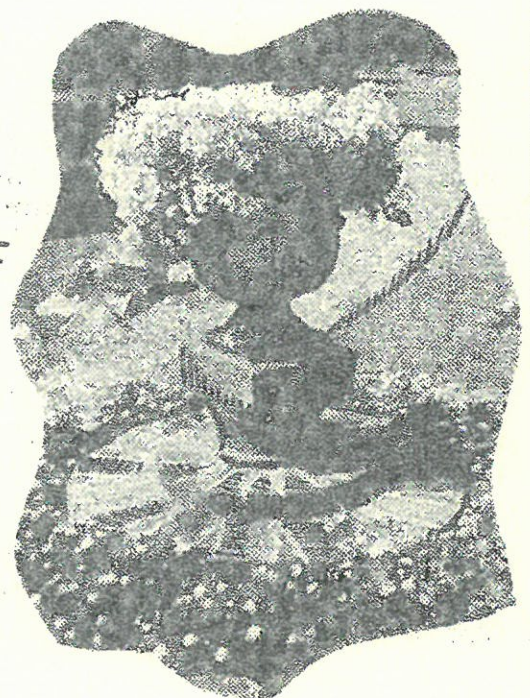
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NO.5

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

1		2		3	4		5	6
				7			8	
				9		10		
11					12			
				13				
14	15		16				17	
18					19	20		
		21			22			
23					24			

CLUES ACROSS.

1. A fruit (9).
7. Royal Academy (Abb.)
8. Abb. of Edward.
9. Triple (3).
11. Clever (4).
12. Boy's name (4).
13. The whole amount (3).
14. Conference with enemies (6).
17. Cambridge University (Abb.)
18. Public houses for lodging (4).
19. To mix up a liquid (4).
21. Anno Domini (Abb.)
22. Part of verb "to be" (2).
23. This fish can give a shock (3).
24. Cord placed round the waist (4).

CLUES DOWN.

1. A sharp animal (9).
2. Done by night (9).
3. Skilled work (3).
4. Partial incapacity to move (9)
5. "The" in French (Masc.) (2).
6. Capital of Scotland (9).
10. Not well (3).
13. Third class in Lloyds register (Abb.)
15. One (2).
16. Pounds, shillings, pence (Abb.)
17. Channel Islands (Abb.),
20. Russian equivalent to a brig (3).

Solution to No.4:- Down, 1.Turquoise, 2.Lobe, 3.Passport, 4. Octopus, 5.No, 6.Excellent 9.E.T.U., 11.Vi, 13.Pen, 16.Scot, 19.Oar, 20.C.I. Across, 1.Telephone, 7.Cox, 10.Stove, 12.Up, 14.Pupil, 15. O.E., 16.So, 17.In, 18.Cruspe, 20.Cot, 21.An, 22.Emit, 23.Kurt.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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6) Do your washing in the Launderette at Halls Corner, Wickford, after hunting for bargains in the market.

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17/11

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OFFICE 6/3
5/3

and many others besides

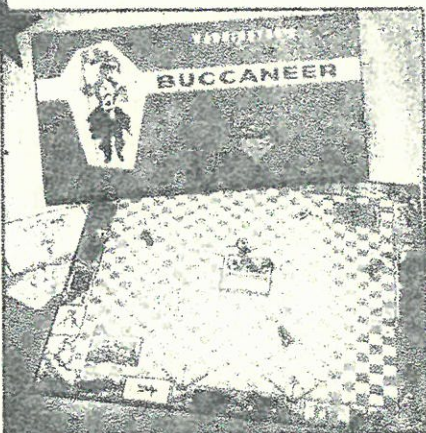
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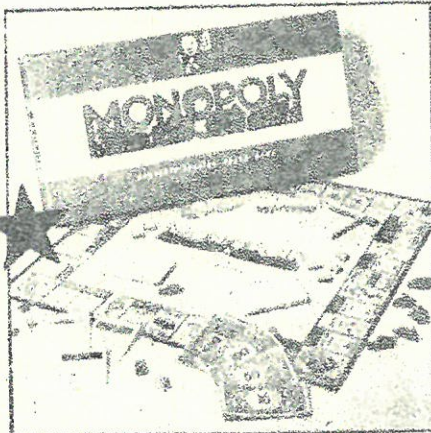
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NORSEY ROAD ACCIDENT.

Norsey Road was blocked for over two hours last Tuesday week, when just after 9 a.m., a lorry belonging to R. Neale of Dagenham Ltd., crashed into the side of a double-decker bus going from Ramsden to Chelmsford, narrowly missing the driver's cab. Nine people in the lorry were taken to nearby St. Andrew's Hospital, and three were detained. Some people in the bus suffered from minor bruises.

OLD PEOPLES' WELFARE COMMITTEE PLANS.

A great deal of business was attended to at a well-supported meeting of Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee on Wednesday.

It was announced that 103 parcels had been distributed under the Christmas Parcels Scheme.

In reply to a questionnaire to 30 pensioners to find out if laundry facilities were adequate, only one or two found a problem.

Emphasis was drawn to the various supplementary allowances pensioners could draw. Any pensioner finding difficulty in meeting prescription charges should contact Mrs. Barr (Bil. 522) as this problem was exciting concern at country-wide levels.

In reply to a letter from Basildon Council, it was decided to support the establishment of an Old Folks' "retreat" in Lake Meadows, and to back this up with the offer of a seat for the proposed "retreat".

Attention was drawn to the Essex Old Peoples' Welfare Committee's Handicraft Exhibition at the Archer Hall on May 10th. All pensioners could enter, and any interested were asked to contact Mrs. Barr.

Future plans included a party for 100 in February, and a days coach outing in the Summer. Priority is given to the housebound who are collected by car.

COMMON MARKET MEETING.

Billericay Rotary Club held a meeting on Britain's entry into the Common Market on Wednesday. Speaking against was Mr. Lyndon Jones of the City Press, and for Mr. Robert Sheaf LL.B. of the United Europe Association.

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

Basildon Council are to be congratulated on calling the Development meeting. It is a pity that they didn't call it before the plans were finally passed.

Certainly, from the meeting, it is obvious that many local Residents feel very strongly about the town's development. They will have another chance to ask questions at the Public Forum at the Secondary School on March 23rd - provided they give notice to the Clerk of the Council. I feel that the time is ripe for the Council to hold another Press Conference.

The flats may look very attractive on the model, but the model did not include their surroundings i.e. bungalow development in Cromwell Avenue and Stock Road.

Seeing the plan was of such great public interest, why did the Council not ask the developer if they publish outline details of the outline plan. The news of the proposed development was only revealed (in the "Billericay Observer" of August 29th, and subsequently in "The Mayflower") following an inquiry from a local resident.

At least a meeting with affected residents should have been held to explain the plan.

We were told at the meeting that one factory on the Industrial Estate employed 50 people, all from Billericay. How many of these people have moved into Billericay in the last six months? Why is there a miniature "rush hour" every evening from the Industrial Estate to the Station?

As I have said many times before the effect of Industrial development on the commuter problem is very small indeed. The only development that will make any noticeable difference is large-scale office development.

I know that Mr. Hillyard had already spoken several times during the evening. But I consider that as he first raised the matter, and had a great deal of vital evidence, he should have been allowed to have a further say - and this seemed to be the opinion of those in the audience as well.

---- "Wanderer".