

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

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Tuesday February 13th, 1962.

Number 105.



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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

FLATS PUBLIC INQUIRY — FULL REPORT

A Public Inquiry into the proposed erection of 70 single-bedroom flats in four or five storey blocks, and 47 garages, behind Chapel Street and Hillside Road, Billericay, lasted from 10.30 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. at the Old Council Chamber on Thursday, with only a short break for lunch.

The Apellant was Mr.V.A.Phillips of "Hawksley", Chapel Street, Billericay, and the Inspector was Mr.A.G.Harcourt A.R.I.C.S., M.T.P.I., Dip.T.P. It was stated at the beginning of the Inquiry that the site involved was 2.4 acres, and was next to a 16-flat development by Messrs.Crabbe in Chapel Street, which had already been approved. Permission had already been given to Mr.Phillips to build two houses on the Appeal site. The appeal was initially on account of the failure of Basildon Council to give a decision within the required two months, but had now become an appeal against the U.D.C. refusal for permission, after the appeal had been lodged.

For the Apellant, Mr.B.Edwards, Solicitor, pointed out that from 1945 to 1961 the approximate population of Billericay had grown from 6,000 to 18,000, and during that time development had been of semi-detached houses and bungalows, a low density development fashionable at the time. For the last six or seven years the U.D.C. had gradually become more appreciative of high density development, influenced much by the building up of the Basildon New Town. It was necessary to make the best use of the land available, and not to infringe on the Green Belt, and on land used for agricultural and rural purposes. It was also necessary to achieve a feeling of urban development in town centres, and that could not be achieved by semi-detached houses and bungalows. Regard also had to be given to changing social conditions, which did not favour the large house and large garden.

There were certain advantages from the type of compact development proposed - there was a big saving on the provision of all services and their maintenance. Most development now consisted of two/three bedroom houses, whereas in over half the households in the County there were no children, and 10 to 15% of dwellings had only one person. Billericay at present made practically no provision for the one-person household.

A scale model of the proposed development was produced, and it showed that the flats would be in a valley. The site, it was stated, was in close proximity to the town centre, and was in accordance with the publicly expressed views of the Minister of Housing & Local Government.

Continued On Page 2.

FLATS INQUIRY -
ARCHITECT'S EVIDENCE.

From Page 1.

Mr. Edwards stated that if Chapel Street was to become a main road, he accepted the difficulty of access, but alternative ways of access could be considered, as for example, by sharing access with the Crabbe site, or by access to the Chantry Estate.

He added that the development would be of the very highest quality, and the developer, a local resident, was most anxious to preserve all the surrounding amenities; the overlooking of Hillside Road being avoided by the siting of windows.

Mr. R. Park, Architect, gave similar and more detailed evidence for the Appellant. In reply to Mr. Hughes (Assistant Clerk to Basildon Council) he stated that in his view the value of surrounding properties would be increased, as on account of this high density development the value of surrounding land would increase. Old property could economically pulled down. He also considered that there were sufficient facilities in the High Street. He emphasised that the only difference between the Council and the Appellant was the question of access.

For the U.D.C., Mr. Hughes stated that the U.D.C. objection was based on the question of access to Chapel Street. This might become a relief road to the High Street, under a scheme for traffic to proceed from Laindon Road, along Sun Street, along part of Chapel Street, and behind the Ritz Cinema to join up with Stock Road or Norsey Road, or might become part of a one-way traffic scheme. In fact, their objection held good whichever scheme was adopted, as either scheme would involve widening parts of Chapel Street by about 50 feet.

For Billericay Residents' Association Mr. Power said that they raised objections on the grounds that the development was out of harmony with the district, that many of the existing services now strained would be further strained, that inadequate garage accommodation would make off-street parking impracticable, and the inadequacy of fire fighting provision.

Continued In Next Column.

FLATS INQUIRY.
From Column 1.

Mr. Power said that the Association had no official policy regarding Flats, and that the objections were not raised just because the development involved Flats. They were aware of the problems that had arisen from the rising birth rate, and the desire of more people to have a home of their own, but they were also aware of the problems that high-density development caused in the town, and they had to bear both sets of problems in mind. From what he had heard and seen at the Inquiry he had no alternative but to withdraw the objection of lack of harmony with the surrounding area, and the objection that the educational services would be further strained. But the other objections remained. He felt that with the type of person likely to occupy these flats, the garage accommodation would be inadequate.

In reply Mr. Edwards said that he could not deal with the question of pressure in services, but in addition to the garages there would be twenty-nine garage spaces. He stressed that the only difference between the appellant and the U.D.C. was the question of access.

One private resident (Mr. Hopkins) gave evidence. Mr. Reeve, (Basildon Council's Chief Planning Officer), Mr. Phillips (County Council Planning Office) and Mr. Taylor (Billericay C.P.R.E.) were present in an observatory capacity.

After the Inquiry the Inspector inspected the site. The result of the Inquiry will be published in the "Billericay Observer" in due course.

GATWICK ESTATE TO BE MADE GREEN
BELT.

Following correspondence with the Basildon and County Councils Mr. J. Ashley of Hillside Close, Billericay, has been informed by Basildon Council that a formal application has been made by the County Council to the Minister of Housing & Local Government for the inclusion of Gatwick Estate, Billericay in the Metropolitan Green Belt. Until such time as formal approval is received the Council will act as if it were Green Belt. The 150 acres (bounded by Jacksons Lane and Southend Road) was the subject of a Town Planning Appeal in 1959, and in his subsequent report the Inspector recommended that it be made a Green Belt area.

CARNIVAL LEGARTHY ATTACKED.

Although 89 letters had been sent out to local organisations and individuals informing them of Tuesday's meeting of Billericay Carnival Association, only 16 attended representing about 6 local organisations.

This lack of interest was attacked by the Vice-Chairman Mr. H. Withrington who said; "Things are taking shape, despite a lack of interest. With the number of people here there should not be a Carnival in Billericay this year. It is high time other organisations took an interest, not only in the Carnival, but in the town as well.

It seems to me it is just a few who are doing all the work - those who did it last year - and it doesn't seem fair on those people.

The Carnival at the moment is just ticking over, and as time goes on we will be inundated with work. At the moment it does not seem as if we are going to get the support, but I feel it is up to those present to spread the word around and try to encourage other people to come along and offer their services."

Concluded Mr. Withrington; "I don't think we should go along and twist their arms, and say they have got to come in - I think they should offer their services to us. I hope all organisations and individuals will pull together and make this event a success".

The meeting was told that two bands had been booked for the procession - the Harwich Marine and the Southend Scottish Pipe - and several entries had been received, including one from the Royal Marines. It was decided that as in previous years the procession would assemble in Hillary Mount, and proceed along Western Road and the High Street to the Fete field.

Reporting on the Fete, Mr. Dodd said that 14 organisations had agreed to run stalls, but still more were needed. Billericay Secondary School were to put on a dancing display in costume.

Organisation of the Carnival Queen contest was proceeding satisfactorily.

Proceeds this year are in aid of the High Street Recreation Rooms (used as an Old Peoples' Rest Room and by many local organisations) where money is needed for essential repair work and improvements.

FUTURE OF BILLERICAY NOT ROSY SAYS C.P.R.E. SECRETARY.

The future of Billericay is not as rosy as it should be, states Mr. W. Taylor, Secretary of Billericay Council for the Preservation of Rural England in his Annual Report to be presented to the forthcoming A.G.M.

Mr. Taylor reviews the work of the Group in the year (including membership of the High Street Consultative Panel, provision of a Bus Shelter at Perry Green, preservation of trees, and the signposting of footpaths) and refers to "callous indifference" by developers and others with regard to trees. "The tree

population is dwindling as that of people is increasing, and it is only by vigorous initiative in preservation and planting that we can hope to stem the rot".

Summing up Mr. Taylor says; "Although the numerical strength of the Group is greater now than at any time, it is clear that there are not nearly enough people engaged in the study, improvement, and preservation of their surroundings. The picture of the future of Billericay is less rosy than it should be, and what we have left will slowly but surely perish if we allow the various forces of disfigurement to go unchecked. A cosy coterie has no place in the world of amenity and planning today. It is our job to interest, enthuse, and concern the people of Billericay, and all members are urged to interest others in the work of the Group and if possible to recruit new members. The matter is urgent for all who are interested in the well-being of Billericay".

MOBILE LIBRARY NOW IN USE.

The County Library's new Mobile Library is now in use in the Basildon Urban District. On Tuesdays from 10.15 a.m. to 12 noon it will be at Grange Road, South Green, Billericay, and on Saturday mornings from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon it will stand at the Outwood Common Shopping Centre.

RAILWAYS AGREE TO PHONE BOOTH.

In reply to a letter from Billericay Residents' Assn. the Telephone Manager stated that he was unable to obtain the plans of Billericay Station from British Railways, so that a telephone booth could be provided in the Station waiting hall. The Residents wrote to the Railways, who have agreed to the booth.

EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

The article on "Billericay in 1765" on Page 8 is the last in the series of articles on Billericay in the 18th century. Work is proceeding at the Essex Records Office on the series of articles on "Tudor and Stuart Billericay", to start in the next issue of the "Billericay Observer". Apart from describing Billericay at this period (including some new material) the articles will later include excerpts from the Manor Court rolls and Quarter Session records.

---- The Editor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

Tuesday 13th February:- Town Planning Appeal from Mr. R. Searle of Lake Avenue, Billericay, re. Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a detached bungalow on land in Lake Avenue, Room 221, Council Offices, Town Square, Basildon, 10.30 a.m.

Thursday 15th February:- Town Planning Appeal from Harris Estates of Billericay, re. Council's refusal to grant planning permission for erection of three dwellings in Grange Road, Billericay, Room 221, Council Offices, Basildon, 10.30 a.m.

Thursday 22nd February:- Basildon Council Meeting, Timberlog Lane Secondary School, Basildon, 6.50 p.m.

Saturday 24th February:- Billericay Group, Council for the Preservation of Rural England, A.G.M., W.I. Hall, 3 p.m., including talk on "The Beginnings of Billericay" by Mr. K. Marshall B.A. (Curator of the Passmore Museum, West Ham).

Monday 26th February:- Billericay Residents' Association, A.G.M., 7.30 p.m., W.I. Hall.

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FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

On the 31st January there was an excellent attendance. Sick members were wished a speedy recovery to good health. It appeared that Mr & Mrs.H.Dawkins, Mrs.Collins, Mr & Mrs.Gill, Mrs.Porter, and Mr.Goodchild were all improving. Mrs.Harrison had broken her arm. Mrs.F.Smith and Mrs.Dyball were welcomed back after a long absence through illness. The Secretary gave out details of coming events. The afternoon's entertainment was by Mrs.Swaby with Ballads etc., accompanied by Mrs.Pierce.

On the 7th there was a better attendance than expected in view of the bad weather. Mrs.Candler, Mrs.F.Smith, Mr & Mrs.Gill, and Mr.Goodchild were all improving. Mrs.Dawkins now had influenza and Mrs.Collins had met with an accident. The Secretary then gave out details of the Theatre Outing to Chu-Chin-Chow. He had a full Coach, but he was going to find out if he could get a further Coach and tickets; if sufficient extra members wanted to go. The afternoon's entertainment was by the Crackerjacks Concert Party.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

At last Saturday week's meeting the Chairman and Secretary gave out various announcements. Members enjoyed a few games of Bingo, and there was a good Raffle.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club.

At last Friday week's meeting after tea, members enjoyed a few games of Bingo. A successful Raffle was held, and the meeting ended with some of the old songs, accompanied by Mrs.Brett at the Piano.

MEETING "TOO OPEN TO EMOTION AND SENSATIONALISM".

Speaking at the recent Committee Meeting of Billericay Residents' Assn. Mr.R.G.B.Cox, Chairman, expressed the view that the recent Public Meeting on the Development of Billericay had been "too open to emotion and sensationalism". A private meeting with the Council would achieve more. It was decided to seek a private meeting with the Council to investigate means of gaining closer liason between the Council and bona fide residents on matters of public interest. It was decided to ask Buttsbury Residents' Assn. to join in as well.

LEGISLATION ON EMPTY BUILDING SITES REQUIRED.

In the latest issue of their "Billericay Bulletin" Billericay C.P.R.E. state; "Your Group views with disappointment, the untidy and unfinished state of the hoarding round the "St.Edith's" site, despite Council promises. This unsatisfactory state of affairs only emphasises what the Group has before advocated i.e. that existing buildings should not be demolished until plans of the new erections have been agreed and the Developers are able to proceed at once with the new structures. Legislation for the achievement of this object should be sought and enforced".

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TEENAGERS' PAGE by W.P.G.

SHOULD BILLERICAY HAVE A COFFEE BAR? Master D. Edwards of Beams Way, Billericay has very definite views on this subject. He says; "Billericay definitely needs a Coffee Bar. There's nowhere to go after 6.30, only the Cinema, and there's not much variety there. If those who oppose the Coffee Bar were real teenagers they would be all for it".

What do you think? This series will run for only a few more issues - so send YOUR views in NOW!

NEW CLUB GETS OFF TO GOOD START - 35 teenagers turned up for the first meeting of Billericay's new Youth Club - the "Tweenteens" - at the Archer Hall Annexe on Tuesday. Equipment purchased by the Billericay Youth Club Fund (run by 21-year old Brian Richardson) for Table Tennis, Badminton, Darts, Miniature Billiards, and showing films was there on Tuesday. It was decided that for a probationary period of six months meetings would be held in the Annexe, then a proper Annual General Meeting would be held, and if sufficient support was forthcoming, the club would move into the main Hall. For the next six months the Club will be run by Brian Richardson and the Provisional Secretary, C. Wheatley of "Redbricks", Norsey Road.

On Saturday (the 17th) Brian Richardson is holding the latest of his series of Modern Dances at the Archer Hall, in aid of the Billericay Youth Club Fund. There will be dancing to two bands.

COUNCIL BACK YOUTH CLUB - Basildon Council are to provide more facilities for the young people of Outwood Common. At the recent meeting of their Further Education & Youth Sub-Committee it was explained that the Outwood Common Youth Club, which had a membership of over 120, met one night a week in the Sunnymede Primary School. By opening the Sunnymede Primary School as an annexe to the Billericay Youth Centre it would be possible to provide facilities on three or four evenings a week, and this would attract many other young people living in the same area, in addition to the present club members, and offer the opportunity for providing more facilities, equipment, and trained leadership. The Education Committee have decided to open the Primary School as an annexe to the Youth Centre for three nights, and to provide mainly recreational facilities.

YOUNG LIBERALS - On the 29th January the Secretary of Billericay Communist Party discussed Communism with Billericay Young Liberals. On the 27th one of the best socials yet was held.

J.C.P.R.E. - At the recent Annual General Meeting of Billericay Council for the Preservation of Rural England Mr. C.H. Latchford C.B.E. gave an interesting talk on Billericay, U.S.A. The Chairman, Mr. A. Jubb stated that several new members had been welcomed during the year. Mr. A. Jubb was elected Chairman, Mr. G. Hunt Secretary, and Mr. J. Roberts Assistant Secretary. The J.C.P.R.E. will be holding another Social at the Recreation Rooms on 3rd March at 7 p.m.

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. RCA.1270 - Rock-A-Hula-Baby (Elvis Presley) (-).
2. DB.4761 - The Young Ones (Cliff Richard) (2).
3. DB.4691 - Let's Twist Again (Chubby Checker) (1).
4. F.11418 - Forget Me Not (Edeh Kane) (3).
5. F.11422 - Pianissimo (Ken Dodd) (-).
6. AMT.1166 - Walk On By (Leroy van Dyke) (4).
7. F.11409 - I'd Never Find Another You (Billy Fury) (6).
8. F.11420 - Wimoweh (Karl Denver) (-).
9. R.4866 - Walk Away (Shane Fenton and the Fentons) (-).
10. WB.56 - Cryin' In The Rain (The Everly Brothers) (-).

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STOP PRESS NEWS.

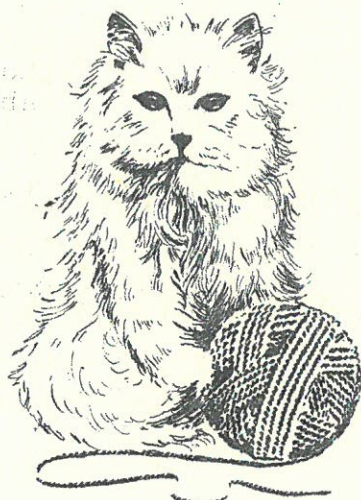
Billericay Toc H are sponsoring a public appeal to obtain funds for those stricken in the recent Saarbrücken Pit Disaster. The fund's administrative committee includes the Rev. Greaves. Donations should be sent to Toc H Billericay Saarbrücken Fund at Barclays Bank.

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BILLERICAY IN 1765.

In 1765 Billericay had fourteen Inns (or Public Houses) in the High Street area, and two in the country - an all-time record. In the town were the "Three Horseshoes", "Red Lyon", "Hare & Hounds", "White Lyon", "White Hart", "Swan", "Fox", "Bull", "Bull Kitchin", "Chequers", "George", "Kings Arms", "Kings Head", and the "Crown", while in the country were the "Bell" and the "White Horse".

The "Red Lyon" at this time was owned by Samuel Wall, and occupied by Abrm. Thresher, one of the last members of the great Thresher family of Billericay. The "Red Lyon" was one of the most prosperous Inns in the town, and a Tradesmans' Token issued by Abrm. Thresher (a halfpenny) showing a Fleur de Lys as his sign is still in existence.

The "Three Horseshoes" was in the Manor of Cowbridge, and occupied the present "Three Horseshoes House". It came into being sometime between 1738 and 1765, and continued trading until the present century. The old inn sign bracket still hangs from the front wall of the house.

Little is known of the "Hare & Hounds" mentioned in the 1765 rental, occupied by Weston Cokeham. It was probably on or near the site of the County Library.

The "White Lyon" was on the site of Shelley's, and was one of the more established and prosperous inns.

The "White Hart" is recorded as on the site of the present Barclays Bank. However, in another part of the rental, an entry is crossed out, and the "White Hart" inserted. This indicates that the move from the Barclays Bank site to the present one near the Post Office took place around this time.

Richard Wingford is still shown as the owner of the "Swan" (site of Stanleys the Butchers). He is first mentioned as owning this property in 1706, and it is probable that shortly after 1765 he died, and the Inn with him. The "Fox" was somewhere between Norsey Road and the "Bull". The "Fox" started at the High Street/Stock Road/Norsey Road junction in 1647, when it was the first local property to be acquired by the Thresher family, and ended its wanderings at the end of the 19th century as a Beerhouse on the site of the Co-op.

The "Bull" and "Bull Kitchin" were old established Inns around the site of "Speeds Cafe". The "Chequers" was opened on its present site between 1738 and 1765, the Owner/Occupier in 1765 being Sarah Peacock. The "George" was on the site of Howards, and the "Kings Arms" on Laylands. The "Kings Head" was adjacent to the "Kings Arms" in 1765, but beyond that nothing is known of its history.

The Crown Arch and Yard still exist today, and the "Crown" was one of Billericay's most prosperous Inns - the collecting point for the town's first postal service. The "Bell" was at the bottom of Bell Hill, and nothing is known of the "White Horse" in Coxes Farm Rd,

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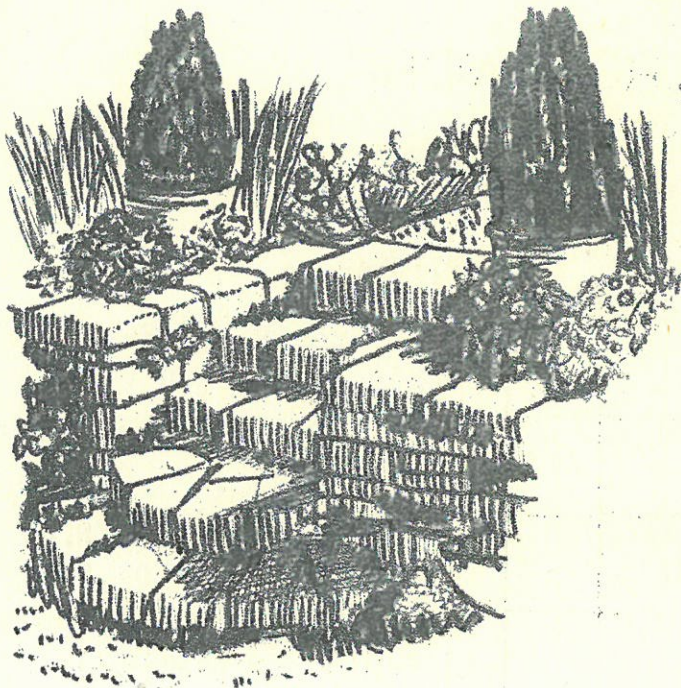
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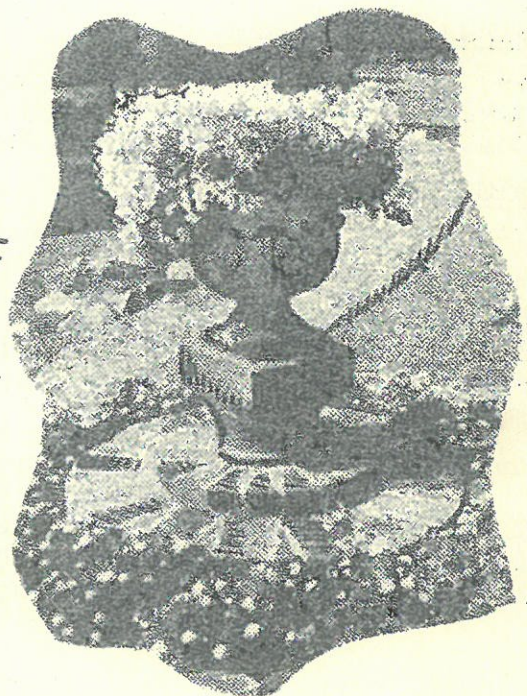
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"OBSERVER" CROSSWORD

(NO.6)

Compiled for the "Billericay Observer" by Barrie Hay (featured on B.B.C. television "All Your Own".)
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) Where the Magna Carta was signed (9).
- 6) Anno Domini (Abb.)
- 7) Small town just north of Leeds (6).
- 11) Town 300 miles N.N.E. of Accra in Ghana (6)
- 12) — Grant is a singer (2).
- 13) Period of time (3).
- 14) Schoolmasters (4).
- 17) Used for frying (3).
- 18) Two states in U.S. North and South — (6).
- 21) Victorian Officer (Abb.)
- 22) One who spies in foreign countries (5).
- 23) Prohibit (3).
- 24) A fallen meteor (9).

CLUES DOWN.

- 1) Large Dutch town near The Hague (9).
- 2) Horses race here (9).
- 3) Horses have these on their necks (Pl.) (5).
- 4) Editor (Abb.)
- 5) There is a famous lighthouse on this rock (9).
- 8) An essential part of a boat (3).
- 9) Territorial Army (Abb.)
- 10) Olympiad (Abb.)
12. Clothing worn round the neck (6).
- 15) Perhaps (2).
- 16) German name (4).
- 19) Length of life (3).
20. Single (3).
23. Prefix meaning "two" (2).

Solution to No.5:- Across, 1.Pineapple, 7.R.A., 8.Ed., 9.Tri, 11. Cute, 12.Alan, 13.All, 14.Parley, 17.C.A., 18.Inns, 19.Stir, 21.A.D., 22.Is, 23.Eel, 24.Sash, Down, 1.Porcupine, 2.Nocturnal, 3.Art, 4.Paralysis, 5.Le, 13.A.E., 15.An, 16.L.S.D., 17.C.I., 20.Tsa.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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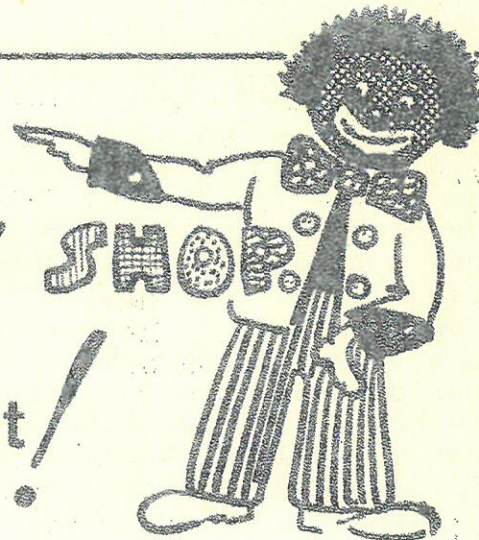
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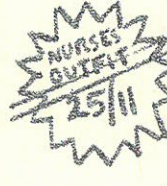
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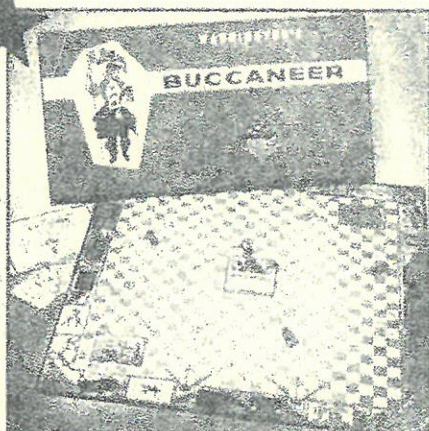
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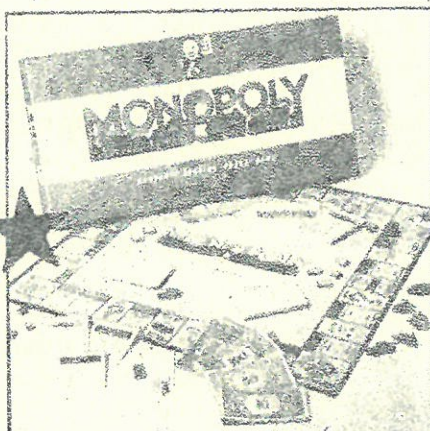
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir, --- Two weeks ago the W.V.S. started a Mother and Baby Club at the W.I.Hall on Friday afternoons. The club has proved to serve a need, and many mothers have attended the first meetings.

To enable us to have some time for a talk we need someone to look after our toddlers for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a hour. If any mother with grown up children would like to help, I would be very grateful -- J.A.Figg, 57, Upland Road, B'cay.

Dear Sir, --- We were distressed to hear the remarks made by Cllr.Dove at the Public Meeting on the 26th January. His attempts to stir up class distinction reflects on his capabilities as the leader of the local opposition party, and also on his National party. Antagonism towards a section of the community, who happen to wear white collars, is a relic of the 20's, and has no place in this day and age.

The position of the opposition, both in local and National government, is to offer an alternative to the party in power, and when elected to office to represent the community as a whole.

Basildon U.D. is a multifarious community and in this respect can be likened to the country as a whole; it can, therefore, be stated that in the normal sequence of events, the opposition at any given time will be the governing party at some future date. When this event has happened we would plead that the Socialist Party, locally and nationally, discontinue the idea that they represent only the blue collar worker, but present to all the electorate a policy which can be considered by voters on its merits, and not one based on the outmoded ideology of class hatred. J.N.Bay and J.Lomgdon, 220, Mountnessing Road, Billericay.

NORSEY WOOD.

In their latest "Billericay Bulletin" Billericay C.P.R.E. welcome Basildon Council's latest move to get Norsey Wood acquired as a Public Open Space. The Essex Naturalist Trust, of which the Group are members, are supporting the application, and it is hoped that the Wood will become a Reserve.

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ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

I am in full agreement with Mr.Taylor's sentiments on the future of Billericay. We are faced with several tall blocks of flats around the town, the final and complete disfigurement of the High Street, untidy building sites, and the loss of more trees. Hardly, a cheerful prospect!

At least there is one ray of light in the darkness i.e. that the Gatwick Estate is to become Green Belt. I welcome this decision, as this is some of the most beautiful countryside near the town, and is certainly worthy of preservation.

It is rather a pity that local organisations like the Residents' Association are not taking a more active interest in the Council's fight to get Norsey Wood purchased as an Open Space. Of course, there has been no controversy over this question, and as a result it has been rather pushed into the background. However, I do feel that the purchase of Norsey Woods is a matter of some importance to the future of the town, and I would like to see a little more interest taken by local organisations.

I do hope that now all the fuss has died down the Flats will not fade into oblivion. There are many questions still unanswered by the Council, and I hope that they make meet the Residents' Assn. privately to clear the matter up, issuing a Press Statement after the meeting. One of the main accusations against the Residents made by their opponents, and made in the columns of another local newspaper, is that they were "tardy". This is hardly fair, since once they knew of the plans, they conducted a long exchange of letters with the Council. They decided to take no further action, until the meeting supposed to have been promised (and there appear to be a number of witnesses) by the Council was held. And then they found the plans were passed!

I feel that the lack of interest shown in Billericay Carnival is deplorable. If Billericay is to have a good Carnival, there must be people to help "The Few" that do all the work at the moment.

No response has been made to my request in this column for a Council Press Conference. I trust they will consider it in due course ---- "Wanderer". Page 12.