

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday March 13th, 1962.

Number 107.



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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

COUNCIL RATES SHOCK

The overall Rate for the Basildon Urban District in the 1962/3 financial year will be 23/10d - an increase of 2/2d on the present Rate. This Rate consists of a County Rate of 16/10d (up 1/6d) and an Urban District rate of just over 7/- (an increase of 8d). This was decided at a special meeting of Basildon Council held at the Council Chamber, Billericay, on Wednesday.

Introducing the rate Cllr. Pembroke, Chairman of the Council's Finance Committee said; "Once again it is necessary to make it very clear to the ratepayers that we act as collectors for the County Council, and as such will next year pay to them 70% of the rate yield in this District. This year has been in many ways like those which have gone before. For eleven months or so Councillors and ratepayers and various associations clamour for more and better services, and in the remaining month, we members of committee look ruefully at our pieces of cloth from which we must cut the promised coats. Ours is a district of abnormal development and growth, and it follows that our finances show the same signs of expansion. In the next year we will spend five times as much as we did in 1957/58. In addition we are in no way isolated from the national increases in wages, goods, and services, and particularly in borrowing money. Our rate fund expenditure will be £572,000, just over 10% higher than last year.

Cllr. Pembroke outlined the various projects to be undertaken in the year - the commencement of the Gloucester Park scheme (Basildon), the provision of a covered Swimming Pool for Basildon, and the purchase of land for the new Town Hall in Basildon. In addition more money was being spent on Sewage, Private Street Works, Parks, and Administration.

Concluded Cllr. Pembroke; "Our capacity to receive a rate deficiency grant reduces as our rate resources rise, and is less in the coming year by a 4½d rate. Last year we were able to take nearly 1/1d in the £ or £51,000 from accumulated balances. This year we can only take £24,753 or a 5½d rate. In short, whilst our income for the time being keeps pace with our expenditure, our reserves are less. Year after year budget speeches prophecy higher costs and higher rates, and the outlook doesn't change. A better standard of life means higher taxation of one kind or another. But this year another cloud appears, that of the effect of revaluation which comes into being in April, 1963. What will be the outcome - who will be worse hit and who will benefit - I don't know, and I have no intention of guessing. I end with the time honoured recipe for the future, that is, if we have to spend let us spend wisely.

Continued on Page 2.

Page 1.

COUNCIL RATES SHOCK.

From Page 1.

Cllr. Dove, Leader of the Opposition, said that he appreciated the Council had a very hard job in keeping the rates down, but in some cases they had been "penny pinching". He was supported by Cllr. Morgan, who also accused the Council of "penny pinching", and became involved in an exchange with the Chairman, Mrs. C. J. Gadson J.P., as to whether his statements were misleading.

Warned Billericay's Ind. R.A. Councillor, Mr. H. E. Wilkins; "In view of the abnormal growth of the district, very careful consideration must be given to the Treasurer's warning earlier on regarding the increases in loan charges. We are practically living on hire purchase".

Cllr. Mrs. Rice (Lab.) objected to references by Councillors "to the other side". She said; "The rate has got nothing to do with party politics. When are we going to stop this?".

Replied Cllr. Mrs. Gadson; "There always has been an "other side" - red or blue - since 1934, and there always will be. Although we deplore the rate increase, we feel that we have done a good job".

The rate was approved by 15 votes to nil, the Labour Group abstaining.

COUNCIL'S PUBLIC FORUM.

Basildon Council's Public Forum for Billericay takes place at Billericay Secondary School on Friday 23rd March. A number of written questions have already been received by the Clerk of the Council, and ample opportunity will be given for Councillors to answer questions put during the evening. The Council hope that local residents will take this opportunity of raising matters of local and general interest to the Billericay area. Afterwards the public will have a chance to meet members of the Council. The meeting is open to all residents.

A full report will be published in the "Billericay Observer" of March 27th - the first local paper out after the Forum.

FIRE STATION OPEN TO PUBLIC.

Billericay Fire Station (at the London Road end of Western Road) will be open to the public on Saturday March 31st.

PLANNING APPLICATION IS AMENDED.

Following last week's news in the "Billericay Observer" might not be erected after all, owing to prohibitive cost, the Lyon Group have submitted a further revised application to Basildon Council for two and four-storey flats in place of the proposed seven-storey block. The sub-soil is mainly sand, and it is understood that whilst the cost of a seven-storey block would be prohibitive, the foundations for a four-storey block would cost a relatively small amount.

I understand that the Council have also received an application for the erection of a four-storey office block on the site of St. Edith's (now demolished) in the High Street. The Council have also withdrawn their planning permission for the erection of a Water Tower in Norsey Woods (given last Spring), the subject of a meeting between the Council and local residents. No reason has been given.

VANDALISM WORRIES COUNCIL.

Basildon Council are deeply concerned at the cost of vandalism in their parks and recreation grounds, which last year amounted to £477, and by the end of February this year, with four weeks of the present financial year remaining, expenditure of £711 has been incurred on repairs to damage caused as a result of vandalism. The Council are endeavouring to provide satisfactory facilities in their parks and are disheartened when their efforts are spoilt by petty damage.

The Parks Committee wish to make it known that it is their intention to prosecute any persons found causing damage, and they urgently invite ratepayers to assist in the prevention of the wilful destruction of amenities provided at public expense. Anyone seeing damage being done is asked to report it immediately to the Police or the Park Attendant.

OUTWOOD COMMON SOCIAL PLANS.

Among the future plans of Outwood Common's active Community & Residents' Association are an outing to see Charlie Drake, and a Grand Easter Dance at the South Green Memorial Hall on April 14th, with dancing to the Don Fortesque band. Other events are planned.

30 RESIDENTS BRAVED SUB-ARTIC CONDITIONS.

Residents' A.G.M. - Full Report.

About 30 people braved the sub-artic conditions last Monday week to attend the Annual General Meeting of Billericay Residents' Association at the W.I.Hall.

The meeting was opened by the retiring Chairman, Mr.R.G.B.Cox. He said that 1962 had been yet another full and active year for the Residents' Association. He had to clear up one misunderstanding - that the Residents' Assn. was responsible for the behaviour at the Council's Public Meeting at the Archer Hall. This was ridiculous. Since most of the people in the area voted for the Conservative candidate at General Elections, the Conservative Party might just as well be held responsible. There was no need for the Association to be in conflict with any Political Party, but the Association firmly believed in the removal of party politics from local government. It was wrong to say that the Residents were another Political Party, as Residents Councillors voted on a particular item's merits. That it worked in practice was proved by Hornchurch Council, which now had 11 R.A. Councillors, one of whom was Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Regarding development Mr.Cox pointed out that the 1971 estimated population had already been passed. The Association were not dragging their feet - they recognised the need for well-planned development - but they thought there should be a period of consolidation to catch up with amenities. They hoped for mutual co-operation and respect with the Council, and one idea was that a joint Architectural and Planning Committee be set up.

Mr.Casson, Secretary, said that the Association had not been letting the grass grow under their feet during the year. They had continued to pursue travel conditions on the railways, and attention was also being given to the new timetable scheduled for 1963. A railway magazine had stated that British Railways proposed to withdraw a number of trains on the Southend line. It was hoped to hold a membership drive when the weather improved.

Continued In Next Column.

RESIDENTS' ASSN. A.G.M.

From Column 1.

Cllr.Wilkins (R.A.) said that a Councillor had to attend as many Committees of Council to which he did not belong as much as possible to get a wide view of Council work. Party politics played a large part in the Council.

The district was growing rapidly, and the Council's debt was mounting rapidly as well. Care had to be taken to see that not too much was borrowed.

Continued Cllr.Wilkins; "This part of S.E.Essex has taken in more people than any other part of the Home Counties. The population of Billericay is 19,000, the 1971 estimate was 16,500, so the town is 12 to 15% above the 1971 figures, ten years before. There is a definite need for a period of consolidation. I think that Flats are the order of the day, but they should be properly designed, and not erected willy-nilly on any old plot. The Planning Department must keep a careful eye on the expansion of the area".

The Treasurer's Report, which was presented by Mr.Hopkins, was adopted.

It was decided to hold informal meetings for members at least four times a year, to enable them to get to know each other, and of the Association's activities. A motion that subscriptions be collected on one date in the year was closely defeated, but it was referred to the next Committee meeting. The new rules were adopted.

Elected:- Vice-Presidents, Mr. V.Ireland, Mr.W.Taylor; Secretary, Mr.Wilby; Treasurer, Mr.Hopkins; Chairman, deferred; Committee, Messrs.Ashley, Drury, Bird, Lunt, Power, Hillyard, Clements, Weller, Foster, Cartledge, Scholes, and Mesdames Bird and Lunt.

WESTERN ROAD JUNCTION DANGER.

The danger to pedestrians crossing at the Western Road/London Road/Southend Road crossing was emphasised by Cllr.Tesoierere at Friday's Road Safety Committee. He said that there were 600 to 700 people living in the area, but short of a subway he couldn't see what could be done. He did not think a Zebra Crossing was the answer.

It was agreed to look into the matter.

EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-
"Billericay Observer",
143, Perry Street,
Billericay,
Essex.

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

IMPORTANT.

It is anticipated that the April intermin balance sheet for the "Billericay Observer" will show heavy losses. The price has not been increased since the paper began, and costs continue to rise, and Purchase Tax on duplicating materials remains high. I have therefore decided to increase the price of the "Billericay Observer" from 1½d to 2d, to take effect from the first issue after April 1st, 1962 i.e. that of April 10th, 1962. Despite the increase, the paper will continue to be non-profit making.

Those who have paid in advance beyond April 10th will receive their paper at the old rates, until their subscription runs out. April 10th is also the day for payment in advance for the Personal Delivery Service, and in future readers will pay 1/- for 6 issues, instead of 6d for 4 issues. This will also further reduce the time factor involved.

The Postal Subscription for one issue will be increased from 4½d to 5d. The annual postal subscription will remain at 10/-, and all postal subscribers are asked to pay their subscriptions annually, if possible.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking readers for their continued support.

Several entries for the Billericay Reference Book have been received, others are promised, and the response is most encouraging. All local organisations who have not received a letter should get in touch with me as soon as possible. It has been decided that the date of publication will be May 29th; the Reference Book will include a guide to local organisations and Churches, a short history of Billericay, and handy general information, price 6d.

----- The Editor.

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PUBLIC MEETING:- Rita Smythe,
prosp. Labour candidate; Laurie
Pavitt M.P. will speak on
"Towards Disarmament". Chairman;
Rev. B.E. Bennett. Co-op Hall, 8
p.m., Wednesday 14th March.

FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P. Club.

There was rather a small attendance on 28th February owing to the cold weather. In the absence of both Chairman and Vice-Chairman Mr. Spencer officiated, for which he was thanked by the Secretary. One minute's silence was observed for Mr. Emery (who was 90), and Mrs. Hall, Treasurer of the South Green Branch, who did good work for Billericay, before leaving to join South Green. The following sick members were wished a speedy recovery to good health:- Mr & Mrs. Gill, Mr & Mrs. Dawkins, Mr & Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Train, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Spencer, Mr. Joseph, and Mrs. Harrison. Two new members - Mrs. Eaton and Mrs. T. Halls - were welcomed. Mrs. Simpson entertained with Recitations and Monologues. In between members helped with the entertainment - Mr. Riches, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Wiltshire, and Mr. Plumridge, also Mrs. Plumridge and Mrs. Cayser, Mrs. Lewis being at the Piano.

On the 7th March 81 were present. It appeared that Mr & Mrs. Shiner, Mr & Mrs. Gill, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Train, Mr. Goodchild, and Mrs. Harrison were all improving. Mr. Arney, Mrs. Pierce, Mr & Mrs. Dawkins Mr & Mrs. Newell, Mrs. E. Speller, and Mrs. N. Horne were welcomed back after absence through illness. It was decided to visit Clacton, Eastbourne, Felixstowe, and Margate during the year. The Secretary reminded members about a Handicrafts Exhibition at the Archer Hall on May 10th.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

On the 3rd March 46 members and friends attended a Social at Buttsbury School. Entertainment was by Mrs. A. Simpson, Mrs. Johnny Johnson, Mrs. Lamb, and Mr. Percy Williams (also the compere). At the piano were Mrs. Barr, Mrs. Hawes, and Mrs. Titmarsh. Games and refreshments were enjoyed. A letter was read from Mr. Bond (Secy.) asking to be excused from attending as Mrs. Bond had returned to Hospital. He gave details of the arrangements for the visit to the Whitehall Theatre and the Gondoliers. The meeting wished Mrs. Bond a quick recovery, and votes of thanks to the artists were recorded.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club.

A grand evening was had on the 9th February. A cake made by Mrs. Mortlake for Mrs. Brett's (Chairman) birthday was cut and enjoyed by all. The usual raffle was held, and a game of Bingo and some Old Time Songs were enjoyed. Members were sorry to learn that Mr. Andrews was very ill, and he was wished a speedy recovery. Next week Mrs. Morrison is giving a Film Show. New members welcome.

South Green Thursday Club:- In the report in the last issue of South Green Thursday Club we stated that Mrs. Brook was in Hospital. This should have read Mr. Brook. Error regretted.

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STOP PRESS NEWS.

TEENAGERS' PAGE by W.P.G.

SHOULD BILLERICAY HAVE A COFFEE BAR? For the last few months the question of whether Billericay should have a Coffee Bar has been discussed in the "Billericay Observer". This series has shown that there is a sharp division of opinion on this subject, and this week I am going to summarise the various views put forward.

The series was started in December by well-known "pop" singer Billy Fury. He said; "A Coffee Bar is an important social gathering place which keeps young people off street corners. It is a place they would enjoy and respect rather than destroy". Billy offered to send an autographed photo for local teenagers to be hung in a Coffee Bar, should one be opened.

Against a Coffee Bar was young Alan Jubb, Chairman of the Junior Section of the Billericay Council for the Preservation of Rural England. He said; "It would undoubtedly attract the undesirable element from outside the town". He emphasised that the town was not "dead" as often suggested - there were plenty of organisations for young people to join.

A different point of view was put by Billericay's Independent Councillor H.E. Wilkins. He suggested that a properly-run Community Centre with a Coffee Bar was the answer.

Teenager Andy Roberts said that there was a need for somewhere to go in the town, and a Coffee Bar might be the answer.

For was Mr. C.G. Prentice of Hounslow. He said that gangs often started because of the lack of a meeting place for teenagers. This was not possible at home, with "grown-ups" about.

Against was 15-year old Marilyn Stevenson of Lake Avenue. She said; "No self-respecting parent would want their children to spend their evenings in such a place, and no self-respecting teenager would either. Rather improve existing facilities". Also against was Barbara Whitelaw of Sunnymede - "It would give our town a bad reputation." She asked the Council to consider providing a Swimming Pool.

Lastly teenager D. Edwards said; "There is nowhere to go in the evenings. If those were against were real teenagers they would be all for it".

Certainly a cross-section of views! Many have drawn attention to the number of clubs for young people in the town. These do a great deal of good work, but I think the point is that a Coffee Bar would be an ever-open, informal meeting place. I can't really agree that it would attract black-jacketed hooligans, who are supposed to exist in Chelmsford, Basildon, and Brentwood, but not in Billericay. These towns all have their own Coffee Bars. The only valid argument, in my opinion, against a Coffee Bar, is the appearance of the High Street. However, the Coffee Bar could easily be constructed in Chapel Street, and could be designed to fit in with its surroundings. - The End.

JIVE DANCE - Outwood Common Residents & Community Association are holding what they hope will be the first of many Jive Dances for teenagers at South Green Memorial Hall on March 24th. If the first one is not a success, however, they do not intend to hold any more. Dancing is to "The George Mann Group", and transport is being provided to and from the Outwood Common Shopping Centre. Tickets 2/6d from Mr. Sexton, 11, Monoux Close, Billericay.

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

1. RCA 1270 - Can't Help Falling In Love (Elvis Presley) (-).
2. DB 4761 - The Young Ones (Cliff Richard) (2).
3. R.4869 - Hole In The Ground (Bernard Cribbins) (-).
4. 7NJ.2051 - March of the Siamese Children (Kenny Ball) (8).
5. F.11420 - Wimoweh (Karl Denver) (3).
6. DB.4691 - Let's Twist Again (Chubby Checker) (6).
7. DB.4790 - Wonderful Land (The Shadows) (-).
8. HLX.9515 - Hey Little Girl (Del Shannon) (-).
9. DB.4750 - Stranger On The Shore (Acker Bilk) (7).
10. DB.4782 - Tell Me What He Said (Helen Shapiro) (-).

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"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST" by the Editor.

Tudor & Stuart Billericay.

I will use the 1611 Petre Rental as the basis for this series of articles, now in the Essex Records Office. On the west side of the High Street, three Inns are mentioned. The first is the "Lyon" - jointly held by a Mathew Fletcher and a Thomas Monson - which stood on the site of the present "Red Lyon". A fragment of the present building dates back to well before 1611. At this time the "Lyon" was the most important Inn in the town, and probably included the modern "Nix" chemists. The next Inn mentioned going down the street is the "Anchor", also partly held by two people - Henry Stephens and John Paperel. With the information I have I cannot pinpoint the site of this Inn, but it was possibly nearly opposite the Church. The third Inn mentioned is the "Swan", which existed on the site of Greens Stores until around 1800. The holder of the property is given just as "Lofield", the christian name being left out. "Lofield" also owned a tenement in Newe Strete (Western Road) - To be continued.

Outwood Common:- This week's question comes from Mrs.R.Maydon of Outwood Common who asks; "I'd be interested to know more about the history of Outwood Common. There is no visible evidence of common land - indeed there are many well-established rows of hedges. Mr.Speller - the thatcher - once told me that Norsey Wood did not come down to the Outwood Common Road, and that as a boy he saw crops of shoulder-high corn growing there".

"Outwode Common" is shown on the first map of Billericay drawn by Ralph Aggas in 1593. It then extended from the lower end of Norsey Wood almost to the junction of Outwood Common Road and Outwood Farm Road, Outwood Common Road running through the middle. Its shape was somewhat irregular, it being about half-a-mile wide at the narrowest point. Over the years large parts of it were enclosed, and by the middle of the 19th century it consisted of a small rectangle of land on either side of where the railway line now runs. When the railway was constructed in the late 1880's this was split into two. The Ordnance Survey of 1922 shows Outwood Common as a very small triangle of land between Outwood Farm Road and the railway. Sometime in the 1920's it must have disappeared completely. The small hamlet of houses at the lower end of the Common was always called Outwood Common and this was the name given by Walthamstow Borough Council to their new housing estate, now being constructed not very far from the original Common. The common has disappeared for ever, but the name lives on. As for Norsey Woods, in 1593, they did not come right down to the Outwood Common Road, and even in 1922 a small gap is shown. It is quite possible that this land was once cultivated.

Editor's Note:- I will do my best to answer any queries on local history forwarded to me.

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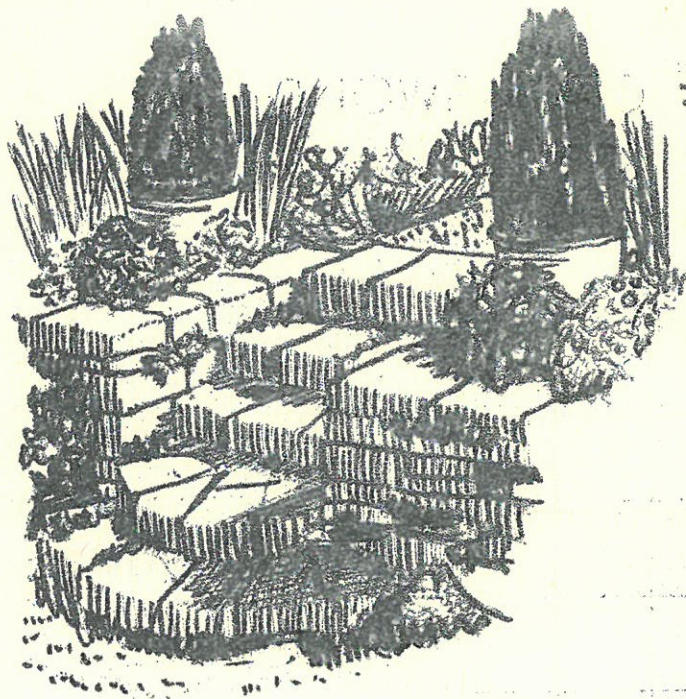
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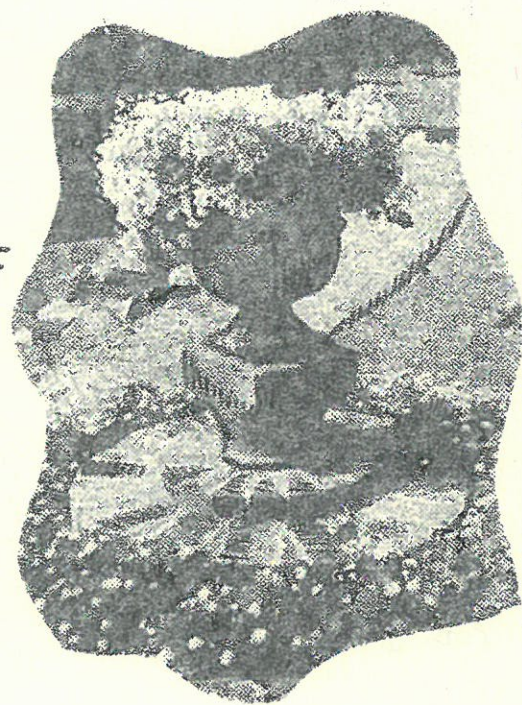
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(NO.8).

Compiled by Barrie Hay. Solution in next "Billericay Observer".

1		2	3	4		5	6	7
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15						16		
		17		18				
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		23	24		25			
26								

CLUES ACROSS.

- 1) British Colony in South Spain. (9).
- 8) A Swiss River (3).
- 9) Ear (Anogram) (3).
- 10) Insect in the stage between egg and pupa (5).
- 11) A smart blow (3).
- 12) A piece of American money (4).
- 14) Southern Railway (Abb.)
- 15) Before (3).
- 16) Sinuous line of two opposite curves (4).
- 17) Send to sleep (4).
- 19) General Post Office (Abb.)
- 20) Town in French West Africa (5).
- 23) Negative (2).
- 25) Used for cooking food (4).
- 26) Small country encircled by S.Africa (9).

CLUES DOWN:- 1. Islands 1,000 miles west of Ecuador (9). 2. Port on the east coast of Spain (9). 3. To talk furiously (4). 4. Island off N.W.Ireland (4). 5. Used in making roads (3). 6. Rub out (5). 7. Rebuke (9). 13. A liquid with a burning taste (6). 18. Leg-bye (Abb.) 21. Girls' name (3). 22. Boys' name (shortened) (3). 24. "The Wizard of ___" is a film (2).

Solution to No.7:- Across:- 1.Accordian, 9.Sold, 10.Onto, 11.Snail, 13.Cruet, 15.Reimburse, 18.Urn, 19.Room, 22.N.B., 25.One, 26.Strut.
Down:- 1.Ass, 2.Concert, 3.Clarinets, 4.Odium, 5.Do, 6.Inn, 7½At, 8.Non-member, 12.L.E.B., 14.Turn, 16.Robot, 17.So, 15.Ruin, 21.Mat, 24. B.R.

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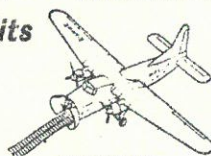
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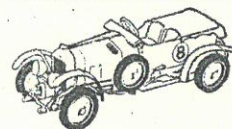
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RUGGER IN BILLERICAY.

Now nearing the end of their first season St.John's Rugby XV can look back on an enjoyable run of games. A blend of experienced players with other enthusiasts learning rapidly have won a large proportion of their matches, perhaps the most enjoyable being against London Hospital Extra "A".

Unfortunately, 'flu and the weather caused a gap without games around Christmas, but the Willowbrook Ground along Stock Road is in good condition, and the Clubhouse bar a useful asset to the social side of Rugger.

Continued In Next Column,

RUGGER (from last column).

Membership of the Club is not confined solely to Old Boys of St. Johns School. Anybody interested in playing or supporting Rugger should ring Bill Thorn, the Team Secretary at Billericay 1439 or the Secretary Stanley Ball at Billericay 379.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,--- It is often said by newcomers to Billericay that there is nothing doing here in the way of entertainment. I have been organising weekly Old Time Dances and periodical ones at the Archer Hall for the past twelve years. At the dance held last Saturday out of about eighty people present only thirteen came from Billericay and the Bursteds. This in spite of advertising. I appreciate that many people are not interested in Old Time Dancing but with all the influx to Billericay one would think a few more would attend. Billericay charities have a lot to thank outsiders for - N.W.Alston, "Silvertrees", Stock Road, Billericay.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,----- Perhaps you would be good enough to allow us through your columns to comment on the unjustified attack by one particular reporter from another paper on the Residents' Assn. following the recent Public Meeting called by the Council on Development. His description of the atmosphere at the meeting as "deplorable", "uncouth", "apalling" and disgusting was a thoroughly distorted picture of events. Certainly it was spirited in patches but not to the degree alleged.

Having given full vent to his imagination concerning the behaviour of Billericay residents, he then stated that the Association was irresponsible, that we were guilty of whatever conduct took place.

Let us make it quite clear that the Committee does not condone such practices, and those officials present behaved perfectly, and can in no way be held responsible for any acts which offended the reporter. As the meeting was called by the Council for residents it would be just as easy to say that it was the Council's residents who supposedly misbehaved and therefore the Council were responsible. Why not blame the C.P.R.E., Horticultural Society, or Young Liberals, all would be just as innocent (including the Council).

This Committee has always made a point of conducting itself maturely, particularly at Public Meetings, and members can rest assured that we will continue to do so. However, if inept and sidetracking answers are given to members of the public by Councillors, they must expect some form of reaction, but should this exceed the accepted limit care should be taken not to select one Association - even if it was actively interested - and smear it with the blame. J.E.Hillyard, Committee Member, Billericay Residents' Assn., Cromwell Avenue, Billericay.

OLD PEOPLES' WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Billericay O.P.W. Committee are to enter a float, as well as doing the catering, in this year's Carnival. This was decided at Wednesday's meeting. It was also stated that several anonymous donations had been received from pensioners recently.

ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER".

The area is expanding at a terrific rate - nobody denies this. Result - the Council have to spend more on amenities so that they can keep pace, and the same applies to the County Council. Result - higher rates and amenities which are always behind, despite the determined efforts of the Council and County Council. This is most felt in Education, also severe overcrowding on the trains.

I am in full agreement with the "period of consolidation" proposal. I am of the opinion that Billericay has done its fair share in meeting the country's housing needs - indeed it has done far more than it should have done. Nobody can deny that.

The "period of consolidation" - say four years - would mean that all facilities and amenities could be brought up to date. Only limited development would be allowed.

I can see nothing against this proposal. After all, the 1971 population estimate has been passed, and we are nearly halfway to the tentative 1981 population estimate - 24,000. The town and its services just cannot take any more strain, and the Council must face up to this.

I note that the Council have given residents 14 days' notice to the revised Radford Way Flats Scheme. If they can give 14 days' notice this time, why couldn't they when the original application was submitted? I know that they did give an extra fortnight, but nobody knew about this, and the Council failed to advertise or announce the extension, and it was therefore of little value. However, all has turned out fairly well after all - the Council are to give 14 days' notice of planning applications in future, and the Flats have been reduced to four stories.

The Council's Public Relations have improved of late. I wish I could say the same for their Press Relations. The Council have failed to explain why they have not yet held a further Press Conference - one is long overdue.

----- "Wanderer".