

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday March 27th, 1962.

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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

COUNCIL'S PUBLIC FORUM-FULL REPORT

Over 150 people attended the fifth of Basildon Council's Public Forums - for the Billericay area - at Billericay Secondary School last Friday. 36 written questions were answered - the largest number for any area in the district - and several oral questions were also answered.

The Forum was opened by Cllr. Mrs. C.J. Gadson J.P., who introduced the various Councillors and officials present. In a written statement given to the audience beforehand she said that the 1971 population estimate of 16,700 for Billericay had been reached two years ago. It was now proposed that there should be a further increase in population to about 24,000 by 1981. For the past few years an average of 350 private dwellings per year had been constructed, and it appeared that this rate of expansion would continue for at least the next few years. She also drew attention to the 428-house Walthamstow Borough Council Estate at Outwood Common. She also stated that in the last few years a very heavy programme of work had been undertaken by the Council particularly in regard to main drainage and the make-up of unmade roads, and outlined various schemes projected for the town.

The first question came from Mr. R.E. Field of Lake Avenue who asked why no supervision was provided at Lake Meadows, as it was frequented by louts, and used as a short cut, after closing time. He also asked if transistor radios could be banned in the Park.

In reply it was stated that there was never less than one man in the Park during the hours when it was open to the public, and often three. It was doubtful if the Secretary of State would permit a bye-law forbidding the use of transistor radios.

Mr. J.A. Greet of Knightbridge Walk enquired as to the location and progress of the proposed new Car Park in Lake Meadows, and when the additional playing field at the south-west corner would become available. In reply it was stated that negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily for the land required for an entrance to the park from the Industrial Estate, and for a car park adjoining the Industrial Estate. Additional car parking would also be permitted just inside the new entrance. If everything went smoothly it was anticipated that the new entrance and car park would be ready for use early in July of this year. As for the additional playing field no completion date could be given at present as so much depended on weather conditions.

Continued on Page 2.

Page 1.

COUNCIL'S POLICY ON OUTWOOD COMMON.
Public Forum - From Page 1.

Mr.K.Miles, Secretary of the Outwood Common Community & Residents' Association asked if the Council had any plans for the re-surfacing and lighting of Outwood Common Road between the Southend Road and Coxes Farm Road, as it was extensively used by Outwood Common residents, and carried considerable traffic, both mechanical and pedestrian.

In reply Cllr.Mrs.C.J.Gadson J.P., Chairman of the Works Committee, said that the Council had no plans in hand for any work of this type. The Council considered that their efforts should be directed to improving communications between the Outwood Common area and the town centre of Billericay, and to this end they had already carried out a number of improvements, for example the make-up of Hillside Road, the improvement of Jacksons Lane, and improved street lighting both in Jacksons Lane and on the Sunnymede Estate. Provision had been made in the Council's estimates for the coming financial year for further improvement works to Jacksons Lane.

Mrs.M.Brooks of Norsey Road drew attention to the hazards caused to pupils attending the Billericay Primary School, and mothers attending the Clinic by the inadequate footpath between Sun Corner and the School, which was reduced by doorsteps to two feet in places.

In reply Cllr.Mrs.C.J.Gadson J.P., Chairman of Works, said that the proper solution to this was a major highway improvement scheme, involving the demolition of some properties. Such a scheme appeared to be quite a long way off.

A possible interim solution to the particularly narrow section of footpath between the northern entrance to the Archer Hall and the Sun crossroads might be the construction of an independent footpath from the pedestrian crossing in London Road, across land already owned by the County Council at the rear of the cottages emerging into Laindon Road at the Archer Memorial Hall. This possibility was being examined.

Mr.Blair, Secretary of Buttsbury Residents' Assn. was told that the midwifery establishment in the area was being increased by three in the coming year. Special blocks of flats for midwives and nurses were planned for 1963/4/5.

Continued In Next Column,

COUNCIL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF
BILLERICAY.
Public Forum - From Column 1.

Mr.W.Blair, Secretary of the Buttsbury Residents' Assn. then drew attention to the fact that in the past few years the town had expanded beyond all expectations. The Town Map estimate for 1971 was 16,500, but this figure was exceeded in 1961, and the population was now 19,000. The public services had not expanded at the same rate and everybody knew from bitter experience how inadequate they were. Electricity power cuts were all too frequent, and the water shortage was acute. During the peak hours the train services to and from London were so overcrowded that thousands of people had to stand every day. Bus and rail connections were poorly organised.

Road traffic through the town was increasing daily. Relief road schemes were talked about for too long, and nothing appeared to be done. Public open spaces were so short as to be below the level accepted in other towns.

Asked Mr.Blair; "What is the point of Planners presenting plans if by 1971 the present population may increase, at the present rate to 30,000 persons. It makes a mockery of planning, unless some serious regard is had by the Planning Committees to the planners estimated population figures. In view of all this, will the Chairman explain why it is necessary to force a policy of increased town expansion upon the ratepayers. Does the Chairman support the view that the Green Belt should be extended and protected on the eastern and southern sides of Billericay.

In reply Cllr.Quirk Chairman of Development & Planning said; "Can the experience of a resident really be described as 'bitter', due to the inadequacy of public services? Are bus and rail connections poorly organised, or is it that it is quite impracticable to time the running of buses and trains so that they are co-ordinated. It may seem that schemes to relieve the traffic take a long time, but these are complex problems, and the right answer a little later, is surely better than an inadequate solution reached a little earlier. Public open space in the Billericay area is up to standard".

Continued on Page 3. Page 2.

DEVELOPMENT OF BILLERICAY.
Public Forum - From Page 2.

Continued Cllr. Quirk; "The expansion of Billericay was provided for in the County Development Plan. On this plan certain areas were shown for development, and these areas have been rigidly adhered to. The increase in population has come about because the areas have accommodated more population than expected, and they have been built up sooner than anticipated. There are no plans of which I am aware to increase the population of Billericay to 30,000 persons. As a preliminary to the preparation of the new plan the County Council have put forward proposals that the population of the Billericay Town Map area should increase to 24,000 by 1981. The Council have accepted these proposals as being reasonable subject to a number of important conditions. They have told the County Council in their view it is vitally important that any increase in the population of Billericay should be accompanied by chances for employment without travelling to town. They have also told the County Council that they do not wish to be committed to high density development in the areas to be expanded. The County Council are known to be sympathetic with the Council's views and meetings with Government departments have been taking place to ensure that offices and industry are de-centralised from London. They are also considering whether in the Development Plan, the development of additional areas should be deferred as a matter of policy until either there is local employment or a very substantial increase in the capacity of the railway services during the peak hour, in order to justify further development. It will be seen, therefore, that there is no question of uncontrolled town expansion being made possible when the new Town Map is approved. The Council certainly support the view that the Green Belt should be protected and extended, and indeed a scheme has been submitted to the Minister. In addition we learn that in 1963 a new train timetable providing a faster and more comfortable service, owing to the Clacton electrification, will be brought into operation. Platforms are also to be extended in 1964 to provide room for twelve instead of eight coach trains.

Continued In Next Column.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE STATISTICS GIVEN
Public Forum - from Column 1.

In reply to a question from Mr. D.A. Wilby, Hon. Secretary of the Billericay Residents' Association the following figures regarding Billericay Industrial Estate were given:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Factories proposed | 35 |
| Factories completed | 26 |
| Factories occupied | 21 |
| Number of employees | 517 |
| Number resident in Billericay | 177 |
| Elsewhere in Urban District | 150 |
| Outside Urban District | 190 |

It was also stated that there were a further four acres of land available for industrial development.

Mr. R.E. Field of Lake Avenue asked whether work at Billericay Station could be completed by the Transport Commission, as a result of persuasion from the Council. He particularly referred to the enclosing of the staircase to the London trains, and fencing along the approach road.

In reply it was stated that the B.T.C. had experienced contract difficulties, and were only too anxious to complete the work. As regards fencing this was affected by a scheme to close the Stock Road junction to traffic, and use the approach road for car parking.

Mr. W.J. Blair of Buttsbury Residents' Assn. stated that Billericay Ward was under represented on the Council, and should have an extra Councillor. He asked why the electorate should have to wait until December before the matter is raised again. In reply it was stated that it would be better to review the matter as a whole when the 1963 electorate figures were made available.

Mr. A.M. Watkins of the "Essex Weekly News" asked; "In view of the rising population of the town and the fact that there will be rapid expansion in the next few years, are the Council and the County Council considering setting up a full-time Brigade in the town."

In reply Cllr. Phelps said; "In so far as the fire service is concerned I can say that the Council have agreed to sell an allotment site in Laindon Road for a permanent Fire Station. I don't know when this building will be provided, or whether a full-time Brigade will be established."

More items in other parts of the paper.

EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

Readers are reminded that as from the next issue (April 10th) the "Billericay Observer" will cost 2d instead of 1½d. Readers using the Personal Delivery Service will pay 1/- in advance for six issues, instead of 6d for four. The annual postal subscription will remain at 10/-. A few minor improvements will be introduced with the next issue.

The "Billericay Observer" is now on sale at Bairds, Jacksons Lane; Sunnymede. This means that there are now seven local shops selling the "Observer". The others are: Queens Park Stores and Shuttleworth Stores in Perry Street, Howards and Marshalls in the High Street, Weedons at South Green, and Newmans at Outwood Common. The paper can also be purchased from the Editor outside Billericay Station on the Friday evening following publication. Attention is being given to the sale of the paper in the Tye Common area.

Entries continue to come in for the Billericay Reference Book; nearly twenty replies have been received. Any organisation which has not received details should get in touch with me as soon as possible. Over 100 copies have been ordered, and a large amount of advertising space has been booked. Publication date is May 29th; the price is 6d.

It is planned to enter two floats in this year's Carnival. Readers should also look out for "Observer" posters on Billericay Station shortly. Already a number of printed posters are used by local newsagents.

----- The Editor.

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FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

73 were present at the meeting on March 14th at the Rose Hall. With regard to sick members it was stated that Mrs. Taylor had met with an accident, Mesdames Train, Barton, Walden, Hodges, and Stewart were all away sick. Mr & Mrs. Shiner, Mr & Mrs. Gill, Mrs. Collins, and Mrs. Harrison were all improving. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery to good health. Entertainment was given by the Branch Concert Party i.e. Mrs. Plumridge and Mrs. M. Horne with songs, Mr. Joseph, Mr. Wiltshire, and Mr. Plumridge with songs, and Mr. Wiltshire and Mrs. Dawkins with mandolin and banjo solos. Mr. Dawkins was the Compere, and Mrs. Dawkins Pianist.

On the 21st there was an excellent attendance. On sick members it was stated that Mr. Hill, Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Walden, Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Plumridge, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Taylor were all away sick. Mrs. Train, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Barton, and Mrs. Harrison were all improving. Mr & Mrs. Gill were welcomed back after a long absence through illness. A new member, Mrs. Simpson, was welcomed. The Secretary stated that those who wanted to go on the outing to Clacton could now give in their names. He also stated that there were one or two vacancies for the week's holiday at Yarmouth. The afternoon's entertainment was by Mrs. Boulter and Mrs. Pratt with Monologues and Community Singing.

STATE OF WAR MEMORIAL.

At last Friday's Public Forum, Mr. S. R. Forder, Secretary of Billericay British Legion asked; "In view of the excellent nursery run by the Parks Comm. would the Council please arrange for the floral display at the War Memorial to be improved. Up to date the display has not been attractive, and the shrubs unsuitable. Being in the centre of the town it should be given more consideration not only to floral decorations but also general maintenance.

In reply Cllr. Mrs. C. J. Gadson said the bedding of plants was done twice a year, and the cleaning at least once a year. Consideration will be given to this, and I am rather inclined to agree with your views.

PUBLIC LIBRARY EXPANSION.

At Friday's Public Forum Mr. J. B. Allard of Jacksons Lane asked if there were any plans to expand the Public Library. Though in theory it may be possible to obtain any book through the County Library Service, it was a great advantage when reading up a particular subject to be able to look through a number of books before choosing one.

In reply Cllr. Phelps stated that it was recognised by all that the existing premises were very cramped. He understood that there were proposals for a new Library in Billericay, but he had no information as to when this was likely to be built. The staff of the Library were always most helpful, and he paid tribute to this.

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TEENAGERS' PAGE by W.P.G.

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

1. DB.4790 - Wonderful Land (The Shadows) (7).
2. HLX.9515 - Hey Little Girl (Del Shannon) (8).
3. AMT.1171 - Hey Baby (Bruce Shannel) (-).
4. HLU.9511 - Dream Baby (Roy Orbison) (-).
5. R.4869 - Hole In The Ground (Bernard Cribbins) (3).
6. RCA.1277 - Twistin' The Night Away (Sam Cooke) (-).
7. R.4868 - Softly As I Leave You (Matt Monro) (-).
8. RCA.1270 - Rock-A-Hula Baby (Elvis Presley) (-).
9. DB.4761 - The Young Ones (Cliff Richard) (2).
10. 7N.35032 - Theme From 2 Cars (Johnny Keating) (-).

It is now three months since the Billericay Top Ten was first published. Allocating 10 points for No.1, 9 for No.2 etc. I have worked out a table of the ten most popular stars in Billericay in the last three months (points in brackets).

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Cliff Richard (53). | 6= Bobby Vee (20). |
| 2.= Kenny Ball (33). | Sandy Nelson |
| Elvis Presley | 8= Del Shannon |
| 4. Chubby Checker (29). | Billy Fury (19). |
| 5. Eden Kane (21). | Leroy van Dyke |

Close behind come Acker Bilk, Karl Denver, Danny Williams, and The Shadows. Helen Shapiro is way down.

PRIZE COMPETITION - The last discussion point in "Teenagers' Page" was on the subject of a local Coffee Bar. You are invited to submit suggestions for a new Discussion Point. The subject can be any of interest to teenagers - it can be one that only affects Billericay, or one that affects teenagers all over the country. I will award a prize of 5/- for any suggestion submitted which is used in "Teenagers' Page". Just send your suggestions along to the "Observer" offices, together with a few lines explaining why you think the particular subject is of interest to young people. If I receive more than one entry containing a particular suggestion, I will decide the contest by the explanation of the subjects importance. The competition is open to all between the ages of 12 and 19, and entries must be in by Saturday 7th April, so hurry!

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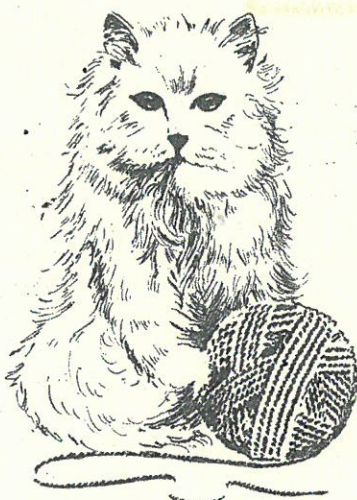
Solution to "Observer" Crossword
No.8:- Across, 1.Gibraltar, 8.Aar,
9.Ear, 10.Larva, 11.Rap, 13.Cent,
14.S.R., 15.Pre, 16.Ogee, 17.Lull,
19.G.P.O., 20.Buake, 23.No, 25.
Oven, 26.Swaziland. Down:- 1.
Gallapagos, 2.Barcelona, 3.Rave,
4.Aran, 5.Tar, 6.Erase, 7.Repre-
hend. 13.Toluol, 18.L.B., 21.Ava,
22.Ken, 24.Oz. There is no
Crossword in this issue - they
will be suspended during the
"Summer" months.

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ONLY FIFTEEN TURN UP FOR PROTEST MEETING.

Only fifteen people, including the officers turned up at the Annual General Meeting of the South Green Area Committee of Billericay Residents' Association at South Green Primary School last Wednesday week.

Main topic of the meeting was the removal of the hedge from the Recreation Ground, and transfer of childrens' playground equipment to Langham Crescent.

Mr. Featherstone (Chairman) referring to a previous protest meeting on the subject reminded members that the Council contended that as a result of the removal of the hedge, as motorists using Southend Road and Grange Road would have a clear view. As for the playground equipment the Council were of the opinion that Langham Crescent was a safer and more central site, although many children had to cross Hickstars Lane to reach it. The Council had refused repeated urgent requests to meet a deputation of residents.

Cllr. Wilkins (a member of the Council's Parks Committee) said that he considered the Council's action to "be a grave error". He continued; "I think it is only courtesy that the Parks Committee should agree to meet you. I feel that South Green no longer has a Recreation Ground but an Open Space. If I lived in the immediate vicinity I would take a very poor view of it. It may have been common land years ago, but it is now the property of the local authority, and technically they can do what they like with it. I am not trying to imply they would build houses on it. It is scheduled on the Town Map as an Open Space, and I don't think they would alter it, when it is reviewed this year."

Cllr. Wilkins reminded members that the original decisions to remove the hedge and playground equipment was made by the Road Safety Committee. However, he still felt that a blunder had been made.

It was decided to submit a question to the Public Forum, and to organise a petition if no satisfactory answer was given.

Continued In Next Column.

SOUTH GREEN RESIDENTS. From Column 1.

Reviewing the work of the past year Mr. Featherstone stated; "We are not here just to find fault with the Council". There had been an increase in membership during the past year, and a satisfactory balance had been maintained.

At Friday's Public Forum Mr. Featherstone asked if the Council were going to restore the playground equipment, what they intended to do with the Green, and whether they were prepared to meet residents.

In reply Cllr. Pope (Chairman Parks Committee) said that the problem had been discussed at some length over eighteen months. The hedges and equipment had been removed at the request of the Road Safety Committee. Drivers now had a clear view if children darted out into the road. As for the playground equipment, children could reach it entirely by foot-path, except that they had to cross Hickstars Lane, which was not a busy road. He noted that only fifteen had attended the protest meeting, including the officers, so the problem could not be such a great one after all!

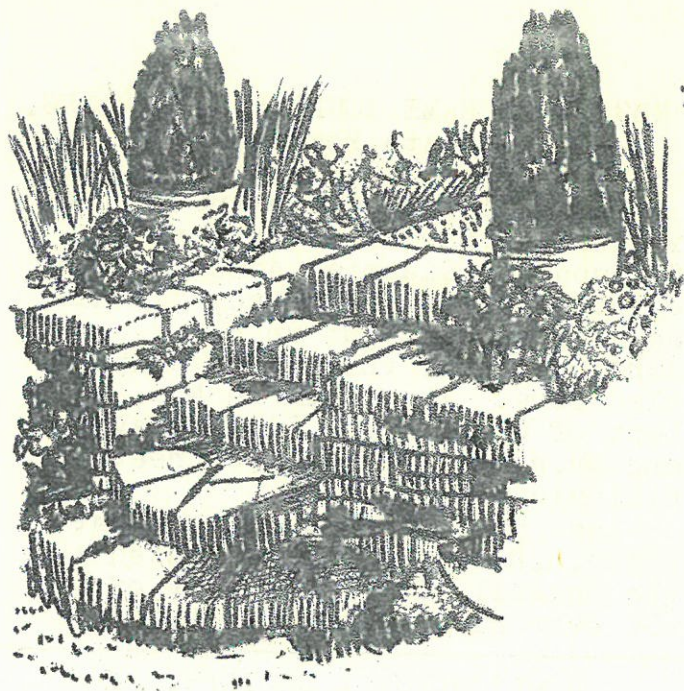
For the Road Safety Committee Cllr. Pembroke indicated that the Police were delighted to see the hedge removed. He too, as a frequent user of the road, was also very pleased, as he now had a clear view.

Cllr. Mrs. Gadson (Chairman of the Council) said that if the Residents were still dissatisfied no doubt the Parks Committee would be willing to hold a meeting with them.

Said Mr. Featherstone; "We'll certainly do that".

TALK ON GREEN BELT.

Mr. L. N. Frazer addressed members of the Billericay Group Council for the Preservation of Rural England at the W. I. Hall last Wednesday week on "The Green Belt and Its Amenities". Mr. Frazer is an Essex Deputy Planning Officer. The talk was one of a series arranged by the C. P. R. E. for its members, on subjects of interest to them.



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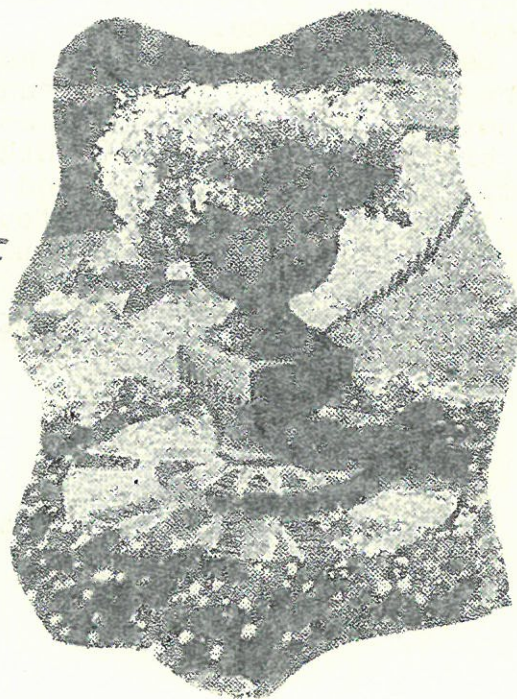
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C.N.D. MEETING.

At a meeting on Wednesday 14th March in the Co-op Hall organised by Billericay C.N.D. Laurie Pavitt M.P. for Willesden West spoke of the dangers the country faced due to the Government's inability to deal with the nuclear problem.

Mrs. Rita Smythe, the Mayor of Edmonton, and prospective Labour candidate for Billericay, made an impassioned speech, and declared in no uncertain terms that she was in favour of Nuclear Disarmament.

The final speaker was Mr. Norman Frith, an architect from Wanstead, and one of the organisers of the Aldermaston march.

The Rev. Basil E. Bennett, Vicar of Downham was Chairman. He said that as a practising Christian he felt it absolutely logical to be a nuclear disarmer.

About 50 people attended, among them many Grammar School students. A collection was taken, which realised a handsome sum.

RUGGER IN BILLERICAY.

St John's have continued their pleasant inaugural season at Willowbrook, Stock Road with two convincing wins, and a convincing loss.

Against Old Westcliffians "B" forwards Mike Owers and Peter Robinson (2) together with Skipper Ian Wilson scored tries, one of which Stanley Ball converted. Result 14-3.

S.E.E.T. A XV however were too strong on their own ground for St. Johns and overwhelmed them 23-0. Frank Harrington, John Reece, Peter Fell (in good form), and David Stutfeld all sustained injuries which kept them hors-de-combat for most of the game.

Last Saturday, however, against the Gargoyles in perfect rugger weather, full back Ian Wilson with a brilliant solo effort, Stanley Ball, and Peter Fell scored tries, whilst Ian Wilson kicked four goals. Gargoyles could only respond with two penalty goals. Result 21-6.

Billericay Floral Arrangement Group

JUMBLE SALE.

at the

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Wednesday 28th March

2 p.m.

Entrance 3d.

RESIDENTS NAME COUNCIL CANDIDATES. (Late News).

The following statement has been issued by the Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Associations Joint Election Committee; "It has been decided to put up two candidates for the coming Council elections. They will be Mrs. J. Lunt of Stock Road, Billericay, and Mr. W. Blair of Perry Street, Billericay".

Last year's Resident candidate (Cllr. H. E. Wilkins) was elected to the Council with a majority of 600 over his Tory opponent.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Some 30 members attended the meeting held by Billericay Horticultural Society at the W.I. Hall on Monday, when Mr. F. C. Morley gave a talk on "Hints for Showing". He gave some useful tips, and related his experiences when a gardener at a large country house some 50 years ago.

FIRST ISSUE OF MAGAZINE ISSUED.

Outwood Common Community and Residents' Association, who now have a membership of over 280 families, have published the first issue of their duplicated magazine. The first issue contains general news of the Association, and a competition for naming the magazine.

ROBIN HOOD AND HIS BAND TAKE THE PRIZE.

At the St. Patricks Night Fancy Dress Dance held by W. W. Ball & Son Sports & Social Club at their Canteen in Kennel Lane Robin Hood (Alf Buckledee) and his merry men took first prize in the home-made section. The prize was shared by Maid Marion (Barbara Buckledee), Little John (Jim Buckledee), Friar Tuck (Joyce Snewing), Will Scarlet (Connie Buckledee), and Alan-a-Dale (Janet Snewing).

The difficult task of judging was undertaken by Mr. K. Hallows (Manager of Barclays Bank) and Mrs. Hallows, assisted by two friends, Mr & Mrs. John Keep.

The most enjoyable evening terminated a season of highly successful events, apart from social functions, including the entry of a prize-winning float in the 1961 Billericay Carnival, and gaining the Division II championship, Brentwood Sunday Football League.

Toys?

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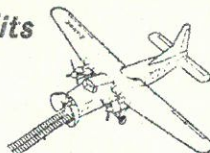
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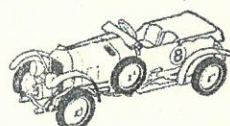
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TUDOR & STUART BILLERICAY.

by the Editor.

Last time I mentioned the "Red Lyon", "Anchor", and "Swan" as the Inns on the west side of the High Street in 1611. Going up the east side of the Street the first Inn we come across is the "Bull" owned by one Willm. Lyncolne. This Inn existed on the site of Speeds Cafe until the present century. Past the Chapel (now the Church) we come across "Thomas Jollye Clarke a Tenement custo. the Crowne" and a later entry "Modo Kings Armes". This indicates the Crown was at one time on the site of Laylands, and was later replaced by the "Kings Armes". A later entry indicates that the Crown moved to the site it occupied for nearly three hundred years, where the Crown Yard and Arch still exists, near the Council Chamber. In the mid-19th century it moved further up the High Street, the licence later being transferred to the present late Victorian building near the Station.

Chapel Street is shown on the map as "Wellfield Lane", as it is called in later rentals of 1706, 1718, 1738, and 1765. On the copy of the Ralph Aggas map of 1593 now in Billericay Library, Chapel Street with a fair number of properties has no name, whilst what is now the road leading from the High Street to Chantry Way, with only one property, is shown as "Wellfield Lane".

It seems quite incredible that Chapel Street had no name, yet a space of 18 years, it had acquired a name from another road. All the evidence seems to point either to an error in the copying of the original document, or an error in the original survey - To be continued in the next issue.

Editor's Note:- I will do my best to answer in the "Billericay Observer" any queries on local history forwarded to me by readers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,----- In the same breath that he announces another rise in the rate, Councillor Pembroke blithely tells us that it is for land for a new town hall - for Basildon, a new swimming pool - for Basildon, and new park - for Basildon. No doubt money will be spent on our Sewage and Administration - this is obligatory but Private Street Works, of which there is admittedly a little evidence, should be paid out of Road Tax.

Billericay children need a Swimming Pool just as badly and if the new Rate for the two towns is to be the same, then let us have equal amenities - K & R. Matthews, 21, Atridge Chase, Billericay.

Dear Sir,----- I had occasion to ring the Water Board office in Billericay, only to be told by the Telephone Operator that the office is ex-directory and that I must ring Southend-on-Sea.

Surely a town the size of Billericay should have access to a local emergency service ---- (Mrs) Francis Thompson-Lewis, 8, Crown Road, Billericay.

Dear Sir,----- Citizens' Advice Bureaux are concerned about the number of problems which come to them on the question of letting or renting a house or flat.

It is hoped that prospective landlords and tenants will read "Renting A Home" published by the National Council of Social Service, 26, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. price 1/6d from them, or the local Bureaux, before they commit themselves.

The Billericay Citizens' Advice Bureau is open at the undermentioned times and will be glad to talk over with individual enquirers any problems relating to this or other subjects:-
Chapel Street, Billericay (corner of Hillside Road).
Tuesdays - 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Thursdays - 7 to 9 p.m.
M.B. Turner, Hon. Secretary,
Basildon Urban District Citizens' Advice Bureaux Committee, c/o
Council Offices, 88, Town Square,
Basildon.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

Basildon Council are to be congratulated for holding the Public Forum at the Secondary School. It was evidently popular, and I trust it will become an annual event. One point - the Council said that 7.30 p.m. was more convenient than 8.0 p.m. to start the meeting. Yet 46 people came in after the meeting had started at 7.30 p.m.

So many points were raised that I can only touch on one or two. It is quite obvious that if the present expansion of the town continues then the town will have a population of 30,000 by 1971. The Council will have to restrict development to about 75 houses a year, if they are to keep to 1981 estimate. They should start doing that now.

It seems to me quite ridiculous to suggest that Industrial development relieves the travel problem to London, when only 177 local people are employed on the Industrial Estate, and the annual population increase is about 1,500. It is also highly significant that the largest number of workers come from outside the Urban District, and that the proportion coming from Billericay is about one-third. I wonder how many of the one-third have moved to Billericay since the factories were opened. I would like to know.

It is obvious that Industrial development is just a blot on the landscape. Offices would produce just as high rates. We are threatened with further Industrial development. The best way that the people of Billericay can reply is in the Council Elections in six weeks time.

The Council claim that Hickstars Lane is a quiet road! Utter tripe! It serves a large residential area as well as serving the South Green industrial area.

When are the Council going to stop evading the issue and give Billericay and Central Wards the extra representation they should have. If the Council continue to evade this issue (what difference would two Councillors make in the Council Chamber?) the people of Billericay can, as those of Central have done, raise a petition, and if there is a 10% support the County must hold an Inquiry.

----- "Wanderer".

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