

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday May 8th, 1962.

Number 111.



20

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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

ELECTION BATTLE HOTS UP

With ten candidates contesting three seats, and polling day only four days away (Saturday) the election battle is warming up in Billericay Ward of Basildon Council.

The Joint Election Committee of Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Association (who captured the Tory Council Chairman's seat in Billericay last year) have issued a duplicated bulletin in addition to their printed manifesto. The Editorial quotes from the Labour and Conservative Party constitutions which state that Councillors should always "toe the party line" at Council meetings. It ends by saying that a vote for the Resident Independents is a vote for democracy.

Another article entitled "Local Government And You" draws attention to the work of Independent Cllr. Wilkins and states; "It is imperative that his sacrifice and effort in holding the fort and preparing the way for fellow Councillors is not lost". The article goes on to draw attention to the astronomical growth of the town, and explains the Resident policy that there should be a "breathing space" to allow services and amenities to catch up with development. It concludes; "Do you really feel we are being irresponsible in asking for a pause to consolidate and start afresh? Are we really being 'Hang you Jacks' - as alleged - in our views when this U.D.C. has outstripped every other in the United Kingdom? Haven't we done far more than our share and are now entitled to pause for breath? The majority of our problems and our future rates hinge around this question of the pace of development".

In a reply to the Conservative manifesto an article states; "If the question of Party Politics in Local Government is a bogey - as alleged - why is it that on practically every issue in the Council Chamber the two main political parties vote en bloc against each other. Where is the so-called independent thought?" Attention is also drawn to the success of R.A. Councillors at Hornchurch.

An article headed "Put Your Confidence In The R.A." at the end of the Bulletin states; "Today the Association is a force to be reckoned with. It enjoys an ever-increasing popularity as is evident by a continuous growth in membership. Whereas a few years ago few people knew of its existence or its activities, today its name is a household word throughout the district. An enormous number of friends have been made. Regrettably but admittedly it has also made a few enemies. This was inevitable and has been because our policies have not always coincided with the aims and views of this minority. We have great confidence in our growing strength but at the same time do not underestimate the numerous varied endeavours at discrediting us made by skilful publicity, designed to put us in as bad a light as possible with the electorate."

Continued On Page Two.

Page 1.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS LATEST.
(From Page 1).

The statement concludes; "We would like to draw your attention to the fact that certain of the Political Parties are coupling the Residents' Associations with the aims and objects of their candidates. In accordance with our principles we must again state that the R.A. do not, and never will, owe allegiance to any political party".

Residents candidates are:-
WILLIAM JOHN BLAIR, Aged 36, of Perry Street, Billericay, an Insurance Official. Past secretary of Buttsbury Residents' Assn., and member of C.P.R.E. and Horticultural Society. Married with two children, has lived in district three years. Firmly believes in judgment on merit.

KENNETH CHARLES COOK, Aged 49, of Mountnessing Road, Billericay, a Staff Supervisor. Founder member and Chairman for six years (now Secretary) of Buttsbury R.A. Chief aim a square deal, and better understanding between Council and residents.

MRS. JOSEPHINE LUNT, Aged 32, of Stock Road, Billericay, a housewife. Particularly interested in Public Health, Child Welfare, Education, and Old People. Mother of a young family, understanding all the problems met by parents with children to raise and educate. An active committee member of Billericay Residents' Association.

In their statement Billericay Conservative Association state that once their candidates are elected they exercise no control over them, and are truly independent. Their manifesto advocates a sound financial policy, with minimum expenditure and maximum result, the maintenance of the town's amenities, including the extension of the Green Belt, and the intelligent use of the Council's newly acquired delegated functions.

Tory candidates are:-
DR. F.W.B. RILSTONE, Born 1913, married with one son and one daughter, a registered medical practitioner. Among his interests are:- Vice-President, Recreation Rooms; Member Basildon U.D. Old People's Welfare Committee; Trustee Secretary and Social Steward at Billericay Methodist Church; Founder Member of Billericay Rotary Club; Vice-President Billericay Operatic Society.

Continued In Next Column,

COUNCIL ELECTIONS LATEST.
(From previous column).

CAPT J.J.A. TESOIRERE (RETD.)
Married with two children, has lived in the district six years, and has been a member of the Council for the past three. He is active in many aspects of local affairs and local organisations. A.F. QUIRK, an Estate Agent, of Norsey Road, Billericay. Mr. Quirk has been a member of the Council since 1957, and has been a member of several committees, and for the past year Chairman of Development & Planning and Chairman of Further Education & Youth. He resigned from the Council in March in order that the electorate could give him a vote of confidence, following criticisms of him during the past year. He is active in many aspects of local affairs.

The lone Liberal is Mr. Lionel Wernick, a Company Director of the prefabricated building firm of the same name. Mr. Wernick is concerned in the maintenance of the district's amenities, and the provision of a community hall for Outwood Common. In his manifesto he supports the work done by the local Residents' Associations. He is also interested in Education and advocates the establishment of a Grammar/Technical School in the area. Mr. Wernick was formerly a member of the Labour Party, but thinks the future lies with the Liberals.

The Labour candidates favour the use of "direct labour" by the Council to build roads and houses; a transport panel; more primary schools and a local comprehensive school; secure land for second-generation housing now; and pledge themselves to be available at a central address once a week to answer elector's problems.

The candidates are:-
STAN DAVEY, age 45, Mayflower Road, Billericay, married, one child. Present Chairman Billericay Labour Party, Vice-Chairman Billericay C.N.D., keen interest in Co-op.
HARRY HAYDEN, age 69, of School Road, Billericay, retired blacksmith. He has for many, many years, taken an interest in local politics, and has stood for Labour many times. A member of the T.G.W.U.
FRANK BOWLES, age 32, Dukess Farm Road, shipping manager, married with one child. Present Secretary of local Labour Party. A relative newcomer, but keenly interested in local affairs.

CURATE AND PERMANENT CHURCH IN
PERRY STREET ARE PARISH CHURCH'S
MOST URGENT NEEDS.

A Church in Perry Street, and a Curate, are Billericay Parish Church's most urgent needs, said the Vicar, the Rev.D.R.Greaves, speaking at the Annual Parish Meeting in the Archer Hall last Thursday week.

"If you had been in Christ Church, Perry Street", he said, "on Easter Sunday or Mothering Sunday and you had seen us bulging at the seams, then you would realise how urgent the need for a permanent Church is. The other urgent need is a Curate. But the situation with Curates is pretty desperate. It is nearly five years since we had a Curate, and we may have to wait a further five years before we get another one".

Referring to the Parish Church the Vicar said; "If the present rate of expansion continues the day will be not too far distant when we will have to push out the walls of the Church, and extend it into Church House".

The Vicar said that he felt the Parish Church was far too "departmentalised" at the moment, and he would welcome a meeting where all members of the Church could gather".

The Rev.Greaves expressed his thanks for the kindness shown to him and his wife since they had moved into the district, and said that the Easter offering "was a tangible expression of your affection".

The Secretary, Mr.Betts, reported that there were 376 people on the electoral roll, which was about 100 down on last year. However, the roll had been re-organised during the year, and people who had died or moved away had been deleted. In fact about 200 new names had been added.

Referring to the events of the year Mr.Betts said that the new vestries had been provided, and the church heating improved, by an anonymous donor. Mr.Betts also referred to the departure of the Rev.Powley during the year, and the coming of the Rev.Greaves.

The Treasurer, Mr.Jones, said that the £900 debt of the Archer Hall Committee had been wiped off. Offetries had increased. He advised all Church members to sign a covenant, as the Church could then claim a tax rebate.

Continued In Next Column.

£690 RAISED TOWARDS NEW CHURCH.
(From previous column).

For the Christ Church Development Committee Mr.Bird said that the Committee had raised £190 towards the cost of a new Church, since they were formed in June. This was brought up to £690 by an outside donation of £500.

Reporting on the Sunday School said that there were 115 in the Christ Church kintergarden (under 7), 80 in the junior classes, and 15 in the Bible Class making a total of 210 in all.

Commented the Vicar; "That shows that things are alive down that end of the Parish".

For the Archer Hall Committee Mr.Meeson said that during the year the hall at the back of the stage had been plastered and painted. The old floor was in a bad state and dangerous, so a new floor was provided.

Speaking of future plans Mr.Meeson said; "The first thing is a new cloakroom, as the present one is a disgrace. Something has got to be done about the forecourt as well. We also need a new curtain. The back dressing room is only temporary, and should be replaced. Then the Hall is due for outside painting, and the Annexe for re-decorating".

Concluded Mr.Meeson; "If you support us we shall get these things done".

For the Information Service Mr.Jarman reported that the Parish Magazine was being regularly published. The Year Book had not yet been published, but this would be done.

For the Mothers Union Mrs.Brown said that membership was now 46. They had a busy time now preparing for Christian Family Year.

For the Young Wives it was stated that they had a varied programme, and the average number attending was 30 to 35.

Mr.R.C.Warren, Vicar's Warden for fourteen years, was presented with a cheque by Mr.S.Shipton, the People's Warden. Tribute was paid to his work by Mr.Shipton, the Vicar, and the new Warden Mr.J.L. Baucher J.P.

Reflecting on the changes he had seen Mr.Warren said; "14 years ago we thought we were lucky to get 16 at 8.0 a.m. Communion. Now 60 to 70 is the average attendance. You can see how the Church has expanded, and I am sure it cannot fail to continue to expand".

EDITORIAL

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

Over 150 copies of the first booklet in the new "Observer" history series - "Early Billericay" - have been sold since it was published a week ago. 250 copies were printed at the price of 6d each. The booklet deals with the history of Billericay from the Stone Age to Roman times, including a map of Roman Billericay. Any reader who would like a copy is advised to get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Secretaries of local organisations etc. are reminded that the closing date for all entries for the Billericay Reference Book is next Saturday - May 12th. This also applies to advertisements. To date over 50 entries have been received. The book is a complete guide to local organisations, and also includes a general history of the town, and handy general information. The price is 6d, and the publication date is May 29th. 500 copies are to be printed, and over 140 have already been ordered.

When I first sold the "Observer" outside Billericay Station I only sold about a dozen copies a night. Thus I sold the paper there three days after it was published - on a Friday. However, this is now the biggest sale point, selling over 200 copies a night. I have therefore decided that as from the next issue (May 22nd) I will sell the paper on the day it is published - Tuesday. It is not anticipated that any delay in the Personal Delivery Service will result.

----- The Editor.

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The Concert Section of the Romford Borough Drum & Trumpet Corps entertained over 80 local old folk at the W.I.Hall, on Saturday with a film show and a concert. The visit was arranged, and expenses met, by the "Billericay Observer". Organisation of the event, and provision of tea, was undertaken by Billericay Old People's Welfare Committee.

BILLERICAY O.A.P.

On the 25th April there was a very good attendance. The report on sick members was:- Mrs. Rackham and Mr. Hill were in hospital, Mrs. Kitsell and Mr. Shiner were improving. All were wished a very speedy recovery. Mrs. Riches, Mrs. Collins, and Mrs. Taylor were welcomed back after being away sick. A new member, Mrs. Hollis, was welcomed. The Secretary stated that there were still one or two vacancies for the week's holiday at Yarmouth. The Branch's Concert Party entertained. Those taking part were Mesdames Horne, Plumridge, and Clarke, with songs, and Messrs. Joseph, Wiltshire, and Plumridge with songs, Mrs. Dawkins and Mr. Wiltshire with Mandolin and Banjo solos with Mrs. Horne at the piano. Compere was Mr. Dawkins, and pianist Mrs. Dawkins.

On the 2nd May there was a good attendance. It was reported that Mr. Hall had had an operation on Tuesday, and was as well as could be expected, Mrs. Johnson was a little better, Mrs. West, Mrs. Rackham, and Mrs. Kitsell were all improving. A bouquet of flowers was sent to Mr. & Mrs. Youngman on celebrating their Diamond Wedding. A grand afternoon's entertainment was given by Mr. F. Dawkins on his recorder with Classical Music, Opera, Band Selections, and Songs. The Chairman (Mr. Joseph) moved a big vote of thanks.

BUTTSBURY MONDAY CLUB.

The club members visited The Whitehall Theatre, London, to see "One For The Pot", and had a very enjoyable evening. A few friends made up the number for a full coach. Membership of the club is slowly increasing, but new members are very welcome. Next meeting Monday May 7th at Buttsbury School.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club - No meetings have been held during the school holidays. Next meeting Friday May 11th at Sunnymede School. New members welcome.

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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. JAR.611 - Nut Rocker (B. Bumble & The Stingers) (-).
2. DB.4790 - Wonderful Land (The Shadows) (2).
3. AMT.1171 - Hey Baby (Bruce Channel) (1).
4. 7N.15421 - When My Little Girl Is Smiling (Jimmy Justice) (4).
5. 7N.15424 - The Party's Over (Lonnie Donegan) (9).
6. DB.4750 - Stranger On The Shore (Acker Bilk) (8).
7. HLU.9511 - Dream Baby (Roy Orbison) (3).
8. R.20063 - Everybody's Twisting (Frank Sinatra) (7).
9. HLX.9515 - Hey, Little Girl (Del Shannon) (5).
10. HLP.9524 - Young World (Rick Nelson) (-).

TWEENTEEN'S PROGRESS - Speaking at the recent Annual Meeting of Billericay Parish Church 21-year old Brian Richardson referred to the progress of the new Church youth club - the Tweenteens. This had been formed to meet the need for a Church club for the over 16's. Equipment for various activities and games had been purchased from the Billericay Youth Club Fund, and regular meetings were now being held on Tuesday evenings at 8.0 p.m. in the Archer Hall.

NEW YOUTH CENTRE OPENS ON MAY 14th - A new Annexe to Billericay Youth Centre opens on May 14th at Sunnymede Primary School. Meetings will be held throughout the Summer Term on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. The new Annexe serves the Sunnymede and Outwood Common areas, and replaces the present Outwood Common Youth Club.

COUNCIL OF YOUTH FORMED - The first meeting of the new Basildon Urban District Council of Youth will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 9th May in the Library at Timberlog Secondary School, Basildon. Twenty-five Youth Centres and voluntary clubs from the Urban District have each nominated two members to attend, and a representative gathering of young people is assured. Representatives are between the ages of 15 and 20 years. The purpose of the Council is to promote friendship and co-operation between the various youth organisations; to provide an opportunity for young people to discuss problems common to all clubs and to put youth's "point of view"; to encourage the spirit of service to the community and to discover ways and means of promoting such service, and generally to encourage young people in the spirit and practice of democracy.

TUDOR & STUART BILLERICAY. by the Editor.

Billericay in 1611 was the largest town in the Hundred of Barstable, which stretched to the Thames, and its Market attracted many hundreds of people every Tuesday from the surrounding agricultural community. In 1611 the town stretched from where the railway bridge now is to about Stanwoods, with scattered houses as far as Sun Corner, a short way along Newe Street (Western Road), and a short way up Wellfield Lane (Chapel Street). In this area well over a thousand people lived.

The properties were of two kinds - copyhold and freehold - the copyhold properties being in the majority. A copyhold property had to be passed on to a person's heirs through the Lord of the Manor (Lord Petre), to whom it was "surrendered". This was usually done by paying a fine at the annual Court Leet held in Whitsun week among great festivities at the Red Lion Inn we know today.

Felons usually had their property seized. For instance we find in the Court Rolls; "Goods & Chattels of Thomas Baker forfeit to the Lord of the Manor for that the said Thomas Baker at the Assizes held at the County of Essex was accused of felony and hanged". What he stole is not mentioned, but it was probably some very small item.

Another entry reads; "A quarter of lamb and a cart rope worth 7/6d goods taken from felons". Their fate is not mentioned. Probably something more severe than the pillory, which stood in the High Street near the Church (then the Chapel of St. John) and the long-vanished Market House.

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FOLK PLAYERS PRESENT EXCELLENT PRODUCTION BUT ----.

Although Billericay Folk Players put on an excellent production of "The Young Elizabeth" at the Archer Hall last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, they were rewarded with very low attendances. This is a great pity, when an amateur group have spent months rehearsing to bring their performance up to a very high standard.

The play tells the story of the life of the young Queen Elizabeth 1st between the death of King Henry VIIIth and her accession to the throne.

Joan Hillary was excellent as the young, gay, Elizabeth. Special tribute must also be paid to Helen Sutcliffe, who played the bitter, religious Queen - Mary Tudor. Indeed, the whole cast must be highly commended for their standard of acting. They all said their lines clearly, not stumbling once.

The Hon. Producer was Robert Pratt - W.P.G.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Society held a Bulb Show at the W.I. Hall on the 16th April. About 36 members attended, and Mr. A.A. Peart judged the exhibits, and gave an interesting talk and some hints on bulb growing. He explained how the Dutch growers produced their crops, and recommended a visit to the Dutch bulb fields.

260 PEOPLE PROSECUTED.

260 people were prosecuted for parking offences in connection with Lake Meadows it was revealed at last Friday week's meeting of Basildon U.D. Road Safety Organisation.

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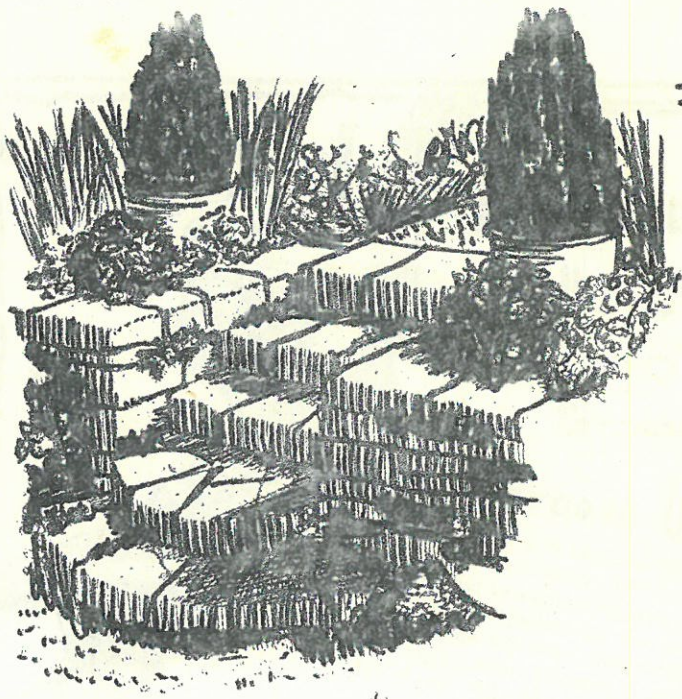
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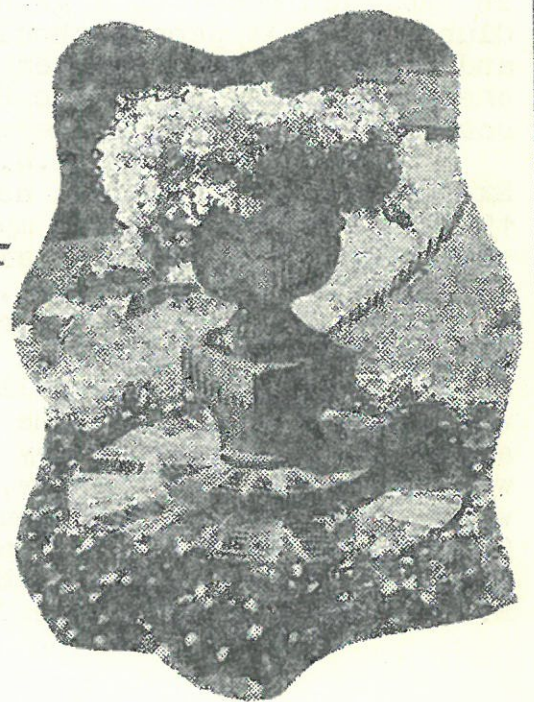
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BILLERICAY ART CLUB FORTUNATE.

Billericay Art Club were fortunate to have premises where they could display their work, said Dr.G.H.Bond, Chairman of Basildon Civic Arts Club, opening the Club's Annual Exhibition at the "Old Shambles" last Saturday week. They were also lucky to have premises with the right atmosphere where they could meet, as people's work improved by the interchange of ideas and techniques. The artist want to exhibit and sell his work, and the Exhibition filled this requirement. Those in Basildon received a great deal of inspiration from Billericay Art Club. He felt people should be educated in the appreciation of art, and taught that it was better to buy a genuine canvas, rather than a cheap reproduction of the Norfolk Broads from some chain store, which could be seen in their neighbour's house anyway.

Founder-member Mr.G.S.Amos introduced Dr.Bond, and said that the Exhibition was the fifth held by the Club, since they were formed in 1956. There were not so many exhibits this year (117) as last, but they had to think of the size of the room, and restrict the Exhibition to Club members. They had also lost three prolific members - Dr.R.Bowesman, Mr.H.Watson, and Mr.L.Tillsley.

All types of painting were represented - oil paintings of scenes and portraits, still life, and abstract art! Also included was some pottery, and some delightful gates designed by O.Holmwood and executed by the Norsej Engineers. The standard of the exhibits was as high, if not higher, than in other years. Those exhibiting were:- M.Roberson, Jean Douglas, H.Frost, O.Holmwood, B.Swaby, O. Courtice, H.Denham, P.Thomas, W.Frost, W.Appleton, Stella Crofts, A.Bouneau, E.L.Clark, I.M.Beadle, F.E.Urquart, G.S.Amos, Rose Rantzen, E.N.Pletts, J.W.Pletts, M.R.Wood, G.S.Amos, and G.P.Michael.

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Old Folk on May 5th

COUNTING THE VOTES.

As in past years, the votes for the Basildon Council Elections on Saturday, will be counted at Craylands Secondary School, Timberlog Lane, Basildon, starting at 9.15 p.m. The results will be chalked up on a blackboard in the gymnasium, as they are decided, where there will be ample accommodation for the public.

The present Council consists of:

Conservative -----	18
Labour -----	8
Residents' Association ----	1
Communist -----	1

Retiring are:-

Conservatives -----	8
Labour -----	2
Communist -----	1

Fighting the vacancies are:-

Conservatives -----	11
Labour -----	11
Liberals -----	4
Communists -----	4
Residents' Association ----	3

PETITION SENT TO WALTHAMSTOW BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Outwood Common Community & Residents' Association have now sent their petition to Walthamstow Borough Council asking for the provision of a community hall on the Estate.

The Secretary Mr.K.Miles told me on Sunday; "The response was almost 100%".

The Association's magazine is to be called "Outwood Bound".

ELECTED.

Elected to the Parochial Church Council at Billericay's Parish Meeting (see Page 3) were; Mr.H.M.J. Baker, Mr.J.Bartlett, Mr.T.Pearson, and Mr.A.G.J.Cooper. Ruridecanal Conference delegates:- Mr.S.C. Shipton, Mrs.D.R.Greaves, Mr.J.L. Baucher J.P., Mr.K.Hartley, Mrs.P. Clayton, and Mrs.J.Clewlowe.

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IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE "BILLERICAY OBSERVER".

(and the Billericay Reference Book)

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ROUND AND ABOUT

by "WANDERER".

On Saturday the people of Billericay will go to the polls to elect three Councillors. This is one of the most vital elections ever, as the Billericay of the next hundred years will be moulded by the Council in the next three. If you have a vote it is of the utmost importance that you use it.

One of the most important questions in my opinion is the question of development outpacing amenities and public transport facilities. Already we are nearly 4,000 past the 1971 population estimate. As a prominent Councillor said we are one of the fastest growing areas in the country. We cannot ignore these facts. YOU, the voter, cannot ignore these facts. What do the candidates say about them?

As I said in the last issue I believe that these, and the many other problems with which we are faced, would be far better dealt with by people who do not owe their allegiances to Transport House or Central Office, but by truly independent candidates, who have the interests of the district at heart. People, by the way, who know what the rush hour on trains (second class) and buses is like.

As I have also said I have attended Council meetings for four years, and am sick and tired of the system of "block" voting by the two main political groups, with their "yes" men, who hardly ever say a word. I hope these elections will do something towards changing this deplorable state of affairs in our local Council, and continue the good work started by Cllr.Wilkins.

I do not believe in party politics in local government, as I have said many times in this column.

Nobody but a complete fool would attempt to guess at the results. However one thing is sure - the contest will be one of the most exciting and closely-fought ever held in Billericay. I do think Labour will hold Central, Fryerns, and Barstable, and the Tories Wickford, but what will happen in the marginal wards of Laindon and Pitsea is anyone's guess. No doubt, as in other years, I will get called a Tory, Socialist, Fascist, Communist, or Liberal, as I have been called by various people