

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday May 22nd, 1962.

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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

RESIDENTS HOLD BALANCE OF POWER ON COUNCIL FULL ELECTIONS STORY

As a result of the Basildon Council elections held last Saturday week the four Independent Resident Councillors from Billericay hold the balance of power on the Council. The constitution of the new Council is:-

Group	Number elected	Seats on New Council	Seats on Old Council	Gains or Losses
Conservative	0	10	18	-8
Labour	8	13	8	+5
Liberal	1	1	0	+1
Ind.R.A.	3	4	1	+3
Communist	0	0	1	-1
Total	12	28	28	--

The major question that arises as a result of this situation is - "Who will be the next Chairman of the Council?" Strongly tipped contenders are Labour Group Leader Cllr. Alf Dove, and Conservative A.P. Phelps, the present Vice-Chairman, and the lone Conservative among the Billericay Councillors. The election takes place at the Annual General Meeting of the Council to be held at Timberlog Secondary School on Thursday (May 24th) at 6.50 p.m.

The results were a disaster for the Conservatives, who failed to get any of their candidates elected, and for the Communists who lost their single seat on the Council. However, it was a day for jubilation for Labour, who shattered the Conservative control of the last three years, by gaining five seats; for the Residents who did a hat-trick, and got all their candidates elected at Billericay; for the Liberals, who got a candidate on the Council for the first time.

Despite cold, overcast weather, with intermittent heavy showers, the poll was heavier in all wards than last year, the highest poll being at Billericay (51.4%) and the lowest at Laindon (26%).

Nearly 500 people crowded into the gymnasium of Craylands Secondary School, Basildon, where the count was held, to see the declaration of the results. Labour supporters were equipped with a noisy handbell and a football rattle, with which they attempted to drown the cheers and boos of the other groups.

Continued on Page 2.

Page 1.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

From Page 1.

The state of the parties at the beginning of the count was:- Conservative 10, Labour 5, Independent Residents' Assn., 1.

The first result to be announced was Barstable Ward at 9.50 p.m. Here, the Labour candidate kept his seat, with an increased percentage of the poll, despite opposition from the Conservatives and Communists.

Next result declared was that of Laindon. Here the Conservatives lost two seats to Labour. This was closely followed by Pitsea, where Labour gained a further seat from the Conservatives. The state of the parties was now:- Conservatives 10, Labour 9, Ind.Residents 1.

The next result was from Central Ward, where Labour captured a seat from Communist Councillor Roy Hollands (who was originally elected in 1958 as a Labour candidate) with a majority of 674 over the Conservative, and 1,133 over Mr.Hollands. The two parties were now level.

Next result was Fryerns, where Labour leader Alf Dove was convincingly re-elected. However, the other Labour candidate, Mrs.C. Gibbs (of Sunnymede, Billericay) was 432 votes behind Mr.Dove, and only 170 votes in front of the Liberal Mr.R.Skingley, who was contesting this supposedly-safe Labour ward for the first time. The position was now:- Labour 12, Conservative 10, Ind R.A., 1.

The next result was from Wickford, where one Liberal and one Socialist were elected in a close fight. This result was a surprise for even the firmest Labour supporters, who considered Wickford to be a Conservative stronghold. Labour were now three ahead of the Conservatives, with an overall lead of one.

All eyes now turned to Billericay. By winning all three seats the Conservatives could still draw level with Labour. However, their hopes were shattered when the Returning Officer, Mr.A.Hatt, climbed on to the platform and declared the three Independent Residents' Association candidates elected, at 11.30 p.m. Labour was the largest group, but it had no power. For the first time in the evening, the large contingent of green-rosetted R.A. supporters went wild with enthusiasm.

Continued In Next Column.

BILLERICAY ELECTION RESULT.

From Column 1.

Commented Cllr.H.E.Wilkins, who defeated the then Conservative Council Chairman, W.H.Davies, in Billericay last year, and has been for the past year the lone voice of the Independent Residents on the Council; "I am very pleased indeed that the people of Billericay have elected three more Independent Councillors, sponsored by Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Associations. Team spirit, and an increased number of helpers helped us to win the day."

Asked what their policy would be Cllr.Wilkins said; "As before we shall judge all problems on merit. Particular problems facing the district are protection of amenities, the revised development plan for Billericay to be discussed this year, new Schools and Grammar School places, Further Education & Community Centres, the problems of frontagers in roads being made up, Surface Water Drainage and prevention of flooding, Highway Improvements, the protection of the Green Belt, and the improvement of Health and Transport services. We shall support voluntary organisations, particularly those concerned with Old People's Welfare".

Two Conservative Councillors lost their seats at Billericay, and both were behind the Liberal candidate (Mr.L.Wernick). The other Conservative, Dr.F.W.B. Rilstone, fighting for the first time, was well ahead of Mr.Wernick.

The Conservatives to lose their seats were Mr.A.F.Quirk and Capt.J.J.A.Tesoierere (Retd.) Mr. Quirk was first elected in 1957, was re-elected in 1960, and resigned this March in order that the public could express a vote of confidence in him, following criticism of his handling of planning matters. For the past year he was Chairman of the Development & Planning Committee, and has taken an active part in many other committees. Cllr. Tesoierere was first elected in 1959, and has served on several committees.

Only two Councillors kept their seats - Cllr.A.Dove (Lab. Fryerns) and Cllr.J.Morgan (Lab. Barstable). Those who lost their seats were:- Quirk, Tesoierere (Con.Billericay), Rolph, Pope (Con.Laindon), Merrin (Con.Pitsea), Weston, Morley (Con.Wickford), Hollands (Comm.Central).

COUNCIL ELECTIONS RESULTS IN FULL.

Con. = Conservative, Lab. = Labour
 Lib. = Liberal, Comm. = Communist,
 R.A. = Independent Residents'
 Association.

+ Denotes retiring Councillor.

BILLERICAY WARD.

Elected:-

W.J.BLAIR (R.A.) ----- 2,996
 K.C.COOK (R.A.) ----- 2,922
 MRS.J.LUNT (R.A.) ----- 2,846

Not elected:-

Dr.F.W.B.Rilstone (Con.) 1,710
 L.Wernick (Lib.) 1,566
 +J.J.A.Tesoierere (Con.) 1,487
 +A.F.Quirk (Con.) 1,441
 F.Bowles (Lab.) 736
 H.Hayden (Lab.) 697
 F.W.Davey (Lab.) 682

Three R.A. Gains from Con.
 Poll 51.4% (47.67% last year).
 W.J.Blair and K.C.Cook serve a
 three year term, Mrs.J.Lunt a one
 year term. The Councillors for
 Billericay are now:- W.J.Blair
 (R.A. retires 1965), K.C.Cook
 (R.A. retires 1965), A.P.Phelps
 (Con. retires 1963), Mrs.J.Lunt
 (R.A. retires 1963), and Mr.H.E.
 Wilkins (R.A. retires 1964).

WICKFORD WARD.

Elected:-

D.J.DAVIS (Lab.) 1,329
 R.D.EVANS (Lib.) 1,271

Not elected:-

Stuart (Lab.) 1,198
 +Weston (Con.) 1,198
 +D.V.Morley (Con.) 1,129
 C.W.J.Round (Lib.) 1,097

1 Lib., 1 Lab. gains from Con.
 Poll 39.47% (31.3% last year).

LAINDON WARD.

Elected:-

J.CURTIS (Lab.) 975
 A.L.DOUGLAS (Lab.) 874

Not Elected:-

C.D.Pope (Con.)+ 779
 C.V.Rolph (Con.)+ 753

Two Labour gains from Con.
 Poll 26% (last year 22.8%).

PITSEA WARD.

Elected:-

B.KIDDELL (Lab.) 830

Not Elected:-

+E.H.Merrin (Con.) 529
 J.Harding (Comm.) 92

One Labour gain from Con.
 Poll 30.2% (20.5% last year).

COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS.

From Column 1.

BARSTABLE WARD.

Elected:-

+J.MORGAN (Lab.) 923

Not Elected:-

W.A.S.Brown (Con.) 378
 W.Davy (Comm.) 94

No Change. Poll 29.5% (27.8% last year).

CENTRAL WARD.

Elected:-

R.PAYNE (Lab.) 1,263

Not Elected:-

S.Blackbourn (Con.) 589
 R.Hollands (Comm.) + 130

Labour gain from Communist.
 Poll 44.6%. No election last year

FRYERNS WARD.

Elected:-

+A.DOVE (Lab.) 1,550
 MRS.C.GIBBS (Lab.) 1,127

Not Elected:-

R.Skingley (Lib.) 957
 E.W.Hughes (Con.) 261
 R.C.Chapman (Con.) 238
 B.J.Denny (Comm.) 118

No Change. Poll 31% (23.3% last year). There were no elections in the Langdon Hills and Vange wards this year.

REST ROOM TO CLOSE EARLIER.

Billericay Old People's Welfare Committee have decided to close their Rest Room for old folk in the Recreation Rooms at 12.30 p.m. instead of 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as the room is seldom, if ever, used on these days.

It is hoped to take a party of housebound pensioners to Clacton in July.

Visitors are urgently needed to make calls in the Crays Hill area. Anybody who can spare time for this work is asked to get in touch with the Secretary, Mrs. Barr, 273, Mountnessing Road, phone Billericay 522.

The Committee would also like a wireless set for a pensioner, and again Mrs. Barr would be grateful to receive any offer. The Committee has a 3' mattress for disposal - application should be made to Mrs. Barr.

EDITORIAL

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

Shortly after the last issue was published "Early Billericay" - the first booklet in the new "Observer" Billericay History Series - sold out, just over a week after it had been published. As orders continued to pour in it was decided to reprint a further 100 copies, and this reprint is now available. As nearly half these have already been ordered, readers who would like a copy are asked to get in touch with me as soon as possible, as there will be no further reprints for the time being. The booklet deals with the history of Billericay from its geological beginnings to Roman times, including a map of Roman Billericay, and the price is 6d.

In reply to many enquiries research on the next title in the Series has now been completed, and it is intended to publish it sometime in July. Full details will be published in this column in due course.

The Billericay Reference Book will be published next Tuesday (May 29th), price 6d. This Book is a complete guide to local organisations and Places of Worship and also includes a short general history of Billericay, and a section full of extremely handy general information. Orders to date approach the 200 mark (500 copies are to be printed) so if you would like a copy you are advised to order it as soon as possible to order disappointment.

I would like to remind readers that the Personal Delivery Service applies to most roads in the Stock Road/Perry Street area. Full details on request.

----- The Editor.

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FOR THE OLD FOLK

BILLERICAY O.A.P.

At the 9th May meeting there was a very good attendance. On sick members it was stated that Mr.Hill was much better, Mrs. Rackham was improving, and expected to be discharged from Hospital this week, Mrs.Kitsell was improving, Mrs.Johnson was much better, and Mr.Dawkins was not so well. All were wished a speedy recovery. Mrs.Walden and Mr.Goodchild were welcomed back to the meeting, after being absent through illness. The Secretary read out a letter he had received from Mr.Youngman in which he thanked everyone for the Card and Flowers sent from the Branch on the occasion of his Diamond Wedding. The Secretary also asked if there were any more members who wished to go to Yarmouth, as there were still one or two vacancies for the day or for the week. Laindon No.1 Concert Party entertained.

On the 16th May there was a good attendance. On sick members it was stated that Mrs.Kitsell, Mrs.Rackham, and Mr.Gill were all improving, Mr.Hill was now out of Hospital, Mrs.Hodges was about the same, Mrs.Marshall was ill, and Mrs.Shiner had had a fall. The Secretary said he hoped that they would all be well again; the Club had had an unfortunate time with sick members this Winter, and he hoped that now the warmer weather was approaching they would get better. The Secretary also stated that the Branch had received nine awards in regard to the Essex Old Peoples' Welfare Committee Exhibition held at the Archer Hall last Thursday i.e. two "firsts", two "seconds", four "thirds", and one "Highly Commended". Mrs. Johnson and Mrs.Dawkins were welcomed back after absence through illness. The "Odds And Ends" Concert Party from Laindon entertained.

BUTTSBURY MONDAY CLUB.

There were 35 members present at the meeting held on Monday May 14th at Buttsbury School. Mrs.Duly and Mrs.Bennett were welcomed back after absence through illness. Mrs.Bond was still away, and expected to return to Hospital for treatment. She was wished a speedy recovery. Mr.Bond promised to organise further outings to the strawberry fields and Langford. After a successful raffle the meeting played Bingo. The outing to Margate was a bit of a damper as regards the weather. However, later on the sun came out for long periods. Everybody enjoyed the day, and thanks were given to the organisers, particularly Mr.Bond, who had to miss the trip because of his wife's illness.

SOLD OUT IN A WEEK! REPRINT NOW AVAILABLE! GET YOUR COPY WHILE LIMITED STOCKS LAST! First booklet in the Billericay History Series, "Early Billericay" covers the history of Billericay from the Stone Age to Roman times. Price 6d.

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Letters to the Editor

Views expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" page are not necessarily those of the "Billericay Observer". We try to give all sides and points of view a fair hearing. Letters on all subjects - national and local - are always most welcome.

(Note: Teenagers' Page is on Page 7, Tudor & Stuart Billericay on Page 10 of this issue).

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS AND FINANCE.

Dear Sir, ---- In their election manifesto the Residents' candidates state they will use "modern methods of organisation to offset rising costs. The "modern methods" will surely be unable to provide the additional finance needed for the new Schools, expanded Clinics, Home Nursing, and Midwifery Services, and the improved roads promised by the candidates.

How can they be paid for? Not by loans, for "the minimum amount of borrowing" is another promise. The only solution is higher rates, but that is not mentioned in the manifesto. J.B.Allard, "Lilacs", Jacksons Lane, Billericay.

Editor; The intention of the Resident Independents is to cut down administrative waste by "modern methods of organisation" and I can see nothing but good in that. It would be quite simple to provide all the services outlined by the Residents, if expenditure was cut down on such luxuries as a super sports centre, and a super swimming pool for Basildon, without any increase in the Rates.

PARTY POLITICS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Dear Sir, ---- I read with interest your articles in the "Billericay Observer" (8th May) dealing with the local elections. However, in the light of the recent results, I feel that the contrast drawn between the sitting political groups on the Basildon U.D.C., and the third, that of the Billericay Residents' Association is somewhat over emphasised.

As an ordinary member of the Labour Party I helped to select and support a candidate who was elected to the Council. As a Councillor I will expect him to support the programme which I helped to formulate, and for which he stood. Similarly I would expect all others who were elected on the same programme to act in the same way. Thus they would form a group in the Council. This is then what I call "toeing the party line". At this stage I would strongly refute the suggestion that the group is dictated to by Transport House.

Having said this, I am at a loss to understand how the R.A. Councillors are in any way different in this respect. I presume firstly the R.A. have in mind a particular programme of work they would like to see the Council put in effect and that they would wish the representatives they sponsored and supported to work to that end.

Therefore it is quite apparent that they are not "independent" and will thus constitute a group similar to the other two, and are simply a third political force in the Council.

A.F.Pocock, 336, Clayhill Road, Basildon.

Editor; Although the Resident Independents have an outline policy, they are under obligation to no group, but act in what they consider are the best interests of the District. Unlike the stereotyped policies of the Conservative and Labour parties, and to a lesser extent the Liberals, their outline policy is formulated in view of the specific local problems. Up to the last war almost every local Council was composed of men and women of independent thought. It should be so today. I have attended Council meetings for four years, and I am tired of the "block" voting of the two main groups. Far better, that these vital decisions be made on merit. The electors of Billericay seem to appreciate 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. RCA.1280 - Good Luck Charm (Elvis Presley) (-).
2. DB.4828 - I'm Looking Out Of The Window (Cliff Richard) (-).
3. JAR.611 - Nut Rocker (B.Bumble & The Stingers) (1).
4. F.11466 - Besame Mucho (Jet Harris) (-).
5. R.4896 - As You Like It (Adam Faith) (-).
6. DB.4790 - Wonderful Land (The Shadows) (2).
7. HLV.9527 - Love Letters (Ketty Lester) (-).
8. 7N.35047 - A Picture Of You (Joe Brown) (-).
9. POP.1013 - Ginny Come Lately (Brian Hyland) (-).
10. F.11458 - Last Night Was Made For Love (Billy Fury) (-).

DANCE SUCCESS - A Dance held by 21-year old Brian Richardson in the Archer Hall on Saturday May 12th attracted 250 people who enjoyed top-rate music from the "Premiers" and the "Planets" non-stop from 8 p.m. to midnight. This was Brian's 4th Dance; the proceeds go to the Parish Church Youth Club - the "Twenteens". Brian is now planning a "Spectacular Dance" to be held in July, with a record-making T.V. star and supporting group, plus another top-rated group. He expects all tickets to be sold beforehand.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS MOVE - Billericay Young Socialists are now holding regular meetings in the "Old Shambles", High Street at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, instead of at the Co-op Hall where they have met since they re-formed.

REPLY RECEIVED.

Outwood Common Residents & Community Association have received a reply from Walthamstow Borough Council to their petition for the provision of a community hall on the Estate. The reply will be discussed at Wednesday's committee meeting, and details released.

HOSPITAL FETE.

An ambitious programme of displays, sideshows, and exhibitions is planned for the St. Andrews Hospital League of Friends Annual Fete to be held at the Archer Hall and Field on Saturday June 2nd. The Fete will be opened by the Hospital's matron, Miss Jackson. This year the Friends hope to beat last year's figure of £900, and reach a £1,000 target.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS.

HOLIDAYS.

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3 p.m.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP.

On May 2nd Mrs. Stockwell helped members with their arrangements in a Practice Evening. This was a great success, and it was decided to hold more in future. Members arrangement:- Novice Class, 1. Mrs. Burn, 2nd. Mrs. Mc'Cardle, 3rd. Mrs. Christey, Advanced Class 1. Mrs. Ryan, 2. Mrs. Turner, 3. Mrs. Shedal.

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PUBLIC MEETING

In a year or so we are likely to have a Labour Government. How will it tackle the problems of housing, schools, higher output, pensions, and taxation?

RITA
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our prospective candidate,
discusses Labour's domestic
policy statement,

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8.30 p.m Mon. 4th. June

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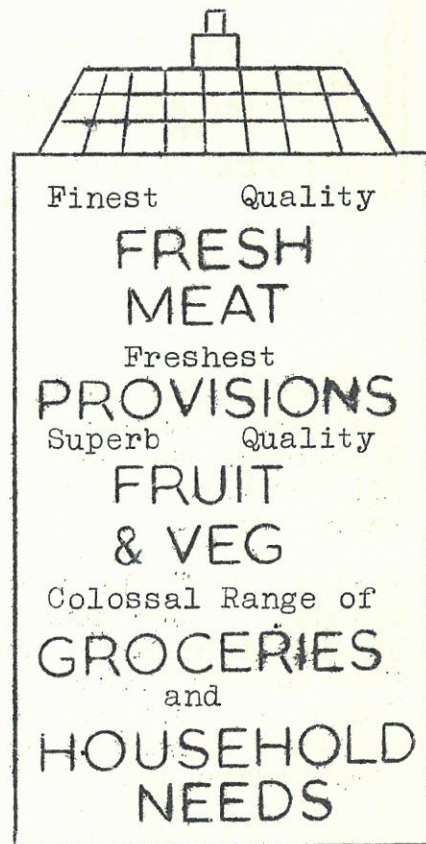
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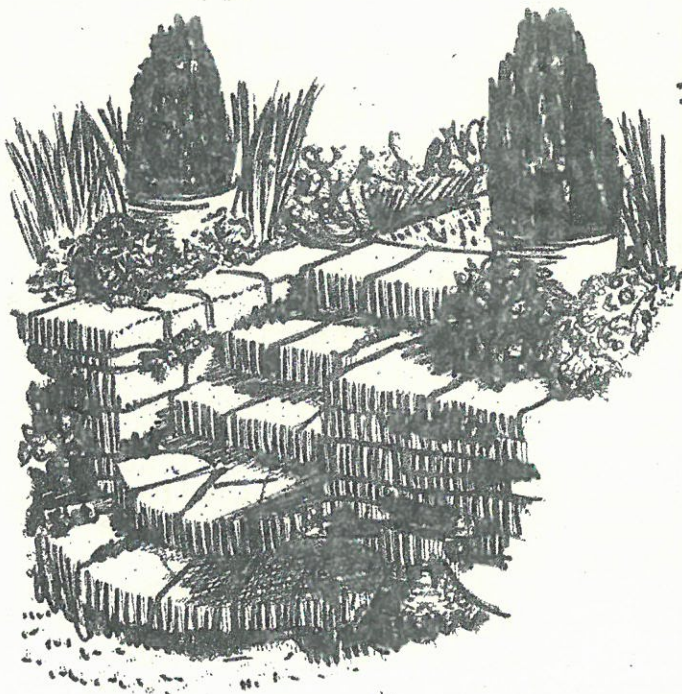
TUDOR & STUART BILLERICAY.

The excellent survey of Billericay carried out in 1593 by the famous map-maker Ralph Aggas, gives us a good idea of what Billericay was like in the later part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1st. The map is extremely detailed, and literally "shows every tree".

Coming into Billericay in 1593 along "the waie leading to Chilmsforde" the first houses one met where were the Hospital now stands. Other houses stood where the railway cutting now is, and on the triangle of land (where the Crown now stands) formed by "Via ducens Billericæ versus Northsee Woods (Norsey Woods), the "waie to Chilmsforde", and the lane now called the Crown Bye-Pass, but then unnamed. Another three properties stood in "Newe Street" (the modern Western Road), where the town's tanyard was also situated. The High Street was built up as far as the Red Lyon Inn (which existed on the same site in those days), with scattered properties as far up as Sun Corner.

There was one property in Chantry Way, then called according to the map, Wellfield Lane. Chapel Street is not named, but an unbroken line of houses is shown as far up as the modern "Coach & Horses", and isolated houses as far up as Hillside Road, from where it continued as a tree-lined lane, past a sandpit and a ginger grove, to its junction with Sun Street, then devoid of properties. A few houses in Laindon Road - "via ducens a Bellericæ versis ecclesiam de Bursted Magna et vers Horndon" completes the picture of Billericay town as it was in 1593.

To Be Continued.



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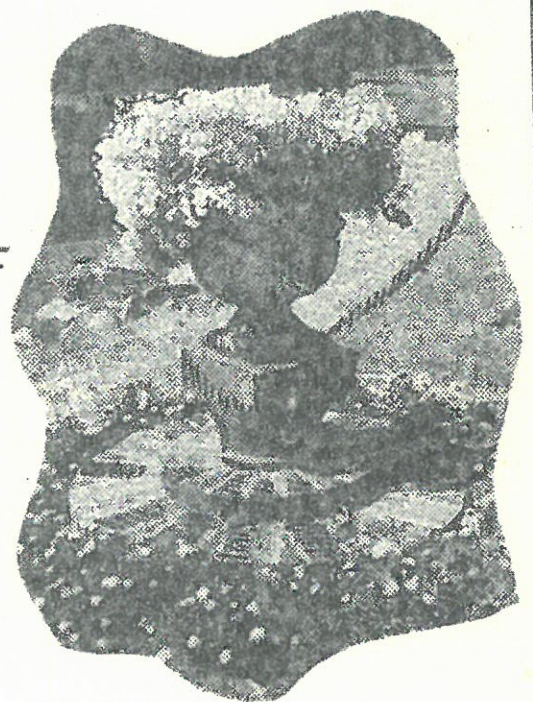
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M.P. ASKS FOR BETTER BUS-RAIL CONNECTIONS.

"Walking seems to be regarded by most people in the countryside today as one of the tiresome results of a poor bus and railway service, and both can be deplorable on occasions", said Mr. Edward Gardner Q.C., M.P. for Billericay, speaking in a debate on Rural Transport in the House of Commons last Friday week.

Continued Mr. Gardner; "Some bus services in the countryside, quite obviously, are inadequate, but surely one of the most infuriating characteristics of the rural bus is its almost sadistic time-table. Far too many rural buses seem to leave the local railway station just before the train in which one is travelling arrives, or reach the railway station just after the train in which one hoped to travel has left. This apparently careful mistiming is repeated daily throughout the country, with a waste of uncounted hours, and of saintly patience. It does not seem that it would be very difficult or take a great deal of thought to cure this eccentricity in rural travel".

CHURCH PLANS REVISED.

Plans for a £17,000 church to serve the Outwood Common and Sunnymede areas of Billericay have been revised, and a more realistic plan is being drawn up, it is stated in the current issue of Great Burstead Parish Church magazine.

The article also states that a scheme of house visiting has been started in the area, asking people to take the Parish Magazine. Already 250 houses have been covered, and it is hoped to cover the entire area in this way.

In the Autumn a door-to-door appeal scheme will be started to raise money for the new Church. At present services are being held in Sunnymede Primary School.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

Following their success in the Council Elections Billericay Residents' Association are starting a large-scale membership drive this week to increase their membership from 1,200 to over 2,000. It is intended to cover the whole of Billericay. A back subscriptions drive will also be held at the same time.

ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER".

The election results show that the electors of Billericay are neither complacent or apathetic when it comes to local government. This is very pleasing. The results also demonstrate that the people of Billericay are tired of party politics in local government. Which is also very pleasing.

I understand that Basildon Council are negotiating with the Essex County Council about the future use of the wood and opposite the "Observer" offices. At the moment this is under a Tree Preservation Order, and scheduled as Public Open Space. Basildon Council have negotiated unsuccessfully to purchase it for the district, and now an outline planning application has been made.

In an expanding district every effort possible should be made to preserve suitable land as a Public Open Space. The field at the rear could be used as a playing field, and the extremely attractive woodland as an ornamental garden. This would also give Lake Meadows a pleasant frontage to Perry Street.

This is the only open space left in Perry Street. Our new Councillors should ensure that it remains scheduled as a Public Open Space, and that the Council make renewed efforts to purchase this land for the benefit of the people of Billericay.

There is one other matter to which our new Councillors should give attention to. It is not on the face, very important. But it does cause a great deal of inconvenience, which could be remedied at little cost, and in case of an emergency might be vital. That is, the numbering of Stock Road and Norsey Road (and possibly Potash Road). Stock Road is nearly two miles long; Norsey Road is nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. Both are heavily built up. It is almost impossible to find a property in either of these roads - I have spent hours trying to find one. And if you are a stranger to the district well ----. I have been told of one case of an ambulance running up and down Stock Road for some time trying to find an address. Luckily, it was not an emergency call. But supposing it was? Or supposing there was a fire or a burglary? This numbering should be carried out as soon as possible.