BILLERICAY OBSERVER

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BILLERICAY'S HOSPITAL FETE - A BIG SUCCESS

The 8th Annual Fete of St. Andrews Hospital League of Friends held at the Archer Hall and Football Field on Saturday was a big success. Although the target of £1,000 was not quite reached, provisional figures show that over £800 was raised. During the afternoon thousands of people flocked to the Fete Field. Over 8,000 programmes were sold before the day, and many more on the day. There were a record number of sideshows and stalls - over 60 - manned by representatives of the majority of local organisations, and individuals from inside and outside the town. Special features were Archery, Pony Rides, Civil Defence demonstrations, and a "Space Race" with balloons - over 175 were sold before the day.

The Fete was opened at 2.30 p.m. by the Matron of St. Andrews, Miss Q. E. Jackson, who was introduced by Mr. S. C. Squires, Chairman of the League. Miss Jackson paid tribute to the work of the League, and made particular reference to the new service formed to perform jobs for physically handicapped patients. She said that the League provided the personal service and material extras, not provided by the National Health Service. She was presented with a bouquet by Angela Peach (aged 3).

The Essex Pipe Band marched through a town bedecked with flags to the Fete Field, where they gave two displays of marching and music during the afternoon. Other displays in the ring were a local schools country dancing display featuring 200 children from six schools - Billericay, Crays Hill, Langdon Hills, Sunnymede, Swan Head, and King's Wood - "Life On The Ranch" from T.V. stars Phil Darby and Wendy, and a Fancy Dress Parade judged by Dr & Mrs. F. W. B. Ristone. Prizes were presented to Graham Needings (aged 12) of Crays Hill and Christopher Allnut (aged 14) of Crays Hill, who each sold over 1,000 programmes before the day. The field was prepared on Friday afternoon and evening by some 100 voluntary workers.

During the last year the League has provided many personal services such as visiting patients without relatives, and writing letters and shopping for those in need of help. It has also provided such material comforts as G.P.O. trolley telephones, a record player, seats for the hospital grounds, Christmas trees for wards and grounds, Christmas gifts for patients and staff, text books for libraries, fireworks, Bulbs and Flowers for wards, and £1,000 has been set aside for a Hospital Staff Recreation Room. Other gifts were a birthday party for the 102nd birthday of a patient, and a seaside holiday for a long-term patient.
INNER RELIEF ROAD PLAN FOR BILLERICAY.

A recent meeting between representatives of Basildon U.D. Council and Essex County Council discussed the existing and the anticipated traffic problems in Billericay High Street. Some consideration had been given to the provision of a major by-pass of the town at some future date, and whilst the County Council felt a decision on this could only be taken when the effect of the new Rayleigh spur road, and the opening of the Dartford-Purfleet tunnel could be observed, they were satisfied that some sort of relief of the High Street would be necessary whether a major by-pass would or would not be adopted. The County Council representatives had considered the Council's proposal that a system of one-way working might provide the solution with traffic using the High Street from north to south and Chapel Street from north to south, and whilst appreciating the need to find a solution to the problem as economically as possible, they could not accept that the proposal would prove satisfactory.

Particular mention was made of the difficulties envisaged in the necessity of traffic at each end of Sun Street, with the possibility of three phases working; the failure of the proposal to meet the need to segregate through traffic from the High Street as a shopping street; the extensive improvements which would become necessary at the junction of High Street and Chapel Street, and the existing limited traffic capacity of the High Street north of Chapel Street.

The representatives had then discussed the scheme for diverting through traffic from High Street, and the Urban Council representatives indicated that they would be prepared to recommend the acceptance, in principle, of the provision of an inner relief road involving the widening of part of Chapel Street from its junction with Southend Road, together with the provision of a diversion road behind certain existing properties fronting the east side of Chapel Street and High Street to form a new link with Norsey Road, plus a short connection between the diversion and High Street near the present Norsey Road junction.

Continued In Column 2.

RELIEF ROAD PLAN ATTACKED.

From Column 1.

The plan was attacked by Mr. Ashley at Friday's Executive Committee meeting of Billericay Residents' Association who said:
"The general feeling of the people I have talked to is that it will cause the least complaint and the least danger. The general feeling in our area is that it will also be very dangerous. I am directly concerned as I will have to cross this road every day. It will be dangerous for children. It will be dangerous - full stop."

It was decided to defer consideration of the matter until the next meeting, by when it was hoped that a formal decision will have been taken.

M.P. ADVOCATES TAX RELIEF FOR THE SMALL SAVER - COMMONS SPEECH.

Mr. Edward Gardner Q.C., M.P., for Billericay, spoke in the House of Commons last week supporting a Conservative move to give tax relief to small savers. Mr. Gardner argued that he saw in the proposal of Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd (Sutton Coldfield) "a means of helping the small saver, and at the same time providing a barrier against inflation".

Mr. Gardner continued: "The principle in which I believe is that small savers should be given the greatest possible encouragement by the Government. In doing this I believe that the Government would be helping themselves in the most effective way to fight one of the great dangers to our economy, namely, inflation. Inflation is not caused by having or earning too much money; it is caused by spending too much money. It is for this reason that I give warm support to the proposal made by my hon. friend, the member for Sutton Coldfield."

Billericay Residents' Association's membership drive is now "well under way". Aim is to increase the membership from 1,200 to over 2,000.
COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP - HEATED DEBATE. From Column 1.

Continued Cllr. Wilkins; "I have no mandate to vote Labour or to vote Conservative, but I have an overwhelming mandate to vote on merit. Some might suggest that we abstain, but that I cannot accept. A Council must have a Chairman - the best that can be found. The Labour Group has demanded control of the Council. They have asked for our support, which was to be rewarded. That is to say - join us and make 17. You are jolly good fellows. Abstain and give us control of the Council, and you are still jolly good fellows. But, if you express your democratic right and vote for a Chairman and Vice-Chairman who might influence the committee, you are no longer jolly good fellows. In fact, their leader wants to have his cake, his halfpenny and cream all at one time."

The coming year will require the greatest amount of clear thought from all. Everybody could have the opportunity of taking a full part in what might well be the most important year of the Council.

I will support the nomination of Cllr. Phelps as he has been Vice-Chairman of the Council, and also because of his work as Chairman of the Education Committee."

The Liberal, Cllr. D.R. Evans, said that he might be compared to a lone wolf. "But a lone wolf has fangs", he reminded members. He made it clear that he was not going to be tied to any political party. Voting for Vice-Chairman was 9 in favour of Conservative Cllr. Pembroke (a member of the Council for nine years) and 3 for Ind. R.A. Cllr. H.E. Wilkins. However, Cllr. Wilkins was elected to the key post of Chairman of the Finance Committee, which gives him ex-officio membership of all Council committees.

The Council's Chief Officers broke their traditional silence when the retiring Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. C.J. Gadsden, was presented with flowers by Council Clerk A. Hatt, to mark her historic year as first lady Chairman of the Council. He said: "I feel you have brought credit to the Council and proved that women are no longer the weaker sex. Mrs. Gadsden said that her year of office had been a "wonderful experience". Cllr. A.P. Phelps also paid tribute to her work. All but the Labour Councillors applauded, who maintained a stony silence.
EDITORIAL

Editor:— Wynnford P. Grant.

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

Phone:— Billericay 1927.

All copies of "Early Billericay" have now been sold, except for two or three. Total sales of this booklet are nearly 400 copies. The excellent response to this booklet exceeded all my expectations, and it shows that there is a demand for historical booklets like "Early Billericay". In reply to many enquiries, the next booklet in the Billericay History Series ("Early Billericay" was the first) will be published on July 24th. Further details will be released at a later date.

Also extremely pleasing is the response to the Billericay Reference Book. Already nearly 250 copies of the 500 printed have been sold. This Book is a complete guide to local organisations and Places of Worship, and also includes a short history of Billericay, and a section of very handy general information about Billericay. Price is 6d - if you would like a copy you are advised to order without delay.

In reply to many inquiries I have decided to print a list of roads in which the free delivery service for the "Observer" operates:— Perry Street, Woodside Road, Mountnessing Road (part), Gordon Close, Crescent Road, Crescent Close, Atridge Chase, Knightbridge Walk, Uplands Road (part), Uplands Close, Hill House Drive, The Knoll, Newlands Road, Newlands Close, Jacqueline Gardens, Springfield Road, Stock Road, Robin Close, Cromwell Avenue, Lake Avenue, and High Street. If you live in any of the above roads I will be pleased to deliver the "Observer" free of charge.

----- The Editor.

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STOP PRESS NEWS.
At the meeting on May 23rd there was an excellent attendance - the largest for some time. Sick members - Mrs. Kitsell, Mrs. Shiner, Mrs. E. Dawkins, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Joseph, and Mr. Gill - were all wished a speedy recovery to good health. Mrs. Rackham and Mr. Hill were welcomed back after being in hospital for some time. Mrs. Darling and Mrs. West also returned after their long absence through illness. The Secretary said that he hoped everybody would enjoy the week's holiday at Yarmouth - a party were going from the Branch on Saturday. He also stated that there were still some seats left for the Clacton outing on 20th June. The "Crackerjacks" Concert Party entertained with songs and musical items.

Battesbury Monday Club,

The meeting on Monday 21st May at Battesbury School opened with the usual raffle. A new member was welcomed. Particulars were given of the outing to Langford. The meeting then played Bingo. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Black and Mrs. Portsmouth.

On May 26th two new members were welcomed. The meeting started with a Raffle and the Chairman thanked members for the generous way in which they gave week after week, not only buying tickets, but also providing the goods. A collection for Blind Week was taken among the members, and over £2-10-0d was taken. The meeting was then given an interesting talk on stamps by Mr. Hunsford. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Rainbird and Mrs. Warner.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL.

Basildon Council have approved a scheme for the construction of additional public conveniences at Lake Meadows Park at a cost of £2,000. The scheme is subject to Ministry of Housing approval.

Basildon Council have approved tenders for an access road and new car park in Lake Meadows. The access road will lead from Radford Crescent on the Industrial Estate to the Car Park near the new football field.

Basildon Council are to make up part of Passingham Avenue, South Green under a Private Street Works Scheme.

The Council are going ahead with a numbering scheme for Noreby Road.

Have you purchased your copy of the Billericay Reference Book?

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Page 5.
Dear Sir, ---- In the last issue the Editor commented that it would be "quite simple" to pay for all the improvements in Billericay promised by the Residents' Councillors if expenditure in Basildon was cut down.

Well, for years past, we in Billericay have had more spent on us than we have paid in rates to Basildon U.D.C. We (and Wickford too) have been "subsidised" by New Town ratepayers.

How can we decently begrudge some rates being used this year to provide New Towners with very badly needed recreational facilities? The sensible place to build a swimming pool - not so awfully "super" - is in the district's chief centre of population. With the better road links, the pool will be in easy reach of the rest of us.

J. Allard, "Lilacs", Jacksons Lane, Billericay.

Editor: I agree that the New Town is in need of a park, but are not the South Green and Outwood Common areas of Billericay? Mr. Allard should remember that the New Town is provided with all kinds of amenities, of a far higher standard than in Billericay, by the Development Corporation. Would Mr. Allard rather see the £200,000 to be spent on a Swimming Pool spent on an amenity which will be of more benefit to people outside the district than inside it, or would he prefer to see it spent on improving some of the disgusting roads in and around Billericay - Norsey View Drive, Central Avenue, First Avenue, for example. Also, would he rather see money spent on a regional sports centre, or on providing main drainage for properties which have been without it for thirty years. I am not against the New Town having a Swimming Pool, but it should be of a much more modest type. Of course, the answer to Billericay's strained amenities is to have a period of "consolidation", with little development, so that the amenities and services can catch up with the rate of development. This policy is advocated by the Independent Councillors.

Footpath Diversion.

Dear Sir, ---- As a regular user of the footpath from Perry Street to the Station, I wonder how much longer we will have to wait for the length of footpath by the old sandpit to be opened again. I notice that "temporary" has been removed from the board advertising the diversion. Soon the board will disappear, with the footpath, and we will be left with a long detour to reach the station. Some action should be taken. It is rubbish to say that the old path is unsafe. "Regular User", Perry Street, Billericay.

BILLERICAY 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) (1).
2. DB, 4528 - I'm Looking Out Of The Window/Do You Want To Dance (Cliff Richard) (2).
3. R. 4896 - As You Like It (Adam Faith) (5).
4. R. 9282 - Come Outside (Mike Sarne) (5).
5. TN, 5007 - Picture Of You (Joe Brown) (8).
7. POP, 1013 - Ginny Come Lately (Brian Hyland) (9).
8. DB, 4790 - Wonderful Land (The Shadows) (6).
10. TN, 1524 - The Party's Over (Lonnie Donegan) (10).

OPEN TO ALL - Readers are reminded that "Teenagers' Page" is open to reports of all activities concerning teenagers, and to letters from readers on subjects of interest to teenagers. Just send your reports and letters to the "Observer" offices.

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BILLERICAY IN 1593 ---------- Continued.

In the last issue I described the town of Billericay as it was in 1593, as shown on the famous large-scale map of Billericay at this time drawn by the famous map-maker, Ralph Aggas.

Going from the town to South Green one encountered Billericay's Windmill, later made famous for its association with Billericay's famous "ghastly miller", Thomas Wood. Shown nearby is "Old Well Hill" - the site of an earlier mill? Today, only the stump remains, on Bell Hill.

South Green presented a completely different picture in 1593 (it was then known as "Southwoodes Green"), although even in those days it was quite an extensive hamlet round the Green. In those days Outwood Common Road branched off from its present route below Beams Way and ran along the track by Oak Farm, forming a crossroads with Hick- stars Lane. The Southend Road also ran along this route as far as Beams Way, and then ran along in front of Grimehill Farm (there in 1593) to join its modern route near the "Duke Of York". Grange Road also ran to the west of its present course. All the land in between formed the Green. This included the present Recreation Ground, the Memorial Hall, and the shops.

The main road continued on down to Barleylands Road, but to get to Crays Hill travellers had to go up Outwood Common Road, down Coxes Farm Road, and along the now-vanished (H)apsndon Lane, which led past Gurnards Farm.

Less than twenty houses are shown in Great Burstead village, but there was a hamlet at Brownes Green, which was at the junction of Kennel Lane and Church Street. There was another hamlet at Slices Gate, in Outwood Common Road, and in "Jacksmiths Lane" near the modern Sunnymede. Outwood Common ("Outwoods Common vastum domini") is shown as a wide stretch of land going from below where the railway now is to Norey Wood. Tye Common was also a real common in 1593, and was bounded by Tye Common Road, and the present back gardens of Abbey Road.

Unfortunately, this old and interesting map, does not show the Perry Street area, which was outside Great Burstead Parish.

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THEY WILL MEET RESIDENTS - Basildon Council are to meet residents of Norey View Drive, Billericay, after 80 petitioned the Council, to discuss the condition of their road. They are supported by Bittsbury Residents' Assn. in asking for temporary measures to alleviate flooding, and poor conditions.

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FUNERAL OF MRS. A. M. CATER
Great loss to the town.

...A funeral service for Mrs. Alice M. Cater of "Mill House", Stock Road, Billericay, was conducted by the Minister, the Rev. J. S. Wilkinson, at Billericay Congregational Church on Monday, followed by cremation at Southend. Mrs. Cater collapsed and died a meeting of the Friends of Historic Essex she was attending at Waltham Abbey.

Mrs. Cater's death is a great loss to Billericay, for she did a great deal of work for the town, a lot of it behind the scenes.

Mrs. Cater was particularly interested in the preservation of the historical remains of the Billericay area and its High Street where she owned the "Old Shambles" Hotel. She was Past President of Billericay Group, Council for the Preservation of Rural England, of which she was a founder member.

The Cater Museum in the High Street is open to the town and is memory of her husband Mr. William Alexander Cater. She also given money for many improvements to Billericay Congregational Church.

Some years ago part of her home was converted into flats and given to the Baptist Union of Churches as a home for retired Baptist ministers.

Mrs. Cater was also a member of the British Archaeological Assn., a vice-president of the Friends of Historic Essex, a supporter of the National Trust, and an active member of the Southend and District Antiquarian and Historic Society.

CARNIVAL QUEEN CHOSEN FROM 27.

Billericay's Carnival Queen for 1962 is pretty 18-year old brunette Anne Schofield, a machinist, of Fairfield Rise, Billericay. She was chosen from 27 entrants at Billericay Carnival Association's Selection Dance last Friday week. Her attendants will be Miss Patrice Brown, a 20-year old secretary of Prince Edward Road, Billericay, and Miss Hilary Ambrose 17-year old shipping clerk of Crays View, Billericay, and last year's popular queen. Pat and Hilary were attendants in the first Carnival in 1960.

Queen Anne will reign only on Carnival Day (June 30th) but she and her attendants will receive many gifts from local traders.

Billericay Carnival Association fear that the lack of transport may reduce entries in this year's Carnival, and bring it down below the standard of those of previous years. So far 15 floats have been promised, and two bands booked. More sideshows are needed for the Carnival Pete. It is hoped that those on the route will decorate their premises, and take part in the window dressing competition.

Proceeds go to Billericay Recreation Rooms.

SCHOOLCHILDREN PROBLEM DIMINISHING.

The problems of schoolchildren walking from South Green to attend Billericay Primary School were diminishing, as more were attending South Green School, and a footpath was being provided between Burstead Drive and Grange Road along the Southend Road, stated Mr. C. Featherstone at Friday's Committee Meeting of Billericay Residents' Assn.

Nevertheless three danger spots remained - the bottom of Hickstes Lane, the narrow footpath along Laindon Road, and Sun Street Garage where cars blocked the footpath when filling up with petrol.

Members were in agreement that this was one of the worst danger spots to children and adults alike - but a solution was difficult, and would probably be expensive. It was decided to put the matter before the Road Safety Organisation.

SUNNYMEADE FLOODS PROTEST.

At the recent meeting of Basildon Council's Works Committee members were told that a petition had been received from 57 residents of Jacksons Lane and Beverley Rise drawing attention to the flooding that occurred in Jacksons Lane between Beverley Rise and Cavell Road, and that the road was a danger to pedestrians, especially children, as it was without footways, unkerbed, and had a narrow carriageway and verge.

The Engineer & Surveyor reported that work on kerbing, for a continuous footpath from Cavell Road to Beverley Rise, the piping of the watercourse, provision of gullies, and widening and resurfacing of the carriageway was due to take place this September.

FURTHER CONTRIBUTION - Basildon Council are to make a further contribution to the make-up of Hillside Road, Billericay, thus reducing the cost per foot to frontagers from £1.0.0d to £3.10.0d per foot.
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COMPLETED.

Walthamstow Borough Council are not prepared to provide Outwood Common Estate with a community hall until the Estate is completed in September, members of Outwood Common Residents' & Community Association were told at their committee meeting last Wednesday week. The matter will, however, be discussed by the Council this September.

The Community Association recently organised a petition and public meeting calling for the provision of a community hall.

Basildon Council have informed Billericay Residents' Assn. that they are only responsible for cleaning Greenway on the Outwood Common Estate, as this is the only road they have adopted. Gully cleaning has taken place, but street cleaning has been left to the estate developers while development continued. This arrangement had not worked, and the Council were now proceeding with the sweeping of this road.

The Association wrote to the Council after members living on the Estate complained that the roads were never swept.

NEW CHURCH PLANS READY.

The new plans for the new Church to serve the Outwood Common and Sunnymede areas of Billericay are now ready, it is stated in the current issue of Great Burstead Parish Magazine.

The article continues: "The architect has been able to trim the cost of construction down to about £23,000. You will remember we have been promised £40,000 from the Diocese of Chelmsford, so this leaves us the problem of raising £23,000.

The article also states, that owing to many requests, there will be a service of Holy Baptism in Sunnymede Primary School on 24th June at 3 p.m.

COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR MORE COUNCIL HOUSE GARAGES.

"There is a definite need for more garages on Council estates", stated Independent R.A. Councillor M.E. Wilkins, speaking at the recent Council Meeting. "Many of the roads in the Outwood Common Estate are very narrow and dangerous", he continued, "and an accident could easily occur.

ROUND AND ABOUT
by "WANDERER".

It was a difficult task for Billericay's Residents' Association Councillors to decide who to vote for as Chairman of the Council, but I think they made the right decision to vote for the best man. I am sure Cllr. Phelps, with his wide experience of Council work, and his acknowledged fairness to all sides will make an excellent Chairman. Tribute should also be paid to the first lady Chairman of the Council, Cllr. Mrs. C.J. Gadson, for the way in which she has carried out her duties during the past year.

Before any decision is taken on the Inner Relief Road plan, a great deal of thought and consideration should be given, and the local residents should have a chance to inspect a model of the proposed road, and to express their views. At first sight I would say the road creates more problems than it solves.

Firstly, traffic coming from Basildon will have to make a sharp turn into Sun Street, and then a second sharp turn into Chapel Street. Secondly, the Chapel Street/Southend Road junction is not suitable for heavy two-way traffic. Thirdly, when traffic reaches the Norsey Road end of the relief road it has three alternatives:

a) It can proceed up Norsey Road, and then make a long detour via Potash Road to reach the Stock Road to Chelmsford.
b) It can go through the Crown By-Pass into Stock Road. But the Crown By-Pass is unsuitable for any volume of traffic, and the Crown By-Pass/Stock Road junction is dangerous.
c) It can proceed down the diversion road to the present Norsey Road junction, and then down Stock Road. This junction is already dangerous with four roads emptying into it. Also in "b" and "c" traffic would still have to cross the narrow railway bridge. In addition, the present surface of Stock Road is not suitable for heavy traffic.

Will this second solve the traffic problems of Billericay? Will the cost of constructing it be worth it? Will it create new dangers? I wonder.

----- "Wanderer".