

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday July 3rd, 1962.

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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

BILLERICAY'S CARNIVAL — THE BEST EVER

Billericay's third post-war Carnival on Saturday was the best ever - that is the verdict of Carnival officials and of members of the crowd who watched the procession. The procession was the longest ever and the standard of entries was up, there were more sideshows at the Carnival Fete (over thirty) than before, and the crowds watching the procession broke all records. It is estimated that the Carnival procession was well over half a mile long.

The Carnival fun started on Friday evening when the Carnival Queen (18-year old Anne Schofield) and her two attendants Miss Patricia Brown (age 20) and Miss Hilary Ambrose (age 17) visited the commercial funfair at Sun Corner to receive a donation towards the Carnival funds from the Proprietor. On the same evening the shop window dressing competition was judged, and this was won by Shelley's in the High Street who were presented with a plaque.

On Carnival Day entrants and officials anxiously watched the weather, but apart from a short shower in the evening, the rain held off, and there were long bright intervals. By 2 p.m. all the entries were lined up on the Town Farm Estate - many followed the theme of "Rural England" - and judging took place.

At 3 p.m. the procession moved off headed by the Southend Scottish Pipe Band. Behind the Pipe Band came the fancy dress entries, the tableaux on foot, decorated cycles, vintage cars, equestrian in costume, decorated vehicles, Harwich Marine Shop Band, Carnival Queen float, and the floats in that area. The rear was brought up by a convoy of Civil Defence vehicles (Civil Defence controlled the procession in conjunction with the Police) and the Collectors' Van.

The procession moved through the Town Farm Estate, which was crowded with people. A particularly large crowd gathered at the junction of Western Road and Everest Rise. Up Western Road the procession moved, far more crowded than in previous years. Then it moved into the High Street, where the crowds were several deep, and so to Sun Corner where the procession dispersed at 4 p.m.

Many of the crowd went to the Carnival Fete on the Archer Hall Field, which had been open since 2 p.m. The official opening was performed at 4 p.m. by Cllr. A.P. Phelps, Chairman of Basildon Council, who urged people to give generously. "The procession is worth two bob of anybody's money alone", he said. After the opening he toured the sideshows with Mrs. Phelps and the Carnival Queen and her attendants.

Especially popular were a chair lift run by Billericay Civil Defence, and a hot dog stall run by 4th Billericay Scout Group. Refreshments were run by Billericay Old People's Welfare Committee.

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Page 1.

BILLERICAY CARNIVAL.

From Page 1.

At 4.15 p.m. the Mala School of Dancing gave a display of dancing at the Fete; this was followed at 4.45 p.m. by a display by the Southend Scottish Pipe Band; at 5.15 p.m. by Swedish Dancing by Billericay Secondary Modern School; and at 5.45 p.m. a model aircraft display by Keilkraft of Wickford.

After 6 p.m. the crowds began to drift away from the Fete Ground. But there was still plenty of fun to be had. At the commercial funfair next to the Fete Ground there were dodgems, shooting galleries, and all the fun of the fair!

And at 7.30 p.m. there was a Grand Carnival Dance in the Archer Hall, presided over by the Carnival Queen and her attendants. The Carnival Queen presented the cup for the best local entry in the Carnival to Toolchrome Ltd., and the Billericay Charity Football Cup to Battlesbridge F.C.

A well attended firework display at dusk provided a fitting grand finale to Billericay's most successful Carnival!

.....
Proceeds gotto the Billericay Recreation Rooms in the High Street. These rooms are used as an old people's Rest Room and by various local organisations, and are innurgent need of repair. Various improvements are also planned.

PROCESSION PRIZE WINNERS:-

Class 1 (Adults Fancy Dress):-

1. Mrs.Thurbett (Rag Trade).
2. Mr.J.Layland (Victorian Cyclist)
3. Mrs.Booth (Minstrel).

Class 2A (Fancy Dress, boy or girl, aged 7 to 10 years):-

1. Brian Terry (Matedor).
2. Gillian Ganer (Country girl).
3. Janet Blackmore (Turkish Delight)
4. Michael Gee (Sheik).

Class 2B (Fancy Dress, boy or girl, aged 11 to 15 years).

1. Ann Lovell (Indian).
2. Brenda Howard (Pinky Pinkum).
3. Ann Butcher (Witch)
- Janice Ambrose (Clown) (Tie).

Class 3 (Tableaux on foot).

1. Billericay C.N.D.
2. Billericay Round Table.
3. Billericay Red Cross Society.

Continued In Column 2.

CARNIVAL RESULTS.

From Column 1.

Class 4 (Decorated Cycles):-

1. Marilyn Day and Andrew Osborne (tie).
3. Martin Millard.

Class 5 (Equestrian Costume):-

1. S.Richardson (Derby Result).
2. C.Hallows (Irish Sweep).
3. J.Norman (cowboy).

Class 7 (Vintage Cars):-

1. Malcolm Smith.
2. Terry Stubbs.

Class 8 (Decorated Trade Vehicles)

1. North Thames Gas Board.
2. Luxol Paints.
3. Beauty Box.

Class 9 (Decorated non-trade vehicles):-

1. Basildon Carnival Association.
2. Mrs.Patrica Gamer.
3. Truimph Owners' Motor Cycle Club.

Class 11 (Floats).

1. Toolchrome Limited (a glade in Sherwood Forest).
2. W.W.Ball & Sons Ltd. (Rural England).

The amount raised is not yet known, but it is hoped to publish it in the next "Observer".

SUNNYMEDE SCHOOL FAYRE.

Sunnymede School held a successful Summer Fayre in the school grounds last Saturday week. This is the second Fayre to be held by the School. Various displays, stalls, and sideshows were featured. Especially popular with the children was a 1d a time rope chair lift operated by Billericay Civil Defence.

The Fayre was opened by the Rev.G.R.Holley, Vicar of Great Burstead. The Rev.Holley emphasised the part the School played in local life, and said that those living at Outwood Common had a village green as a focus of their community life. Unfortunately they lacked what were in his opinion three vital amenities - a community centre, a proper Church, and a public house. Some people might not agree with him on the last point but he felt that a public house was essential. He hoped that the people of Outwood Common would soon have their own Church, community centre, and Public House.

Page 2.

DIRECT LABOUR DEBATE BRINGS HEATED EXCHANGES.

A debate on whether Basildon Council should hold an investigation into the merits of starting a Council Direct Labour Force brought heated exchanges at last Thursday week's Council Meeting. Several times during the debate the Chairman (Cllr A.P. Phelps) had to bang his gavel to bring members to order. Labour members repeatedly jumped to their feet to make points of order, and shouting whilst other members were speaking.

The motion was moved by Cllr. A.T. Dove (Labour) who said that Council projects could be carried out more economically by a direct labour force. As the Council would not be making a profit they could easily compete with the tenders of private contractors. He was sure, for example, that those living on roads to be made up, would like to see the work done as economically as possible. Cllr. Dove emphasised that the motion only called for an investigation into the merits of Direct Labour.

However, the motion was strongly opposed by Cllr. Mrs. C.J. Gadson (former Tory Council Chairman), who said that the Council could not hope to compete with the organisations of the private contractors.

She continued; "If you are going to have a Direct Labour Force you are going to have to build houses to provide accommodation for the 300 to 400 men you will need. It will mean setting up a complete new department to deal with the Direct Labour Force.

There is one section on this Council which believes in private enterprise and one section which believes in nationalisation. This motion is purely political.

I am against speculating the ratepayers' money in any way, even on an investigation".

For the Residents Cllr. Mrs. Lunt said that she saw no harm in an investigation.

Cllr. Mrs. Taylor (Con.) said that the Direct Labour Force would have to compete with some of the leading contractors in the country. The Council would find itself accepting its own tenders, even though they were higher than the contractors.

With the support of the four Residents' Councillors the motion was carried by a large majority.

NORSEY VIEW DRIVE RESIDENTS MEET THE COUNCIL.

At a recent meeting at the Council Chamber Billericay, the residents of Norsey View Drive, Billericay, met Basildon Council to discuss why their road has not yet been made up. Described as "one of the worst roads in Essex" Norsey View Drive has been the subject of many protests by frontagers and Buttsbury Residents' Association during the past year.

The meeting was opened by Cllr. Mrs. C.J. Gadson who explained why the road had been placed so far back in the programme of street works. It was necessary to embark on a large surface water drainage scheme in this area of Billericay and until this was started it would not be possible to make up any more roads in the area.

This was supported by Mr. Baker a technical expert of the Council who said there would be a very real danger of flooding in the lower parts of the area, which would be aggravated by the increased rate of flow of water from Norsey View Drive if it was a hard road.

The case for the frontagers was put by Mr. C.B. Drury, Chairman of Buttsbury Residents' Assn., who contended that at present once the shallow top soil was saturated the excess cascaded into Perry Street, where it was contained by the high banks of the road itself which becomes a natural water-course discharging into Orchard Avenue area. This situation would be improved if Norsey View Drive were made up and the surface water drained off into the ditch alongside Perry Street, which is deep, well-maintained, and adequate to carry all normal amounts of water. Thus, far from aggravating the situation, a made-up road would ease it.

There followed a general question time, which tended to get rather heated, and the Chairman had to bring the meeting to order on more than one occasion.

Very little was promised by the Works Committee to remedy the situation until the start of road works in about two years time. They did, however, promise to examine the possibility of providing some material for repairing the footpath beside the road. It was emphasised however that the amount of money available for such work and material was very limited.

EDITORIAL

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

The "Billericay Observer" had a mixed success in Billericay Carnival. The float depicting famous people who had made news in Billericay in the past was very successful. However, the closed van with a model town crier, broke down in Hillary Mount at the beginning of the procession route and had to be withdrawn.

I would like to express my thanks to the following people for their assistance:-
H. Keene & Co. of Billericay for loan of the two vans.
Mrs. E. F. Grant and Messrs. C. G. Prentice and M. F. Stevens for playing parts on the float. Mrs. S. Prentice for helping with decoration of the float.
Mr. R. F. Grant for assisting in the collection of money.
Messrs. N. C. de Lee, R. Bird, M. Goodwin, and N. Day (newsboys).

All 500 copies of the Billericay Reference Book have now been sold. This is very pleasing.

Sales of "Early Billericay" (first booklet in the Billericay History Series) now exceed 550 copies. I still have some copies of the fourth print left at 6d a time. This booklet describes the story of Billericay from the Stone Age to Roman times. It has been decided to issue the next booklet in the series in September - further details at a later date.

As usual the "Observer" will miss one issue in August, in order to give the Editor a break, and also because of the lack of news in August. Accordingly, there will be no issue on Tuesday August 28th. All news occurring in the fortnight normally covered by this issue will appear in the issue of Tuesday September 11th.

----- The Editor.

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FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

At the meeting held on 27th June there was an excellent attendance - the biggest for this year. With regard to sick members it appeared that Mrs. Train was improving; Mrs. Newell was about the same. All members who were away sick were wished a speedy recovery. Mr & Mrs. Shiner were welcomed back after their long absence. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. W. Gill. A new member was welcomed to the Branch - Mrs. Wade. The Secretary gave details of the outing to Eastbourne on July 16th. Mrs. Swaby entertained the members with Mrs. Dawkins at the piano, and the Chairman thanked her for her "show" and said it was a real task for one person to entertain so well all the afternoon. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Carpenter, Cross, Byron, and Sandrock.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

The club is still making more members and meetings now give a happy time to some 30-35 members regularly. On June 4th 34 members had an interesting visit to the Southend Waterworks Company works at Langford. Tea was taken at Danbury. Our next coach run will be to the strawberry fields at Tiptree, the date to be announced at the club as soon as possible. New members welcome at Buttsbury School on Monday evenings.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club - 1st anniversary.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club celebrated their first anniversary on 22nd June. Mrs. Brett, Chairman, welcomed three new members. Tea, sandwiches, cakes, and ice cream were served by Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Muniyard. Afterwards entertainment was provided by the "Outwood Bounders" who put on a lively cabaret show which was thoroughly enjoyed by members. Those taking part were Ron & Janet Denny, Les & Joan Homan, and pianist Mr. J. Sussex. Guests of the evening were Mr. G. Hannibal (Chairman of Outwood Common Community Association), Mr. J. Sexton (Entertainments Secretary), and Mr. Alan Jazzard (Youth Club representative). New members welcome 7-9 p.m. at Sunnymede Primary School on Friday evenings.

We still have a few copies left of the 4th print of "Early Billericay", No. 1 in the Billericay History Series, price 6d. This booklet has sold over 550 copies!

"The story of Billericay from the Stone Age to Roman times including a very neat map" - "Peterborough" in the "Daily Telegraph".

From the Publishers, Wynford P. Grant Limited, 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex (Phone Billericay 1927) or from most newsagents.

We regret that we have no copies left of the Billericay Reference Book.

Whether, you want to sell a pram or advertise the opening of a new store the "Billericay Observer" can help you! Our rates are cheap (£2-2-0d a full page, with reductions for local organisations) and an advert in the "Observer" really brings results! Just ring Billericay 1927 and we will give you full details! Remember - it pays to advertise in the "Billericay Observer".

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REPAIRS TO WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

Page 5.

"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST" by the Editor.

A further rental at the Essex Records Office describes Billericay in 1563. Unfortunately this is in a rather poor condition, and because of the style of writing reading it is not easy. Also, it does not appear to have been written in any particular area order, and therefore gives little information regarding the position of properties or names of roads (including the argued about Wellfield Lane).

However, it does give us a little information on some subjects. The inns mentioned are the "George" (site of Howards), "Crown" (then at Laylands) and "Swan" (site of Greens Stores). As one studies the quit rentals the last Inn continues to mount in importance, and it was obviously a more important inn than originally considered. The "Red Lion" (shown on the 1593 map) is not mentioned. The rental also establishes that Billericay's windmill was standing in 1563 - the earliest date it had been established at previously was 1593.

Many readers have asked me to give more details of Christopher Martin, the famous Billericay "Mayflower" pilgrim (one of five from the town). Martin was married at Great Burstead in 1606 or 1607, and shortly after we encounter him in the Quarter Sessions Rolls, when George Hiles gave evidence against Christopher Martin for using the trade of linen draper without being apprenticed to it.

At a later date we find his stepson Solomon Power (also on the "Mayflower") involved in Quarter Sessions: "Paprell to answer that he coming on Sunday night the 15th September from an alehouse drunk was required by Solomon Prower then on the King's Watch there to go with him, who answered he cared neither for the King's Majesty nor for such Jack an apes as he was and therewith broke the King's peace".

On that occasion the Martin family was on the right side of the law. However, in 1619 they were brought before the Archdeacons' Court at Ingatestone for nonconformity.

We can never be sure whether Martin first became involved in the "Mayflower" venture for religious reasons, or for commercial reasons. One thing is certain - he was appointed to arrange for the provisions in England.

However, he soon became unpopular with his fellow voyagers because of his obstinancy, and his bad temper when asked to account for the whereabouts of some of the money given to him. He was the subject of several indignant letters from "Mayflower" pilgrims.

He was not to live long in America. Soon after the pilgrims arrived he and his family died in the first infection.

Next time I hope to start on a completely new series of articles for which I am at the moment gathering material.

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

1. 7N.35047 - Picture Of You (Joe Brown) (6).
2. POP.1034 - I Can't Stop Loving You (Ray Charles) (-).
3. AAG.105 - Yes My Darling Daughter (Eydie Gorme) (-).
4. O.5871 - Here Comes That Feeling (Brenda Lee) (-).
5. HB.55436 - Old Rivers (Walter Brennan) (-).
6. RCA.1280 - Good Luck Charm (Elvis Presley) (1).
7. DB.4828 - Do You Want To Dance? (Cliff Richard) (3).
8. HLB.9558 - Drummin' Up A Storm (Sandy Nelson) (-).
9. POP.1002 - Wonderful World of the Young (Danny Williams) (-).
10. MGM.1160 - Dr.Kildare (Richard Chamberlain) (-).

STOP PRESS NEWS.

The "Observer" understands that Cllr.Alf Dove, former leader of Basildon Council's Labour Group has re-considered his decision to resign the whip of the Group (see Page 8), following letters from many Labour supporters. He has described his action as "impulsive", but states that he does not regret it.

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LIBRARY IS FILLED TO BURSTING POINT ON SATURDAYS.

"The lending library at Billericay is filled to bursting point on Saturdays, and the extreme inconvenience to public and staff alike is mitigated only by the goodwill of both", states Mr. N. D. Humphries F.L.A. Branch Librarian in his annual report issued recently.

"There is virtually no staff accommodation, and although pressure on space has been somewhat relieved by our being able to send a large number of books to Fryerns, the overcrowding at Billericay is still a great problem", continues Mr. Humphries.

Referring to the reference library at Billericay Mr. Humphries states; "This continues to be well used. In addition to the more mundane enquiries we have been able to assist a Cambridge don with research into local cattle markets; a member of Lille University in connection with an exhibition to be held in France; and an American editor of a psychiatric periodical who was interested in the historical link between Billericay and Billerica U.S.A. The local collection of books and pamphlets on Billericay and Essex has been in constant use and every effort is made to add to stock everything that will be of use in the future, although it may appear ephemeral at the present".

Mr. Humphries describes the major events of the year as the retirement of Miss M. Cohen, Librarian since 1948, and the introduction of the mobile library service into the area. Business is particularly brisk at the Saturday morning stand at Outwood Common.

Giving some statistics Mr. Humphries states that libraries in the Urban District now have a total lending stock of 81,396 books. During the year there were 771,002 issues compared with 690,356 last year.

In Billericay 59,816 non-fiction books were issued to adults, and 132,986 fiction books. Children took out 9,258 non-fiction books and 25,262 fiction books, making a grand total of 227,322, compared with 213,227 last year. Billericay has 4,525 registered adult readers (4,473 last year) and 1,312 children (963), making a total of 5,837 compared with 5,436 last year. There were 4,911 requests for titles, and the highest issue on one day was 1,943.

LABOUR GROUP COUNCIL LEADER RESIGNS

Signs of a major row within Basildon Council's Labour Group came at the recent Council Meeting, when Cllr. Alf Dove, Group Leader for three years, sat away from his colleagues, and with the Billericay Residents' Assoc. councillors. At the beginning of the meeting Council Chairman, Cllr. A. P. Phelps, said that he had received formal notice that Cllr. Dove was no longer leader of the Labour Group. Cllr. J. Blake, a Labour member, protested that it was the first he had heard about it, but the Chairman said that he could allow no debate on the matter. "You must sort this out among yourselves", he added.

After the meeting Cllr. Dove refused to disclose the full story, but said that he had resigned the whip of the Labour Group, but not from the Labour Party. In future he would sit as an Independent Labour member for Fryerns. No doubt the matter would be discussed by the local managing committee and there was always a strong possibility that he might be expelled from the Party. If this happened he would remain a true Socialist - "You can't turn the tap off overnight", he commented.

The new Group leader Cllr. R. Rice, also refused to go into full details. He denied that there had been a split in the party.

On Cllr. Dove he commented; "I respect the decision he made at Tuesday's group meeting. I feel that he will always remain a Socialist, and that we shall be able to agree on most matters of policy."

Although the Group are the largest party on the Council without an overall majority he did not think he was taking over at "a sticky patch".

Asked if the situation would have arisen if Cllr. Dove had been elected as Council Chairman at the Annual Council Meeting Mr. Rice said that that was hypothetical, but he did not think the situation would have arisen.

The meeting was also marked by sharp and heated clashes between two Labour councillors - John Blake and Percy Saunders.

Afterwards Cllr. Blake said; "I don't know what's got under Cllr. Saunders's skin. I was not at Tuesday's meeting, but as far as I am concerned I still accept Cllr. Dove as Leader of the Labour Group".

Billericay Floral
Arrangement Group.

Next meeting Wednesday July 4th.
Womens Institute Hall, 8 p.m.
Demonstrator, Mrs. J. Russell.
Subject - "Arrangements of Garden
Flowers". Members Competition -
"Rose Garden", an arrangement of
roses with own foliage. Visitors
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LIBERAL "CANNOT FIND WORDS LOW ENOUGH TO DESCRIBE RESIDENTS".

Mr. L. Wernick (Liberal Council Candidate for Billericay in the recent elections) said that he could not find words low enough to describe the activities of Billericay Residents' Association at a discussion on party politics in local government at a meeting of Billericay Young Socialists at the "Old Shambles" on Sunday.

The Resident candidates did not state their political beliefs and this was tantamount to fraudulence. Nobody knew where they stood on such subjects as Council Houses.

Mr. Wernick continued; "There can be very savage results from minorities like the Residents who reject everything. Groups similar to the Residents' Association gave rise to Fascism. They are a cancerous growth on the face of the community. All I ask for is honesty in policy matters".

Mr. Wernick compared Billericay with some West Midland towns, and said that Billericay was in dire need of industry. Industry was the life blood of the nation. The local residents could only think about what affected their little green plot - they were incapable of considering national issues.

Mr. Wernick concluded by saying that he thought Residents' Associations were "a wonderful idea" provided they kept out of local elections.

For the Labour Party Cllr. Mrs. Gibbs endorsed Mr. Wernick's remarks. Residents' Associations led to "anarchy" in local affairs.

For the Residents Mr. Hillyard said it was no good having a watchdog unless it had teeth. From a personal view he felt that the Residents were compelled to enter local elections because of the unsatisfactory attitude of the local Council. It was a pity that party politics had ever become involved in local government.

He rejected Mr. Wernick's suggestion that the town needed more industry. This was useless and a waste of land, when 90% of the population were "pen pushers". What was needed was office development.

Mr. Hillyard also rejected the criticism that the Residents were parochial. In many cases their Councillors had been to Basildon to deal with complaints and queries.

A general discussion from the floor followed.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

I have always had the impression that the Liberal Party was a sensible and responsible political party, and that Mr. L. Wernick was a responsible member of the Liberal Party. I was somewhat disillusioned when Mr. Wernick made some highly damaging and inaccurate remarks about the behaviour and voting of the Independent Resident Councillors in the Council Chamber. The events at the recent Council Meeting certainly proved that the supposed pact between the Tories and the Residents was a figment of Mr. Wernick's imagination.

My beliefs were shattered completely by Mr. Wernick's latest accusations. Apparently Mr. Wernick cannot "find words low enough" to describe the activities of the Residents' Association. He also suggests that their election platform was "fraudulent". A further suggestion put forward by Mr. Wernick is that such organisations as the Residents' Association are a breeding ground for Fascism!

I have never heard such arrant nonsense! The "Fascism" accusation is scare politics at its worst.

A study of the election addresses of the Council Elections is very interesting. The Residents give a clear outline policy to which their candidates subscribe, but firmly state that they will judge matters on merit. The Conservative and Labour addresses contain the usual vague platitudes. However, at least these pamphlets do contain a policy outline on most subjects. Mr. Wernick's pamphlet consisted of three paragraphs on minor subjects. Nothing about vital issues! I would suggest that the Liberal election address was the least informative of the four.

The Labour motion at the Council Meeting for an investigation into Direct Labour produced screams of "Nationalisation" from the Conservatives, even though the motion only called for an investigation. I feel that it is well worth investigating any proposal which may reduce the rates and increase efficiency. Just because Labour proposes it is no reason for rejecting a proposal. Thankfully, merit prevailed over party political divisions.

----- "Wanderer".