

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday July 17th, 1962.

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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

RESIDENTS DEMAND PUBLIC APOLOGY ROW OVER LIBERAL STATEMENTS GROWS

The row over attacks made by local Liberals on Billericay Residents' Association is growing. In a special statement issued over the weekend the Residents' demanded a public apology from Mr. Lionel Wernick (Liberal candidate for Billericay in the Council elections) over remarks he made at a recent public meeting about the Residents. In his speech at this meeting Mr. Wernick called the Residents' "a cancerous growth on the face of the community", suggested that they gave rise to beliefs like Fascism, and said that he could not "find words low enough to describe them".

Remarks made by Cllr. Brian Wignall, former Chairman of Billericay Constituency Liberal Association, at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Association, have also upset the Residents. Speaking about Residents' Associations Cllr. Wignall said; "Our candidate Lionel Wernick beat all but the winning Residents' Association candidates. The public have got to be made aware of the danger of these Residents' Associations. The electorate believe they are voting for independents - but are they? How independent is an independent? I suggest that every Residents' Association Councillor has political views of some sort, and I further suggest that it is human nature to project those views, however sub-consciously at the time. The electorate are therefore represented by an individual whose real views they do not know until it is too late. I am told that so far these Residents' Association Councillors have supported the Conservatives on all occasions. Need more be said, except that we must fight them openly as Liberals and retain our self-respect, and that of the electorate. Voting Liberal is as near to voting independent as one can possibly get, while allowing the voters to know the general policy views of those they support".

The Residents' special statement reads; "Not only do the inhabitants of this area have the incorrect statements and allegations of Mr. L. Wernick to consider, but he is now joined by a further misguided individual in the form of the past Chairman of the Billericay Liberal Association, Cllr. Brian Wignall, who, not only condones the statements supposedly made by Mr. Wernick, but adds to them. He states in his address "Our candidate Lionel Wernick beat all but the winning Residents' Association candidates. In view of the fact that Mr. Wernick was beaten by a Conservative with 1,710 votes to Mr. Wernick's 1,566 how wrong can one be?"

Continued on Page 2.

Page 1.

RESIDENTS DESCRIBE LIBERAL REMARKS AS "STUPID, RAMBLING, & UNFOUNDED".

From Page 1.

The statement continues; "That such a misleading address can be made rather proves that neither gentlemen have got any of their facts right. When accusing the Residents' Association Councillors of their supposed allegiance to the Conservative Party, which is absolutely utter nonsense, the only backing he could give to his statement was "Need more be said"? Yes, Cllr. Wignall, more can be said. We of the Billericay Residents' Association would like you to explain how such a stupid, rambling unfounded remark came to be made? To come from an elected Councillor makes the statement all the more pitiful, such a pity you were not informed of the manner in which the R.A. Councillors have in fact voted; this recent attack on the Billericay Residents' Association will serve you very little use, when remarks of utter bigoted value are made, they can only bring in their wake complete disrespect. When the Residents entered into local government it was expected that there would be adverse opinion from some quarter, but when we are aligned to a Fascist movement, we take complete exception, and demand a Public Apology from Mr. Wernick. Time has come for a stop to these advertising and electioneering statements. How Mr. Wernick can say he is fully informed is a complete mystery - so far I have not seen him at a Council meeting. In answer to the alleged bias that our councillors supposedly have, we of the B.R.A. and the electorate (who by the way for Mr. Wernick's and Cllr. Wignall's information are not the fools they take them for, as they will eventually find out) have never expected that our Councillors have no political feelings, but, what they are is of no concern, providing that all matters are dealt with by merit and not by Party Whip.

The Great Play given to the word "independence" is I feel wishful feeling on the part of the Liberals, can they truthfully (a virtue which seems a little lacking among local Liberals) deny that the Party has such machinery as the Whip?"

Continued In Next Column.

"LIBERALS WILL DO THEMSELVES UNTOLD HARM", SAY RESIDENTS.

The statement concludes; "If their attitude to the Residents is a true reflection of Liberal Party policy they will do themselves untold harm. Further to Mr. Wernick's remarks, he now finds it difficult to "find words low enough to describe the activities of the Residents. It would appear that Mr. Wernick has a very short memory, for in his Election Manifesto he almost fell over in the attempt to mislead the electorate that he really was strongly in favour of our Associations. Since the B.U.D.C. elections in May Mr. Wernick can be assured that the actions, policies, and beliefs of the Residents have not altered in the slightest, a line of action that has been carried out over the years".

In a letter to the "Observer" (see Page 7) Mr. Wernick states that he is prepared to meet the Residents, either in private or in public, to discuss his remarks".

SPEED LIMIT CHANGES.

Basildon Council have asked the Minister of Transport to approve the following changes in speed limits in Billericay:- London Road, Billericay, Sun Corner to Mountnessing Road, increased from 30 m.p.h. to 40 m.p.h. Southend Road, Billericay, Gatwick View to "Duke of York" increased from 30 m.p.h. to 40 m.p.h. "Duke of York" to Armstrong Whitworth's factory at present derestricted, new limit 40 m.p.h. Mill Road and Church Street, Great Burstead at present derestricted, new limit 30 m.p.h.

LIGHTING SCHEME.

Basildon Council have approved an "A" class lighting scheme for the whole of Noak Hill Road, Billericay, except for a small section between Church Street and Laindon Common Road where pole bracket lighting will be used.

SEWERAGE SMELL -- COUNCIL ACT.

Following persistent complaints from residents in Mountnessing Rd. Billericay about the smell from the nearby sewage works Basildon Council have decided to instal a special spray system for a trial period.

RESIDENTS GIVEN TALK ON EDUCATION.

Main speaker at last Monday's meeting of Buttsbury Residents' Association was Mr. Manns, Divisional Education Officer for Basildon, who gave a large audience a talk on Education. Mr. Manns was accompanied by Cllr. Pembroke, Chairman of Basildon Education Committee.

Mr. Manns said that the Education Committee's school building programme was based on the town development map population estimate for an area, and the average birth rate per thousand. However, when the population estimate was exceeded several years before it was reached, as had happened in Billericay, and one had a rapidly developing area of young married couples, the pattern was distorted. It now looked as if the ultimate population of Billericay would be in the region of 24,000, and this would require four two-form entry schools at Billericay, Buttsbury, South Green, and Sunny-mede, an additional two-form entry at some other site, and a one-form entry Roman Catholic school. Two-form entry schools had an intake of about eighty children a year.

On existing figures Buttsbury School should have 617 children in 1964, 676 in 1965, and 740 in 1966. This meant that the School would be faced with an accommodation problem in 1964, but no more permanent buildings were scheduled for construction until 1964/5. It was therefore planned to provide two additional temporary classrooms. Unfortunately, the Division's school building problems were often cut by the County Council, and then by the Government.

It was intended to bring Billericay Secondary School up to five-form entry shortly, and work should start on a further five-form entry School in Stock Road in 1964. There were no plans for a selective secondary school in the Billericay area.

In reply to questions from several members Mr. Manns agreed that sport and playground facilities at Buttsbury School were inadequate. He agreed to look into the use of Lake Meadows by pupils.

In reply to a question from Mrs. Clarke, Mr. Manns said that he thought a 25% pass of the 11+ was not low. Only 25% of children were capable of passing five G.C.E.s at "0" level.

Continued In Next Column.

BUTTSBURY RESIDENTS MEETING.

From Column 1.

The Treasurer (Mr. Clarke) reported that the Association had 400 members.

On social activities it was stated that a joint raffle with Billericay Residents' Assn. was planned, and a joint Jumble Sale at the Recreation Rooms on July 21st. A dance was planned for the Autumn.

The meeting concluded with questioning of the three Residents' Councillors present (Cllr. Blair, Cllr. Cook, and Cllr. Mrs. Lunt).

Cllr. Blair said that the Residents were represented on all Council committees. They were stoutly maintaining the Independent Policy despite many smears from ill-informed people. Unlike the "party" Councillors they did not hold pre-Council meetings to decide their policy for the formal debates. Instead they formed their own opinions, and adjusted them according to the arguments put forward. They were conscious of their responsibility to the people of Billericay, and would judge all matters on merit, and not on narrow party considerations. Cllr. Blair's remarks were endorsed by Cllr. Cook and Cllr. Mrs. Lunt.

CARNIVAL PROFIT OVER £550.

It is estimated that the profit made on Billericay Carnival on June 30th was over £550. Over £500 will go to Billericay Recreation Rooms in the High Street some money being kept back for future Carnivals. Last year £589 was raised.

PERRY STREET MAY ULTIMATELY BE STOPPED UP.

At a recent meeting Basildon Council's Works Committee the Engineer & Surveyor submitted a highway control plan for Perry Street and Orchard Avenue, Billericay. For the part of Perry Street between Buttsbury School and Orchard Avenue, and including Orchard Avenue, it was decided to have a 42 ft. control line providing for a 24 ft. road and two 9 ft. paths. The Stock Road/Orchard Avenue junction would be improved. For the part of Perry Street from Orchard Avenue to Stock Road it was decided a 18 ft. carriageway and two 6 ft. paths would be adequate. It was envisaged that the junction of Perry Street and Stock Road would eventually be stopped up.

EDITORIAL

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

Arising from a recent article in the "Daily Mail" many readers have asked me whether the "Observer" is, in fact, non-profit making. It is the policy of the "Billericay Observer" to be non-profit making, and, at the moment, the paper is running at a fair loss. This is mainly because of the high tax on duplicating materials, and because of high overheads.

Several orders have been received for "Early Billericay" (first booklet in the Billericay History Series) from booksellers in various parts of the country. I understand that it has also proved to be useful to certain local schools. I still have one or two copies left of the fourth print, and if any reader would like one they should get in touch with me as soon as possible. The second booklet in the History Series will be published on Tuesday September 4th. Research is almost complete, and full details will be published at a later date.

Readers are reminded that there will be NO "Billericay Observer" on Tuesday August 28th. All news normally covered in this issue will appear in the issue of Tuesday September 11th. This practice has also been adopted in previous years, in order to give the Editor a break, and also because of the lack of news in August.

Some readers have complained of having some difficulty in obtaining their copy of the "Observer". The "Observer" is now on sale in eight newsagents covering all parts of Billericay, including two in the High Street (Howards and Marshalls). I also sell it outside Billericay Station on alternate Tuesday evenings, and I will be pleased to deliver in the Perry Street area.

---- The Editor.

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FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

On the 4th July there was a very good attendance. The meeting was started on a very unhappy note when the Chairman announced the passing of a very old member, Mr. Youngman. A minute's silence was observed for Mr. Youngman. With regard to sick members it appeared that Mrs. Train was improving slowly, Mrs. Newell was about the same, and Mrs. Pierce had Fibrositis. All were wished a speedy recovery to good health. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. West and Mrs. Watts. A new member, Mr. Holland, was given a cordial welcome. Mrs. Candler was welcomed back after a long absence through illness. The Secretary gave details of the outing to Eastbourne on July 16th. A "Bring and Buy" sale was held in aid of Branch funds, and the meeting was concluded with community singing.

On the 11th there was a very good attendance. As to sick members it appeared that Mrs. Train was improving, and that Mrs. Newell was about the same. All were wished a speedy recovery. A sponge sandwich made by Mrs. Bradley's grand-daughter was raffled for branch funds. A vote of thanks was recorded to Mrs. Bradley's grand-daughter. Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Ransom were welcomed back after being away sick. Entertainment was by Crays Hill Women's Institute with a play.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

On July 2nd the meeting opened with the usual raffle. Mrs. Bond and Mrs. Craenell were away sick. It was decided that the outing in September should be to Hastings. Mr. Bond agreed to arrange this. Two new members were enrolled. The meeting concluded with a sing-song; Mrs. Morrison from the Sunnymede Club singing various songs.

On July 9th the usual raffle was held. The outing to Hastings was discussed, and it was left to Mr. Bond to make arrangements. The meeting then played Bingo.

(Regular reports of activities of all local O.A.P. clubs are most welcome for inclusion in this feature).

We still have one or two copies left of the 4th print of "Early Billericay", No. 1 in the Billericay History Series, price 6d. Over 550 copies sold! No more will be printed, so if you would like a copy please contact:-

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REPAIRS TO WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST" by the Editor.

The Quarter Sessions Rolls at the Essex Records Office in Chelmsford provide some interesting material on local history, and during the next few weeks I propose to use these Rolls as the basis of my articles.

For instance in 1572 we find the story of one John Hammonde of Billericay. The roll reads; "He confesses that upon the Monday next before Whitsunday last he came to Byllica and offered his services to John Daivy "sewemaker" who took him in upon trial and at the fortnight's end willed him to go to Hornchurch to his father to know if he would be apprenticed to the said John Daivy for five years but he went not to his father's house but tarried in the country that day. The same night he came again to Billericay town and was taken by the watchman and carried to his master's house and his master received him and bade him go up to his chamber to his bed so he went into his chamber and to his bed, and within one hour he rose forth of the bed and went into his master's chamber and took his master's purse forth of his hosen and took out thereof money, how much he knows not, and he took forth of the till of a chest in that chamber certain white money in all to value of 59/6d".

Apparently he went to North Benfleet, and then crossed the Thames to Rochester, where he was captured, having spent twenty shillings of the money, and brought back to Billericay. This reflects great credit on the forces of the law, for in those days roads were atrocious and communications between various parishes almost non-existent.

Later we find that a complaint is made by the constable "That Marmaduke Myddleton, schoolmaster, is a common brawler and disturber of his neighbours". Obviously, the teaching profession had some members who were not very respectable in those days!

Trouble in Billericay Market (now vanished) is also recorded, when one William Norris, a Billericay butcher, struck one John Brathewayte in the open market with a quart pot and drew blood. It is also recorded that Norris was a common drunkard.

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. POP.1034 - I Can't Stop Loving You (Ray Charles) (2).
2. DB.4856 - I Remember You (Frank Ifield) (-).
3. 7N.35047 - Picture of You (Joe Brown) (1).
4. LIB.55441 - Don't Ever Change (The Crickets) (-).
5. RCA.1280 - Good Luck Charm (Elvis Presley) (6).
6. O.5871 - Here Comes That Feeling (Brenda Lee) (4).
7. DB.4869 - Little Miss Lonely (Helen Shapiro) (-).
8. HLD.9573 - Speedy Gonzales (Pat Boone) (-).
9. SS.101 - Palisades Park (Freddy Cannon) (-).
10. DB.4828 - Do You Want to Dance? (Cliff Richard) (7).

With this issue Teenagers' Page celebrates six months of publication. Allocating 10 points for No.1., 9 for No.2 etc., I have worked out a table of the twenty most popular stars in Billericay in the last six months, based on the Billericay Top Ten. Points in brackets.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Cliff Richard (85). | 12. Billy Fury (25). |
| 2. Elvis Presley (74). | 13. Sandy Nelson (2). |
| 3. The Shadows (52). | 14= Helen Shapiro (21). |
| 4. Acker Bilk (39). | Jimmy Justice (21). |
| 5. Bruce Channel (34). | 16. Bobby Vee (20). |
| 6. Kenny Ball (33). | 17= Leroy van Dyke (19). |
| 7. Joe Brown (32). | Ray Charles (19). |
| 8. Del Shannon (30). | 19= Danny Williams |
| 9. Chubby Checker (29). | Karl Denver (18). |
| 10= Eden Kane (28). | B.Bumble & Stingers. |
| Adam Faith | |

Fifty-four artists have been featured in the Billericay Hit Parade since it was first started; only six have been girls.

Letters to the Editor

RESIDENTS AND THE LIBERALS.

Dear Sir, ---- I was surprised to read in your last edition, remarks attributed to me, being quoted so out of context, as to have lost completely their original meaning.

If members of the Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Association wish it, I would be happy to meet them at a private or public meeting to explain my remarks. Personal offence was certainly not intended at any time.

I would also be pleased to hear how this Residents' Association equates its "non-political" policy with its present ploy of trying to gain influence in Wickford. --- Lionel R. Wernick, "The Lyches", Greenway, Hutton, Essex.

Editor; Since receiving Mr. Wernick's letter I have read through my notes of his speech, and I am rather surprised that Mr. Wernick considers that the report in the "Observer" was not an accurate and fair representation of his speech. Mr. Wernick states that he did not intend personal offence, and whilst I am prepared to accept this, he did state at the meeting that he intended to be "controversial". Would Mr. Wernick please explain why the other week one of his Liberal friends said that the Residents always voted with the Conservatives, when this is a complete distortion of the truth? Would he also please produce evidence to substantiate his remarks about the alleged activities of the Residents in Wickford?

Dear Sir, ---- Of course Mr. Wernick is talking "nonsense" if he calls Residents' Associations "a cancerous growth" and suggests they are a breeding ground for Fascism.

But the "Observer" talks nonsense, too, when it dismisses the Labour Party local election address as "stereotyped" and containing "the usual vague platitudes".

The Labour candidates put forward five specific policy points. The first - an investigation into the possibility of using Council employees "direct labour", to build houses and roads more quickly and cheaply - this has been acted upon in the Council, with Residents councillors supporting the Labour Group.

Another policy point was a "comprehensive" school for Billericay, which would mean that our youngsters could obtain selective education without the need to travel to grammar schools in other towns. Residents' councillors have voted with Labour to have "comprehensives" discussed by the Schools Administration Sub-Committee.

The securing of land for the homes our children will need when they grow up was a third point. In your 19th June issue you reported Residents' Councillor Blair as saying; "We must save land for them". The remaining points - a panel to press for better transport facilities and a weekly "clinic" where people with problems could consult councillors were also relevant and far from vague.

If the "Observer" was fairer to the local "political" parties, your championship of the Residents' would carry more weight.

---- John Allard, "Lilacs", Jacksons Lane, Billericay.

Editor; I am pleased to see that Mr. Allard agrees that Mr. Wernick's remarks are "nonsense". This is an exact opposite to the views held by Labour councillor Clare Gibbs, who endorsed Mr. Wernick's views at the meeting in question.

I admit that the Labour pamphlet was more informative and less vague than the Conservative. But it still only deals with five issues, and very briefly at that. What about such vital matters as Housing, Town Planning, Highways, and Rates? All these were fully dealt with in the Independent Residents' manifesto. The Residents' manifesto also included long messages from the three candidates, and two further messages from Independent Cllr. Wilkins, and from the Chairman of the Joint Election Committee (Mr. V.C. Ireland). I am still convinced that local government is better in the hands of independent men and women, than in the hands of the mammoth political parties.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE -
A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

Mrs. B. Barr (Secretary) reported a successful year at the recent Annual General Meeting of Billericay Old People's Welfare Committee held at the Health Clinic, Laindon Road. Several outings had been organised for the more housebound pensioners, the rest room continued to be well patronised, and parcels had been distributed at Christmas. More volunteers are, however, still required for visiting and the Secretary would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in doing this work.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Barr and all those who had devoted their time and energy to the old folk over the year.

Officials elected; Mr. G. Mepham (Chairman), Mrs. B. Barr (Secretary), Mrs. Emery (Treasurer), Mrs. Toze (Asst. Secretary), Mrs. Wilby, Capt. Tespirere (committee).

M.P. ON TELEVISION.

Mr. Edward Gardner, M.P. for Billericay, was featured on the Associated-Rediffusion programme "Questions in the House" last Friday week. He dealt with his campaign to persuade the Government to give more support to Voluntary Service Overseas, an organisation which inspired President Kennedy's "Peace Corps".

Mr. Gardner was interviewed with four boys and two girls who had been out as volunteers, nursing and teaching, abroad. Mr. Gardner explained his anxiety that V.S.O. should be the principal recipient of Government aid for this kind of work, and also the value of the work done by British girls and boys overseas.

SPEED LIMIT IMPOSED.

Members of Basildon U.D. Road Safety Committee were told at their meeting in Billericay last Friday week that a 40 m.p.h. speed limit had replaced the 30 m.p.h. limit in Stock Road.

For Billericay Residents' Assn. Mr. V.C. Ireland said that he thought this would cause a danger at the junction of Hill House Drive and Stock Road.

Inspector Manning said that he thought that the new limit was more realistic. Drivers were more inclined to obey high limits than low limits.

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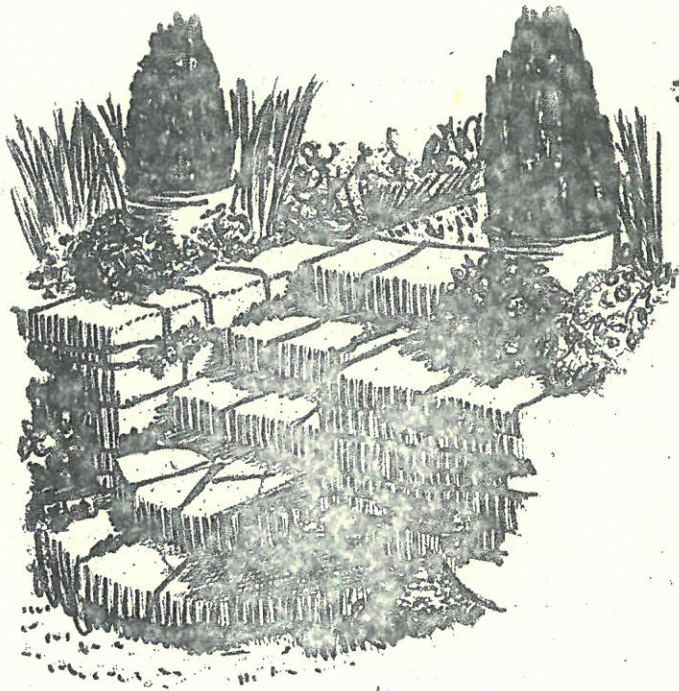
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BUS RE-ROUTING RUMOUR DENIED.

In reply to letters from Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Associations, the Eastern National Bus Company have stated that rumours that the Billericay Town Service (256) was to be re-routed from up Perry Street, down Uplands Road and The Brightside, and along Mountnessing Road, have no foundation whatsoever.

RESIDENTS FORM EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

At last Friday's week Executive Committee meeting of Billericay Residents' Association to form an Emergency Committee to deal with matters of urgency as they arise. It was pointed out that there was no machinery for dealing with matters of urgency,



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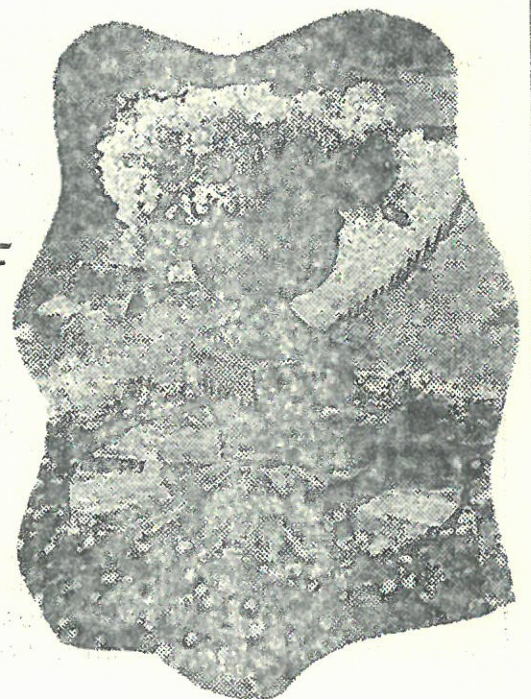
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HORTICULTURAL SHOW VERY SUCCESSFUL.

Billericay Horticultural Society's Annual Summer Show at the Archer Hall on Saturday was a big success. Entries were up by 105 on last year (221 to 326) and despite the unsettled weather there was a very good attendance. Exhibits were pleasantly arranged, and of a high standard.

The Show was opened by the Chairman of Basildon Council, Cllr. A.P. Phelps, who congratulated the Society on the standard and size of the show. Mrs. Phelps was presented with a bouquet by Miss Hazel Toose. Cllr. Phelps presented winners of the Council House Garden Competition in the Billericay area with their awards.

Major award winners were:-
Billericay Horticultural Society Summer Cup for the best exhibit of annuals in the Summer Show, Mrs. Norris; Capt. Tesoirere Cup for best exhibit in Cookery Section Summer Show, Mrs. R.F. Lindsay; L. Jarvis prize for best exhibit of rose bushes in Summer Show, Mr. Peart; J. Baldwin prize for best flowering pot plant in Summer Show, won by J. Baldwin; Frank Cant & Co., 30/- voucher for runner-up to National Rose Society Medal, Mrs. Norris; "Smallholder" bronze medalion for highest aggregate of points obtained by member in Vegetable Section, Mr. J. Attridge; "Amateur Gardening" Silver Bronze Medal for best exhibit shown by member in Flower Section, Mr. Kitchen; National Rose Society medal for best rose exhibit, Mr. Fraser; Silver Leaves for best exhibit in Floral Art section, Mrs. C. Whellams.

ROMAN CATHOLIC FETE OPENED BY COUNCILLOR.

Billericay Roman Catholic Church's Annual Fete in the grounds of the "Holy Redeemer" in Laindon Road on Saturday was opened by Residents' Councillor, Mrs. J. Lunt. Mrs. Lunt said that the purpose of the Fete was to help raise money for a Roman Catholic School in the area, and for various amenities for the Church.

Because of rain in the morning it was intended to hold the Fete in the Church Hall, but by dinner time the rain stopped, and the many stalls and sideshows were moved out into the open.

Results of a Fancy Dress Parade were:- 1. Susan Owens (Flower Queen), 2. Joe's Cafe (Hillary Prow), 3. "Washday" (Clare & Mark Donovan).

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

It is my duty to report for the third week running an inaccurate outburst from a local leading Liberal. First of all Mr. Wernick said that the Residents always voted on the side of the Tories. Then he came out with his now famous "Fascism" speech. Now, Cllr. Brian Wignall states that the Residents also vote on the side of the Tories, that Residents are a "danger", and that voting Liberal is as near as voting independent as you can get!

Firstly, Cllr. Wignall's statement about the voting of the Residents' is absolutely untrue! Where Cllr. Wignall got his information from I don't know. To counteract these lies I have decided to print the Residents' voting record at the last two Council meetings:-

Abstain - once.
Split vote - twice.
With Conservatives - once.
With Labour - once.
Alone in voting for a proposal - once.

It is obvious from these figures that the Residents' have voted on merit on every occasion when a vote was taken.

I would say that the biggest danger to the electorate was irresponsible Liberals who do not state their policy on vital matters.

Surely, Cllr. Wignall does not seriously suggest that the Liberal Party is an association of independents? By the way, the lone Liberal on Basildon Council has so far abstained on all votes.

The Liberals are always complaining about Conservative and Labour speakers throwing mud at them - to use Cllr. Wignall's own words "They are slanging us, abusing us, and generally making Liberals out to be the most irresponsible and dangerous people that ever existed". Surely, the same words could apply to the Liberal's attitude to the Residents? It's high time the Liberals started acting in a more responsible manner.

I am pleased to see that the Council are to number houses in Stock Road and nearby roads, in addition to Norsey Road. This will prove invaluable to visitors or in case of emergency.

---- "Wanderer".