

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday July 31st, 1962.

Number 117.



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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

## ANGRY PARENTS PLAN TO BLOCK MAIN ROAD IN PROTEST

Motorists travelling on the 500 cars-per-hour Southend Road, Billericay (the A.129) may find themselves slowed down on Sunday 12th August and subsequent Sundays between Mill Road and Armstrong Whitworth's factory, by a long line of cars parked several feet from the edge of one side of the road, and plastered with slogans. This is just one of the protests planned by angry parents living along this busy stretch of road, to bring the attention of Essex County Council and the Ministry of Transport to their urgent need for a footpath. This sensational form of protest was decided on at a meeting in one of their homes last Tuesday.

The meeting was opened by the organiser, Mrs.P.M.Reed-Edwards. She reported that five accidents had occurred in the vicinity in the past year or so, including two in which young children had been involved. Of the fourteen families living in the area, twelve had children. Five years ago a petition had been organised, calling for a footpath but there had been no result. Recent inquiries had revealed that Basildon Council had applied to the County Council to construct a footpath at a cost of £8,000, but permission had been refused for two years running because of lack of funds.

Mrs.Reed-Edwards concluded; "Two buses run along the road every quarter of an hour, and when two buses pass there is no room left for pedestrians. The clear stretch of road also gives cars an incentive to overtake. What chance do you stand? You are forced into the hedge. What do you do if you are forced into the hedge with a pram?"

Mrs.Thompson commented; "One day there will be a fatal accident, and I'm worried that it will be my children. It's a nightmare! The other day a bus knocked my basket out of my hand. If I had had a child in my hand he could have been injured. It looks all right if you ride past in a car, but until you walk down here you don't realise how dangerous it is! The sum of £8,000 is ridiculous when you compare it with the lives of our children".

The meeting was unanimous that the matter shouldn't be just dropped. It was decided to organise a petition to send to the Minister of Transport, and to put up a succession of posters in their gardens bearing suitable slogans drawing the attention of motorists to the danger. It was also decided to park a line of cars, plastered with posters, several feet from the hedge on Sunday August 12th, to create a safe path, and to draw the attention of motorists and the authorities to the danger. This would slow motorists down, it was felt, and petition signatures could be collected off them. Page 1.

#### LORD ALDINGTON IN BILLERICAY.

Lord Aldington (formerly Sir Toby Low) Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party, paid a visit to the Billericay constituency on Friday last. The purpose of his visit was to meet informally Branch Chairman and Secretaries throughout the Billericay and Brentwood Conservative Association.

Lord Aldington spoke briefly on the problems facing the Government Common Market issues, Government changes, and the Party's national recruiting campaign, for which he is particularly responsible.

In the Chair was Mr. S. C. Parrish J.P., Association Chairman, who introduced Lord Aldington. After speaking Lord Aldington dealt with a variety of questions. Finally a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Edward Gardner Q.C., M.P., who said how keenly he was looking forward to spending the week of September 24th-29th in the Constituency, visiting factories, schools, and meeting Constituents.

#### GULLY RUNS UPHILL!

Following serious flooding in front of the Roman Catholic Church in Laindon Road, Billericay, Billericay Residents' Assn. asked Basildon Council to carry out remedial works. This was done, but recently, after a heavy storm, people visiting a Fete in the Church grounds found that they had to wade through deep water to reach the gate!

The reason was revealed by Mr. E. Lunt at last Friday week's committee meeting of Billericay Residents' Association - the gully installed by the Council runs uphill!

It was decided to contact the Council again on this matter.

#### RESIDENTS TO FORM A WOMEN'S SECTION.

Billericay Residents' Assn. are forming a Womens' Section. A preparatory meeting was held at the Recreation Rooms yesterday (Monday) with Cllr. Mrs. J. Lunt in the chair.

The Residents are also looking into the question of forming an Education Sub-Committee to deal with all Education matters. This proposal was put forward at their recent meeting by Mr. M. Power who said that education would be very important in the next few years.

#### LAINDON ROAD DANGER DISCUSSED.

The danger from traffic to those using Laindon Road, Billericay, came under discussion at the recent meeting of Billericay Residents' Association's Executive Committee. Members were told that top priority had been given to a scheme to provide a footpath from Sun Corner to Archer Hall behind the cottages in Laindon Road, although some delay was likely to be caused by land acquisition.

Commented Mr. Hopkins; "Top priority is all very well but sooner or later there will be a fatal accident along that road. Women with prams and children going to the Primary School are forced off the narrow pavements. There is certain to be an accident sooner or later".

Mr. Ireland felt that the Noak Hill Road improvement scheme would increase the road safety hazard.

Mr. Hems, Chairman, felt that the authorities had dithered too much.

It was decided to write to the Essex County Council.

#### MRS. A. M. CATER LEAVES £295,376.

Mrs. Alice M. Cater of "Hill House", Stock Road, Billericay, owner of "The Old Shambles" in Billericay High Street, who gave Billericay the Cater Museum in memory of her husband, Mr. W. Cater F.S.A., and who took an active part in many local organisations left £295,376 (£292,051 net), duty paid £166,458. Mrs. Cater died in May of this year.

Billericay Group for the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, of which she was an enthusiastic member and a Past President, receives £200. The Friends of Historic Essex, another Society in which she took an active part receives £100, and Southend Antiquarian Society receives £200. Billericay Congregational Church receives £500, and its Minister the Rev. J. S. Wilkinson of Chapel Street, Billericay, £200. Two nieces receive £10,000 each, and four more relatives £5,000 each. After two further legacies of £1,000, and a further two legacies of £100 each to two people in her service, with a few small legacies the residue is equally divided between her nephew and four nieces.

RESIDENTS ATTACK LIBERAL "RAVINGS".  
"Fascism" Row Latest.

Buttsbury Residents' Association Chairman Mr. C. B. Drury has issued the following statement about the recent Liberal "smear" campaign; "The Buttsbury Residents' Association would like to follow up the statement issued by Billericay Residents' Association concerning the "smear" campaign now being mounted by certain members of the Liberal Party in Billericay. Their remarks about Independent Councillors are now so well publicised that they require no repetition.

We align ourselves completely with the demand for a public apology from Mr. Wernick and go further to say that we think it high time that a hitherto responsible organisation such as the Liberal Party made a move to curb such juvenile and utterly inaccurate ravings by its members.

Constructive and reasoned criticism is one thing, but this sort of elementary rabble-rousing is another. Surely, the saner elements of the Party can see that they will gain no benefits from such behaviour.

We emphasise that we support the principle of truly independent councillors because we believe that party politics have very little place in local government. To argue that a Councillor should declare his political beliefs in order that the electorate should "know where it stands" is as ludicrous as insisting upon a declaration of his religious views.

We believe that what is required in a Councillor is not convinced political prejudice but good sound common sense, and a dedicated sense of responsibility to all he represents. We contend that a fair minded individual can achieve this ideal without allowing his political opinions to interfere with his judgment.

We are of the opinion that we have four such people now in office and to back this opinion we state that it is only necessary to attend any Council Meeting to see and hear the proof of this. The standard of debate is generally high and the presence of the four Independents has brought about a change, in that the old Red v. Blue arguments cut no ice unless they are backed by constructive reasonings.

Continued In Next Column.

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RESIDENTS STATEMENT.  
From Column 1.

Both of the major parties are finding that mere "slanging" is not enough to attract the very necessary support of the Independents, whose very presence has thus brought about a higher standard of legislation, apart from their more positive actions in other fields."

The statement concludes; "We therefore say to Mr. Wernick, and anyone else who doubts the wisdom of the "Independent" principle, that they should attend more Council Meetings and Watch, Listen, Learn, and then, if they feel so disposed, criticise to their heart's content - but please, of please, make it constructive".

Footnote; At a recent meeting, Mr. L. Wernick, Liberal Council Candidate for Billericay, said that the Residents gave rise to Fascism, were "a cancerous growth on the face of the community", and that he "could not find words low enough to describe them".

NEW-STYLE "MAYFLOWER".

The latest issue of Billericay Residents' Association's magazine, the "Mayflower", takes on a new look with the 9th issue published over the weekend. It includes 12 typed quarto pages of news, views, and comment, with an attractive green cover. A special article deals with comprehensive education.

The Editorial deals with the question of Recreation Grounds in the area. It states; "In this town we are fortunate in having Lake Meadows which most people agree is a delightful asset to the community. Yet this self-same place has been used as an excuse for failing to provide similar facilities in other parts of the neighbourhood".

The writer states that he feels that it is wrong that children in outlying districts should have such scanty facilities when Lake Meadows is so inaccessible to most people. Indeed, a trip to Lake Meadows would be compared to a safari! Transport services within walking distance are poor, and mothers taking young children are faced with crossing three main roads to reach it. The writer states that he feels that there is a definite need for small recreation grounds where children can be left to play for a hour or two. He concludes; "The problem calls for a new and enlightened outlook and vigour and foresight".

# EDITORIAL

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

As orders were still coming in (particularly from libraries and booksellers) I have found it necessary to issue a 5th print of 50 copies of "Early Billericay". Sales of this booklet, first in the Billericay History Series, and dealing with the history of Billericay from the Stone Age to Roman times, now exceed 600 copies. The second booklet in this popular series will be published on Tuesday September 4th, and full details will be published in the next issue of the "Billericay Observer". By the way, if any readers would like a copy of "Early Billericay" they are asked to get in touch with the "Observer" offices as soon as possible. The price is 6d; 9d by post.

I have also printed a few copies more of the Billericay Reference Book. These booklets are strictly limited in supply, and orders will be dealt with in strict rotation.

I would like to draw the attention of readers to the free delivery service for the "Observer" which exists in the Perry Street area. Full details are available from the "Observer" offices.

I would also like to remind readers that, as has been the custom in previous years, the last issue of August i.e. that of Tuesday August 28th will not be published. All news normally covered in this issue will be fully reported in the issue of Tuesday September 11th. The idea of this practice is to give the Editor a break, and also because of the extreme lack of news in August.

----- The Editor.

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10, Uplands Close.

.....  
STOP PRESS NEWS.

# FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

At the meeting on the 18th of July there was a very good attendance. With regard to sick members it appeared that Mrs. Harding was a little better, Mrs. Shiner was about the same, and Mrs. August had been taken to hospital again, but was a little better. All were wished a speedy recovery. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. Pegg who had reached the grand old age of 83 years. A new member, Mr. Andrews, was welcomed to the Branch. The Secretary hoped that all members had had a good day at Eastbourne, and said that the next outing would be to Felixstowe on August 13th. As the booked Concert Party failed to turn up members entertained themselves. Those taking part were Mesdames Plumridge and Horne, and Messrs. Joseph and Wiltshire with Mr. Riches and Mr. Lewis singing a Duet and Mr. Andrews with Monologues, Mr. Dawkins being Compere, and Mrs. Dawkins Pianist.

At the meeting on the 25th July there was a very good attendance. On sick members it was stated that Mrs. August was still in Hospital, and Mrs. Dalgarne had also been admitted to Hospital, while Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Collins were improving. Mrs. Shiner was given a cordial welcome back after her absence through illness. Birthday honours were accorded Mr. Charlesworth. The Chairman (Mr. Joseph) gave notice of the Horticultural Show to be held on 22nd August, and the Secretary gave details of the outing to Felixstowe on August 13th. The Branch's own Concert Party entertained with Mesdames Horne, Plumridge, and Clark, and Messrs. Joseph, Wiltshire, and Plumridge, with Songs and Duets, Mr. Dawkins being the Compere, with Mrs. Dawkins at the Piano.

## Buttsbury Monday Club.

The meeting held on Monday July 16th was well attended, a new member being welcomed. "Get well" wishes were accorded to Mrs. Bond and Mrs. Cracnell who were still absent. It was decided to hold Winter meetings on Mondays by an unanimous vote of those present. The meeting then played Bingo.

On Monday July 23rd the meeting opened with the usual Raffle. A new member was welcomed. Mr. Bond read a letter from Christ Church Perry Street saying that the Club could hold meetings there during the School Holidays. Thanks were given to the Church authorities for this kind offer. The outing to Hastings on September 4th was discussed, and so many members wanted to go, that it was decided that no visitors could be promised seats. Notice was given of the Annual General Meeting to be held on September 3rd, further details to be given at a later date. The meeting then played Bingo.

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REPAIRS TO WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST" by the Editor.

Criminals in the reign of Queen Elizabeth were severely dealt with. For instance, in 1594, George Humfry of Billericay was sentenced at the Quarter Sessions in Chelmsford to be hung for stealing a dark, grey mare worth £3 belonging to Randall Thedum of Stanway.

However, in September 1600, Henry Jepson a Billericay blacksmith, and James Slack of Great Easton received a comparatively "light" punishment for stealing eleven steers worth £22 belonging to John Westly, and three steers worth £6 belonging to William Mosse and John Wakelyn, both offences being committed at Billericay. Although they were both found guilty, they were both able to obtain benefit of clergy i.e. they could read like a clerk, and they were branded and set free.

Widow Agnes Ponde of Billericay also found herself in trouble for abusing the Queen's officer - James Norrys, John Parker, and Thomas Jones - constables of Billericay, and for not attending Church for a period of two months, a serious offence in those days.

The town also experienced a great deal of trouble with Thomas Carr of Billericay. The report of the Constables states; "He liveth idly following no trade to live by being a lustie jonge man, yet goeth from alehouse to alehouse spending his time",

The Overseers of the Poor appeared to have great difficulty at this time with the large number of paupers in the town, and also with able bodied persons who refused to work. In 1602 in a letter to the Quarter Sessions the town complained that it was "overcharged with poverty", and had difficulty in supporting all its poor.

The Quarter Sessions Records at the Essex Records Office give a fascinating record of life in Billericay long ago, and in my next article I shall deal with more items from the Records concerning Billericay.

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TEENAGERS' SECTION 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. I Remember You - Frank Ifield (2).
2. I Can't Stop Loving You - Ray Charles (1).
3. Picture of You - Joe Brown (3).
4. Come Outside - Mike Sarne (-).
5. English Country Garden - Jimmy Rodgers (-).
6. Good Luck Charm - Elvis Presley (5).
7. Here Comes That Feeling - Brenda Lee (6).
8. Ginny Come Lately - Brian Hyland (-).
9. Our Favourite Melodies - Craig Douglas (-).
10. Don't Ever Change - The Crickets (-).

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LOCAL RESIDENTS!

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COUNCIL TURN DOWN HIGH STREET DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL.

At the recent meeting of Basildon Council's Development & Planning Committee members were reminded that planning permission had previously been refused for the construction of shops on the site of the "Three Horseshoes", 139, High Street, Billericay, and the Minister had supported the Council's decision. The developer had now asked the Council to re-consider this proposal. The County Planning Adviser, who had been consulted, was in agreement with Basildon Council than no change in circumstances had taken place to warrant the granting of permission.

Basildon Council have made a Building Preservation Order in respect of 24, High Street, Billericay, and are to obtain an expert's report on the condition of 122/124, High Street, with the view of making a Preservation Order.

ST. JOHNS DRAW AT RAYLEIGH (Cricket)

St. Johns Sports Association drew with St. Michaels 1st XI at Rayleigh on Saturday 21st July. After a slow start St. Johns got going, and through Woodward, they managed to reach 154. St. Michaels also made a slow start, and scored 142, the game ending in a draw.

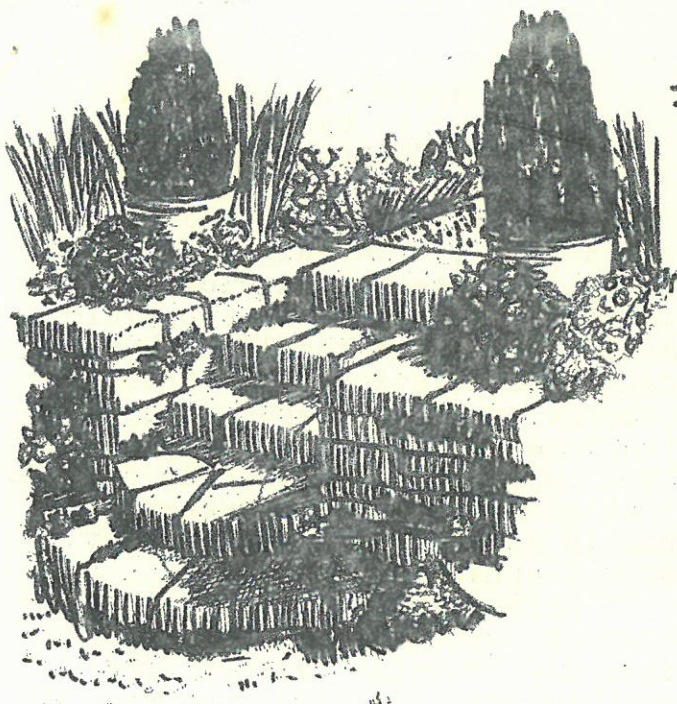
St. Johns batting:-

A. Anthony b. Kirby	15
H. Quirk L.B.W. Kirby	23
C. Marshall Run Out	14
P. Woodward b. Kirby	66
D. Belson b. Newman	16
D. Tunbridge ct. Cole b. Kirby	7
D. Bane, Not Out	9
E. Coe ct. Haylock, b. Kirby	0
R. Mear ct. Cole, b. Kirby	0
R. Masters b. Kirby	0
F. Lammin b. Kirby	0

Bane took four wickets for St. Johns, and Coe one.

JUMBLE SALE - The Recreation Rooms in Billericay High Street were crowded out last Saturday week with bargain hunters attending Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Associations Jumble Sale. Over £10 was raised towards the Joint Election Fund.





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BILLERICAY'S OLDEST INHABITANT  
CELEBRATES HER 103rd BIRTHDAY!

Billericay's oldest inhabitant Mrs. Frances Gear celebrated her 103rd birthday with a party which was attended by over eighty guests, including Cllr. A. P. Phelps J. P., Chairman of Basildon Council, and Mrs. Phelps, Sir Graham Rowlinson Chairman of the North Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, Mr. T. Fitzroy Kelly, Chairman of the St. Andrews House Committee, and Mr. S. Squires, Chairman of the St. Andrews Hospital League of Friends and Mrs. Squires, together with members of the committee. Mrs. Gear sat at the head of a long table in Ward "B" of St. Andrew's Hospital Annex in Mountnessing Road sat at the head of a long table sipping champagne and enjoying a slice of the huge birthday cake.

However, Mrs. Gear had another reason to celebrate, for in May of this year she had a reunion with her long lost son Ernest, now 71, who emigrated to Australia in 1913, and went gold prospecting in the bush in 1939. When recently writing to a retired business man, Mr. C. W. Taylor (who attended the party), he mentioned that he had lost touch with his family, and with the information he had Mr. Taylor was able to trace Mrs. Gear, and tell her son that she was alive and well.

In May Mr. Gear came with his wife, children, and grandchildren to stay at Chadwell St. Mary with Mrs. Gear's only daughter, and soon afterwards he met his mother for the first time in nearly forty years!

Despite her great age Mrs. Gear is still active, and retains all her faculties, although she is rather deaf. She enjoys reading quite regularly with the aid of a reading glass.

RESIDENTS PLAN MORE AREA  
COMMITTEES FOR BILLERICAY.

Plans for more Area Committees are revealed in the current issue of the "Mayflower", magazine of Billericay Residents' Assn. Committees already exist at South Green and at Sunnymede, and plans are well ahead for Area Committees in the North Area (Stock Road/Norsey Road), Tye Common & Romney Hall, & South Billericay (Central/Western Road area). It is planned that the Executive Committee will eventually consist of Area Committee delegates, and also of delegates from Buttsbury Residents' Association.

ROUND AND ABOUT  
by  
"WANDERER".

I am rather surprised that neither Cllr. Brian Wignall nor Mr. Lionel Wernick have apologised for their damaging and irresponsible statements about the local Residents' Association (Mr. Wernick's remarks are better described as "ravings"). As politicians of some importance they should realise that when they make a number of highly inaccurate remarks, they should apologise.

Mr. Wernick has failed to produce any evidence to substantiate his "Fascism" allegations and similar insulting remarks. He has also failed to prove the existence of a Residents-Tory pact, and to substantiate his remarks about the alleged activities of the Residents in Wickford. As for Cllr. Wignall's remarks about the Residents always voting with the Tories, they have been proved complete nonsense by the accurate figures being published in this column. Clearly, an apology is called for.

The methods to be used by the residents of Southend Road to persuade the authorities to provide a footpath along a stretch of this busy road are certainly unorthodox, but it should be remembered that these people have tried all the usual channels for dealing with such matters, and have achieved absolutely nothing. Apparently, the fault lies not with Basildon Council, but with the Essex County Council and the Minister of Transport.

Many thousands of pounds are currently being spent to advertise an "accidents are caused by you" campaign. I would suggest that unless something is done very quickly indeed there will be a fatal accident along Southend Road not caused by human error, but by the lack of a footpath.

It is no good spending large sums of money on road safety propaganda if people cannot walk to and from their homes in safety. Already, there have been several serious accidents along this stretch of road. Does there have to be a fatal accident before the authorities take action? Basildon Council appreciate the urgent need for a footpath, and this need should be firmly impressed on Essex County Council, and if necessary, on the Minister of Transport ---- "Wanderer".