

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday September 11th, 1962

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20

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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

## FOOTPATH BATTLE WON

Parents living on the busy Southend Road, Billericay, between Mill Road and Armstrong Whitworth's factory are now confident that they have won their campaign for a footpath outside their homes, following a visit from a representative of the County Surveyor's Department. He is said to have stated that conditions on the road were worse than he realised, and that he would prepare a scheme for Basildon Council to consider. The parents are now confident that the Council will give such a scheme early approval. If they do not, however, they have a secret plan ready to use against the Council.

This result has been achieved after a month of some of the most unorthodox campaigning by residents Billericay has ever seen, including the partial obstruction of the road with cars, erection of posters and banners, a protest march, and the distribution of leaflets to motorists.

Since the last "Observer" was printed three more campaigns have been held on the road on Sundays, when traffic is at its busiest.

On Sunday August 19th a fairly long line of cars was parked on one side of the road. Motorists coming from London and Southend were confronted by over thirty posters bearing such slogans as "No Path", "Beware Children", "Slow", "Danger, No Path!", and "Drive With Care". Most motorists were either forced to slow down, or slowed down of their own accord. At times there were long lines of traffic waiting to pass the parked cars and the protesters used these opportunities to distribute duplicated leaflets headed; "You May Kill in the Next Few Yards". The leaflets continued; "Any one of the twenty-seven children living in this road could be under your wheels in the next few minutes. Will you help us to help you? Write to the Basildon Urban District Council about the lack of a footpath on this stretch of road. Remember it could be YOU that is unlucky. We wish you a safe journey".

The day was marked by a number of incidents. One driver attempted to demolish posters on poles at the side of the road by driving at them, and was partially successful. Some drivers were abusive, and one drove straight at some protesters, the occupants shouting and waving their fists. On the whole, however, motorists were sympathetic with the cause, and a few promised to write to the Council. The Police inspected the protest on two occasions during the day, but made no attempt to interfere.

A similar demonstration was held on the 26th, but some new posters were added bearing the slogans; "Basildon Useless District Council" and "£8,000, Rubbish". Parents and children marched up and down the road in the morning with posters and banners, and had a sympathetic reception from motorists. One motorist who tried to overtake dangerously was stopped by protesters waving their banners in the road.

Continued On Page 2.

Page 1.

## MAIN ROAD PROTESTS.

From Page 1.

Heavy gales prevented any organised protest in the afternoon or evening. A similar protest was held on Sunday September 2nd, but although traffic was heavier, far fewer cars slowed down. The protesters consider that this was because they were not out in the road for most of the time. Now that they are confident of winning their campaign the organisers have decided to stop further agitation, although posters will be left out to remind motorists of the danger. The organisers feel that until such time as a footpath is constructed, a "No Overtaking" rule should be enforced, and have written to the Council to this effect.

The protest was the subject of discussion at a recent meeting of Basildon Road Safety Committee when the Council's Deputy Surveyor (Mr. H.J.M.Baker) said that the provision of a footpath would be included in their programme as soon as the County Council agreed to finance it. Mr.Baker was supported by Cllr.H.Pembroke, Chairman of the Committee, and Vice-Chairman of the Council, who stated that the Council were the first people to do anything about the footpath.

When told of these remarks the organisers of the protest said that they were "absolutely furious" They produced a recent letter from the Council saying that whilst it was desirable that development should have a footpath, the sight line where their houses was situated was clear, and gave an unobstructed view of the road. They felt that this letter indicated that the Council considered there was no need for a path.

## OLD STORY OF WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO GET KILLED?

"Is it the old story of waiting for someone to get killed?" asked Mr.Hopkins at Friday's committee meeting of Billericay Residents Assn., speaking about the delay by Basildon Council in improving the narrow pavement in Laindon Road. Mr.Hopkins stated that the road was much used by schoolchildren, and there had already been three accidents. He felt that it was the major danger spot of the town, and a decision as to a solution should be taken as soon as possible. It was agreed to write to the Council to ask for details of schemes for improving the path, or providing another path behind the old cottages.

## NEW PREMISES FOR CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU.

Billericay Citizens' Advice Bureau moved into new premises at 94, High Street, Billericay, on September 4th. Their old offices were in Chapel Street. The hours of opening will continue for the time being to be 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 7 - 9 p.m. on Thursdays.

There is no charge for the services of the Bureau, which is a voluntary organisation. Amongst other things, information can be given as to the means of obtaining legal advice at reduced charges, and financial aid in prosecuting legal claims. Anyone intending to buy a second-hand car can find out, through the Bureau, whether it is free of hire purchase commitments. In fact anyone with a problem is welcome to bring it to the Bureau, and if a solution is possible, the Bureau will do its best to find it.

## AWARDS TO BILLERICAY BLOOD DONORS.

During the last few weeks the National Blood Transfusion Service have made over fifty long-service awards to Billericay blood donors. Seven of the donors have received silver badges for 25 or more blood donations, whilst the remainder have had bronze badges, in respect of ten or more donations given.

New volunteers, who are always welcome, should contact the Local Donor Organiser, Mr.E.A.Feasey, 18, Station Road, or the Regional Transfusion Centre, Crescent Drive, Brentwood.

## LAWN TENNIS CLUB TOURNAMENT FINALS

On Sunday 19th August over fifty people gathered to watch the finals of Billericay Lawn Tennis Club Tournaments. Mrs.C.Maples, founder of the Club, presented the cups to the winners. The results were as follows:-

Mens Singles, Mr.W.Hawes beat Mr.J.Rea; Ladies Singles, Mrs.B.Gould beat Mrs.K.Bond; Mens Doubles, Mr.W.Hawes and Mr.M.Clampin beat Mr.J.Rea and Mr.A.Mayhew; Ladies Doubles, Mrs.K.Bond and Mrs.H.Atkinson beat Miss M.Perry and Mrs.M.Floyd; Mixed Doubles, Mr.W.Hawes and Miss M.Perry beat Mr.R.Simmons and Mrs.H.Atkinson.

## COUNCIL'S TRAFFIC PROBLEM.

Reference to Basildon Council's considerable traffic problem was made at a Public Inquiry at Basildon on Thursday into the refusal of the Council to grant permission to Tesco Stores Limited for residential development at the rear of Kingston's Butchers and Green's Grocers near the Post Office in the High Street.

For the Council it was stated that permission was refused because the width of access proposed was inadequate, and if allowed, would cause congestion on the access way and would also result in dangerous conditions at the junction of the access way with Chapel Street. The Council also considered that the proposed development would prejudice the proper development of this important area immediately adjoining the main business and shopping area. The Council felt that the development represented undesirable piecemeal development in an area which only ought to be developed in a comprehensive manner.

Tesco had first made an application to develop the site with semi-detached houses or flats in 1956, which was turned down. At a later date the Council approached Tesco with a view of acquiring the land for a Car Park and other purposes.

For the Council it was stated that the Council took the view that the area was most important, being in the shopping and commercial centre of Billericay. They had a considerable traffic problem because of the anticipated increase in traffic from Basildon, and from the Purfleet Tunnel. At present they were considering temporary solutions, and the ultimate solution was undecided, and it was possible that the development could interfere with a satisfactory solution to this problem. It was also pointed out that the access road would be only 15 ft. wide.

For Tesco it was stated that access might be obtained through adjoining properties into the High Street. The owners of the adjoining properties who were present said that they were not prepared to give up any land to Tesco, or have their access rights interfered with.

A letter was read out from Billericay C.P.R.E. supporting the Council.

Continued In Next Column.

## TOWN PLANNING INQUIRY.

From Column 1.

For Billericay Residents' Assn. Mr. M. Power said that the Association supported the Council on the question of comprehensive development, but was not technically qualified to deal with the question of access.

The Inspector (Mr. L. Cook-Hall A.M.I.Mun.E., M.T.P.I., A.R.S.H.) was surprised why the Council did not serve a Compulsory Purchase Order or why "Tesco" did not issue a Purchase Order, but no information was forthcoming. After the Inquiry the Inspector inspected the site.

## HARD-WORKING WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Another two months of progress was reported at the two-monthly meeting of Billericay's hard working Old People's Welfare Committee last Wednesday, when there were 22 members present.

It was reported that two more ladies had joined the team which visits Old Folk in their homes. However, more help was needed, particularly in the South Green and Tye Common areas, and prospective helpers are asked to get in touch with Mrs. Barr of 273, Mountnessing Road (Phone 522).

Requests were also made for ladies to act as hostesses to three or four elderly persons at occasional tea parties. Drivers with their own transport are also needed for these and other weekday events.

The Rest Room Committee under the direction of Mesdames Alston, Bridgwood, Delziel, Oddy, and Usher were continuing their good work but would be glad of more helpers at the Rest Room which is open as a meeting place for pensioners on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

## ART CLUB START NEW SESSION.

The Billericay Art Club which meets at The Studio in Chapel Street on Thursday evenings is now starting its Winter Session. It includes in its programme, in addition to working nights on Portraits and Still Life, demonstrations on perspective, water colours, and Palette Knife painting have been arranged. Details from The Secretary, Mrs. E. L. Clark, "Hayes Barton", Outwood Common Rd.

Page 3.

# EDITORIAL

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

Nearly 350 of the 400 copies printed of "The Mills of Billericay", 2nd booklet in the Billericay History Series, were sold in the first week of publication. This sale compares very favourably with the 150 copies of "Early Billericay" sold in the first week of its publication. "The Mills of Billericay" deals with the history of all known Mills in the Billericay area, and also tells the amusing story of Thomas Wood, Billericay's famous "ghastly miller". The price is 6d or 9d by post, and readers who would like a copy are asked to get in touch with me as soon as possible. A reprint will be issued if necessary.

It has also been found necessary to issue a 6th impression of 40 copies of "Early Billericay", the popular first booklet in the Billericay History Series. Half of these have already been sold (bringing the total sale up to about 625 copies) and readers who would like a copy are asked to get in touch with me as soon as possible. This booklet deals with the history of Billericay from the Stone Age to Roman times, and includes a map of Roman Billericay. The cost is 6d; 9d by post.

This issue sees the revival of the "Dates For Your Diary" column. I am sure that this will be of assistance to many readers who would like to take part in the activities of one or more of the local organisations, but have not been able to do so because of lack of details. It is intended to be a comprehensive list of events in the area, and the co-operation of local organisations is invited in this respect. Entries are inserted completely free, and should be in the Editor's hands by the Saturday morning before publication.

---- The Editor.

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at Christ Church on alternate  
Tuesdays, 8-9 p.m. Details from  
Mrs. Stott, 10, Uplands Close.

Don't miss Christ Church Garden  
Fete on Saturday. See Page 9.

Page 4.

# FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

On the 15th August there was a good attendance, Mr. Spencer deputising in the Chair in the absence of Mr. Joseph. Mrs. August, Mrs. Ransom, and Mrs. Harding were all improving, Mrs. Wakeling was a little better, Mrs. Dalgarno was having another operation on Friday. Birthday honours were accorded to Mr. Hopkins, who was 84 years of age. Frank Sawyer's Concert Party entertained.

On the 22nd there was an excellent attendance. It was reported that Mrs. August was improving, Mrs. Wakeling and Mrs. Dalgarno were about the same, and Mr. Pierce had gone into Hospital for an operation. All were wished a speedy recovery. Mrs. Harding, Mrs. Ransom, and Mrs. Speller were welcomed back after their absence through illness. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. Lamb.

The afternoon was devoted to the Horticultural Section Flower Show for the Mrs. Law cup. The show was opened by Mrs. Law, who was presented with a Bouquet by Mrs. Darling our oldest member (age 91). Mrs. Law stated that she was very pleased to come along, and to know that the Horticultural Section had started up again. She was very impressed with the Show, which was put on at short notice, and it showed what the old folk could grow, and she opened to be able to come along to the next Flower Show. Mrs. Gunter (Vice-President) also expressed her pleasure at being able to attend. Mrs. Law presented Certificates and Prizes to Club members who had won awards in the Essex Old People's Welfare Committee Handicrafts Exhibition at the Archer Hall. The following members received awards:- Mrs. Ramage (1st Prize, Knitting), Mrs. Plumridge (3rd Prize, Knitting), Mrs. Charlesworth (3rd Prize, Knitting), Mrs. Johnson (2nd & 3rd Prizes, Needlework), Mr. Charlesworth (2nd Prize, Woodwork), Mr. Riches (1st Prize, Leatherwork), Mr. Johnson (3rd Prize, Pot Plant), Mr. Lewis (Highly Commended, Handwriting).

On the 29th there was an excellent attendance. Mrs. August was improving, Mrs. Dalgarno and Mrs. Wakeling were about the same, Mr. Pierce had had an operation and was as well as could be expected, Mrs. Walters had had a fall, and Mrs. Candler was still unable to come along. Entertainment was by the Branch Concert Party featuring Mesdames Plumridge, Horne and Clark and Messrs. Joseph, Wiltshire, and Wiltshire with Songs and Monologues, Mrs. Horne and Mrs. Wiltshire sang a duet, and Mrs. Dawkins and Mr. Wiltshire played a mandolin and Banjo duet. The compere was Mr. Dawkins, and pianist Mrs. Dawkins. On September 5th a successful Jumble Sale was held.

Buttsbury Monday Club - On the 20th Mr. W.P. Grant gave a historical talk entitled "Some Billericay Characters". After the talk members asked Mr. Grant various questions on local history. On the 27th some thirty members enjoyed songs by Mrs. Whittaker and her son, accompanied by Mr. Whittaker, who also sang and played organ solos. On September 3rd officers were elected for the coming year and reports given at the Annual General Meeting. New members welcome.

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REPAIRS TO WATCHES & CLOCKS.

"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST" by W.P.G.

A petition from a Billericay barber/painter in 1640 about the conduct of an unruly apprentice is preserved in the Quarter Sessions Records of the Essex Records Office at Chelmsford. In his petition the barber (one William Noone) states that he had taken on the apprentice (a Stephen Thorpe) when he was about nine years old, and since that time (four years) "your petitioner hath Carefullie maintained with meate, drinke, apparrell, and all other things sufficient and neccessarie for such a servante tendringe him as my owne Childe, and bot anywise abusing him with hard usage or unreasonable Correcion." However, the apprentice does not seem to have been very grateful to Mr.Noone, for he goes on to complain that "the said Stephen Thorpe my said apprentice is (though young in yeares) of a most wicked and theevish disposition: and hath done many and sondrie robberies: and broken about twenty walles: For which he hath been thrice in the howse of Correction (where he now remayneth) and once in the goale at Colchester."

In case the Justices should have any doubts about young Thorpe's disposition the wretched Mr.Noone adds; "Wickednes is so rooted in him that there is no hope of amendment for that he groweth from evill to worse: and threateneth to doo more mischief than ever he hath done."

Mr.Noone concludes by being asked to be released of the boy, and this is quite understandable for as Mr.Noone states; "By means of the said wicked boy your poore Orator is utterlie undonne for ever."

The petition is signed by a number of Billericay residents who testify that "the said William Noone is an honest man and of good behavior, and that the former petition is true in everie particular" and conclude by asking that "the poore man be realeased of the said naughtie boy."

Before the Justices could come to a decision the "naughtie boy" managed to find time to steal a cheese and a piece of brown bread from John Carder, for which he was whipped, and a further "great piece of cheese" and other victuals.

Eventually the Justices decided that Stephen Thoppe, a "very disorderly boy who will not abideth with his master but runneth away and break into men's houses for victuals", should remain with his master until he could be disposed of to sea, or some plantation beyond the sea.

Apparently Barber's apprentices were a troublesome lot for at a much later date we find Matthew Harwood of Billericay complaining of the behaviour of his apprentice. Apparently his apprentice picked a quarrel with him and proceeded to "take up the barbers chair in the shop and threatened he would beat his (Harwood's) brains out with it and was near killing him and afterwards took him by the collar and dragged him about his own shop cursing and screaming, until Matthew was happily released by his neighbours." The unfortunate Matthew concludes by saying that he holds "no malice or prejudice" against his apprentice, but is presenting the petition "for the preservation of his own person and life."

To Be Continued In The Next Issue.

Writer's Note; I would like to thank readers who have written in with local history queries, and remind readers that I am prepared to do my best to answer questions on local history by post or in the "Observer"  
--- W.P.G.

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BILLERICAY 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). (1) DB.4856.
2. Speedy Gonzales (Pat Boone). (7) HLD.9573.
3. Guitar Tango (The Shadows). (6) DB.4870.
4. She's Not You (Elvis Presley). (-) RCA.1303.
5. It'll Be Me (Cliff Richard). (-). DB.4886.
6. Things (Bobby Darin) (3). HLK.9575.
7. Sealed With A Kiss (Brian Hyland) (5). POP.1051.
8. Roses Are Red (Ronnie Carroll). (2). 326532.BF.
9. Once Upon A Dream (Billy Fury). (4). F.11485.
10. Roses Are Red (Bobby Vinton). (-). DB.4878.

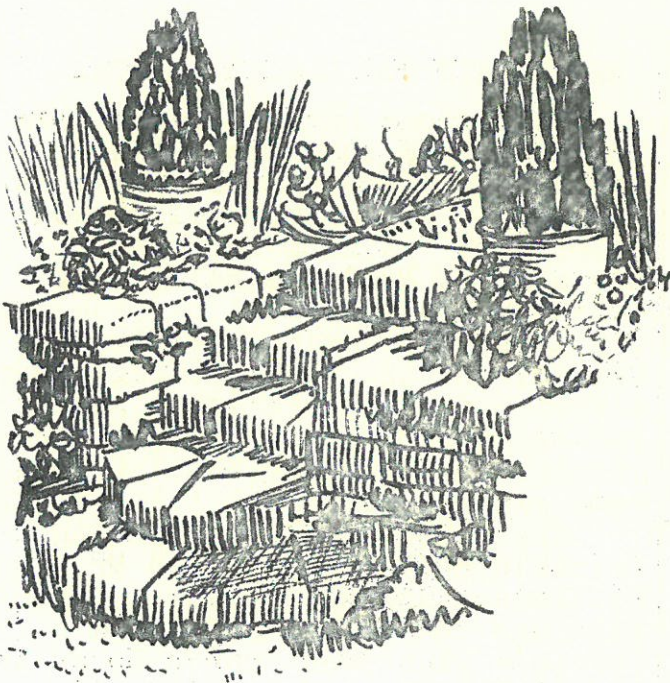
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8 - 11.45 p.m.

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Applications to the Hon. Secretary, 607, Rayleigh Road, Hutton.

(Advertisers' Announcement).

### NEW CURATE FOR PARISH CHURCH.

Billericay Parish Church have now been told that their long-awaited-for Curate will arrive in December. He is Mr. B. Williamson, at present training for the ministry at Wycliffe Hall. Mr. Williamson's help will be especially needed to assist with Christ Church, and the fast-growing Perry Street end of the Parish. The Parish Church has been without a Curate since the Rev. Swallow left some years ago.

One problem will be finding suitable accommodation for Mr. Williamson and his family. Some time ago the Church did build a Curate's Flat over Church House in the High Street, but this will not be large enough to accommodate Mr. Williamson.

The news of Mr. Williamson's arrival coincides with a letter sent to Parishoners announcing an appeal funds for the building of a permanent Church in Perry Street, from the Vicar, the Rev. D. R. Greaves, and the Churchwardens, Mr. J. Baucher and Mr. S. C. Shipton.

In their letter they state that they have been conscious for some time that the present wooden building - never intended to be a permanent Church - was becoming increasingly inadequate. The Sunday School work was in danger of being restricted by the lack of room, and on the great Festivals particularly, there was extreme difficulty in accommodating the entire congregation in the Church.

For these reasons it is intended to launch a Parish Appeal for funds for a new Church in Perry Street. This will be launched at the Harvest Supper on October 1st.

Regarding the present timber building, the writers state that once the new Church is built the old building, with careful maintenance, would be good as a Church Hall for another ten years or so, at which various organisations could meet, as at present.

The letter concludes; "No doubt once we, as a Parish, have shown a real determination and zeal to raise the necessary funds for the new building the Diocese will also come to our aid with financial grants. But we must make every effort first."

A Christ Church Development Committee is already in existence and has raised a small sum of money towards the new Church.



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BEDDING - free 13/6d pillow with every order.

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## BILLERICAY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

OPEN AUTUMN SHOW - SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER - ARCHER HALL 2.30 p.m.

CLASSES for VEGETABLES --- FLOWERS --- FRUIT --- COOKERY and  
FLORAL ART.

Entry forms from W.A.Youngman to be returned by 12th September to  
20, Hillside Road, Billericay.

Next Monthly Meeting 8 p.m., 17th September, Womens' Institute  
Hall, talk and slides on House Plants.

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## SEPT.15<sup>th</sup> - CHRIST CHURCH GARDEN FETE

To be held in the gardens of Mill Hill House opposite Buttsbury  
School (by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs.W.Ball).

Opening at 2.30 p.m. by Mr.Bromhead (Headmaster of Buttsbury School)

Admission 6d by programme. Games, Childrens Fancy Dress, Sports,  
Keep Fit Display, other entertainments, and Refreshments.

Floodlit Dancing in the evening from 8 to 10.30 p.m. on the lawn.  
Admission 1/- . All proceeds in aid of Christ Church Development  
Fund. COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS ! ! !

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

What's On In & Around Billericay.

GARDEN PARTY - Christ Church Garden Party, Mill Hill House, Perry Street, September 15th.

SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS - Billericay Horticultural Society Autumn Show at Archer Hall on September 15th, 2.30 p.m. .... "Medieval Essex" at Ingatestone Hall, daily except Sundays and Mondays until early October (don't miss it if you're interested in history or ancient houses) .... Thursday September 20th, "Accidents In The Home", W.I.Hall, 2.30 p.m., organised by Billericay Red +, Womens' Detachment.

DANCES - Olde Tyme Dance, British Legion, Archer Hall, Saturday 22nd September, 8 to 11.45 p.m., admission by programme 4/- from Ashley's .... Hallowee'n Dance, organised by Billericay Old People's Welfare Committee, at Archer Hall, tickets 7/6d from committee members.

TALKS & LECTURES - First Aid Course organised by Billericay Red + Mens' Detachment in the Physiotherapy Department of St. Andrews' Hospital starting Tuesday 18th September and thence weekly .... W.E.A. Adult Evening Classes, County Library, High Street, "Spanish Life & Culture" weekly from Wednesday 26th September at 7.30 p.m. and "Archaeology" on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. from 24th September. Open Night, Rising Sun Hall, 11th September.

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FOR SALE - Small mangle, good condition but needs coat of paint. Apply:- Mrs.Noble, "Jesmaine", 167, Stock Road (just below Orchard Avenue).

FOR SALE - Are you interested in Billericay's history? Then read "Early Billericay" and "The Mills of Billericay" in the Billericay History Series from local newsagents, price 6d.

RED CROSS TARGET IS "A FIRST-AIDER IN EVERY HOME".

"A first aider in every home" is the target of Billericay Red Cross, as their part in this year's National First Aid Week, jointly organised by the Red Cross and the St.Johns Ambulance Brigade, to be held from September 15th to 22nd.

This year the emphasis is on "Safety In The Home" and with this view in mind the Womens' Detachment are holding an "Accidents In The Home" exhibition at the W.I. Hall on Thursday 20th September. This will feature a demonstration of all the dangers in a room of a house. It is also hoped to demonstrate the famous "kiss of life" method of mouth-to-mouth respiration.

The Mens' Detachment is organising a course of First Aid lectures at the Physiotherapy Department of St.Andrews Hospital starting on the 18th September.

Commenting on the campaign Mrs.C.B.Drury of the Womens' Detachment said; "Most people don't realise that there are more accidents in the home than on the road. It would be a great thing if there was somebody in every home who could administer First Aid."

NEW HAIR STYLISTS OPENS.

A cocktail party celebrated the opening of Billericay's new hair stylists - Madame Hair Stylists - last Saturday week. Their new premises are situated on the First Floor of 92, High Street.

A special feature of their new salon is that all clients are given their haircuts etc. in individual cubicles, thus ensuring greater privacy, and dispensing with the need to keep moving the client about. All staff are fully trained, and are under the direction of Mr.Calder Pitt late of the famous Dorsay of Mayfair.

The firm decided to open their new premises in Billericay as they feel it is an expanding town with a great future.

COUNCIL TO GO TO COURT.

Basildon Council are to ask the local Magistrates Court to fix a time and date for the determination of two outstanding formal objections regarding the make-up of Lake Avenue, Billericay.