

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday September 25th, 1962.

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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

BILLERICAY TREES SCHEME APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Basildon Council's Works Committee have approved a scheme submitted by Billericay Residents' Association for the planting of trees in roads in Billericay. Under the scheme the cost of the trees is borne by the householders in the street concerned, the Association undertaking the collection of the money, and the work being carried out by the Council. The Council have agreed to maintain the trees at their own expense, subject to the approval of the Engineer & Surveyor of the number and type of trees to be planted, and their positioning.

Explaining the scheme to the "Observer" on Saturday Mr. V.C. Ireland, Chairman of the Billericay Residents' Association "Trees Make Towns" Sub-Committee said that the idea had originally been tried out by the Upminster & Cranham Ratepayers Association on a new estate on Cranham. There it had been "a huge success", and the result was today that the Estate was one of the most beautiful in the area. Asked about the cost Mr. Ireland said that in Upminster it had worked out at about 19/- per household, and £300 had been collected in three roads. Mr. Ireland admitted that there were special snags in the Billericay area, which had not existed in Upminster, but he felt that these could be overcome. His Committee had Cromwell Avenue, Lake Avenue (both shortly to be made up) and possibly Hill House Drive in mind for the first schemes. They also hoped that the Council would plant flower beds at the approaches to the town e.g. Perry Green. Concluded Mr. Ireland; "Our object is to beautify the town and improve its amenities."

Another suggestion for improving the amenities of Billericay is included in the current issue of the "Billericay Bulletin", news-sheet of Billericay Council for the Preservation of Rural England. The article states; "It has been suggested once again that the High Street should take place in a Civic Trust 'Face Lift'. This is a Comprehensive Scheme of repair, improvement, and redecoration of all properties, together with the elimination of all unsightly adverts and posters and the tidying up of lamp posts and other street furniture so that the area has an air of well being. It will be, remembered, however, that when the Trust previously suggested to the Council that Billericay High Street would be a good subject, the Council turned down the idea as they felt that the visual aspect of the High Street was safeguarded by the operations of the Consultative Panel. Recent happenings in the Central area, however, lead one to doubt the adequacy of such safeguards in more ways than one." The article points out the success of the scheme in other towns, and asks members to approach their friends who own properties in the High Street to test their views.

Page 1.

NEW SPEED LIMIT PROPOSALS.

Basildon Council are to ask the Minister of Transport to approve the following speed limit changes in Billericay:-

A.129, London Road, Sun Corner to Mountnessing Road - Present limit of 30 m.p.h. to be increased to 40 m.p.h.

A.129, Southend Road, Gatwick View to Duke of York - Present limit of 30 m.p.h. to be increased to 40 m.p.h.

A.129, Duke of York to Armstrong Whitworths at present de-restricted 40 m.p.h. limit to be imposed. Mill Road and Church Street, Great Burstead, from Southend Road to Noak Hill Road, at present de-restricted, new limit of 30 m.p.h.

LAWN TENNIS FINALS.

In the finals of the Brentwood & District Individual Tournaments held last Saturday week, two members of the Billericay Lawn Tennis Club, Mrs.M. Clampin and Mrs.H. Atkinson won the Ladies Doubles title by beating Mrs.F. Spriggs and Mrs.M. Deyner, the defending champions, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. After leading 4-1 in the first set, the Billericay pair lost the next eight games to lose the first set and trail 0-3 in the second. At this point the Billericay pair staged a comeback and with some very good smashes and service work by Mrs. Atkinson, combined with some penetrating services and accurate driving from Mrs. Clampin, the Billericay pair earned an extremely good victory.

LAINDON ROAD IMPROVEMENT.

It was reported at the last meeting of Basildon Council's Works Committee that the improvement of the length of Laindon Road, Billericay, between Sun Corner and the Primary School, had been included in the Council's major works programme for County highways. In view of the increasing volume of traffic using the road, and the increasing number of children attending the School the County Surveyor had suggested that a detailed scheme be prepared for submission to the County Council. The Committee agreed that a detailed scheme be approved for submission to the County Council.

SOUTHEND RD. FOOTPATH -- LATEST.

At their recent meeting the Works Committee of Basildon Council was informed that the provision of a footpath along Southend Road between Mill Road and Armstrong Whitworth's factory was included in the Council's major works programme, but was not yet approved for grant purposes. In a recent campaign to get a footpath, a number of residents living in the area partially obstructed the road with cars, erected posters and banners, and distributed leaflets.

It was stated that the County Surveyor felt that the provision of a footpath was most desirable. However, a considerable amount of land acquisition was involved, and also realignment of the road, and funds for major improvements of this type were extremely limited. It was felt that the Minister might accept acquisition of land for grant purposes, and in that case the works could be carried out from classification estimates.

It was decided that the Engineer & Surveyor should negotiate with the owners of the properties on the west side of the road for dedication of the land required free of charge. Should any owner be unwilling to do so the Engineer was asked to report to the Committee as soon as possible. It was also decided to serve notices requiring the removal of posters from the side of the road, and if this was not done within a month the Engineer was authorised to remove them.

CHURCH STREET IMPROVEMENT.

Basildon Council's Works Committee were informed at their recent meeting that traffic along Church Street, Great Burstead, had increased considerably, and the road was unsuitable for the present volume of traffic. It was agreed that a scheme providing for a 24 ft. wide carriageway, and a 6 ft. footpath on one side be submitted to the County Council.

PART-TIME BUILDERS.

ALTERATIONS --- GARDEN WALLS ---
PATHS --- GARAGES --- FURNITURE
REPAIRS --- CHIMNEY REPAIRS ---
INTERNAL & EXTERNAL DECORATIONS -
CONSERVATORIES - BUILT-IN CABINETS
ESTIMATES GIVEN. APPLY:-R. CAMP,
7, PERRY STREET, BILLERICAY.

HEADMASTER OPENS CHURCH FETE.

"For children to be brought up in a Church atmosphere today is a real and satisfying achievement in face of all the modern distractions", said Mr. C.A.J. Bromhead, Headmaster of Buttsbury School, opening Christ Church's Garden Party in the grounds of Mill Hill House last Saturday week. It was obvious that this was being achieved through the Sunday School at Christ Church.

Mr. Bromhead drew a comparison between the Church and School, both of which were overcrowded. Both had been put up as temporary buildings in the 1930's, and in both cases "temporary" had been a long time. There were still more classrooms to be erected at the School to deal with the increase of pupils (now 504, expected to rise to 600), and he hoped that the new Church would be erected soon afterwards. With such a band of energetic workers he was sure that their efforts would not fail.

Mrs. Bromhead received a bouquet from Ann Simpson (aged 4) and Mrs. Ball, wife of Mr. W.W. Ball by whose kind permission the Fete was held in his garden, received a bouquet from Shelagh Wilson.

Christ Church organisations, Billericay Parish Church, and Toc H manned the stalls and sideshows. Many hundreds of people visited the Fete during the afternoon.

Displays were given by Billericay (Medau Group) (Keep Fit) and 1st Billericay Brownies (Country Dancing).

In the evening the stalls were cleared away, and floodlit dancing to records was held on the lawn.

The Garden Party made a profit of £80 towards the Christ Church Development Fund for a new Church in Perry Street. £700 has already been raised, and a Public Appeal for funds is being launched in October.

Fancy dress results (judged by Mr. & Mrs. Bromhead):-

1. Janet Tovey (Queen of Hearts).
2. Michael Humphery (Spaceman).
3. Carol Humphrey (Poodle).

STOP PRESS NEWS.

CARNIVAL OBJECTIVE DIFFICULTY.

The well-attended annual meeting of Billericay Carnival Assn. last Tuesday week had difficulty in deciding the objective for Billericay's 1963 Carnival. Improvements to playing facilities, a community centre, and the University of Essex were among the many suggestions put forward, but it was finally decided to carry the matter forward to the next meeting on October 18th, when it was hoped that some firm ideas would be put forward.

A letter was read from Billericay Town Sports Club, which regretted that there was little prospect of the Carnival Assn. using their ground in Laindon Rd. as the Fete Field next year, because of its poor condition.

Mr. J.A. Dodd (Secretary) said that he had made inquiries about alternative grounds.

Mr. S.C. Squires felt that there was some hope of being able to use the ground.

Mr. A.B. Bryant said that the ground was owned by the County Council, and earmarked for use as a Community Centre. The Sports Club were merely the tenants of the County Council. He knew that the Club was rather upset last year because they did not get any money from the Carnival but they had not put in a claim. It was time this matter was brought out into the open.

It was agreed that the Association should ask for a meeting with the Sports Club to clear things up.

A cheque for £532-3-1d, it was stated, would be given to Billericay Recreation Rooms from the proceeds of this year's Carnival. The Association was thanked by Mr. C.W. Odell, on behalf of the Recreation Rooms. The Recreation Rooms are used as an Old Folks' rest room, and by various local organisations for all types of functions. Part of the money will go towards a kitchen project, and also to pay the £100 worth of materials for the re-decoration of the Rooms. This has been carried out by the voluntary labour of Billericay Toc H in association with the Billericay Christadelphians. It is estimated that £300 has thus been saved in labour charges. Work started on August 1st, and should be finished by the end of the month.

EDITORIAL

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927,

Since the last issue a further 160 copies of "The Mills of Billericay", second booklet in the Billericay History Series have been sold, making a total sale to date of 510 copies. This is composed of 400 copies of the first impression, and 110 copies of the second impression, printed shortly after the last issue. I have just a few copies of the second impression left, and any reader who would like a copy should get in touch with me as soon as possible. The price is 6d (Postage 3d) and this booklet deals with the history of all known Mills in and around Billericay, also including the famous and amusing story of Billericay's "ghastly miller", Thomas Wood.

Sales of "Early Billericay", the first booklet in the Billericay History Series, now total 640 copies. I have just a few copies left of the 6th impression. This booklet (price 6d) deals with the history of Billericay from the Stone Age to Roman times, and includes a map of Billericay as it was in Roman times.

Whilst a great deal of the Royal Commission on the Press's findings do not apply to the "Observer", the Commission's remarks on advertising revenue are relevant. The Commission states that there is no doubt that the Press would be more economically healthy if newspapers relied less on advertising revenue, and more on the selling price.

What should be remembered is that if, for example, there was no advertising the "Observer" it would cost at least 4d a copy, and even then operate at a small loss. Advertisements often prove to be of great service to readers - I can give examples of this. I am of the firm opinion that newspapers should continue to devote space to advertising, although care should be taken to see that no more than one-third of the paper is composed of adverts. I always try to ensure that this is so in the "Observer".

--- The Editpr.

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All ages.

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WALLFLOWERS RED & GOLD ... 9d Doz.
BROMPTON STOCKS 2d each
SWEET WILLIAMS 2d each
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CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- Sundays at 9.30 a.m.,
1st & 3rd, Holy Communion, others
Matins.

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

FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

On the 12th September there was a good attendance. With regard to sick members it was stated that Mrs. Joseph was in Hospital and had had an operation on one of her eyes, Mrs. Wakeling had had an operation, and both were as well as could be expected. Mrs. August, Mrs. Dalgarno, and Mrs. Walters were all improving, and Mr. Pierce was now convalescent. All were wished a very speedy recovery to good health. An Afternoon Cloth, which one of the members had embroidered when in Hospital, was raffled. Entertainment was by Monty Clark with his Recorder.

On the 19th September there was a very good attendance. Mr. Joseph presided. With regard to sick members it was stated that Mrs. Joseph was as well as could be expected, Mesdames Wakeling, Dalgarno, Walters, and Train were improving, and Mr. Pierce was convalescent. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery. Mrs. August was welcomed back to the Branch after her long absence through illness. The Secretary asked all members who wished to attend the Annual Dinner, which was being held on October 8th at the W.I. Hall, to give in their names, as he wished to know how many were going, because of the catering. A splendid afternoon's entertainment was given by Eileen Farrow of the Westcliff Operatic Society and Palace Theatre with songs, accompanied by her pianist Mrs. E. Smith. Mr. J. Walker, an old Member of the Branch rendered Banjo Solos, with Mrs. Dawkins as Pianist.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

Meetings are held every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m., at Buttsbury School in Perry Street, where new members will be very welcome.

Have YOU bought your copy of

"THE MILLS OF BILLERICAY" ?

by Wynford Grant. No.2 in the Billericay History Series.

If not, you should hurry and buy your copy from your newsagent or from the "Observer" Offices, 143, Perry Street, Billericay, price 6d + 3d postage. Over 500 copies sold to date.

Read about Billericay's many Mills -- how a Mill works -- the amusing story of Billericay's famous "ghastly miller", Thomas Wood. Drawings of Thomas Wood and Billericay Mill, and two maps.

P.S.:-- Just a few copies left of the 6th impression of No.1 in the Series, "Early Billericay". Price 6d + 3d postage.

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REPAIRS TO WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

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"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST" by Wynford Grant.

Old Billericay was well known for its extremely strong puritan beliefs. During the Marian Persecution several local men and women were burnt for their Low Church beliefs. At a later date Billericay sent six men on the "Mayflower" to find freedom from religious persecution in the New World, and provided the governor for this famous ship. Later colonists founded the town of "Billerica" in Massachusetts, today a thriving town of some 20,000 people. And right up to modern times Billericay was noted for its strong tendency towards Nonconformity. At one time or another most of the Nonconformist denominations have been represented in the town, and the Quakers, Methodists, and Congregationalists flourish today.

In 1646 the Quarter Sessions Court received a petition from a number of local inhabitants, who complained about a Puritan sect that had sprung up in Billericay. This "dangerous sect" was accused of "holding meetings of their owne with the admittance of all comers even in the time of publique worshippe; their preachers brand the order of our Church as anti-christian; they adminster the sacrament of the supper, rebaptise men and women, vent the poyson of unsound opinions." Apparently the "poyson" they were accused of was advocating religious tolerance and the repeal of anti-Puritan laws! The petition goes on to accuse the sect of "boldly attempting to disturbe us in the publique worshipp, and in the face of the congregation to quarrell att the truth delivered, to the seducing of the people, the scandall of many, the distraction of all, and the great indangering of the publique peace."

The petitioners conclude; "Therefore out of a deep sence of the danger of the peoples' soules, the hindrance of the progresse of the gospelle, and the Reformation in hand, the subversion of the truth, and power of religion; the Anarchy, and confusion likely to overspread us iff not timely previnted, do humbly address ourselves to your pious wisdomes, and justice, beseeching you to apply such remedy; as may prevent the further spreading of their most wicked opinions; restraine their violence, and restore to is a peaceable enjoyment of our religion."

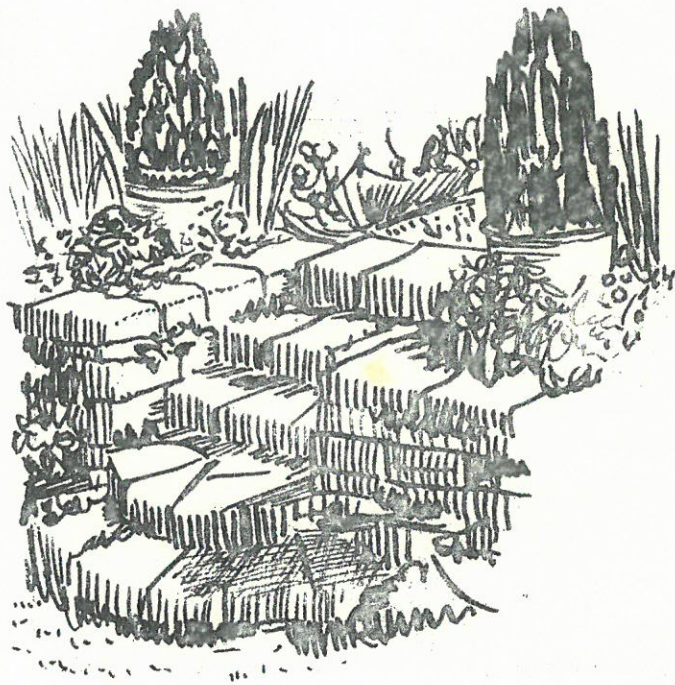
However, the petition does not seem to have "restored a peaceable enjoyment of our religion", for later in the year there is a report of a riot in Billericay Church. Apparently one Jos. Salmon, accompanied by a mob, "did lately in a muntionous and disorderly manner enter into Billericay Church immediately after sermon and did abuse Mr. Smyth (who had then preached) and divers other present." The accused were fined 40/- each - a hefty sum, considering that 1/- a week was a fair wage. There was no more trouble until 1691 when a riotous mob smashed down the Chapel (Church) door and removed the surplice and common prayer book, and caused other damage.

During the rule of Oliver Cromwell those who broke the Sabbath were very severely dealt with. In 1653 Thos. Sturgin of Billericay was in trouble for suffering disorderly persons in the house, and tippling on the Lord's Day. He also committed the dreadful sin of travelling on Easter Sunday. In 1658 Mathew Hedge, an alehouse keeper, was in trouble for allowing a number of people fo drink, tipples, and "take tobacco" on the Sabbath. For this "great profanation of the Lords Day" he was fined 10/-. Henry Hixone of Great Burstead was also in trouble for having company in his house on a Sunday "at the sermon time". To Be Continued In The Next Issue.

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

1. RCA.1303 - She's Not You (Elvis Presley) (4).
2. POP:1051 - Sealed With A Kiss (Brian Hyland) (7).
3. DB.4886 - It'll Be Me (Cliff Richard) (5).
4. R.4930 - Don't That Beat All (Adam Faith) (-).
5. F.11494 - Telstar (The Tornados) (-).
6. DB.4870 - Guitar Tango (The Shadows) (3).
7. DB.4856 - I Remember You (Frank Ifield) (7).
8. F.11488 - Main Title Theme (Jet Harris) (-).
9. POP:1034 - I Can't Stop Loving You (Ray Charles) (-).
10. 7N.15457 - Spanish Harlem (Jimmy Justice) (-).

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GRAND AUTUMN SALE

Saturday October 13th.

WATCH FOR DETAILS !

Contributions of bottled and tinned goods, groceries etc. will be gratefully received - Hon. Sec. 16, Mayflower Road, Billericay.

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PETS - SHELLERICAY SHETLAND SHEEPDOGS - Pedigree Puppies, sable white, champion sire, K.C. registered, breeding terms available, wonderful companions. Apply:- Mrs. Hopkins, "Orchard Cottage", Station Rd., Billericay.

DRESSMAKING - Reasonable prices; Apply 128, Western Road, Billericay. Phone Bil.1213.

Classified Advertising Pays - 1/- for up to forty words.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

What's On In & Around Billericay.

SALES OF WORK ETC. - Autumn Sale, Billericay Recreation Rooms, Saturday 13th October, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in aid of 2nd Billericay Scout Group funds Rummage Sale, Saturday 20th October, at 2.15 p.m. in the British Legion Hall, Chapel Street, organised by the Operatic Society.

TALKS & LECTURES - Billericay Horticultural Society, "Pest Control" at W.I.Hall on the 15th October.

Next Basildon Council Meeting --- Thursday 11th October, 6.50 p.m., Wickford Junior School, Market Road, Wickford.

BIG ATTENDANCE AT TALK ON PLANTS.

53 members attended a meeting held by Billericay Horticultural Society at the W.I.Hall on Monday 17th September, when Mr. Davidson of Rochford's Ltd. gave a talk on House Plants.

Mr. Davidson told members that House Plants thrived on good food and drink, although they did not like to be left in blazing sunshine, but preferred good light in a sheltered position.

A large selection of plants were shown to the audience, and advice on the care and propagation was given for many varieties.

B.B.C. ARTISTES FOR BILLERICAY.

When Billericay Operatic and Choral Society sing "The Bartered Bride" in the Archer Hall on Saturday September 29th they will have as their guest soloists John Ford and Ranken Bushby.

These two busy artistes have sung in Billericay many times. It was in 1957 that the Society's conductor, Charles Western, first met Ranken Bushby, when they were working on the same television programme at Lime Grove. This concert version of opera is proving very popular with the singers, and it seems certain that the audience will find it so too.

BUSY WEEK FOR M.P. - Billericay's M.P., Mr. Edward Gardner Q.C., is spending the week starting 24th September in his constituency. He has a full programme for the week, which starts with a Press Conference, and will visit local Schools and factories, as well as meet local Conservative groups.

Letters to the Editor

Readers'
Letters are
always welcome.

PARISH PUMP POLITICS ?

Dear Sir, ---- The leading article in the last issue was the fifth or sixth in succession devoted to Mr. Wernick and the Residents. Might I suggest that there are more important topics than this extremely parish-pump affair?

For example, there is the crying need to improve Education. A survey presented to the recent British Association meeting showed that only two-thirds of those with ability went to grammar schools, due partly to poor primary schooling, and the unequal distribution of grammar places.

17% of English 13-year olds go to grammar schools, compared to 25% of Welsh children of the same age. In Essex the chance of going to Grammar was one in seven, but in Middlesex it was one in five.

The Labour Party, both nationally and locally, is very concerned about this problem. Billericay Party will probably be holding a meeting on secondary education when speakers are available.

"Signposts", the national policy, advocates a big increase in school building and teachers - "Since the burden imposed on the RATEPAYER is one of the main obstacles to conceding adequate teachers' salaries, this responsibility must in future be borne mainly by the Exchequer."

The real meat of politics is vital matters such as this, and not rows and partisanship - John Allard, "Lilacs", Jacksons Lane, B/cay.

Editor; Not all of the Editorials have been completely devoted to the matter Mr. Allard mentions. It is interesting to note that he was sufficiently concerned about this "parish pump" affair to write a letter to the "Observer" about it. Also, most of the Editorials were replies to further speeches by Liberals. As a local newspaper we naturally devote more space to local affairs - national affairs are well covered by national newspapers and magazines. However, we do appreciate that national problems have local implications, and our Editorials on such matters as Education have often tried to examine the local problems in a national context.

I am in full agreement with Mr. Allard about the need to improve educational facilities. All the local primary schools are overcrowded, and however good the teaching, overcrowding is bound to result in worse results. Planning ahead with a view to population increase is part of the answer - a temporary halt in development would also help. I also feel that Billericay needs its own Grammar/Technical School - Billericay children have to travel miles daily to reach the nearest Grammar Schools. A look at the equipment and state of repair of Grammar Schools would not be amiss.

LONDON ROAD IMPROVEMENT.

At last Tuesday week's meeting of Basildon Council's Works Committee the Engineer & Surveyor submitted a detailed realignment scheme for London Road, Billericay, and the entrance to Hillary Mount. The realignment provided for a footpath at road level on the north side to connect Hillary Mount with High Street, with improved sight lines at Burghstead Close, and an increased carriageway width of 24 ft. together with an additional bus layby on the north side to serve east-bound buses, which at present stop in Sun Street. It was agreed to submit the scheme to the County Council.

BILLERICAY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP.

Next Meeting --- Wednesday October 3rd, W.I. Hall at 8 p.m.

Demonstration by Mrs. Starling on "Line and Design".

Members 2/-, Non-Members, 2/6d. Everyone Welcome.

HALL WAS A BLAZE OF COLOUR FOR
AUTUMN SHOW.

Billericay's Archer Hall was a blaze of colour last Saturday week when Billericay Horticultural Society staged their Annual Autumn Show. During the afternoon hundreds of people toured the exhibits.

Entries were up by 44 - 360 as compared against 314 last year.

The judges had high praise for the standard of the exhibits. Commented cookery judge Mrs. C. Wilby; "A very pleasing set of results. The entries were of a higher standard than have previously been shown".

Commented the Flower judges Mr. F.C. Morley and Mr. V. Thorne; "The dahlias are very good. The chrysanthemums are good. Some very good entries. Roses very nice exhibits."

On the Vegetables they said; "Perhaps not quite so good but there were one or two very nice exhibits". The fruit, they felt, was quite good, and the Blue Ribbon really earned. Concluding their remarks they said that the whole show was well staged.

Main awards:- Charlotte Gunter Cup, highest aggregate of points in Summer and Autumn shows, Mrs. J. Norris; J. Layland award to runner-up to Charlotte Gunter Cup, Mr. J. Baldwin; Julia Wood Challenge Cup for highest aggregate of points for perennials (Summer Show) and Michaelmas Daisies (Autumn Show) Mrs. J. Norris; Horticultural Society Autumn Cup for best exhibit in Vegetable Section, Mr. J. T. Baker; "Womans Own" medal for best cookery exhibit, Mrs. K. C. Coe; National Chrysanthemum Society Silver Medal, most outstanding exhibit, Mr. H. J. Ward; National Chrysanthemum Society Bronze Medal for highest aggregate of points, Mr. H. J. Ward; National Dahlia Society Silver Medal for most outstanding exhibit and Bronze Medal for highest aggregate of points, G. R. Versey; "Smallholder" Blue Ribbon and Presidents' Cup, best exhibit in Fruit Section, Miss I. Gayes; "Smallholder" Certificate of Merit for runner-up to Blue Ribbon, Mr. A. J. Baldwin; Little Burstead Horticultural Society Silver Cup, best exhibit in Floral Art Section, Mrs. C. Whellams.

ROUND AND ABOUT
by
"WANDERER".

The news that the Council have given their blessing to the trees scheme of Billericay Residents' Association is very pleasing indeed. Anything done to enliven the concrete wastes that some of our new housing estates are is a step in the right direction. It is now up to individual householders to co-operate with the Council and Residents. It is to be hoped that in future when new estates are planned, provision will be made for space for trees at the plans stage.

The Council should give the most serious consideration to the proposal of the C.P.R.E. for giving the High Street a "face lift". It is certainly in need of one! This Civic Trust scheme has been successfully carried out at Norwich, Windsor, and many other towns too numerous to mention. A scheme is currently being prepared for Chelmsford. In each case the Scheme has resulted in an increase in trade. It is to be hoped that the Council will give every possible help and encouragement to this proposal.

One of the main difficulties is that there is no Chamber of Trade in Billericay, where the scheme could be placed before the traders as a whole. It is high time that Billericay possessed such an organisation, which could also include industrialists and businesses outside the centre of the town.

I feel that it is a great pity that the Council have decided to increase the speed limit on the Southend Road to 40 m.p.h. Whilst this is classified as an "A" road, the carriageway is far from "A" standard, and it possesses many dangers. For example - the sharp bend at the end of Sun Street, at the junction with Chapel Street; the bend by School Road; the almost right-angled bend by Hickstars Lane; the Recreation Ground; and the lack of a clear view near the "Duke of York". In view of the number of children that use this road it does not seem to me that it is a suitable case for an increase in the speed limit.

--- "Wanderer".