

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

2D

Tuesday December 4th, 1962.

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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

BILLERICAY'S PUBLIC SERVICES LAG BEHIND DEVELOPMENT

The great increase in population in Billericay had caused public services (such as Water, Transport, Education) to lag behind development, claimed Mr. E. Power for Billericay Residents' Association, at a Public Inquiry in Billericay last Friday week into the refusal of Basildon Council to allow S. Budge & Co. to carry out a development of flats and houses at "The Spinney" and "Sylvan Tryst" in Stock Road. Mr. T. Cartledge, also for the Association, said that the Association did not object to the development as such, just to the character of the development. Stock Road largely consisted of detached properties, and flats would be completely out of character.

For Basildon Council Mr. A. R. Hughes said that permission had been refused as the access road would create dangerous traffic conditions on Stock Road; because of inadequate carriageway widths; loss of privacy to neighbouring properties; the layout would result in a loss of trees harmful to the area; and the development would prejudice the proposed Billericay High Street relief road. The Council had no objection to the development of the site, as it was part of their policy to encourage the fullest use of all available land, but they objected to the proposed high density development of the land as unsuitable.

Support for the Council came from a number of local residents, and Mr. P. W. Sanders produced a petition against the development signed by thirty people with properties adjoining the site. They had no objection to reasonable development provided that it was mainly frontage development, and privacy of nearby properties was not interfered with.

For the appellants Mr. D. Ackner Q.C. said that they were quite willing to exclude flats from the development, if the Minister thought it desirable. To suggest that the land should be developed at a density of three houses to the acre was an out-of-date attitude on the part of the Council. If this suggestion was carried out the houses would cost £9,000 each. Nine houses to the acre was quite reasonable. He deplored that the planning authority, having reached the obvious conclusion that the site should be developed, had done nothing to assist. It was their duty to assist the developer. The appellants also objected to the tree preservation order on "Sylvan Tryst", said that they felt that this was a back door attempt by the Council to strengthen their planning position. For the Council Mr. Hughes said that every authority should make every effort to preserve trees. Although some would have to go, it was the Council's policy to encourage developers to retain as many as possible.

Under cross-examination Mr. Budge revealed that he had paid between £5,000 and £9,000 an acre for the site. After the Inquiry the Inspector viewed the site, and the Minister's decision will be made known in due course.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Billericay Horticultural Society's Secretary Mr. R.G.L. Lindsey reported a successful year when the Society held its A.G.M. at the W.I. Hall last Monday week. Mr. Lindsey said that during the year nine Monthly Meetings had been held, as well as two Annual Shows. A team was entered in the Inter-Society Quiz Competition. The Monthly Talks were well attended, and the subjects covered a wide range, one of the most enjoyable being that on House Plants in September. Unfortunately, owing to the bad weather, few entries were received for the Bulb Show held in April. The Annual Shows had been well up to standard, and the Floral Art classes at the Autumn Show had been a great attraction. Much credit for this was due to the Billericay Floral Arrangement Group. This year the Society had covered the costs of both Shows, and had actually made a few shillings profit. Whilst appreciating that members do sometimes require their produce for a show elsewhere, Mr. Lindsey felt that it would be more encouraging if more exhibits were left to be included in the auction, which did help towards the cost of running the Shows. Nevertheless, a profit had been made for the first time in the Society's history, and he would like to thank all members who attended and exhibited in the Shows, and thus helped towards this achievement.

The total membership was 154, which was slightly down on last year, although this was anticipated owing to the increase in subscriptions.

Mr. Lindsey expressed thanks to Mr. Coe, who owing to the unfortunate illness of Mr. Youngman, became responsible at short notice for most of the arrangements for the Autumn Show. He also expressed his thanks to Mr. Stewart and Mr. Willson for their work in judging the Council House gardens, and all persons who had made donations to the Society.

In conclusion Mr. Lindsey appealed to all members to suggest and discuss ways of improving Society functions, to take an active part in the Society, and to criticise events which had been held.

Continued In Next Column.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY A.G.M. From Column 1.

The Chairman (Capt. J.J.A. Tesoirere Retd.) said that the Committee had endeavoured and had succeeded to give members a very full year. In spite of the fact that the Society had had a good year it should be remembered that it existed only as a result of personal efforts.

The Treasurer reported a balance of £31.6.6. He urged members to pay subscriptions earlier to enable the Committee to budget for the coming year.

Officers elected; President, Mrs. W.H. Davies; Additional Vice-President, Mr. W.W. Ball; Life Member Mr. A.F. Stewart; Chairman, Capt. J.J.A. Tesoirere; Vice-Chairman, Mr. R.F. Lindsey; Hon. Secretary Mr. L. Hale; Hon. Show Secretary Mr. K.C. Coe; Assist. Show Sec., Mr. K. Miles; Hon. Treasurer, H.E.T. Hope; Membership Secretary, Mr. N. Wright; Meeting Secretary, Mr. E. Willis; Press Secretary, Mr. N. Wright; Refreshments, Mrs. M.H. Lindsey.

RESIDENTS ALLEGE THAT COUNCIL MINUTE WAS WORDED WRONGLY.

Billericay Residents' Assn. are angry with a mistake in the minutes of the Development & Planning Committee of Basildon Council, which states that they object to the erection of a Public House or Community Centre to serve the Walthamstow Borough Council estate at Outwood Common.

Explained Association Secretary Mr. D. Wilby over the weekend; "We have nothing against a Community Centre or Public House for Outwood Common. We were merely concerned that a proposed Public House would be built right on top of private houses, whilst the nearest estate house is some seventy yards away. Therefore, we placed observations before the Council".

I understand that Walthamstow Council recently sent a circular to tenants on the Estate asking them what facilities they wanted. A site in Outwood Common Road is reserved for a community centre or Public House.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

COUNCIL TO RE-CONSIDER ROAD CONTRIBUTION.

At last Thursday week's Council Meeting Basildon Council agreed to re-consider a Works Committee resolution that the Council should make no general contribution to the make-up of Cromwell Avenue, Billericay. A claim had been made by the front-agers that since the road was used as a "car park" for Lake Meadows, a contribution should be made on the same basis as for Lake Avenue.

Moving reference back Cllr. H.E. Wilkins (Ind.) said that Lake Avenue and Cromwell Avenue were eventually intended to form a "U" shaped road.

Commented Cllr. W.J. Blair (Und.) "Cromwell Avenue is in the same category as Lake Avenue and Hill House Drive, and we made contributions to their make-up".

Cllr. Mrs. C.H. Gadson (Cons.) said that she was most unhappy about Cllr. Wilkins's proposal. The Council must get these roads done, and re-consideration would hold the work up. A contribution was made to Hill House Drive, as it was thought that it might be used as the official entrance to Lake Meadows, and a contribution had been made to Lake Avenue as it was an official entrance. Cromwell Avenue was not an official entrance to the park.

PRESS BAN DEFEATED.

An attempt to prevent the Press receiving Education sub-committee reports before the Education Committee meeting was soundly defeated at the recent Basildon Council meeting.

The Council's Finance Committee suggested the ban, as embarrassing incidents had resulted from members reading of decisions in the Press before they knew about them themselves.

Cllr. Alf Dove (Lab.) said that because of pressure from the Labour group the Council now had the best public relations in the country. One had to take risks now and then. 2,100 minute items had been issued to the Press, and there had only been three embarrassments. Cllr. Mrs. J. Lunt (Und.) said that she was in favour of as much publicity as possible. And lone Liberal Cllr. Evans felt that the Press should be admitted to all committee meetings. However, Tory Councillor Mrs. Gadson felt that she had to support the ban as the matter had been fully discussed. The proposal failed by 13 votes to 9.

FIVE BAZAARS IN A FORTNIGHT!

Five bazaars have been held in Billericay during the last fortnight!

Christ Church, Perry Street was packed out last Saturday week for a Bazaar in aid of the New Church Fund. Proceeds of the Bazaar brought the total amount raised for the new Church so far up to £1,000. And Vicar Rev. D.R. Greaves had some good news for those present. Because of the lively efforts of the Parish, a sum of several thousands pounds was to be made available by the Diocese for a new Church. Plans for the new building would be made right away.

On the same day South Green War Memorial Hall held their first Bazaar for four years at the Memorial Hall. Target for the day was £50, to go towards the £90 for furnishing the hall stage with curtains, and providing stage lights. Father Christmas was as popular ever, although few noticed that the part was played by a lady - Mrs. McQueen.

Another Bazaar on the 24th was at the "Mayflower Hall", organised by the Congregational Church, which was followed by a Variety Concert in the evening. Proceeds went to the Repair and Maintenance Fund.

On Saturday December 1st Great Burstead Church held a Bazaar that was "a roaring success" at South Green War Memorial Hall. Organisers were overwhelmed by the response - the best for years.

On the same day the Joint Social Section of Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Assn. held their Christmas Bazaar at the Recreation Rooms. Father Christmas was in attendance, and there were a wide variety of stalls and sideshows.

PREFAB DEMOLITION TO BE SPEEDED.

Demolition of the Billericay prefab site at South Green is to be accelerated, it was decided at Basildon Council's meeting, although this will mean delays in the housing list, and provision of temporary accommodation for the prefab tenants.

A bid by Conservative members to get the site developed by stages, to avoid delay in the housing list, and to reduce the amount of temporary accommodation needed to house prefab dwellers whilst re-development takes place, failed.

EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

One year ago the 100th issue of the "Billericay Observer" was published, and this issue is the 125th. Therefore, today should be a happy occasion. Instead it is a very sad one. For as you will see from the statement on Page 6 the "Observer" is to close at Christmas.

The Billericay History Series booklets continue to sell well. Over 900 copies have now been sold of "Early Billericay", No. 1 in the Series, and 780 copies of booklet No. 2, "The Mills of Billericay". It looks as if both booklets may reach the 1,000 copies target.

The third booklet in the Series - "Billericay & The Mayflower" & "The Place Names of Billericay" is to be published on December 10th. Advance orders have set up a new record of over 180 copies. The first section of this booklet deals with the general history of Puritanism in Billericay up to the end of the 17th century; tells the story of Billericay's associations with the "Mayflower"; and of Billerica in America. The second section deals with the origin of the name of 'Billericay', and tells the story of some of the street and place names in and around Billericay. The price is 6d from W.H. Smith & Son, local newsagents, or "Observer" offices.

----- The Editor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

What's ON In & Around Billericay.

SALE OF WORK ... Billericay Residents' Association are holding a Sale of Work at the Recreation Rooms, High Street, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday 8th December. Refreshments.

FRIDAY BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP at 37, Stock Road, 8 p.m., every Friday.

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ADVERTISEMENT RATES from the Editor.

FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

At the meeting on the 21st November there was a very good attendance, despite the cold weather. Mr. Spencer presided. Sick members were wished a speedy recovery. Mrs. Pierce was a little better, Mrs. E. Gill was improving, Mr. Dawkins was absent through sickness. Mesdames Byron, Golder, and Patch were accorded birthday honours. A "Top Of The Form" Quiz was won by the ladies, and was followed by community singing, with Mrs. Dawkins as Pianist.

On the 28th there was an excellent attendance. Sick members were all wished a very speedy recovery. Mrs. Pierce, although a little better, was still ill; Mrs. E. Gill was improving, and Mr. Dawkins was not at all well. Mr. Gill was welcomed back. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. F. Smith, Mrs. Walden, Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Eaton, and Mrs. Hall. The members were entertained by Miss Kaye and Mike. Mike entertained with songs, stories, and drums, Miss Kaye being the Pianist and entertaining with Accordion and Community Singing and Duets.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

On the 17th November an enjoyable afternoon was spent with 34 members present. The raffle included a mystery parcel given by Mrs. Smith. An interesting talk was given by Mrs. Wilson on her seven years in India. Mr. Bond had received a letter from Mrs. Parrish, who was spending a holiday with her family in Canada. Unfortunately, she was very ill. Tea was served by Mrs. Rainbird and Mrs. Arnold.

On November 24th a pleasant afternoon was spent. After the usual business and raffles a short talk was given by Mr. Hawes. The club bade farewell to Mrs. Stubbs, who is leaving the district. Mrs. Bond is a little better; Mrs. Leswell is in Hospital. Tea was served by Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Smith.

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CLOSURE OF THE "BILLERICAY OBSERVER" - EDITOR'S STATEMENT.

I regret that I shall have to cease publication of the "Billericay Observer" with effect from the issue of December 18th, 1962, for the following reasons:-

1) I feel that I can no longer personally compensate for the heavy losses made on the "Billericay Observer". Although the paper has been successful from a sales point of view, achieving a regular sale of 1,000 copies, and although the paper has included a large number of advertisements, heavy expenditure has been incurred on overheads, particularly legal expenses.

2) Basildon Council have decided that the "Billericay Observer" must not be continued to be produced at its present premises for more than three years. Therefore, since there seems little prospect of continuing the paper beyond that date there is little incentive for the future.

3) I am taking my G.C.E. examinations next July, and I do not consider I would be able to run the "Observer" during that period.

Publication of the BILLERICAY HISTORY SERIES and BILLERICAY REFERENCE BOOK will continue. I am now compiling a list of people who would like to receive these booklets, as published. Any person who would like to be included on this list should contact me.

All Personal Delivery Service accounts will be settled during the week beginning December 17th. To readers who receive the "Observer" by post I offer the following alternatives:-

- a) Full refund of money paid.
- b) Copies of Billericay History Series etc. until payment expires.
- c) Copies of "Brentwood Gazette" until subscription expires.

I would be glad if postal readers would indicate which course they would prefer. If I receive no reply, I will take course "c".

With effect from the issue of Friday January 11th I will be contributing a regular column or two of Billericay news for the "Brentwood Gazette". I will be very pleased to receive any news for inclusion in this column, to reach me at 143, Perry Street, Billericay (Phone 1927) by Sunday 10 a.m. at the latest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all readers, advertisers, and newsagents for their support. --- Wynford Grant.

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- 3. DB.4888 - Sun Arise (Rolf Harris) (9).
- 4. F.11494 - Telstar (The Tornados) (2).
- 5. RCA.1230 - Return To Sender (Elvis Presley) (-)
- 6. 05880 - Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree (Brenda Lee) (-).
- 7. HLU.9611 - He's A Rebel (Crystals) (-)
- 8. R.4949 - Love Me Do (Beatles) (-)
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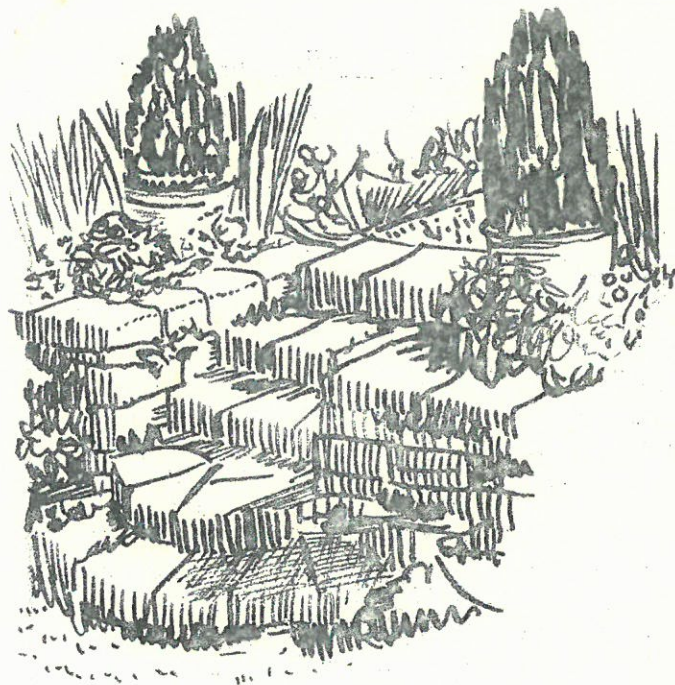
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FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP at "Green
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Billericay Floral Arrangement Group.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th December.

W.I.Hall 8 p.m.

Demonstrator; Mrs.Pryor.

Members 2/-; Non-Members 2/6d.

Everyone Welcome.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Brighstide Brook Row.

Dear Sir, --- Now that Mr.James's
letter has been answered, evident-
ly by someone who knows more about
the facts, is it hard to find the
people to blame for this upset?
Residents have had sleepless nights
with the noise, others have had
clay, mud, and traffic disorganis-
ed. Let's face facts, this water
course has been in existence since
Adam, and therefore why were
builders allowed to put houses on
this site, without proper control
of the water, all within the last
eight years. Water has flowed
across Brightside every Winter I
can remember ---- "Walker".
(Name & Address Supplied).

Hardship For Pensioners.

Dear Sir, ---- The poor, and I
mean the poor, who have only
savings, and a starvation old age
pension, will have to find a
further expense for fares to
Basildon. The closing of the rates
sub-office at Burghstead Lodge
will be a great handicap, and
should have been run at a smaller
cost - it would have been interest-
ing to know the amount. If a
saving is wanted, what about using
the Housing Offices in the High
Street, which does not seem to be
overworked at the moment, and if
rents are paid here, why not
rates? ----- "Pensioner".
(Name & Address Supplied).

Danger Spot.

Dear Sir, --- Surely the most
dangerous spot in Billericay is
the railway bridge. The footpath
is extremely narrow, and one is
forced into the road by prams, or
people walking side by side.
Surely something could be done to
improve this danger spot?
----- "Regular Reader".
(Name & Address Supplied).

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OTHER GIFTS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION

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NORSEY WOODS DEVELOPMENT.

At a recent meeting of Basildon Council's Development & Planning Committee the Engineer & Surveyor outlined the discussions which had been taking place for some time in connection with the preservation and maintenance of Norsey Woods, and of discussion that had taken place concerning a Woodlands Scheme. The Committee were informed that an application had now been received from A.C. Butt for two lodge houses and one house with ancillary buildings, to be erected in the Woods. The Committee were informed that Mr. Butt's proposal had the support of the Forestry Commission, but they were concerned to ensure that no steps would be taken which would prejudice the preservation of the amenity of the Wood.

Following considerable argument it was decided that the County Council should be asked their views on a Woodlands Scheme, and what other steps should be taken to ensure that the amenity of the Wood was retained for Billericay. It was decided that the planning application should be sent to the County Council for their decision, with the observations that erection of the house should not take place, but that in the event of the County Council giving favourable consideration to the application for two lodge houses, the matter should be deferred to enable further consultations to take place. It was also decided that the Parks Committee should be informed of the decisions of the Committee, and asked for their comments thereon.

Speaking at last Thursday week's Council Meeting Cllr. H.E. Wilkins (Ind.) said that Norsey Woods meant a lot to the people of Billericay, and he hoped that the Council would not forget it.

In reply Cllr. Pegrum, Tory Planning Chairman, said that the Council was fully aware of what Norsey Woods meant to Billericay.

TREES TO BE REPLACED.

Speaking at the recent Council Meeting, Independent Councillor W.J. Blair said that he was pleased to see that the Council were to replace trees in Lake Meadows, to be removed in a dam scheme to be carried out shortly. "I think this is a very good move", he commented. Cllr. Blair drew the attention of the Council to a scheme whereby they could buy trees through the Civic Trust.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by

"WANDERER".

At the last Council Meeting reference was made to the good work of the Consultative Panel on Billericay High Street. I have no doubt that its members do do a lot of good work. But how much notice do the Council take of their recommendations? Judging from the recent development that has taken place in the High Street, not much.

We are always hearing from the Council about their concern for the High Street. If they were really concerned about it, they would have prepared a comprehensive development scheme, and accepted the Civic Trust offer to arrange a "face lift".

I am very pleased to see the concern displayed by the Council for Norsey Woods. The preservation of this area as woodland is vital to the amenity of the area. No doubt the Woodlands Scheme will do a great deal to improve the amenity of the Woods.

Not only are the Woods of outstanding natural beauty, but they also have a very considerable antiquarian interest. Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Roman remains have been discovered in the Woods, and they were the scene for the Battle of Billericay. Unfortunately, it seems that the County Council do not recognise them of regional interest, and therefore is little hope at the moment of them becoming a Public Open Space. This is a pity, for it means that local people are denied access to the Woods.

At the recent Council Meeting it was suggested that the Press should be admitted to all Council committee meetings. This is something I have been advocating for a long time. I also feel that the minutes of the Planning Panel should be made public. What is needed is a motion to be moved at a Council Meeting on the subject, so that it may be thoroughly discussed. After all, the Council claim that they have nothing to hide from the Press.

This column has now appeared for nearly five years. It has been my aim throughout to create an active interest in local affairs among the public. I have always tried to say what I believe. This has led to severe criticism. In two weeks' time it will appear for the last time, and I intend to summarise my views on Billericay.

----- "Wanderer".