

21 JUL 1958

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FLOODS SWEEP AREA

260 TELEPHONE CALLS OVER
FLOODING RECIVED BY BASILDON
U. D. COUNCIL IN ONE DAY.

Floods swept the Billericay area on July 1st and 2nd. 260 telephone calls over flooding were received by Basildon U. D. Council. A picture in a London evening newspaper showed a 251 'bus ploughing through several feet of water on the Runwell Road at Wickford. The bus was making waves across the road. Worst hit area was Wickford where the River Crouch flooded the High Street to a depth of several feet. There was five feet of water under the railway bridge. At Buttsbury Wash water was at a very high level. Some children living in Buckwyns were not able to attend Buttsbury County Primary School because of the floods. One boy from Buckwyns who managed to get to school had to wade through 18 inches of water outside his home. Cubs at Buttsbury group were not able to have a meeting because the person in charge did not attend because of the floods... the car was flooded and Buttsbury inaccessible.

PERRY STREET

TO BE MADE UP.

Tenders are invited by Basildon Urban District Council for the re-construction of Perry Street, kerbing and tarmacdam footpath. The re-construction of Perry Street has been promised for several years. It would be then possible to run buses down Perry Street. The work should commence by August 1st, 1959.

MORE WARDS FOR BASILDON U. D. COUNCIL.

The Essex County Council have decided to have three extra wards and one extra councillor for Basildon U. D. Council. They have also changed the apportionment of the councillors among the wards. An enquiry into the matter was held in Billericay recently. Under the new distribution of wards, Basildon New Town will get more representation.

NEW LIGHTING.

Most Billericay streets have been installed with new lighting.

"FROM HAMLET TO CITY". G. C. A. TAYLOR OPENING SOUTH GREEN FETE.

The South Green & District War Memorial Fund Fete in the South Green Memorial Hall was opened by G. C. A. Taylor Esq on Saturday 5th July 1958. He said that usually the task of opening a fete was usually given to a film star. 13 years ago a body of locals formed a committee for a South Green War Memorial. The memorial had to be permanent and useful, the result was the hall. As soon as we collected £500 for the hall the price went up another £500 but eventually the hall was built. When we first started South Green was a small hamlet but is now quite a small city. Over £3,000 had been collected for the fund and all spent. We welcome all newcomers to South Green. Stalls included refreshments, provisions, toys, Roll-a-penny, Stake Your Claim, Bowl for the pig, Bingo, Hoop-la, CONTINUED PAGE 4.

EXCLUSIVE ARTICLES
AND STORIES
INSIDE.

ROUND AND ABOUT by 'WANDERER'

Perry Street is to be re-constructed at last. Perry Street needs re-constructing, let me make that quite clear. However if the road is properly constructed there will be no need for a footpath. Money could be saved and Perry Street could be a little bit preserved.

Now first of all I want to make it quite clear that the Billericay Church has got to make money in some way ~~xxxxx~~. People in Billericay have received recently copies of the 'Billericay Parish Review' costing 3^d. Inside are two other magazines 'Essex Churchman' which is published in Chelmsford and 'The Sign' a national magazine published in London. The actual Billericay Parish Review has only fourteen pages 7" x 4¹/₂". Also the arrangement is haphazard, one minute you are reading the Billericay Parish Review, the next minute 'Essex Churchman', then 'The Sign', then 'Essex Churchman', then 'Billericay Parish Review'. The Parish Magazine should be improved. If it is not improved then the price should go down. As I warned in the last edition Basildon U.D. Council has got more councillors and a different arrangement among the wards. Under this new arrangement the Billericay & Wickford areas will get less representation. The Billericay & Wickford areas are not part of Basildon New Town and don't want to be, so why not give them their own council. Basildon and Billericay-Wickford are two completely different areas.

All for now,

Wanderer

RESULTS OF COMPETITION IN EDITION NUMBER II.

The first prize was won by Mrs Terry, 7, Atridge Chase, Mrs Terry won twenty plant labels and ten bamboo canes for her garden. Congratulations Mrs Terry, Keep up the good work!

2nd prizes were won by Mr White of Holmewood, Perry Street and Mrs Christiansen of 'Langdale', Perry Street. 3rd prizes were won by Mrs Lock, Alfriston, Perry Street and Mrs M. Milton of 139, Perry Street.

FOR BETTER

OR WORSE.....

A Fiction Story by W.
Grant

Episode Two.

What has happened so far; Bill and Tony run their own radio station in the village of Little Bigglesworth. They are accused by Major Burt of interrupting his 'Archers'.

"You insolent young scoundrels said the Major, I will call the police". The red face of Major D.K. Burt Esq disappeared down the ladder. Bill and Tony looked at each other. "Will he really call the police", asked Tony. "True to his word", replied Bill.

"I better get on with the programme" said Tony. "Yes" replied Bill. Listeners, we now have our music feature... Twenty minutes later the law, represented by P.C. 22 of Little Bigglesworth cycled into the farmyard followed by a hot, red, protesting Major Burt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN
TO THE RADIO STATION?
See Next Edition.

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BILLERICAY'S MUSEUM.

by MR H. RICHMAN.

For some years, several people have saved photographs and relics of the past, in the hope that one day there would be a Billerica-y Museum in which to place them for everyone to see, but it was not till just after the war that anything like an official collection was started, following several Loan Exhibitions of 'Old Billericay' interest in the town. The first of these was arranged in the Gas Showrooms during one of the special War Saving Weeks, and this was followed by others at the Secondary School, Women's Institute, South Green Fetes, and Mayflower Hall etc. The last was at the Women's Institute in 1956 and was the first to be made up entirely from one collection which, however, included some of the smaller collections formed by residents who had either died, or removed from the district and placed their things in the safekeeping of Mr H. Richman's so called "Billericay Collection".

About twelve months ago the Billericay Group of the Council for the Presevation of Rural England (C.P.R.E.) formed a Museum & Records Committee, and, in December last, arrangements were made to use the window of the old Saddler's & Harness Maker's shop in the High Street for displaying some of the many exhibits in the 'Billericay Collection', and in the possession of other private people, already awaiting a permanent home.

Additions have already been made to the now combined Museum Collection, through these displays, although, unfortunately, the work was not started soon enough to stop the destruction of many interesting photographs, business accounts, and other papers, considered as rubbish by their owners, but of great value when placed with others of the same kind. There are apparantly very few old Deeds of the High Street, for example.

One only has to listen to people studying the Museum Window, to hear remarks such as - "I had one like that and used to wonder what it was" - or - "I only threw one of those away the other week", whilst others remember something tucked away in a drawer, and ask if it is of any interest for the Collection.

More often than not the answer is "Yes, Thank you", although the aim is to save items mainly of Local interest. Occasionally however, this rule is broken in the case of Bygones (articles which have gone out of common use) such as the Powder Horns, Wooden Pattens, Barber's Kettle, and Gamekeeper's Truncheon already seen in the window and the Pewter, Glass, China, etc. which will follow in their turn.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.

SOUTH GREEN FETE

continued.

Rummage Sale and other stalls. The fete had an attendance of about 350. Admission was by programme 6d.

VERY LOW ATTENDANCE AT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW.
The Billericay Horticultural Society Annual Summer Show was held on July 5th in the Archer Hall, Commencing at 2.30p.m. The show had a very low attendance of under 30. A display of flowers was provided by Basildon U.D. Council. Admission was 6d. Prizes were as follows;
1st Prizes.

A.C. Peagram, 13.

Mr Stewart, 4.

G. Willison, 4.

Mr Baldwin, 6.

Mr Norris, 3.

Mr Burton, 2.

Mr Nadal, 2.

One Each; G. Wilson, Mr Pegrave, Mr Overing, Mr Novis, Mr Dove, Mr Balon, Mr Peant, Mr Baker, Mr Peart, Mr West.

2nd Prizes.

A.C. Peagram, 11.

De Val (Mr), 3.

Mr Dove, 3.

Mr Norris, 3.

Mrs Squires, 2.

Mr Baker, 2.

Mr Burton, 2.

One each; Mr Nadal, Mr Harrison, Mr Baldwin, Mr Balowin, Mr Peart, Mr West, Mr Stewart.

3rd prizes were also awarded.

permission so that when the council inquired about trees the owner said "There aren't any".

EDITORIAL CORNER.

Editorial Offices,
143, Perry Street,
Billericay.

I hope you enjoy this edition. Some readers may find their newspaper printed in blue. We have got rid of the streaks but we have got blue print. I have given up all hope for letters. This edition we are making a special effort to at least halve our number of spelling mistakes. In the future we hope to have a feature for the Woman of the House after much demand for one. Our newspaper will for the present remain free of charge. Finance on Sunday July 20th I s I d

C.P.R.E. NEEDED IN ESSEX MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTY IN ENGLAND.

"The C.P.R.E. was needed more in Essex than in any county in England it was stated at the Billericay C.P.R.E. Annual General Meeting (Summer) at Hill House, Billericay on Saturday July 19th. The meeting which was held out of doors was well attended.

New Litter Act.

Details were given about the new Litter Act which comes into force in August. Under the new Litter Act it is an offence to throw litter almost anywhere with a penalty not exceeding £10. Complaints were made about the Greensward Clearance to the council. The Greensward Clearance had destroyed many birds nests and had destroyed some of the natural beauty of the countryside. A very silly letter was recived in reply saying that the greensward had to be cleared and a very silly letter was sent back.

Revision has commenced on the High Street book.

The Railway Excutive has sent a letter to the C.P.R.E stating that it is not their policy to plant trees along railway embankments. The owners of various factorys said trees would not grow on the Industrial Estate, yet pointed out a member they grew there when it was a field.

There was discussion on builders removing trees before the council have given building

council have given building

BILLERICAY'S MUSEUM - CONTINUED.

The latest additions include a Cooper's Gouge, and a Trinket Box made and carved by Billericay's last Town Crier.

Demolitions and alterations to old buildings have to be closely watched, and several things have come to light in this way, like the Tudor Doorhead buried behind the plaster in a High Street house, the 16th century carved Door Panel stuffed behind a chimney stack in Chapel Street, and the 17th century Tradesman's Token beneath the floor of another house.

Some ancient Pottery was recently found 2ft below the surface near Noak Hill, and Roman Pottery in a garden on the Bell Hill Council Estate and at the Secondary School, nearby. During the past few years Roman Tiles have been discovered, near the brook in Queen's Park though they have since been lost again, and in a garden on the same estate an 18th century Clay Pipe was unearthed near the root of a tree, about 12" below ground level. In a ditch nearby was also unearthed a Samoan War Club - at least that is what the British Museum said it was, but how it came there remains a mystery. Anyway, it shows what can be found by keeping one's eyes open.

If you find anything of interest, no matter how small, bring it along to Mr. H. Richman at 5, Chapel Street. You may not know exactly what the object is or its date and neither might he at first sight but he can always find out one way or another.

Perry Street derives its name from the Roman "Strata", and an even earlier Trackway has been traced in that direction so who knows what lies beneath the soil there?

There was also a Mill there at some date, hence Mill Hill, but where? Perhaps some of our friends on the new estates will come across a clue to that and the real reason for the earthworks in Perry Street particularly round the Knightsbridge Walk Estates and the Editorial Offices of the 'Billericay Observer'.

SEAGULLS AND FISHERS.

by Wynford Grant.

This is a witty account of the Editor's recent holiday.

Monday July 7th found me carrying cases outside for the taxi.

7.30 was the time. The minutes ticked by and still there was no taxi. So we picked up our baggage and used the footpath to the station so kindly provided by Basildon U.D.C. for people whose taxis don't come. There was one small piece of hope when a boy on a bicycle passed us but our luck was out. He had to dismount because something was wrong with his bicycle. At long

last ~~we~~ reached Liverpool Street with half-an-hour in which to get to Paddington. At Liverpool Street we met B.H. who was going on holiday with us. We raced to the taxi rank and for an extra number of round things which are so hard to get took us on a short cut. Swerving round a corner into a road which had roadworks we met one of those vehicles which deliver that

stuff or liquid which we are repeatedly told we should have a pint a day (no, not the Coach & Horses). That vehicle returned to its depot (where they don't have half a pint of what they sell but prefer to drink another brew) with a scraped side and also had been on the gold-paved pavements of London. A few minutes later we encountered a large lorry the driver of which made himself rather hoarse and lost several calories by making strange gestures with his hands..... Anyway we did

manage TURN OVER

THE CRISIS IN

THE

MIDDLE EAST.

Political Landscape Editorial.
by the Editor.

A new crisis has commenced in the Middle East. The British have taken the right line. The landing of troops in Jordan saved another revolt and assassination and another Pro-Western Middle East country fallen to Nasser's Kremlin-backed United Arab Republic. The Socialist Party as usual behave liked a lot of ostriches burying their heads in the sand to any crisis and throwing out slogans about intervention with the true spirit of Arab Nationalism. Yet can they say that assassination of Iraq's royal family "the true spirit of Arab nationalism". Meanwhile in Moscow T.V. cameras were outside the U.S. Embassy three hours before a demonstration started. Now Krueschuw wants summit talks. They will achieve little more than there is air on Mount Everest if the Russians take their usual line. Ardent left-wingers at home are as usual moaning that Britain is wrong. If they don't like life in Britain then they ought to leave.
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LITTER ACT, 1958.

After August 7th this year it is an offence, with a penalty of a fine not exceeding £10 to dispose of litter in Public Open Spaces, The Public Highway and any place which is open to the air on one side e.g. Church Porches, 'Bus Stops and Church Porches. WE APPEAL TO OUR READERS TO HELP TO KEEP THE COUNTRYSIDE AND HIGHWAY FREE OF LITTER SO THAT THE BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IS PRESERVED FOR THOSE WHO MAY VISIT IT AFTER US. REMEMBER- AFTER AUGUST 7th- THE LITTER ACT.

Lake Meadows Litter.

It will be seen whether this will affect litter in Lake Meadows. The 'Billericay Observer', once the Litter Act comes in force will begin a renewed campaign.

SEAGULLS AND FISHERS.

continued.

to board our train. After about an hour it was announced that Morning Coffee was being served.

When I reached the restaurant car I noticed a man with a beard and glasses and a girl with long hair and the latest creation by so called dress-designers. They were consuming cup of coffee after coffee. When we left the Restaurant Car they were still drinking coffee. They obviously came from Chelsea. Is the drinking of coffee an ancient ritual of Chelsea, do they live on it or was it a competition invented by the coffee which was the craze of North Borneo to see

who could drink the most cups of coffee. At long last we reached Saint Austell and met Mine Host in his 'Land Rover' in which he seemed to think nothing of driving 50.m.p.h. along bending roads. Doing this once he scraped the hedge to avoid another car and arrived at our destination with the Land Rover festooned with greenery causing some excitement and curiosity. A few days

later we decided to go to a very pretty small town on the Fal Rivers opposite Falmouth. Now to do this we had to travel by the village bus service, which ran buses to that particular place only twice a week because services to two other towns and towns as well. We waited at the Post Office and 5 minutes late the bus came down the hill but were we surprised - the bus! WHAT IS SURPRISING ABOUT THE BUS? NEXT EDITION.