

20 SEP 1958

The only newspaper that is published and printed in Billericay.

PEOPLE EVACUATED FROM PERRY STREET BUNGALOWS IN FLOODS.

15ft in London Road.

Man up to waist in Atridge Chase.

Fire Brigade receives incessant calls.

People were evacuated from bungalows in Perry Street on Friday night the 5th September, when flood water from Lake Meadows swirled to a depth of three feet into their bungalows. People living in Atridge Chase took the residents of the bungalows into their houses. The men living in the road built banks and battled to stop the flood water and save other houses in the area. They were up to their waists in water. A tree in Nordey View Drive crashed onto the electric wires when it was struck by lightning and electricity was off until 1.0. on Saturday and also for all Sunday afternoon from half-past twelve until early evening. There was 15ft of water at one point on the London Road between Billericay and Hutton and rooves had to be smashed to rescue the occupants of houses in the area. All transport by rail into Billericay was cut on Friday night and passengers were stranded at Gidea Park. Billericay could not be approached by road and was therefore inaccessible. The ford at Buckwys was well flooded. On Monday the surrounding fields were still under two feet of water. A person at Mountnessing described the area as "a brown sea with trees and hedges sticking up" on Saturday morning. Billericay Fire Brigade received incessant calls to help in flooding pumping-out and other calls due to flooding. Garages in Perry Street were flooded. Part of the Perry Street to Station footpath was washed away by floods. The tropical-type storm lasted for over two hours and there was brilliant sheet-lightning. Bark was stripped clean off some trees.

BODY IN LAKE WAS THAT OF 61-YEAR OLD WIDOW.

Verdict of; Suicide by Drowning. The body found in Lake Meadows Lake recently (Edition sixteen of the Billericay Observer) was that of a widow, aged sixty-one staying in Billericay looking for a job. She was staying in Hillside Road. On August 28th she left the house, discouraged by not finding a job and went to the Lake with the intention to commit suicide. The Coroner at Billericay Court on September 2nd recorded a verdict of Suicide By Drowning. The woman arrived in Billericay on August 12th.

\$4,000 RAISED BY GT BURSTEAD PARISH IN DEATH-WATCH BEETLE FIGHT.

Gt Burstead Parish have raised \$4,000 for their fund for the fight against the Death-Watch Beetle which has invaded the church timbers. This is the result of many varied fund-raising activities including a Barrel-Organ being played in the High Street. The Church has many historical connections with the crew of the world famous "Mayflower" and the Pilgrim Fathers. While in more recent times the crew of a Zeppelin shot down nearby were buried in the Churchyard.

WORK COMMENCED ON LAKESIDE.

Work has commenced on the road-making at Lakeside, Perry Street, Billericay. Lakeside is one of the muddiest and worst roads in Billericay. The first edition of the 'Billericay Observer' announced

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The Editor proffers his sincere apologies for the lateness of this edition of the 'Billericay Observer' but a printing mistake is one of the reasons for this late issue. The next edition will be published on Tuesday September 30th as previously arranged. This edition was to have been published on Tuesday September 16th.

ROUND and ABOUT

by
'WANDERER'.

If you walk through Lake Meadows on a warm - even a cold, wet day - you will see some fishermen. On a hot weekend or even weekday upwards of sixty fishermen will line the banks of Lake Meadows hopefully waiting for a fish. So, our friend the Wanderer went along with a fisherman to see what it was all about. First and foremost they curse the boathirers for scaring the fish away and the crowds in general. They think that boats on the Lake should be restricted and reduced and also the crowds, in fact that Lake Meadows should be made a fisherman's paradise. Secondly they rarely catch any fish and if they do, often as not it is so small it will not keep in the "keep net".

The boathirers however as a whole think that the fishermen are a nuisance with their lines. As for the second one (a) Lake Meadows lake should be re-stocked and (b) fishers should be attracted to other lakes such as Hanningfield Reservoir. Well what do you think? Should boaters be banned, reduced or restricted. Or should fishers be discouraged, banned or restricted on fishing in the Lake?

All for now,

A Wanderer

ADVERTISING SPACE
IS AVAILABLE IN THIS JOURNAL
Circulation 23.

Terms example; 3 weeks ads for Id.
Interested persons should apply
for terms and leaflet to the Editor

SPORTS

OBSERVER.

OPEN THOSE RUSTY GATES !!!!!
You may wonder what this means. Allow me to explain. It is about eight years since a new football club entered the Football League. With the coming of the new Fourth Division I think that every year two clubs should leave the Football League and two new ones should enter. In a way, automatic relegation and promotion. Why? Well, compare Crewe Alexandra one of the "down in the dumps" clubs and compare them with, say Peterborough United. Crewe can expect an average attendance of 4,555 (last season's average) and to end up bottom. Also Crewe, being a railway centre is within easy reach of the other famous, 1st division northern clubs. On the other hand, Peterborough United can expect an average attendance of about 10,000, enthusiastic supporters, have a good side (their progress in the F.A. Cup proves this) and have a large city and population with no other First Class football club nearby. Another reason is that it will provide new interest. Also the bottom clubs in the 4th division that would be removed might fight back more.

"Ah" say the F.A., "But 10,000 isn't up to our standards at all - at least 25,000. Well its an improvement on 4,555 isn't it. With 4th Division playing Peterborough's attendance might rise to 15,000. Likely non-leaguers for 4th division? I name Peterborough United, Wigan Athletic, Bath City and Yeovil Town. And that is what I mean by "open up those rusty gates"..... before it is too late to oil them.

Our address.

'Billericay Observer, 143,
Perry Street Billericay.

THE HISTORY OF BILLERICAY.

BY H. Richman.

CHAPTER II ; THE COMING OF THE ROMANS.

Stone Age and Bronze Age Burial Mounds have been found in Norsey Woods, and relics of the Iron Age, which commenced about 500 B.C., on the high ground behind St Andrew's Hospital. Potteries of the same period in Norsey Woods showed a continuous use into the Roman era.

The Trinovantes who had been driven into this corner of Essex by the Belgic invaders were the inhabitants of the hillside fort at Billericay. These people lived in huts built of wattle and daub roofed with straw or reeds, and wore clothing of wool spun by themselves. They made pottery on potters' wheels, had bronze vessels often decorated with patterns of men and animals, and worked in wood and iron. They had two kinds of ploughs, including a light one drawn by two oxen and another with a large coulter and moulded boards. Their gold coins, copied from Greek designs, were gradually replaced by others of more original character.

Billericay was one of their chief towns with a defence on the hill having a deep and steep ditch, the hillside being covered with trees for better protection.

The people occupying Kent, Hertford, and the North and West of Essex were relations of the Belgae of Gaul in North East France, and it was because of the assistance they gave against the Romans in that country that Caesar finally decided to invade these islands.

In 55 B.C. he crossed the Channel and marched several miles inland before returning to Gaul for the Winter, but the following year he came with a larger army and crossed into Essex at the invitation of the Trinovantes, who wanted aid against the Belgae who ruled from their capital at Camulodunum (Colchester) under the famous Cassivelaunus. In 54 B.C. the Roman Eagles were first seen in Billericay, a decisive battle being fought in the neighbourhood, probably between Billericay and South Weald.

Cassivelaunus was defeated and promised to pay a yearly tribute, leaving the Trinovantes in possession of their last remaining corner of Essex.

The Romans then again retired to spend several more years in completing the conquest of Gaul before making their real invasion of this country 100 years later.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

Part Six

CONCLUDING CHAPTER.

What happened last time; Major Burt has attacked the Radio Station and has beaten a sudden retreat. Later Bill and Tony learn the reason for this was the disappearance of his Boxers. It was a week later and though Major Burt had tried many methods and sources but he is still minus Boxers. Bill and Tony were sitting in the Radio Station planning the month's programmes one evening when much to their surprise Major Burt's head popped up from the ladder. "By gad" said the Major "I have come to ask you to perform a favour for me". "I'm sorry to upset your arrangements" continued the Major but I want you to broadcast an appeal for my Boxers". Well, readers Major Burt had his boxers returned to him and he is now a great friend of Bill and Tony's for the service they did to him. He apologised and fitted out their barn.

EDITORIAL CORNER.

Editorial Offices,
143, Perry Street..

Dear Readers,

Once again it is time for me to write to you.

You will notice a new heading on the front page; "The only newspaper which is published and printed in Billericay". This claim is perfectly correct. The other local newspapers are not printed in Billericay or published either in the area, so the 'Observer' is the ONLY truly LOCAL newspaper. We concentrate on Billericay. Our news, articles and features, with a few exceptions, are only about Billericay & District (Stock, Ramsden et al.). The other local press report everything for miles around.

The 'Billericay Observer' is now attempting to improve its standard of reporting. With the improved standard of reporting I wish to say a few words. I know that many of my readers take another local newspaper apart from the 'Billericay Observer'. With one exception, this is not necessary as the 'Billericay Observer' provides all the local news plus interesting articles and stories.

The Editor wishes to increase his circulation but cannot do so with the present carbon-copy method. If any reader has any idea or knows a method which would replace it would he/she please let the Editor know.

Yours Sincerely,

W. Grant
Editor.

TRAVELLING ROAD-SAFETY EXHIBITION VISITS BILLERICAY

The travelling road-safety exhibition visited Billericay on Saturday September 13th and was stationed outside the Library. There were reaction-testers and safety posters and other attractions.

STOP PRESS.

METHODIST CHURCH HOLDS GARDEN PARTY AS PART OF EFFORTS FOR NEW CHURCH.

'Get together before the Winter'.

The Billericay Methodist Church held a garden party at the home of Dr R.W.B. Rilstone's, 22 High Street, Billericay as part of the effort for a new Church in Western Road.

The party was opened by Mr and Mrs Bartlett. They said that it was partly intended as a "get-together before the Winter". It was hoped that visitors would spend freely as every £1- would buy a brick for the new Church. "You may wonder why we are here when the Parish Church is launching an appeal but we can always help one another and kind thoughts sow kind deeds". A bouquet was presented to Mrs Bartlett. Thanks were offered by Dr Rilstone to Mr and Mrs Bartlett for coming along to open the Garden Party. It was a new venture to hold the Garden Party in a garden but this year thanks to Dr Rilstone this was possible. In previous years the Garden Parties had been held in the not-so gardenish setting of the Methodist Church grounds.

There was a fancy dress competition which had twelve entries. 1st prize was awarded to Hilary Writson - Dressmaking. 2nd Prize was awarded to Robert Wilson - Sweep. The prize for the most original costume was awarded to Janet Rice-Tal-e of Two Cities, London and Paris. In an interview with our reporter Dr Rilstone stated that the target for the day was £100 towards the cost of a new Church in front of the present one in Western Road. Stalls were run by the Young Wives and Rest Hour and the Westley Guild and other stalls.

'LONGSIGHT'.

Longsight's expiriences while touring the Isle of Wight, what a wonderful island, next best to the Continent I think, glorious sunshine, but WHAT an expbrence. Have you readers ever travelled backwards in a Touring Coach for three miles? That's just what happened to me and my friends; we were proceeding down a beautiful narrow leafy lane to Godshill when the unexpected happened. A large car containing two ladies, a small baby, dog with three puppies, with the engine broken down faced us. We stalwarts from the Mainland went to investigate and tried to lift the car a foot to the side of the road; we were either too weak or had too much to eat, we failed to move the obstruction, hence our three-mile retreat backwards.

When I truthfully state that I have travelled by sea, air, cable car, travelled 80 feet up a steel building, some hundreds of feet down a shaft, a few miles underground, down the rock railway at Clifton Gorge etc, this back peddling was an entirely new one on me; three miles looking backwards gave me a pain in the neck. Our coastguards are they not wonderful. On one of my evening walks I was travelling back from Shanklin to Sandown along the cliff path I saw ahead of me small lights (this was at night) on closer inspection I saw a young coast guard getting into his rescue harness and his fellow coastguards fixing steel pin and tackle into the ground. I enquired what was wrong and was told that a poor dog had fallen over the cliff. We could hear it barking 150 ft below. The young coastguard was lowered and in no time at all he was pulled up with the dog a Kerry Blue in his arms unhurt. I

(Continued in next column)

LONGSIGHT CONTINUED.

take my hat off to those brave people who risk their lives even for a poor animal.

On my return to Billericay what a change I saw and the news I heard, all you who were here are very familiar with the havoc wrought by such a freak storm, indeed by what I saw, read and heard, this storm certainly beat the mountain storms I

have experinced 9,000 feet up in the mountains in India. We want no repetition in Billericay. As Wales, Ireland, Greece and many other countries have their own particular national costumes may I humbly suggest a new national costume for England. Souwesterx, Oilskin Coat, Gum Boots and good life belt.

'Longsight'.

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.

"The Cod WAR"

The "Cod War" is a self-explaining title. It is about our dispute with Iceland. Well I say that Iceland are wrong and we are right. What would happen if every country decided to impose a twelve mile limit? Iceland should devote its time to more peaceful purposes.

"Queomoy".

One little group of islands, thousands of miles from England have struck the headlines in Britain for the past week. Now, Communist China have already shelled Queomoy thus preventing the landing of medical, food and ammunition supplies on Queomoy. Now if any of the American Ships is shelled and hit however slight then they can hit back in self-defence without declaring a part in this struggle. The island is part of the Free World and let us hope it stays that way as it should without Communist interference.

Oh and by the way where ever there is trouble there is always a Communist.

Another article will be published in the next edition.

THE BUCKLERS HARD NEWS.

Based on a report from the "News Chronicle", 2nd May 1958 and by facts collated from a copy of 1956 and from other similar sources by the Editor. It is not known whether the 'Bucklers Hard News' is still in existence.

Editor, publisher, circulation manager; these executive posts are held by Stephen Berkeley Fry - grandson of the famous C.B. - whose weekly newspaper which (or did) cost 3d is published in the picture postcard village of Bucklers Hard near Beaulieu, Hants. The Bucklers Hard News, in 1956, had subscribers throughout the World and had a total circulation of one-hundred and five. The money made on the newspaper is spent on various things including a box of chocolates every week for a competition prize, printed notepaper, duplicating machine and 1s 6d a week for the two reporters each - David C. Martin and George Roland. They have special (or did have) instructions by the Editor that their stories should be unique and interesting for which they scour the countryside (or did). The Bucklers Hard News (or did in 1956) has eight pages measuring 5" x 4".

LETTERS.

Letters for publication should be marked as such and sent to the Editor at the offices or handed to him.

Dear Sir,

You seem to be conducting a "war" against people who want you to charge for the newspaper. Week after week you bring new facts to light and make new accusations against those who wish to pay for the 'Observer'. You should regard it as a compliment that people want to pay for the newspaper. If they want to pay let them, if they don't, don't make them and stop being silly and attacking your readers over a compliment.

J. K. Wall.

Ed; That would not be fair. As for a "war" I am just presenting common-sense before the readers.

Dear Sir,

J. K. Wall must be a very unsettled person if he cannot be content with one article for a few months.

'Common-Sense'.

Ed; Perhaps he is - but.....

Dear Sir,

I notice that your printing slopes at different angles and also that your dividing lines keep changing. This happens in no good newspaper. 'Regular Reader'.

Ed; We will try to rectify the mistake.

The Editor respectfully reminds readers that they can sign their real names or use non-descript names in letters.

WORD COMPETITION.

Prize offered for person to beat my points total. Make as many words as you can out of the word MARKETING. You may not use each letter more than once per word.

How to score;

- 2 letter-word - 1 point.
- 3 letter-word - 2 points.
- 4 letter-word - 3 points.
- 5 letter-word - 4 points.
- 6 letter-word - 5 points.
- 7 letter-word - 6 points.
- 8 letter-word - 7 points.

The whole word MARKETING is not allowed.

My points total is ninety-one.

Plurals are allowed.

Place names and persons are not permitted.

Entries should be handed to the Editor or sent to the offices at 143, Perry Street, Billericay.

HAVE

A

GO!!!!

It is hoped to print the Editor's list of words during next week.

Score assessment.

Under 20, OOH! 20-40, Needs improving. 40-60 Fair 60-80 Good. Over 80 Excellent.