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The only newspaper published and printed in Billericay.

#### BASILDON SENDS OUT S.O.S. FOR FLOOD RELIEF.

Basildon Urban District Council have issued a flood appeal for money towards a fund to assist victims of the recent great floods in the district. The chairman of Basildon U.D. Council Councillor Tanswell J.P. has issued the following statement in connection with the Flood Fund. "I appeal to every resident who has not suffered to contribute generously". Although the worst hit area by the floods was Wickford, parts of Billericay were also seriously affected.

#### £12,000 AIM FOR PARISH CHURCH EXTENSION FUND.

As part of their extension plans Billericay Parish Church have bought a house next to the Church. The aim for the fund is £12,000 and a novel board for the fund has been placed outside the purchased house.

CIVIL DEFENCE SIRENS.....  
were tested in Billericay on September 17th at 8.0 p.m.

#### EMERGENCY

#### COUNCIL MEETING.

Basildon Urban District Council held an emergency council meeting on Thursday September 25th at the Council Chambers, Billericay to discuss the problem of floods in the district.

#### DECISION TO WRITE TO BASILDON COUNCIL OVER RENT ACT AND EFFECTS ON ELDERLY PEOPLE.

Essex Area Council of O.A.P. associations want arrangements made to accommodate elderly people evicted from their homes under the new Rent Act. It was decided to write to Basildon Urban District over the Rent Act and elderly people and arrangements to be made in the Basildon Area to ensure that elderly people "had a roof over their heads."

#### Harvest Supper.

Billericay Parish Church held their harvest supper in the Archer Memorial Hall on Sunday September 29th. A nominal charge of one shilling was made for tickets. The church plans for its premises extension in the High Street were explained during the evening.

#### BILLERICAY QUAKERS GET OWN MEETING HOUSE - AFTER TWENTY YEARS IN HIRED PREMISES.

The Billericay Society of Friends (Quakers) officially opened their new meeting house in the former "Red House", Bell Hill, Southend Road, Billericay on Saturday September 20th. For 20 years they have met at the Women's Institute.

The history of the Quakers in Billericay was outlined at the opening ceremony. It was said that the first Meeting House stood at the far end of the High Street next to Kitts shop, the site now being occupied by Elizabeth Cottage.

The burial ground was in the vicinity of Churchill Johnsons Yard. About 1848 the meeting house and adjoining cottages were sold, as it appears that there were no members of the Society of Friends left in the town at that time. In 1873 a Thomas Cullen was mentioned as proprietor Roayl Oak beerhouse formerly the Quaker Chapel. In 1938 the Meeting House was re-founded in Billericay. Tea and a tour of the premises followed.



by  
WANDERER.

"A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL MY READERS".

According to the shops that is what I should be saying. How long ahead the years events like Christmas, Easter and November 5th are publicised. Already the Christmas cards etc are in the shops and notices have long been placed on shop doorways imploring you to join such-and-such a fire-work club. By early February Easter Eggs will be in the shops. Surely, this is out of proportion. Now I am NOT a moron that goes around moaning about all the trouble that comes with Christmas and why was there a November 5th. But I do preach common sense. It is much too early for the Christmas preparations and too early for "A Penny For The Guy". Christmas, Easter, November 5th etc are very jolly occasions but they will all come in their right time. I don't mind a month before but three months Well!!

Buses for Perry Street.

Once again the question of a bus service for Perry Street & Environs has been raised with me. I think it would be a very good thing.

- (a) For the aged and infirm.
- (b) In case of bad weather.
- (c) For School Children.
- (d) As a necessary service.

And I think it would pay its way. Either of the following routes could be used. (a) A new service commencing from the Church via the Station and Stock Road to Orchard Avenue thence down Perry Street and along Mountnessing Road for a way to serve the new estates there. (b) For the Brentwood to Laindon buses to be diverted by Perry Street and Stock Road etc. Frequency.. well it need only be a Weekdays service. Buses could leave the Railway Bridge at 7.0 7.30 8.0 8.30 for workers. Then at 9.30 10.30 11.30 12.30 2.30 3.30 and 4.30 for shoppers. Then again at 5.0 5.30 6.0 6.30 7.0 8.0 and 9.30 as evening buses.

Continued in next column.

Round and About by  
Wanderer.

Continued from preceding column.

This could apply with both the routes I described though plan 'B' would be the best for that frequency. On Saturdays the workers buses could be cut out except for one at 7.45, that being the Saturday rush period. Then from the 9.0 chimes they could run as on Mondays to Fridays. However the 5.30 evening bus could be cut out. Departures from the Church at say 6.30 a.m., 7.0 a.m., 7.30 a.m., 8.0 a.m., then from 9.0 on the hour except at 1.0, until 4.30, then half-hourly until 6.30 then at 7.30 and 8.30. True there are loopholes in the plan but that is the outline.

All for now,

*Wanderer*

154 WORDS FROM ONE 528 POINTS IN 'OBSERVER' COMP.

Mr White of Holmwood, Perry Street has won a ballpoint pen in the 'Observer' word competition published in the last issue. From the word 'Marketing' he obtained 154 words - About 14 words for every letter!

Mr White has been a gallant persevering trier in 'Observer' competitions but has never won a 1st prize - only a second. He scored a total of 528 points.

This weeks competition is slightly harder and different. From the word;

"MEGAPHONE" make a topical or amusing short essay (between 25 and 40 words) using words only made up from "MEGAPHONE". e.g. Page, Game and Home etc etc. The rules are similar to those of the ordinary word game. HAVE A GO PLEASE!!  
Answers or entries to the Editor. A prize offered.



# THE HISTORY OF BILLERICAY

by H. Richman.

## ROMAN EAGLES AGAIN.

### CHAPTER III.

After their success in helping the Trinovantes in this part of Essex against the Belgae intruders, in 54 B.C., the Romans departed and left Britain in peace for another 100 years.

By this time the two peoples had united to form a kingdom covering Kent, Hertford, Essex and part of East Anglia, with Camulodunum, or Colchester, as their capital. Their king was Cunobelin, the Cymbeline of Shakespeare's play.

In 43 A.D. the brother of Cunobelin appealed for aid from the Emperor Claudius against Caractacus who had succeeded his brother Cunobeline as King. The story of the defeat of Caractacus, and his appearance as a prisoner in Rome is known to every schoolboy, as well as the final occupation of his capital by the Romans who gave it the present name of Colchester.

The Romans had used the age old crossing of the Thames near Tilbury, for their conquest of this part of the country and must have passed through Billericay where they established a military station for the Ninth Legion whose Headquarters were at Colchester. The most likely position for this was near Norsey Woods overlooking the plain, and some people have suggested a site at the back of the High Street, where there are signs of a moat and rampart behind the houses at the north-east end of the town. Many coins have been found in the garden of Dr. Rillstone's house in the past, and the approach to the fort has been suggested as being through the drive at the side of No. 22, High Street.

After defeating Caractacus and organising this part of the country, the Romans proceeded towards the Celtic strongholds in Wales and Anglesey, leaving this district almost unprotected, and it was not long before the Iceni, under their Queen Boudicca, or Boadicea, joined the Trinovantes and swept through Essex, burning and killing. The Romans three chief towns of London, Colchester and St Alban's were destroyed and, amongst the smaller places, Billericay, with its fort.

When this revolt was finally crushed, the Romans started their rebuilding programme but, instead of using the old site for their fortifications, they chose a new one to the south west of the town at what is now Blunt's Walls Farm.

Relics of the Roman period have been found over a very large area indicating that Billericay must have been of some importance during the Roman occupation.

The Editor proffers his apologies to readers for the date of publication one day late but regrets it was due to circumstances beyond his control.

### ADVERTISING

#### IN THE BILLERICAY OBSERVER.

Leaflet with full details of plans for advertising in the near future obtainable from our address.

#### Back Issues

Obtainable from Record Dept.

Editions numbered I - 17.



EDITORIAL CORNER.

Editorial Offices,

143, Perry Street.

Dear Readers,

Here again is another edition of the 'Billericay Observer'. Soon we hope the 'Billericay Observer' will have a larger circulation. Now we wish to contact as many local societies and organisations as we can. If we are to do this we have to obtain the addresses of their secretaries, presidents etc etc. This where you can help us. If you know any addresses of local organisations please send them to us. As usual entertaining, interesting, humorous news and articles are included. I hope you enjoy reading the 'paper'.

Yours Sincerely,

*W. Grant*  
Editor.

### 'LONGSIGHT'

Longsight is not the Editor. Why o why is house jamming allowed in this day of our Lord. I refer particularly to Perry Street. I understood years ago that slums would be abolished with NO overcrowding; now in 1958 houses are being slapped up nearly as bad as in some parts of Birmingham. That is back to back, it seems to me there is no happy medium. For instance we take into consideration Moat Edge Gardens Estate, Oaklands Estate, now to crown all, 'The Knoll' or late Mr Christies house and grounds, here I am told by good authority 20 or 21 Semi-Detached houses are to be erected including a cul-de-sac. All to the good of those who need houses, yet there are some people who are applying for these houses from Ilford and Wanstead etc, who will sell their own houses to come to Billericay. So well good but what about those poor people in rooms who are not homeowners, their prospects are indeed grim. Now from the sublime to the ridiculous. From information gathered I learn that a gentleman laid roads in Norsew Woods with the intention of building there only to be told its a green belt. Then a purchaser buys 5 acres and builds one house. Queer goings on, no happy medium, it makes you think does it not. Heard by 'Longsight' at Lake Meadows. Two fishermen. No I "Who the \_\_\_\_\_ is Continued in next column.

### 'LONGSIGHT' CONTINUED.

this Longsight",  
No 2. Fisherman (or youth)  
"I dunno, he has a lot to say aint E".

Re the anglers comments on pleasure boats. ('Wanderer' last edition) I add the poor swans and cygnets taking the latter first. On my travels in Lake Meadows, on more than one occasion I have had to intervene when some anglers have been kicking up large stones from the footpath to throw at the swans, only to be told its not my business, who am I, etc etc.

Then again some of the benches are littered up with bread, ground bait, tins of maggots, landing-nets etc etc, even cycles laying across the footpaths, yet we strollers must not grumble. For you see Lake Meadows is absolutely for some of these anglers pleasure only. Even pleasure boats are a pest to them. We strollers have some respite. These so called anglers are quite willing to LET US BREATHE (or are they).

'Longsight'.  
(in tears).

STOP PRESS.



## POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.

Oui,oui!

Millions of Frenchman living throughout the World voted on Sunday on the French referendum. The majority voted Oui and as a result of this the Fifth French republic came into being. It is more than likely that General De Gaulle will be ~~made~~ premier of the 5th French republic for seven years with much more power than his predecessors have had.

Is the election of De Gaulle a good or bad thing? Will De Gaulle make France a stronger country? Will France break away from the Western allies? I can answer the first two questions in one one. I think that De Gaulle is the kind of man FRANCE need to lead it and develop its resources. As for the third question I am not so sure. I do not think that General De Gaulle will be such a pro-western man as many of his predecessors have. I think that he will be a more pro-France man than anything. Perhaps he will at last be the stable person that France needs. If I was a French citizen I would think very carefully before voting Oui or Non.

### Socialist Conference.

The Socialists are holding their conference at Scarborough this week. Already, it appears that they are not united. Any good party, is united and they will not get a very good case before the public if they are not united.

### Quomoy.

I only had space to outline this last week. Many people are in favour of giving up the islands to the Chinese Communists and obtaining a guarantee that they would leave Formosa alone. A more extreme view is that Quomoy should be given to Communist China and that the U.S.A. and we shouldn't fight to save the face of the Chinese nationalists. The other main view is 'fight for it.'

Well I think that it is silly just to give it up to Communists because of the geographical position. After all we don't wangle over the Faroes with Denmark because they are near us. My opinion is that we shouldn't be concerned with the Nationalists Races. However we should not hand it over to the Communists. It is vital that the islands are kept in the Free World. I suggest that the Quomoys be taken over by the United Nations as a Far East base.

## SPORTS OBSERVER.

As you have probably read in your national press, one of the First-Class British referees made comments about the crowd that regularly supports the West London team, Queens Park Rangers in the programme of another club, namely Manchester City. The comments made about the crowd were very nasty and unfavourable. The Football

Leauge forbade him from refereeing the match between Queens Park Rangers and Stockport County. No doubt, the matter will be raised at the next meeting of the Football Leauge.

In my opinion this is a very low standard of sportsmanship. Even worse is printing the accusations in other clubs programme. Also, I do not think that the allegations made by the referee are not completely 100% true. I do not think that a British football crowd could be as bad as the referee has alleged. (Perhaps with the exception of a few fierce local derbys such as Hibernian Versus Hearts etc). Certainly, this is not the standard of behaviour expected from a British referee. The referee should be severely reprimanded.

All letters to  
the Sports Editor.

ADDRESS FOR ALL  
CORRESPONDENCE.

The Billericay Observer, 143  
Perry Street, Billericay,  
Essex.  
No telephone.



# THE BILLERICAY OBSERVER.

Its aims and progress.

by the Editor.

Last week I made certain notes about a Hampshire newspaper. Some of my readers have made comments about this and very sensible ones too. Thus I thought this would be a good opportunity to lay before my readers something about the 'Billericay Observer'. At present the 'Billericay Observer' is under the streamlining process. Part A of the modernisation is a punch thus eliminating the tedious sewing. This should be bought by November 30th. Part B is to enable every person to have their own copy. To enable this a second-hand duplicator has been recommended and enquiries are to be made by the Editor about the cost. Anyway, one should be installed before our 1st birthday in February. Then a charge of a 1d per copy would be made to cover costs. This may sound to some absurdly cheap but we would not be out to make a profit. Just to have some money in reserve and pay our way. Also like the other local newspapers we would have adverts. Of course the higher the circulation the more the likely that we would "pay our way" as say a circulation of 100 with an income of 8s 4d a fortnight would be much more profitable than a circulation of 40 with an income of 3s 4d a week, even though there would be higher costs for paper etc. Also there would be higher "ad revenues" with a larger circulation. To prove that we were being honest balance sheets and accounts would be published monthly. Well that's our main aims.

## LETTERS.

Letters should be sent to our address and marked 'Letters for publication'. Either nom-de-plumes or your real name can be used.

To the editor,

Billericay Observer.

Dear Sir,

As a Perry Street resident and a frequent user of the footpath to the Station, I think some action taken against cycles, using it as a cycle track. In the last three months I have been knocked over once, and had many narrow escapes. One is either approached in silence, which is dangerous, or the bell is rung sharply, and one has to scramble on the wet verge to give the cycles right of way. I have had as many as fifteen cycles pass me on one walk through the footpath, and now as a further menace horses are using the Footpath and one has to retrace ones steps if met on the narrow part, so I think it is about time some action was taken.

'Well Wisher'.

Ed; I agree with you.

Dear Sir,

Why o why did you spoil 'Longsights' article (or let him spoil it) with an advertisement for the Isle of Wight, however nice it may be. May I enlarge on his 'English national costume. I suggest swimming trunks and divers kit. (And 'Longsights' lifebelt.

J.K. Wall.

Ed; Because 'Longsight' needs freedom in his articles.

Dear Sir,

I don't agree that Wigan Athletic are candidates for the Football League. Wigan is the home of RUGBY FOOTBALL - the best game on earth. Football blah; discuss Rugby in your columns.

'Rugbyite'.