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"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

WORK HOPED TO START ON RAILWAY
STATION MODERNISATION IN 1959.

British Railways
Representatives attend Billeri-
cay Resident's Meeting.

At the Public Meeting of
Billericay Resident's Association
on October 29th in the W.I. Hall,
Billericay Mr S.H. Smith of
British Railways stated that the
modernisation of Billericay
Railway Station was hoped to be
commenced by next year. He said
that the scheme had been approved
by the technical departments con-
cerned and it was now at the
Architects.

"The plan", continued Mr Smith,
"Included the provision of better
entrance and exit facilities,
electricity lighting, improved room
for cycle storage, separation and
luggage lifts from passenger traff-
ic and a larger car park".

The meeting was filled up to
overflowing despite the fog.

British Railways were represented
by Mr S.H. Smith and Mr N. Cox both of
Line Traffic Managers Department.

Mr Savage, President of Billericay
Resident's Association, first of all,
spoke of the Railway Station. He said
"Billericay Resident's Association
are very concerned about Amenities
at the Railway Station, the train
services, particularly in the rush
hours and the proposed increase in
rail fares". Mr Savage continued,
"the thousands of users of Billericay
Railway Station are increasing daily
and the present facilities, particu-
larly the entrance and exit are inadequ-
ate."

Talking about fares he said "We
know that modernisation, wages and
coal have gone up in price but we
think the proposals for increased
Continued Page 4.

"DON'T LIVE IN DREAM WORLD",
C.P.R.E. CHAIRMAN TELLS
C.P.R.E. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
"OLD BILLERICAY CAN BE BLENDED
WITH WHAT THE NEWCOMERS WANT".

Mr Amos, retiring chairman of
Billericay Council For The Pre-
servation of Rural England (C.P.
R.E.) told members at their
Annual General Meeting on Sat-
urday November 1st at the W.I.
Hall that they should not live
in a dream, old-world atmosphere.
"Don't live in the past", he con-
tinued. "The newcomers from the
towns want shop arcades, paved
streets, modern shops, street
lighting and why not?", he asked.

"All these are possible as well
as the natural amenities", he
said. "The pieces could be fitted
together, natural and artificial
to make one beautiful picture."
"Members should stir their-
selves into activity to get
newcomers to join", stated Mr
Amos.

"The C.P.R.E. is not a lot
of stick-in-the-muds and
busybods", stated Mr Amos.

"Newcomers and old residen-
ts could live together in one
happy community", he said "But
the old shops and old world
atmosphere which the old
residents had known and lik-
ed would have to go."

It was said at the meeting
that a map, provided by the
Council, was to be drawn up
showing all trees worthy of
preservation in the area.

It was announced that the
sub-committee system was
successful and it was felt
that this gave members a
chance to take a more active
part in the affairs of the
C.P.R.E.

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ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

The large attendance at the Resident's Association Meeting called to discuss the Railway Station, despite the fog, shows the large interest in the subject. I must applud the Resident's Association for organising the meeting and obtaining two B.R. representatives to speak and answer questions. However did anything concrete and constructive come out of the meeting? Or did Messers Smith-Cox present us with a string of large numbers and excuses? I don't mean it in the sense that the meeting was a waste of time. Are British Railways going to do anything about the huge number of things that want to be done? Will the constructive and sensible questions of residents that were "reffered to departments concerned go any way past a dusty file or pigeon hole? One wonders.

The C.P.R.E. announce that they want more modernists as members. It seems that in an effort to get new members they are going to abolish all their old ideals. After all - and I say this as a member of the C.P.R.E. - what is the use of a C.P.R.E. that does not intend to preserve but sppa- rently wants a super-modern supermarket in the High Street. Also they seem to have no sense of proportion. If anybody erects a bungalow or house - well the world has come to a end. However if somebody wants to build a supermarket, erect a huge housing estate or a iron-works there is hardly a murmur. However I have all but praise for their efforts in tree-presevation, museums and also maintaining the countryside. So don't get too modern. By the way there is some idea about a junior section. This is a good idea - in principle. However they would have a job to get a junior chairman and what have you. It is difficult to get adults to stand for these posts - so children!

All for now,

wanderer

There is no "Political Landscape" this week.

In this space, this time I am going to try and change my readers views about the newspaper office by presenting a scene in the so-called "typical" newspaper office.

"At the table is the Ed"
"A Scrathing at his head"

The Editor swings on a swivvel chair. On the door is a notice ED - Keep Out - Working - Do Not Disturb. The office is very untidy.

Enter Sub-Ed "Smart Jones", (note he ignores the notice). "If only I had a Scoop", wails Ed. "But all I've got is the O.A.P. meeting and a jumble sale. There is a screeching of brakes ans Sensation Bill the reporter pulls up in his Jag', a door slams, and footsteps run up the stairs. Sensation Bill enters "A scoop" he cries. "Has a dog bought a hula-hoop", enquires Ed. No but the

The Ed he picks up a contribution. "The very thing", he cries. To the Sub-ed he shouts "take the copy to the printer". A masked figure enters the office and the mask is drawn aside to reveal J. Kwosh, the diplomatic editor. "Eees anzybody azout", whispers J.K. "No", shouts ed and stop using that accent". "Disguise", says J.K. "I zo to Paxis. I meet K.M. zov de Times Zi zollow zim. Ze meet a person and he say "Bon jour, mon ami", Zi do not know French but I think velly suspwics. "Get out", shouts Ed "You make me mad".

Take evening classes in French.

Well-it isn't like that.

THE HISTORY OF BILLERICAY.

By H. Richman.

Chapter 6.

Danes.

Whilst the King was fighting in the West country in 892 A.D. some new invaders arrived on the scene in the form of two Danish armies from the Continent. These established their Headquarters at Shoebury, and then forced their way through Essex and along the Thames towards the Severn, where they were defeated and retreated again to their old quarters, and occupied Mersea Island.

According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle the Danes took their ships up the Thames, and the Lea, and they also had a fort at South Benfleet where they were attacked and their ships burned by the Saxons. Relics of this period were discovered when the present Railway Station at Benfleet was built. Following this defeat the Danes retired to Shoebury but continued their attacks on the Saxons for many years before Peace was finally restored.

The incident at Benfleet took place about 893, but it was not until 991 - 3 that the famous Battle of Maldon occurred, and 1016 when "all the nobility of the English race was destroyed" on the ground between the hill and the River Crouch at Ashingdon where four years later, Canute erected a church and placed it in charge of a certain Stigand, who was later, as Archbishop, to crown William the Conqueror.

Life still went on, however, even in these troubled times, and we can imagine the surroundings of Billericay with its little group of dwellings near the churches and manor houses, with the fields under the Strip Cultivation of the time, the open pieces of Common ground most of which remained until the last century, and the very large areas of woodland surrounding and separating one village from another. Billericay itself had started to grow on the hill top astride the old road from Tilbury whose Bishops and Priests must have often passed this way to their other headquarters at Maldon and Bradwell, so that by the time of the Domesday Book its population was estimated at about 600 in this outlying part of the two Parishes of Burstead and Mountnessing, as Billericay was then and for many years afterwards.

C. P. R. E. OFFICIALS.

Mrs A.M. Cater was re-elected as President at the Annual General Meeting on November 1st. She said that it was her full intention not to stand again as President and let somebody younger to take over the presidential position. Mr Amos, the retiring Chairman, accepted the post of a Vice-President. Tribute was paid to the work of Mrs A.M. Cater (President) and H. Richman (Asst Secretary) with the group.

10,000 BIRDS AT SHOW.

About 10,000 birds were on show at the Wickford & District Cage Bird Societies' Annual Open Show on Saturday 1st November at the Archer Memorial Hall.

STOP PRESS.

INCREASED FARE PROPOSALS "HIGHLY EXAGGERATED" SAYS RESIDENT'S PRESIDENT.
Continued from Page I.
fares were highly exaggerated". Stated Mr Savage, "This is not a protest meeting but it may come to that".

Commercial Enterprise.
Mr S. H. Smith then spoke. He said, "British Railways is just as much a commercial enterprise as the shop round the corner." "We try to attract passengers by presenting an attractive service at a charge".
On overcrowding he said, "It is like getting a quart into a pint pot." "Every morning we take 62,000 people into Liverpool Street and in the evening bring 62,000 out". "We employ every piece of equipment we have." "In the off-peak periods we have the choice of standing the stock and crews about in sidings or running empty trains".
"In the evenings we run empty trains into London to bring people out again and vice-versa in the morning".
"During the bus strike", stated Mr S. H. Smith, "3,500,000 more people travelled on the railway". "How were we able to manage this?" "We managed because there was a voluntary staggering of hours".
"Obviously, some staggering of hours has got to come" he continued "Either voluntary, by employers or by enforced staggering by the government."
"Whatever we done at one place we worsen it for another". "Focal trouble points on the branch were at Romford and Stratford", he said.

"Since the electrification of the line from Liverpool Street to Southend Victoria line 7,000 former passengers on the London, Tilbury & Southend line have come from Southend and Pitsea over to this line because it benefits them", stated Mr S. H. Smith.

"At the moment British Railways are getting more letters of appreciation and commendation than criticism", said Mr Smith.

"A pilot scheme was in operation for better information, on the basis of teleprinter messages and was due for review at the end of the year", explained Mr Smith. Continued Mr Smith, "The position changes minute for minute
(Continued in next column)

Residents Association Meeting.
(Continued from preceding column).
making our task more difficult".

Rural facade.
He said that the C.P.R.E. had asked British Railways to preserve the rural facade of the Station and British Railways intended to do this as far as was practically possible. They also intended to send the plans to the C.P.R.E.
Afterwards questions were put to the B.R. representatives by those present.

"I VIEW
YEAR WITH MIXED FEELINGS". - C.P.R.E. Chairman.
(Continued from page I.)

Mr Amos said that he viewed the year with mixed feelings. He thought that the C.P.R.E. had done some things that they should not have done and left undone some things which they should have done.

He said that a C.P.R.E. headquarters was to be opened shortly in Eale's in the High Street.

Some members of the group, it was said, found themselves in opposite camps in an inquiry concerning the High Street. It was hoped to work out a definite policy for the High Street.

An interesting talk was given by P. H. Holmes M. A. on "The Changing Countryside". He said that he thought that the countryside had never been as good as it was now and he hoped the C.P.R.E. would preserve it that way.
A vote of thanks to Mr. Holmes was proposed by Mrs Cater (President).

'LONGSIGHT'.

I am sure you will all join me in wishing a happy 21st birthday to our one and only "Billericay Observer", always to the point and prepared to be criticised with a smile, carry on the good work. Long may it reign (not rain).

No doubt some of the B. Observer readers are a little puzzled by the construction of a new green-painted office by the bus stop at Billericay Station. Longsight knows! It is the new office for Messers Moy & Co, Coal Merchants, who make warm friends or friends warm. The old office is too small.

I must revert to my complaint in the previous edition, regarding the skating rink or mud pond, locally known as a footpath? Tom the Billericay Station. I myself saw last Wednesday a elderly lady clinging to the fence on the left-hand side to assist herself to maintain an upright position.

I have made enquiries as to who is responsible for this path and I have been told that a Mr Harris has sold all the ground along the road facing the railway station, including the path also the house on the right which is for demolition, as a road is to be cut through to Perry Street. Some person or persons unknown has taken a fence board to walk on, so cheer up readers, we may have only a few more years to wait, by then the path will have been washed on to the railway track.

I notice that the Nurses Home in the High Street is vacant, apparently the nurses are now quartered in the hospital grounds and no grounds for complaint, as this move saves them the journeys in all weathers of going to and from the hospital. I am sure the nurses appreciate this move. They deserve the best, for their is a noble calling.

I do think Lake Meadows Park is really understaffed, just two men and they have to do gardening etc, so how can they find time to patrol and prevent any damage being done. Surley it would be possible to

Continued in next column.

'LONGSIGHT'.

(Continued from preceding column).

employ an additional man for this purpose. No doubt some of our readers have seen - a last week the mess made on the gravel footpath, clods of grass and earth thrown down by some of those young clots fishing, they insist on pulling up turfs by the waters edge and the bank for worms. They then throw the turfs on the footpaths, this causes a very considerable amount of mud, makes puddles. Surely we have plenty of that kind of thing without the help of these youthful fishermen. I hear that a new Parks Superintendent is coming to take charge, he may be there now, he is coming from Manchester. Perhaps if he can be approached in a courteous manner he may put our complaint to the right quarter.

I am extremely sorry that I am not able to keep on a more cheerful subject.

It recently seems that according to some papers that some students or should we say educated hooligans thinks that London belongs to them only to do as they please, including of course some so called lady students.

It is alleged that dis-regarding blinding or burning adults or children, they threw fireworks from trains at waiting passengers on station platforms, squirting water on the station staff, also Tralgarlar was also Square the scene of hoogalinism, lighting fires in the street

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'LONGSIGHT'

(Continued from Page five).

who does this rabble think they are, these so called brains of Britain, this kind of rag so they call it goes up and down the country, they call it fun, when one reads of Notting Hill, Hackney etc, which are know as rough quarters, I know, I have been there are trouble makers with little or no education. But Eton, oh, I ask you, heaven help England! I close this wretched paragraph with tears of shame.

Nature Study.

In Lake Meadows Park, how lovely the cygnets are now looking, nearly as big though not so good looking as their parents with a greyish brown and white, with dark legs. How ferocious the pen and cob used to be with their tiny cygnets, wings spread and hissing etc, woe to the man and animal who ventured near them, I feed them often and had to keep a safe distance from a smack from the parent's wings - most unpleasant. Also their beaks are razor edged. I still feed the four, now the cygnets hiss as well, the parents treat them as grown up swans now and not too kindly at that, for the cob and pen prefer the Lake to their themselves and soon they will drive their teenage cygnets away; any day now we may hear that lovely musical whistle of great wings of the cygnets, and looking upwards we will see those enormous birds flying away. To where? To some nearby river or lake and such like places, to join up with other teenage swans, who likewise had been driven from home, yes indeed, birds themselves have their own "youth club". Isn't nature wonderful?

Joke of the week.

Q What has six eyes yet cannot see?
A Three Blind Mice!

'Longsight'

BILLERICAY YOUTH CLUB FORMED.

The inaugural meeting of Billericay Youth Club was held on Thursday 8th October. The club which is for people aged 15 to 21, will meet on Mondays and Thursdays at Billericay Secondary School.

NEW PALINGS.

New white-painted palings have been erected by the War Memorial, at the junction of Chapel St and High St. This is a great improvement.

EDITORIAL CORNER.

To most people the 21st birthday, is a very important occasion and one often receives a silver key. The "Billericay Observer" offers the key to the door of local news to its readers, blended with articles of local and national interest. No other local paper can equal the humor and wit and comment of Longsight and they would have a very difficult task to find somebody of equally wide experience. In MR. H. Richman we have a pillar of unexhaustible strength always helpful and giving useful criticism. Also he is always coming up with items of interest and no newspaper in the district can equal his articles on Billericay history. Thank you

- ALL.

Yours Sincerely,

Editor.

LETTERS.

Dear Ed,

May I congratulate the "Billericay Observer" on reaching its 21st edition. I enjoy reading the articles by "Longsight" and the 'History of Billericay' by H. Richman is most interesting and informative. I look forward to your newspaper very much with also its news reporting

'Admirer'.

Ed; Thank you!