"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay."

WORK HOPED TO START ON RAILWAY STATION MODERNISATION IN 1959.

British Railways Representatives attend Billericay 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 concerned 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 of luggage lifts from passenger traffic 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, particularly the entrance and exit, are inadequate."

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.
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 applaud the Resident's Association for organizing 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 Messrs. 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 referred 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 apparently 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 an end. However, if somebody wants to build a supermarket, erect a huge housing estate or an iron works, there is hardly a murmur. However, I have all but praise for their efforts in tree-preservation, 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.

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 scratching at his head."
The Editor swings on a swivel 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 and Sensation Bill enters. "A scoop," he cries.
"Has a dog bought a hula hoop," enquires Ed. No but -

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.K., the diplomatic editor. "Ees anybody azout," whispers J.K.
No "shouts ed and stop using that accent."

Take evening classes in French.

Well, it isn't like that.
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 Lee, 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 Ashington, 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 Bursted 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.
The pilot scheme was in operation for the benefit of the railroad electrification. Mr. Smith, the manager, stated that the railroad electrification scheme was in progress. A report on the conditions of the line was given by Mr. Smith himself. He mentioned that the work was progressing well and that the electric system was expected to be completed soon.

Mr. Smith also spoke about the improvement in the service and the convenience it brought to the passengers. The electrification had reduced the time required for journeys and improved the comfort of the passengers. He emphasized the importance of the railroad in the community and its role in connecting different parts of the country.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Mr. Smith for his presentation and his efforts in improving the railroad service.
'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 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 Messrs 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 an 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. Surely it would be possible to continue in next column.
'LONGSIGHT'
(Continued from Page five).

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 comfit 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!

BILLERICAY YOUTH CLUB FORMED.

The inaugural meeting of Billericay Youth Club was held on Thursday 5th 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.

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 ferociously the pen and cob used to be with their tiny cygnets, wings spread and hissing etc., now 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, as grown up swans 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