

28 DEC 1956

"The only newspaper published and printed in Billericay".

**\$500 GRANT FROM E.C.C. TO
BILLERICAY SECONDARY SCHOOL
SWIMMING POOL FUND.**

P.T.A. HOLD CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

Billericay Secondary School Parents-Teachers Association held a Christmas Bazaar in the School Hall on Saturday December 13th, in aid of the Swimming Pool Fund at 2.30p.m.

In an interview with the Headmaster our reporter was told by him that the E.C.C. would give a \$500 grant towards the fund, which would add to the \$500 already collected, making in all \$1,000. He said that the site had been scooped out but owing to bad weather work had stopped but would resume in the Spring.

The bazaar was opened by Mrs B.E. Goldwin who said that a great amount of work had been done by parents and teachers for the fund and as a result \$500 had been collected which she hoped would be added to by the end of the afternoon. She then opened the bazaar by ringing a handbell. A bouquet was presented to her by Angela Batty (5).

In the morning Mr W. Thomas as Father Christmas went round the town handing out leaflets advertising the bazaar.

Stallholders were Cakes and Sweets; Mrs Layland, Mrs Wheatley; Mrs Rutherford and Mrs Wheeler; needlework; Mrs Lilley and Mrs Skinner. Canned Goods and other stallholders Mrs Freeman, Mrs Miss Dewley, Mrs Chalmers and Mrs Lacey, refreshments.

Winner of Lucky Entrance Ticket draw was Mrs M. Masters.

**LIGHTS WENT - CAROL SERVICE ENDED
IN CANDLELIGHT.**

At the Billericay Secondary School Annual Carol Service in the School Hall on Thursday 11th December the lights fused. The Schoolkeeper obtained a dozen candles and a electric bulb on a long lead. While the hall was in complete darkness the choir and audience sang five carols together.

Despite the incident, which occurred half-way through the evening the service finished on schedule - by candlelight.

The Carol Service drew a large attendance - the hall was full.

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL
OUR READERS.**

HORSES EAT NEW C.P.R.E. TREES.

The heads of two silver birch trees planted by the local C.P.R.E. at Norsey Meadow, Billericay recently have been eaten by horses.

Others are to be planted in their stead and the protecting wire altered so that there is no chance of a repeated catastrophe of this type.

BAZAAR RAISES

\$550 FOR NEW METHODIST CHURCH.

The Christmas Bazaar held in the Church on November 27th and 29th raised \$550 towards the fund for a New Church.

It is proposed to build the New Church in front of the present building.

INCORRECT DATE.

The date displayed on the previous issue read the 11th December. The newspaper was in fact published on December 9th.

ROUND AND ABOUT by
"WANDERER".

First of all may I wish my readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

However for some people it will not be a very happy Christmas and for others the weeks before have not been very merry.

The culprits? The Eastern National.

They have suspended ALL services throughout Essex and Sth Suffolk on Christmas Day. Even the hospital services for friends and relatives to visit hospital patients. I reliaise that there is very little demand ~~on~~ our normal services on Christmas Day and I also reliaise that the Staff want to have their Christmas Day at home. However many visitors to hospitals will have long walks because of suspension of services. Some people who live in towns and villages with no train service will be unable to reach ill relatives on Christmas Day. To have visitors means a lot to a hospital patient. Also I think that I bus each way on Christmas Day is needed. Altogether only a very small fraction of the staff of E.N. (About 2%) would be needed to cope with hospital services and all services could cease by 4p.m.

Another example of the E.N. "Scroogeness" and "Un-merry Christmas" is now related. A bus travelling from Chelmsford to Billericay was full up downstairs but there were seats upstairs. The bus came to a stop where an old lady was waiting. "Upstairs", shouted the conductress. "Oh, I can't go upstairs", said the old lady and left the bus. This was repeated several times at other stops. Surely, it is good business for the E.N. to be courteous. I know offically you may not stand while there is a seat somewhere else in the bus but surely rules can be relaxed in relation to old people who cannot climb stairs or have difficulty in doing so?

ALL FOR NOW

"The Wanderer"

"OUR CORRESPONDENT"

LOOKS INTO

Christmas Carols & Hymns. I think that our Christmas hymns and carols are our most beautiful religious songs and I am sure most of you will agree with me. And in this small space I am going to deal with as many aspects of them as I have space for.

The first question that comes to mind is why are some Christmas religious songs called hymns and others carols? For instance "Once in royal David's city" is a hymn and "Away in a manger" is a carol. What is the difference? So I went to the dictionary. A hymn is a song of joy, a carol a song of praise - no I mean a carol is a song of joy, a hymn is a song of praise. At last!

I often wonder which is the most popular carol/hymn for Christmas. The cheerful "Holly and the Ivy", the slow, reverent "Adeste fideles" (O come, all ye faithful to less intelligent beings), the processional hymn "Once in royal David's city", the traditional "God rest you merry Gentlemen" or the quite ones "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night". I could name many more. The B.B.C. favourite is "Adeste fideles". I wonder if readers would disagree with my choice;

1. Once in royal David's City.
2. The Holly and the Ivy.
3. Adeste fideles.

Of course one is bothered by tuneless carol singers. I think that all groups of Carol Singers ought to be registered. People doubtful about the authenticity of singers could ask to see their cards. I know that this officialdom is not really very Christmassy but it would prevent the police chasing after children carol singing. After all it is a free country.

"Our Correspondent".

HISTORY OF BILLERICAY
CHAPTER 8.
BEFORE THE NORMANS.
By H. Richman.

It was during the period before the Norman Conquest that the manors became the centre of local government, Officers for the proper running of the district being appointed at the Court Leet, which was headed by the Lord of the Manor or his steward.

These Courts were held continuously until recent years, that of Billericay being held during Whitsun Week at the Red Lion Inn, where the officers appointed included an Ale Taster, who was also responsible for the quality and correct weight of all food as well as drink. One of the last of the Constables was the father of the late Mr. F. J. Eales, whose Truncheon is now in the Billericay Museum Collection, and there was also a Pound Keeper who rounded up stray cattle and other animals which he locked up in the local Pound until claimed by their owners.

These Courts also dealt with the so-called admission, and surrender of, the Copyhold property in the district. Most of the property in the district was Copyhold, and there are still many deeds in existence relating to this time. The main difference between Copyhold and Freehold was that the former was officially owned by the Lord of the Manor and could only be sold, or transferred to new 'tenants' by obtaining the permission of the Lord of the Manor first, this usually being done at the Court Leet, a small 'Fine' being paid for the privilege. This is included in most of the Deeds, or indentures of the local court but towards the end of their existence it is said that no money actually changed hands, the words being inserted merely as a matter of tradition.

By an Act of Parliament passed during the present century, all Copyhold property became Freehold, compensation being paid to the Lords of the Manors for the loss of their old privileges, the Courts themselves being abolished at the same time.

Although the village usually grew around the chief Manor House, Billericay is an exception in so far as it is not the centre of any particular Manor. Although most of the ground was in Great Burstead, part was in Crowbridge Manor (Mountnessing), whilst Buttsbury, Little Burstead and the Ramdens came right up to the outskirts of the town on the hill. Great Burstead was also subdivided into four separate manors - the sites of three of them being shown on the 16th. Century map in the Essex Records Office, a copy of which may be seen in the local County Library. These three are now represented by Burstead Grange (on the same site), White's Farm, and Gurnards Farm. Chalweeden the fourth manor has never been identified but is always mentioned in the Deeds issued by the combined Courts Leet, at the Red Lion.

The County was also divided into Hundreds, the origin of which has never been fully explained, each of these having a High Constable, whose headquarters were in the most important town, in the case of Barstable Hundred this would be Billericay.

The proportion of Freemen in these pre-Norman days was rather above the average, and shows the importance of Billericay at that time.

NEXT EDITION: THE NORMAN CONQUEST AND ITS EFFECT ON BILLERICAY AND BISHOP ODO.

EDITORIAL CORNER.

Editorial Offices,
143, Perry Street,
Billericay.

Dear Readers,

On Friday December 19th a reporter from the "Southend Standard" called on the Editor and asked him about the "Billericay Observer" and on Sunday 21st the photographer called and took eight pictures, including the Editor typing, reporting etc. This is all for a large news item in the "Southend Standard" about the "Ob" which will appear in the issue of Jan the 1st. In this way the "Observer" will be publicised and should make reporting much easier.

This issue is not a proper "Christmas Edition". One reason is a lack of material for a Christmas-type issue.

Yours Sincerely,

W. Grant
Editor.

EDITORIAL P.S.

If you want to you can say it is a Christmas edition. After all we have a large number of Christmas articles.

"LONGSIGHT"

A very Happy Christmas to all readers of the "Billericay Observer" and to all those who are in hospitals we send our very sincere wishes for a safe and speedy recovery. God Bless you all.

This particular time of the year reminds me of an amusing yet extraordinary incident that befell me and holly. Well I look on to this day with grave concern.

I was in the mountainous parts of Wales and I was going to another town, across the mountain as a short cut. I asked directions from a local, feeling certain of the way, I started off, I had only been walking about an hour and a half, when it commenced to snow heavily. I eventually got completely lost, narrow paths and landmarks had now disappeared, I was by now freezing cold and feeling exhausted. Through the blinding snow I saw a small light which I knew by experience to be a small mountain cottage. Slipping, sliding, climbing I made for it. A lady answered the door to my knock took me in by a roaring log fire gave me hot Welsh broth which I was glad to get, even-

Continued in Next Column.

"LONGSIGHT."

(Continued from previous column).

tually I went up to the bedroom, no gas, electric light or candles however the snow made the room fairly light, so I put my wet things outside the bedroom and rolled into bed. The next second I gave a yell enough to raise the roof and out of my bed fell over, a chair flop on to the floor. I was stinging all over. The young son came running asking "What was the matter". Lighting the candle I saw a large bunch of holly under the bottom sheet. This I learnt later was set by the elder brother for his younger brother whose bed I had taken over. Now my friends you have never experienced the of laying on holly in your shirt, try it. I was tickled to death, or was I, you would be. Ever since then holly and myself are not the best of friends.

An Irishman knocked on the door of a house and asked if the owner would kindly lend him a spade as Pat his mate had fallen into a snow drift. "How far is he in" asked the house owner? "One said Mike right up to his ankles". "Well", said the gentle man, "Let him walk out". "He can't", said Mike "He's in head first".

Two Irishmen fresh from Ireland got a job together in London. But they had to take lodgings a distance away from each other and did not know how to meet for work, in case one missed the other.

See Page 5.

WHAT DID LONGSIGHT'S IRISHMEN
DO? (See Page 4)

O'Brian had a brainwave and
said if I'm there first I'll
put a stone on the wall (at
this certain meeting place) but
if your'e there first Pat you
knock it off.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF

CHRISTMAS by the Ed.

The first day of Christmas
Doth dawn. Ye wife cooks ye
christmas pud and you begin
to wish you had never worn a
hood. In thy evening ye watch
ye television set.

The Second Day of Christmas
You watch the Wanderers.
Ye ponders why you support
them and moans about Haonders
to ye wife.

The Third Day of Christmas
Ye go back to rice

The Fourth Day of Christmas
Ye look at ye purse

Ye Christmas has swallowed all

The Fifth Day of Christmas
All curse - back to work

Where ye relate to friend and
foe of ye wonderful Christmas.

The Sixth Day of Christmas
Ye boss returns

The Seventh Day of Christmas
He gets in a spate

The Eight Day of Christmas
I dare not relate

The Ninth Day of Christmas
Arrives ye rate demand

The Tenth Day of Christmas
Its that door handle again

The Eleventh Day of Christmas
It starts to rain

The Twelfth Day of Christmas
Its all put you in pain.

CHRISTMAS QUESTION.

Q: If coal costs 9/6 per Cwt
what does a ton come to?

A: Ashes - Longsight.

LONGSIGHT'S CHRISTMAS ADVICE

Drink plenty of cold water and
walk slowly

No doubt over the Christmas
Holiday you will watch some foot-
ball. From the drawings identify
the clubs. Answers Below.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

(f)

(g)

(h)

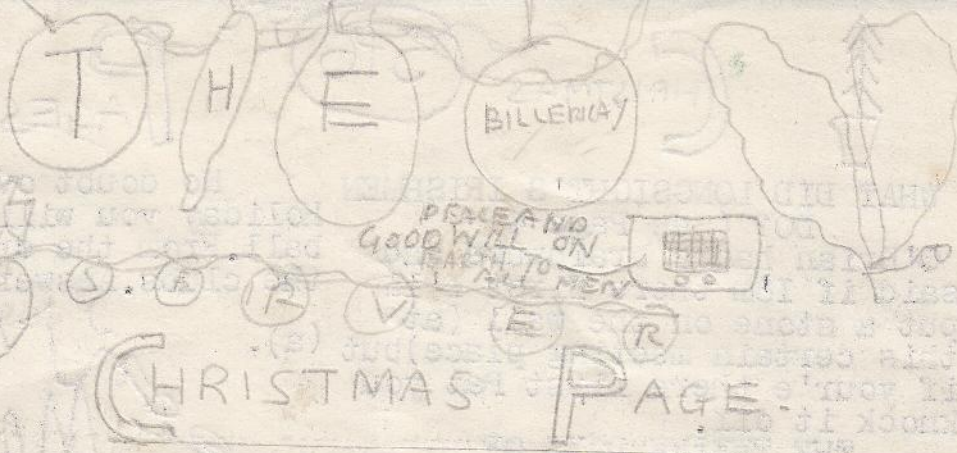
(i)

(j)

(k)

Hope you understood my awful
drawings. 1. Spurs. 2. West Ham. 3. Black
- Pool. 4. Everton. 5. Hearts. 6. Patrick
Thistle. 7. Third Lanark. 8. Middles-
borough. 9. Millwall. 10. Crewe A.

BON NOEL!



Owing to popular demand the "Observer" has decided to include a Christmas Page in this issue. As a result the Letters will not be published this week.

THE OBSERVER CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD. (No I.)

A prize will be awarded for an all-correct entry but for the competition to be valid five people at least have to enter. Do not use the crossword below as your entry but write it on plain paper like this; 1A (Across) Answer to clue Or if it is easier or 1D (Down) ... Write word thus... etc etc.

Double lines count as black squares as do the lined squares. CLUES ACROSS; 1. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is broad-cast from what city?

2. Not Christian but? 3. The day after Christmas is a feast of a saint. Which of the saints? Think of a King and a hymn. 4. Not happy like you should be at Christmas but what? The opposite. 5. The first word of another name for Father Christmas. 6. The Holly and the ...? 7. A throw sword; S ...? 8. Ditch filled with water round ancient fortifications. 9. He was ?? top of the roof. 10. Not the R.A.C. but the ...? 11. A joke by a comedian. 12. Harry Secombe & Co.

1A	6D	12D	5D	9D	1D	7D	8D	2D	11D	4D
C	A	M	B	R	I	D	G	E		O
H	L	A	R	U	N	B	A	G		R
R	I	S	A	P		N	S	E	A	L
T	C	S	V	O	N	P				A
S	E	E	L			P	A	G	A	N
T			S	P	E	A	R			
M	S	A	T	H		G	O	O	N	
A	A				S	A	N	T	A	
S	T	E	P	H	E	N		V	E	Y

CLUES DOWN. 6. Well what is it all about? 7. Not out 1. The Red-nosed reindeer but? 8. You will find these at Ox- 2. Which King brought the ford as well as Cambridge. 9. The most frankincense. 3. As 2 Across fearless. 10. Horses eat them. (singular) 4. The playing of the merry 11. "Lion symbol consume". 12. First ...? 5. Roman Catholic Cero- word and main character of two books mony. by Lewis Carroll.