

BILLERICAY OBSERVER.
EDITOR W. P. GRANT.
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"The only newspaper published and printed in Billericay".

OLYMPIC STAR TO ATTEND MEETING.
PROPOSING FORMING OF SPORTS
COUNCIL IN DISTRICT.

Sir John Ruggles-Brise, to speak.
Basildon U.D. Council have
arranged a Public Meeting for the
14th January at 8.0p.m. at the
Timberlog Lane Secondary School,
Basildon on the subject of forming
a Sports Council for the Urban Dis-
trict.

Sir John Ruggles-Brise, Lord
Lieutenant has been invited and will
speak. Among those on the platform
there will be the Olympic Pole-
Vaulting Geoff Elliot and the manager
of Southend United F.C., Mr E. Perry.

A Sports Council has long been
discussed by the U.D. Council and all
sports clubs in the district are
invited to send representatives.

KNOLL UNDER DEMOLITION.

The demolition has
commenced of "The Knoll",
Perry Street, Billericay.
"The Knoll" was the home
of the late Mr Christie
who died in November,
1957. The house and its
grounds are now part of
a far-advanced housing
estate. As yet only interna
demolition has been carri-
ed out.

NEW DIARY IN LIBRARY.

A new diary is now in
the reference room of the
Billericay Branch of the
County Library for secret-
aries of local organisation
to enter their names and
addresses and dates of meet-
ings, events etc.

It is hoped that the
diary will be used more
this year than in the
previous few years.

LOCAL PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES TO
ANSWER H-BOMB QUESTIONS.

The local Parliamentary candi-
dates, Edward Gardener (Con), Rita
Smythe (Lab), and P.M.T. Sheldon -
Williams (Lib) are to answer questions
on the H-Bomb at a public meeting, to
be held on January 31st, at the Congre-
gational Hall, South St, Brentwood.

Chairman will be C.R. Allison
M.A., Headmaster of Brentwood School.

The meeting has been organised
by the Brentwood Branch of the Campaign
for Nuclear Disarmament.

23rd PANTOMINE.

The Mala School of Dancing, Wick-
ford will present their 23rd annual
pantomime, "Alladin", at the Archer Hall,
Billericay at 7.30 on Fridays January
9th and 16th and at 2.30 and 7.30 on
Saturdays January 10th and 17th.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES.

Christmas Church services in the
Billericay area were very well attended.

Billericay Station was filled
with people with suitcases, coming to
stay in Billericay over Christmas.

CHRISTMAS.

Large Taxi Demand.

There was a large
demand for taxis over
the Christmas holiday
and people with suit-
cases lined the pave-
ment on Christmas Day,
outside the Station. On
Boxing Day there was
less demand as the bus
services were running.

Many people had very
long waits for taxis. A
representative of a
local taxi firm told a
"Observer" reporter that
there were a huge number
of calls to houses in
the area that they were
rarely had time to get
to the Railway Station.

Fog, marred Christmas
Day weather.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

New Year is the time when you make resolutions so I thought that I would make some, which if Billericay kept would make it a better place.

RESOLUTIONS FOR BILLERICAY.

Woolworths to keep their doors open or make them so that they would be easy to open.

The Council to forget their party differences and work for the district and not for the members respective parties.

The Resident's Association and the Estate Associations to keep up their good work and the C.P.R.E. to keep up their excellent work.

A full-time fire officer for the Fire Station and one for the night.

The Council to hurry up with their schools improvement.

The cyclists, horse-riders and lorry-drivers to keep off footpaths in the area.

A Notice Board for the town's various organisations to be erected.

The Eastern National to improve their standards towards customers.

The Post Office staff to improve their courtesy.

Building restricted to prevent even further overcrowding on the rush-hour trains.

The Council to stop being so secretive and to open the Committee Meetings and the secret parts of their Council Meetings to the Public or at least the Press.

The Litter Act to be enforced in the area, particularly in Lake Meadows.

A Pedestrian Crossing to be made in the High Street.

Lighting to be improved in the Stock Road and Long Meadow Path.

The District Maps to be revised and non-existent roads not included and new roads included.

Wasteful Council expenses to be cut down on.

Everybody that lives in the area, Councillors and Residents alike to strive for a better Billericay.

Wanderer.

"OBSERVER"

HOLIDAY ADVICE.

Holidays at home.

Of course the first thing to do is to choose the resort you are going to. Put aside a few shillings and buy a dozen guides to resorts you fancy and choose your holiday spot from these. Of course there are holidays in quiet places, pony-trekking holidays etc but today we will talk about resort holidays. Most of the holiday guides have sections dealing with all types of accommodation for everybody from the vegetarian to the dog. Also most resorts have an accommodation bureau which will find you accommodation to suit your needs for a nominal fee.

What to look for in the guides. Do not be deceived by large covers with a part of the resort and sand. Don't go there. If you are at all doubtful as to if it is just pebbles choose another resort. Why am I so fussy about sand? I always think that apart from the children sandy beaches are better for bathing and generally more pleasant. Don't go to "DAY-OUT" resorts like Herne Bay for a holiday.

No passport, currency or lingual worries if you go for a holiday in Britain. Only the weather. Still that's a chance you have to take and I think other advantages lessen that worry.

Don Abberey.

Next week Don will talk about British holidays in more detail and will talk about foreign holidays.

THE STORY OF BILLERICAY.

Chapter 9.

By H. Richman.

At the time of the Norman Conquest, one of the greatest Landowners in Essex was Sweyne, son of a certain Robert of Wimrac who had come to this country in the time of Edward the Confessor.

Unlike most of the Saxon lords who supported their own king Harold, Sweyne was on the side of William, and consequently was allowed to retain all his possessions in Langdon Hills, East Horndon, Basildon, Wickford and Rayleigh where he had a Castle. The greater part of the Essex people backed the loser, Harold, who was practically one of themselves since his home was at Waltham in the old Forest of Essex, at that time extending very much nearer Billericay than it does at present. At Waltham, Harold had rebuilt the Abbey in the new Norman style, part of which still stands as one of the showplaces of the county, and lavished on it much money and treasure. After his death at Hastings, his body was granted to the Monks of Waltham and buried in the Choir there, but at the Dissolution in the 17th Century this part of the Abbey was demolished and the actual site of the Tomb is now unknown.

The Landowners of our district gave their support to Harold and by doing so, lost everything. The greatest gainer was Bishop Odo, half brother of William the Conqueror who was granted the manors of Great Burstead and others in Barstable, Basildon, Wickford, Vange, Warley, South Hanningfield, Horndon-on-the-Hill and Ramsden. He chose as his Capital or Chief Manor, in this part of the country, Great Burstead. Some of the earliest work in the present church at Great Burstead may be traced to this period, and it seems possible the great Bishop, himself may have watched the craftsman at their labours, and even offered advice and suggestions, during some of his occasional visits to the Grange. This is not so far fetched as one might imagine for, as Earl of Kent, Odo's main headquarters were at Rochester Castle or, as it is sometimes called, the Castle of Count Odo, and the easiest and quickest way from there to the northern part of the country where the Bishop had other property is, and was, the old route by Gravesend and Tilbury, and so to Billericay.

An old writer has said that Odo "was by nature of a bad disposition and busie head, bent always to sow sedition and to trouble the state; whereupon he was committed to prison-".

Later still he raised a rebellion against his nephew William Rufus and after being defeated at Rochester Castle was banished from the country, with the loss of all his property. This by the way, included much treasure he had 'persuaded' the rightful owners to part with, to help him realize his ambition to become Pope. As he left Rochester Castle, the people were scarcely able to keep their hands off him, and shouted out "Oh for a halter to hang this perjured murderous bishop". Not a nice man to know evidently!

STOP PRESS.

Let me use headlines in this column.

"BOY OF ELEVEN HAS INK IN HIS VEINS" - "Southend Standard".
OBSERVER TO GO ON T.V.!

On Monday January 5th a brown envelope addressed to Mr. Wyhford Grant, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex arrived at our office. (We have got a GOOD postal service.) It bore an official stamp and the printed words British Broadcasting Corporation. Inside was a letter from the B.B.C.'s childrens films manager. Briefly it stated that the B.B.C. thought that the "Billericay Observer" was an interesting subject to include in their "Childrens Newsreel". The letter also asked when would I like the film unit to visit our offices. Indeed I would think that this will be the first time a B.B.C. unit has visited Billericay.

No doubt of course this is the result of the article in the "Southend Standard" about the "Ob". The article (two columns and a photo was written in news style and was headed "Boy of eleven has ink in his veins", "Reports and publishes his own newspaper". The article outlined the "Ob's" history and how the first issue became to be published. The article also described how the reporting for the newspaper was carried out. The article contained a summary by myself of the improvement in the newspaper. My opinion of the "Southend Standard" comprised one more paragraph in the article. In bold type the "Standard" mentioned the "Wanderer" which they compared with their own "Rambler" and also the readers letters were mentioned. Also mentioned was the work of H. Richman (not RICHMOND) with the "B.O."

Many of our readers will have read the article, which together with the T.V. newsreel will help reporting for the B.O. and many other aspects.

"The Editor".

The New Year has come. With the new year I have made this resolution "The Billericay Observer" will from Edition 26 strive to improve itself, in the way of spelling, grammar, size, content and in every way possible. Over Christmas the editor received an excellent dictionary. Also purchased was a very useful reference book. It is hoped to improve our spelling and layout.

It is also hoped to improve our printing with a duplicator. A few months ago we looked like waiting a long time for one but now it is hoped to purchase one fairly soon.

With the publicity the "Billericay Observer" is receiving we hope to get better known and by this way improve our standard of reporting. Indeed in the not too distant future we hope to claim that we cover every event of any importance in Billericay, and the smaller communities in our area, the Bursteads and South Green and the Ramsdens.

One day we may become Billericay's premier newspaper. At the moment however we are working to the aim of IMPROVEMENT AND ENLARGEMENT.

We can claim that we have improved. Both our content, spelling, lay-out, and of course the staples are improvements. The only thing we lack is the humorous stories that we had in our early numbers such as "The Confessions of a Tea-Drinker" and the "Haunted Garage".

During the past few weeks "Longsight" has been holidaying in the Midlands. As it is not possible to publish his article as usual we present

FROM OUR REPORTER'S
NOTE BOOK.

A Lorry belonging to Harris Bros builders has blocked the footpath from Billericay to Perry St. When our reporter used the path on Saturday afternoon it was clear but in the evening it was blocked by the lorry which was surrounded by red lights. People using the footpath had to go along a bank at the side of the lorry.

On Sunday morning, writes our reporter, the lorry was still in the same position. The lorry was full of earth. The front of the lorry was on the bank, while the back was a little way in the hedge. One wheel had made a deep hole in the footpath and was resting in it. The lorry was tilting at an angle. Upon investigation our reporter found that the lorry had come from Harris's yard along the footpath and had then crashed.

One theory is that the lorry was driven away by youths.

(For the benefit of new readers we state that this news was not written in normal reporting style but in a style similar to that of Longsight)

In the recent gales chicken houses in the area with tarpaulin roofs had them swept off.

Seen in Perry Street on 5th January; man with earphones and frying pan shape instruments, man with two twigs following them around and man just following the rest around with a small branch in his hand. The men spent some time around the Ob's offices. It is thought that these men followed the habit of water divining. Very few people have the gift of water divining (telling where water is under the ground by following sticks which jump about in your hand). But why divine in Perry Street?

"OUR CORRESPONDENT".

Writes his latest dispatch.

On Boxing Day I watched the I.T.V. programmes. One item advertised was a party for children, organised by the Soho Association.

SOME PARTY!

Skiffle singers sung tunes that the children did not know and horrible music groups played and sung songs like Cha-cha Mama Brown. The announcer introduced such items like this. To the children, "Do you know Knees Up Mother Brown". Enthusiastic "Yes". Well here is and his to play and sing "Cha-cha Mama Brown".

What a dreary song!

Only one singer sung songs that the children knew like "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer". As the T.V. cameras swung round you could see the boredom on the children's faces. Obviously, 95% of the artists were there for the publicity and not for the enjoyment of the children. All those watching with me agreed. Whoever organised the party had no idea of children. A few games and prizes, something to eat, a few balloons to burst and a few songs to sing like "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer". Children need very little to entertain them - BUT THAT PARTY.

On those records!

This time the guilty culprit is the B.B.C. Sound Radio. I say that all record request programmes ought to be ended. Why? What does a record requested for somebody do? A lot of broadcasting is wasted reading out the long messages for example: Greetings from Mum, Dad, Emmy, Staf, Willy, Bill, Tom, Phil, Joan and Ronnie. Continued on Page 6.

from

Page Five.

X, all at 46, Morgorton Street,
Welsham-on-Yane (I hope I've
pronounced it correctly - sorry
it's Welsham-on-Pane, -announcer)
Blertshire and Mary and all at
No. 48 and all the boys to Eddie
B.A.O.R. 49857346. Announcer-The
record I think is a most appropri-
ate choice, it's by Billy Smith
and his Grass Snakes and its
called "I'll be back soon, my love
". Announcer in Germany-"I agree
with you a very good choice Ann".
"London Announcer "Thank you Bob".
Then there is a load of jokes. At
last London says Billy Smith and
"I'll be back soon my love".

Of course all my readers will
know the lengthy discussions on the
weather and general gossip at the
start of the programme. With all the
greetings, messages and chats cut
out several more records could be
played. You may say what about the
requests? Well as you know the
record programmes are balanced so
that there is a mixture of all
kinds of music. I suggest that so
many records for each type of music
be allotted to a programme in similar
ways to that of a record request pro-
gramme. Then listeners could send in
their requests. Say skiffle was allot-
ed three records, then the records
with the three top request totals from
viewers say I, 743 for Record D, I, 505
for Record P, and I, 318 for Record Z.
If a record had been played it could
not be played again for four weeks.
The records with figures could be
introduced by a compere. I maintain
that many people just write in to get
their name on the Radio.

The "Sit-Down" strike on the Dis-
trict Line has aroused some interest in
the Press. Before I came to Billericay
I used to travel on this line at least
14 times in a year. 12 out of 14 times
I have had to change at Barking or
Dagenham East and wait for the next
train a long time. Several trains stop
for several minutes - delays even up
to a hour. I sympathise.

SPORTS OBSERVER.

I am not going to
comment on the Sports Talk
of the Moment - the Test
Matches in Australia and
why we are losing. Instead
you can read the various
newspaper commentators in
Australia, Johnny Wardle, Sir
Leonard Hutton, a galaxy of
old stars, Mr Wardle not so
old.

Instead I am going to
comment on football, our win-
ter national game. Like the
"Wanderer" (Page 2) I have
compiled a list of resolutions
but for the Leagues only.

(1.) At least one new
club to go in the Football
League in every two years.
After all Southport can
expect an attendance of
about 5,000 but Peterboro-
ugh United can expect at
least triple the figure.

(2.) Some re-organisat-
ion among the non-leagues.
Very simple to keep-but
ah!

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL MY READERS.

LETTERS.

Letters should be
sent to the Editor.

Dear Sir,

Despite the att-
ention of "Longsight"
to the matter the foot-
-path from Lng Meadow
Path to the Station is
still slippery, muddy
and dangerous. Can't
something be done?
'Mud-Covered'.

WANTED

Articles for inclu-
sion in this newspaper
particularly somebody
is wanted to write a
regular garden article.
For further information
apply to the Editor.