

"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

SPEED-UP OF PRIVATE STREET WORKS AERIAL SURVEY OF U.D. ROADS.

If all goes according to plan Private Street Works that were planned to be completed in three years, would be under a new scheme announced at Basildon U.D. Council meeting on Thursday 15th January, be completed in two.

Under the scheme aerial survey would be made of proposed Private Street Works, replacing the old manual survey and thus saving time. Eventually aerial survey may be used in all spheres of Council work.

All the clerical work would be transferred to a clerical staff, leaving the technical staff free.

Despite the fact that new staff were needed savings would be made on the scheme in time.

Roads in Billericay which are affected by this scheme are: Hill House Drive, Hillside Road, Horace Road, Station Road and Meadow Way.

LIGHTING FOR SIDE STREETS SOON.

Lighting criticisms are replied to.

There should be side-street lighting throughout the district shortly, it was said at Basildon U.D. Council meeting on January 15th.

"You have put six dozen lamps in that road and not one in ours", was a frequent criticism. The Council understood perfectly. There is no purpose in putting a couple in each road and then a couple in another road. This wasted money.

It was reported that the Council had broken the back of the side-street lighting. £1,000 had been recovered and the Works Committee had decided to spend that on further lighting schemes.

"PATH ON WRONG SIDE PETITION"

A petition had been sent to a Councillor, and he understood the Council, from people living in No's 1 to 45 Perry Street complaining that the new footpath was on the wrong side. The petitioners wanted the path on the shops (left hand) side.

The Chairman of the Council, H.E. Tanewell knew nothing about the petition.

The next Council Meeting will be held in the Timberlog Secondary School, Basildon on February 26th.

PATROLS WITH POLICE DOGS TO PATROL LOCAL PARKS.

Special patrols with ex-police dogs may soon be patrolling local parks and recreation grounds during the hours of darkness. The Basildon U.D.C. may soon use their powers to have these patrols owing to the recent spate of malicious damage in the local parks.

The subject was under discussion at the meeting of Basildon U.D.C. on January 15th.

"It is sorrowful to think that we have to pay people to patrol our Parks in the hours of darkness. I thought hooliganism would end with better education", said Counc H.E. Tanewell, the Chairman of the Council.

Danger to children?

It was asked whether the dogs were a danger to children.

It was replied that ex-policemen with their old trained police dogs could be employed for the purpose.

"NOT LETTING FLOODING MATTERS REST"

Although the Urban District did not suffer so much recently with flooding as other parts of the country, the Council were not letting matters rest where they were, it was stated at the Basildon U.D. meeting on January 15th.

The Council would continue to ensure that more precautions were taken. The Council were not satisfied although there had been no flooding in the area recently.

MEETING WITH THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE ON NOAK HILL.

Representatives of Basildon Council will meet the County Highways Committee shortly on the question on the state of Noak Hill Road, it was reported at the Council Meeting on January 15th. There was some discussion on the subject by the Council.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by

"Wanderer".

I am going to devote all my space to the filming of the B.O. for T.V. Just before 11 a.m. a car arrived at our office inside the cameraman and assistant.

Complicated equipment came in and soon we were looking like a T.V. studio. Miles (well) of flex and lights.

Soon the filming commenced. Bright lights shined on the editor and the assistant precariously balanced some lights above his head - like the Eiffel Tower with oh well - so to the whirring of the camera filming commenced.

Seriously, I was surprised at the amount of time it took to fix up the equipment.

After the filming in the office was completed we went up the High St to do some filming of me there doing some reporting. Afterwards we went to "Longsights" house. The cameraman took a film of me delivering a newspaper to him and "Longsight" handing me an article.

A tremendous lot of work, more than I thought goes into filming. The lighting has to be just right and the positioning.

By the way you will notice a few things wrong in this edition. The Editor wishes to apologise.

All for now,

"Wanderer".

"OBSERVER" HOLIDAY ADVICE.

This week in the short space I have I want to say something about foreign holidays. FRANCE; In the north Brittany with its golden sands is ideal for family holidays. It is only a little way from England. In the Sth of France everything is more expensive but the Riviera is not only for the rich. Ask your travel agent for details of not very costly holidays in this area. SPAIN is ideal but unfortunately is hampered by restrictions, visas etc. ITALY is a delightful country. In your travel brochures you will find pictures of this beautiful country once centre of the ancient world, with modern resorts, quaint villages and islands, ancient buildings, lakes, mountains and blue seas. AUSTRIA is perhaps one of the most beautiful countries in Europe. Anyway in my opinion it is. It is cheap too both in winter and summer. SWITZERLAND; This is a very delightful, independent country with its mountains and lakes, a paradise in Winter and Summer - but rather expensive. HOLLAND AND BELGIUM have the windmills, modern coast resorts and canals to offer. I certainly recommend these cheap countries near at home. GERMANY with its forests and hills is wonderful for inland scenery, but has little to offer on the coast. Anyway more in the next edition.

"LONGSIGHT"

To all readers of our famous newspaper "Billericay Observer" "Longsight" sends his belated Happy Prosperous New Year to all. I have been absent for some time not hibernated as someone suggested but away in the Midlands, for all kind wishes sent me a sincere thank you.

I note that in our wonderful park the gardeners have been cutting down small bushes and trees. On enquiring the reason I was informed, to tidy up the park, so well and good. But why not plant some lovely fir trees or such like to add to the beauty of the park, even the swans look on with disgust.

The cause of many comments that path again, we now have red lights and an iron plate to walk on (that path is the one between Perry St and the Station). May I offer a humble suggestion for that particular part which lies in a deep hollow, to my way of thinking will more or less be waterlogged. Why not a wooden bridge say two or three feet from the ground, this will insure dry feet during the wet weather, prevent the chestnut piling from being torn down, as the pedestrians will do, to by pass the water and go through the park when park is officially closed.

While on the subject of this park, do you know that the childrens paddling pool is filled from the Lake? Surely the Basildon Council could turn into this paddling pool clean fresh water. I should term it unsafe for the health of children especially when Polio is so devastating, let's be fair safety first.

I am told that the 30 per hour limit is now applied to Perry Street, by the speed of some cars and lorries. I should estimate the speed at more like 60 miles per hour, lovely on a wet day with this construction of the pavements going on, for most of us pedestrians arrive home like spotted leopards, this will be the end of my grunts and grumbles for this time, cheerio Mud Larks.

"Longsight".

Jokes.

Why he was late,

MET MISS, MISSED MET.

Sunday School teacher asked a girl her favourite hymn (him) Blushing the pupil replied, Willie Smith.

A young nurse giving evidence in a drowning fatality said when asked by the coroner, what she had done to revive the unfortunate man. I tried artificial respiration for a hour without results.

Little remains, in our neighbourhood, of the work of the Normans except, perhaps, the Naves of the churches at Great and Little Burstead each of which has a single Norman window in the North wall.

Later work of the period remains, however, and the curious Dug-out Chest at Great Burstead church dates from the 12th/13th century.

Following Bishop Odo's disgrace the manor of Gt Burstead was given to the Marceshall family, and then to the Abbey of Stratford Langthorne in London, near Bow Bridge. This Cisterican Abbey had a grange, or farm, here - hence the name Burstead Grange for the manor house - and at a later period actually lived there for a time when their Stratford home was ruined by floods. There are said to have been remains of the Monks' cells still visible at the Grange until fairly recent years.

The Abbey received the Tithes of the manor, and appointed the minister to represent them as Vicar of the Church and parish which, by the way, included Billericay where there does not seem to have been a separate place of worship till many years later.

In 1253, Henry III granted the Monks a Charter to hold a weekly Market at Great Burstead but evidence shows that, although in the Parish of Great Burstead, the Market was even then held in the more populated part i.e. Billericay, thus accounting for the very wide High Street which is such a feature of our town.

The Market Charter was confirmed by Edward I in 1285, and replaced by a new one for a market at Billericay, by Edward IV in 1476, and this was held regularly, together with the two Annual Fairs for cattle etc., until the end of the last century.

Most of the work at Great Burstead Church seems to have been done during the three centuries in which the manor was owned by the monks, and they seem to have been rebuilding, altering, and improving almost continuously.

As time went on they added their property in this district to their possessions, including the manors of Crowbridge, stretching approximately from the L.C.C. estate at Hutton to Billericay and Buckwyn's in Buttsbury Parish. Little Burstead was even then owned by the Bishops of London and Blunt's Walls was to pass from the Blunt, or Blount, family to Thoby Priory at Mountnessing so that Billericay must have seen many comings and goings of monks and priests during these years following the Norman Conquest.

SPORTS OBSERVER.

This week I am going to present my summary of this year's Cup competitors and their chances.

ACCRINGTON; Not much hope of even reaching the 5th round. A. VILLA Although poor at League football Villa are one of those clubs that play 20% above their league standard in the Cup (8 times winner); a fair chance. WOLVES; I think the winners of the cup will be the winners of the Bolton V Wolves match. If BOLTON or WOLVES win the match will produce at least a finalist. BLACKBURN; Semi-Finalists last year, a good team, they have a fair chance. BRENTFORD They could go far if they win their next match. BRADFORD C.; My Giant Killers. Not a match lost since the "Observer" forecasted some months ago as winners. Watch out for them! CHARLTON A.I. was rather surprised at the Robin's 4 - 0 win at Bristol and somehow I can't see them going very far on the Wembley road. ARSENAL; Good at League, they are fair at Cup, they could win it if they do not meet a small club which are their stumbling blocks. Remember 2 all with Bedford, lost to Norwich, I would NOT be surprised if Colchester Utd beat them. DERBY C and PRESTON; Both of these may go far in the cup; they are good teams. EXETER; Although a good club not much chance of cup honours. FULHAM; After that display against PETERBOROUGH, I say if they win their replay they will get no further than the next round. Don't under estimate PETERBOROUGH. MAN C. and GRIMSBY are fair sides. IPSWICH should show some fireworks. LEICESTER have not got a high chance, so have LUTON. MIDDLESBROUGH should do well but there is little hope for BIRMINGHAM. NEWPORT C. are a tricky side. NORWICH should be Giant Killers. CARDIFF - ? Not much hope on paper. PORTSMOUTH are a fair club. SHEFFIELD UTD, watch them

"ALADDIN PANTOMINE WELL WORTH THE MONEY"

The 23rd pantomime of the Mala School of Dancing, Aladdin was well worth the money. Not a stumbled line, wrong note or ster together with excellent scenery and lighting effects helped to make it a very enjoyable entertainment.

Back stage and lighting effects helped the presentation and with the colourful costumes provided a panorama of colour. The pantomime was certainly very amusing and it was done justice to by a full house.

Only one criticism could be made and that was that some characters moved scenery in view of the audience.

While the main characters were speaking, as in the market-place scene, players continued selling wares etc in the background.

The Mala School of Dancing has its headquarters in Wickford with a branch in the Billericay area at the Crown Club Room in the High Street.

Aladdin was played by Barbara Twiddy, The Princess Balroulbador by Sandra Flexman, Abanazar by Martin Tidd, Widow Twankey by Margaret J. Upton, and the Grand Vizier by Gail Brackem. Other main players were Janet Britton, Mary Rickus, Carolyn Lambert, Roisin Elliott, Diane Roberts, Christene Cooper, Susan Harvey, Glenis Stammers, Elizabeth Ricketts, Heather Harvey and Barbara Pullen aided by about a hundred more school pupils.

EDITORIAL CORNER

Dear Readers,

At last we have got a duplicator. I apologise if the print is not quite correct but I had to get used to the duplicator. You will note we have changed our size. The reason for this is that we need to cut down on costs. As there is an unnormal amount of news we will not publish some articles this week. However the newspaper is the same size, really. See the next column for the charges for the newspaper. There is very little room to talk about our "Essex Chronicle" appearance or the T.V. cameras visit. By the way the T.V. filming included some shots in Billericay High Street and our old "Longsight" was also featured. Although we have changed our size I assure we will remain the same newspaper, a real BILLERICAY newspaper. Anyway more news about the T.V. on February 3rd.

W. Grant, Editor.

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

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The Editor will appear on Childrens Newsrell at 5.0. on either Wednesday 21st or the 28th of December.

SPORTS OBSERVER

Continued

for 2nd Division sparks and SHEFFIELD W. BLACKPOOL should do well in the Cup. STOKE C. are a very good side - so watch them! SPURS are London's main hope. TOOTING & MITCHAM if they beat Notts Forest, I would NOT be surprised to see them in the semi-finals. BURNLEY; I will be surprised if they don't do well. And the non-leaguers WORCESTER, well I was very surprised when they beat Liverpool, and I do NOT expect to see them in the semi-finals. My five choices? 1. BOLTON. 2. WOLVES. 3. BLACKBURN R. 4. SPURS. 5. W.B.A. Amateur Cup? Well my five choices are 1. TOOTING & M. 2. WYCOMBE W. 3. B. AUCKLAND 4. ILFORD. 5. CROOK TOWN.

STOP PRESS

LETTER OF THE WEEK.

Dear Sir,

How much longer are we going to put up with silly gossip in your newspaper. Who cares about lorrys on Perry St itpath Not me! P.W. Arrin.