

## BILLERICAY OBSERVER

EDITION 27.

EDITOR W.P. GRANT

Price 1d.

"The only newspaper published and printed in Billericay".

## ESSEX IS FOWL PEST AREA.

- "None in Billericay" -

Essex has been declared a Fowl Pest area. This means that chickens cannot be moved out of one area into another without special permission.

A small poultry owner told the "Observer" that there was no fowl pest at present in Billericay. The nearest places affected are Wickford and Galleywood. He also told the "Observer" that despite compensation, a small poultry owner could be ruined by fowl pest.

When there is fowl pest at a poultry farm all birds have to be slaughtered.

## RANGER GROUP FOR BILLERICAY.

It is proposed to form a Ranger Group in Billericay, to meet every Friday in the Archer Hall Annex. An inaugural meeting will be held on February 6th.

## BUSMEN WORK "SPREAD-OVER" SHIFTS.

Busmen of the Eastern National Bus Co at the Bull Road, Vange Garage have agreed to work the spread-over shifts system.

By this method busmen work for a few hours in the morning and return to work a few more hours in the evening.

Busmen feared they would not get paid sufficient money for the time between shifts and refused to work the system.

Now the dispute has been settled and buses in the area are again running normally.

## HIGH STREET ACCIDENT.

Mr John Hodge of St Marys Avenue, Billericay was detained in St Andrew's Hospital, last Tuesday after a car accident in the High Street. He was crossing the High St when the mudguard of a car hit him and threw him over the bonnet on to the road.

## JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY.

Christ Church, Perry Street, Billericay Junior Sunday School had a party on Saturday January 24th. About 60 children were present at the party.

## FAMILY SOCIAL.

The Billericay district North Thames Gas Board held a family social at the Archer Hall, Billericay on Saturday January 24th.

## ANNUAL JUMBLE SALE.

St John's Old Boys Cricket Club held their annual jumble sale in the Women's Institute Hall on Saturday January 31st. A considerable sum was raised.

## SOUTH GREEN PARTY.

Boy and girl convenanters of South Green Chapel had a very enjoyable party on Saturday January 24th.

## TALLY-HO!

The Editor's garden was very nearly invaded by a fox hunt on Saturday. The fox came into the bottom of the ed's garden and went into some bushes. However the dogs lost the scent of the fox and the hunt went away while the fox retrieved its step and went into Millfield Woods.

## CONGREGATIONAL PARTY.

Children of the Primary Department of Billericay Congregational Church were entertained at a party arranged for them in the Mayflower Hall on Saturday January 24th.

Each of the thirty five children that attended the party received a present and there was a film show.

## LAKE THAWS.

The Lake in Lake Meadows Park is now free of ice. During the recent cold weather the lake was frozen for a long period and notices were posted stating that persons went on at their own risk as the ice was considered unsafe.

## POINTS - AT LAST.

Norsey Rangers F.C. have at last secured some points in the Basildon Football League. Recently the Rangers had 0 points and 148 goals against them. Now they have won their way from the foot of the league table.

Norsey Rangers play in Lake Meadows. This is their first playing season.

## PERRY ST PROGRESS

Work on Perry St is now proceeding rapidly. Paths have now been laid up to Long Meadow Path.

Juniors of Sunnymede Congregational Church had a party on Saturday January 24th.

## NEW CRAYS HILL SOCIETY.

When the Monday Nighters' young people's club existed - it closed last year - a popular event in their programme was the annual agricultural show.

Many people have inquired about the horticultural show and from this a new society has been formed - Cray Hill Horticultural Society.

At a meeting held to form the new organisation people felt that the show should go on. The provisional date for this year's has been booked as August 29th. It is hoped that many people will come forward with entries for the show.



THE STORY OF BILLERICAY.  
CHAPTER II.

by Ha/Ri.

Essex suffered badly during the Civil War between the King, Stephen and Matilda the daughter of Henry I.

It was at this time that the Barons were given permission to erect castles on their estates, those at Rayleigh and Hadleigh being the nearest to Billericay. Accounts still in existence mention timber being carted from Billericay for the building of Rayleigh Castle and perhaps the timbers now in the museum at Prittlewell and formerly at Rayleigh may have once been growing in the Billericay Woods.

Geoffrey de Mandeville, grandson of the Norman of the same name, held large estates in the centre of Essex, where he possessed the Castles at Pleshley and Saffron Walden. He was also Constable of the Tower of London and was related by marriage to the powerful de Veres of Hedingham Castle. Created, by Stephen in 1141, the first Earl of Essex, he changed over a few months afterwards to the side of Matilda who confirmed his Earldom and granted him more rewards. On the tide turning in favour of Stephen the Turn Coat, once more changed sides and was again rewarded. In 1243, however, Stephen seems to have his suspicions aroused about even another change, and the Earl was arrested and charged with treason. It seems strange that his life should have been spared after all, but spared it was after his two castles had been taken from him, and he was killed in the Isle of Ely the following year.

All this changing about could not have simplified matters for the people of Essex who must have been rather puzzled to know for certain whose side they were on at any particular moment, especially as the barons were rather inclined to use any excuse for plundering the countryside from their Castle headquarters. We have no evidence that Billericay suffered in this way to any great extent, but the district could not have escaped altogether.

The end of this century brought about a more peaceful state of affairs which, in Billericay's case at least, led to a long period of prosperity.

In 1172 the great Thomas a Beckett was murdered in his own Cathedral at Canterbury, and the real days of the Pilgrims began. There had always been pilgrims to the Holy Land, of course. Even the famous St. Helena of Colchester had travelled there in Roman times and discovered the True Cross represented ever after in Colchester coat of arms. Now it became popular with all classes this Pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury, as may be found by reading the Tales of Chaucer.

The age old road through Billericay was used by just the same kind of Pilgrims on their way from the north to Canterbury, the Inns and Hostelries becoming hives of industry on the arrival of a fresh party of these travellers in our town where they would spend the night.

"OBSERVER" HOLIDAY ADVICE.

Island holidays are ideal.

There is something different about an island holiday. Around our coast and abroad there are hundreds of these holiday paradises. As a rule you have beautiful scenery and lovely weather. However let us have a look at the islands round our coastland. I don't call places like Hayling and Shoupey true islands.

Off the South Coast you have the Isle of Wight. The crossing can be made from several points and is not a rough one, the sea crossing is the only disadvantage of island holidays. As an alternative you can go by Air. The Isle of Wight is an island with large resorts and sandy coves, beautiful chines and quiet, picturesque villages. Also with its wooded creeks, it is a paradise for the Yachtsman. Sandown and Shanklin

(Continued next column)!

, the twin resorts hold the British Isles sunshine record. Around the Devon and Cornish coastline there are several islands, that are worth a days outing, for example Lundy and St Michaels Mount. Anglesey is the island for a quiet, restful holiday.

Island of fun, gaiety and life! The Isle of Man! Horse Trams at Douglas. Apart from being a riotous island it has many quiet resorts and also villages, and the natural beauty of the glens, the view from Snaefell. All this with the T.T. races combines into an ideal holiday. Further information available from Tourist Board, Douglas, I.O.M.

We have not space here to deal fully with holidays, we can only whet the appetite and suggest but the place to write to for information is British Holidays and Travel Association, Queens House, 64-65 St James St, London, S.W.1.

More next edition!



## EDITORIAL CORNER.

Summing up our appearances in the Press and on T.V. I find that altogether the "Billericay Observer" has appeared in five Press articles, "Southend Standard", 3, and one in the "Essex Weekly News" and the "Essex Chronicle" and of course our appearance on B.B.C. television.

Owing to costs we have found it necessary to rise our charge per copy to 1d. This is not to make a profit; we do not intend to make one. Compared with other newspapers run by young editors this charge is reasonable. One journal charged 3d for 8 pages, and these pages were about  $\frac{1}{4}$  the size of ours. We do not like making this charge and when we get some advertisers we may return to a 1d per copy. However just to prove that the rise is necessary I will quote some costs.

Stencils - 15/- for 24.

(4 needed for every edition).

Paper - 17/3 for 500 sheets.

(2 sheets needed for every copy)

Ink, 1lb - 15/-.

All plus 20% purchase tax.

Then there are the staples, postage, notebooks and all the other costs.

Yours Sincerely,

W. P. Grant, Editor.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

Ed's note, 'Paper published late due to illness of editor. Next 'paper out on Feb 17th as pre-arranged.'

## LETTERS.

Stop those subsidies!

May I through your letter column, voice my opinion on council houses. I quite agree that they should be built and occupied by families, but I do object to the people who are buying their own houses having to subsidise the rents, when most of the council house tenants are earning a much bigger wage. If the subsidy were dropped the rates would be much lower, and this would help those who are helping themselves. Schedule "A" tax, is another tax which should be discontinued. If the two reforms I mentioned were carried out it would greatly help the house buyer and the house owner.

P.S.N. Perry Street, Billericay.

Cosy seat election.

It seems that nowadays the candidate who wins an election, is the one who, is the most glamorous, the most famous, the best television actor and the one who arranges to drive you to the polls. It is what the candidate offers, not if he has a car.

'Democrat' Billericay.

Advertising is the way to sell your goods. Advertise your wants, sales and announcement in the Classified Columns. Make your Jumble Sale or Fete or Dance go with a swing. Advertise in the "Billericay Observer". Very cheap advertising rates enable you to reach about 250 people.

## SPORTS

## OBSERVER.

Recently referees have often taken players names or sent them off 8 out of every 10 times for a trivial offence. Let me quote an example of this. At a football match recently a player had a foul awarded against him for the second time running. The foul was a pure accident. However the referee took the name of the player as it was his 2nd foul of the match. Also the Football League are awarding severe penalties for minor breaches of rules. I say this is spoiling the game. People do not pay to see somebodys name taken. This Big Brother attitude is doing the game a lot of harm.

My cup hopes! The fourth round played only three teams remain from my five choices. The teams? SPURS, W.B.A. and BOLTON W.

All for now,

(I apologise for the bad spacing between lines but our typewriter is ancient.)

FOR

THE

GARDENER.

There is not much that can be done in the garden at this time of year. When the weather is not frosty some digging can be done. Also the vegetable garden could be prepared. This time of the year is a fine opportunity for burning the garden refuse.

I have tried out a special method for lighting bonfires - and keeping them burning. Put a flower pot upside down on three old bricks and pile your refuse on top and then light the bonfire. Keep piling your refuse on but on no account disturb the bonfire. A bonfire treated in this method, if you put more refuse on to burn, will burn for several days.

GARDEN ADVICE.

We offer a free, Garden Advice service by experts. Send your gardening problem or query to the editor at 143, Perry Street, Billericay. We will either publish the letter in our columns with an answer, thus aiding other gardener readers or we will send you a reply.

Happy Gardening!

ADVERTISING RATES.

Classified.

1d per five words. Box no's 6d extra. Addresses/Box No's counted as five words. 10% discount for ad in 3 weeks running.



## ROUND AND ABOUT

by  
"WANDERER".

Unfortunately it is only too obvious that we need a police dog and handler to patrol our parks. Take a walk through Lake Meadows and my words are proved. You are almost certain to see some damage being done or some by-law being broken. However I have one suggestion that might (in fact almost certainly) improve matters. The notice board with by-laws on to be replaced and one with larger writing - anybody with even fair eyesight cannot read the present writing - and the laws written in everyday English. The present print-well! The Council would do just as well to write the notice in everyday French, at least more people would understand it. Let me give you an example of the hopeless language to trippers to Lake Meadows (This not an actual bye-law). "The Council resolves that any person (s) discovered propelling a missile or any odd-angled object through any solid structure or tool belonging to the above said Council will be liable to a fine of £ 2. I know the Council officials like it, and I am not suggesting that our beautiful English words which are alas used too little should be disregarded altogether, but it means little to trippers, and it is better to word it in more simple language than to have the law broken. The law could be re-worded similarly; Any person found throwing, or otherwise propelling anything through the buildings belonging to the Council or any tool is likely to be fined £ 2. Also I think it would be helpful if notices relating to various laws were erected e.g. Litter Act and throwing stones at the swans etc, as visitors may not study the notice board.

You may have noticed in the last edition about a petition to the B.U.D.C. about the path being placed on the wrong side of Perry Street. I now repeat what I have said so many times before that the Perry St area needs a Resident's Association. This growing area of about 1,500 people has many problems to sort out and they would be settled much better if there was a Perry St Resident's Association.

When is Buttsbury C.P. School extension going to be ready for occupation? I recommend that in future the E.C.C. make a clause in their school building contracts that the work be completed in a certain time.

All for now,  
"Wanderer".

## "LONGSIGHT"

### The Soldier of the Queen?

Re, Terry Dene or should it be Nellie Dene. What a farce, after six days of ~~moderate~~ coddling in the Army and about three-quarters of that in hospital T or N Dene is to be discharged or demobbed unfit. Yet this very nineteen-year old squarker and guitar player was strong enough to hurl an iron police sign through a plate glass window for fun. True, he was heavily fined for his foolishness, a couple of drinks was blamed for this lapse. Now his poor heart is almost broken, sobbing and crying because he was lonely and had to scrub barrack room floors. He no doubt misses those young misses who crowded around the gates squealing Terry, darling on his arrival.

I would suggest an excellent cure for loneliness; plenty of scrubbing barrack room floors also keep boots, uniform etc clean. By that method he would sleep well, eat well and be happy.

I am sure our Kate Regimental Sergeant Major R. Brittain would agree with me and he would certainly administer a cure for T or N.D. and make a man of him. Please don't misjudge me, for I am most sympathetic to any young soldiers whose physique is not quite up to standard, for as an ex-sergeant myself I have had youngsters to train, and with sympathy and undue harshness they have turned out to be fine, healthy youngsters to be proud of.

As for T/N.D. wanting to do his National Service, all nonsense and humbug, he has not even given the Army a fair trial. I think the change from £350 to 30/- a week is due to this "emotional crisis".

I suppose we must be fair, for if all we consider the above were we in that ~~same~~ position, I too would suffer from emotional distress, what do you think chums?

### The Comparison

Some time ago a young man called up for his National Service and having buried recently his father, his widowed mother with others tried in vain to obtain his discharge on compassionate grounds, proving he was his mother's main support, would they release him, not on your Nellie (Dene).

### Do You Know?

To prevent salt getting damp and clogging salt cellars as is often the case in cafes and some homes, put a few grains of rice in the salt cellars; result easy running salt. This method can be used in your sugar sifter with excellent results. In a large sugar jar a handful of hard dried peas will help the sugar from getting damp. - "Longsight".