

17th February 1959.

PAID IN
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ADVANCE

"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

THE DEATH OF DOCTOR HERBERT GUNTER.

The death occurred on Monday February 9th at the London Hospital Annexe, Brentwood of Dr. Herbert Charles Robert Gunter, 54, of High St Billericay.

He has practised in the town since 1932 when he came from Aberdeen where he was born.

He became a Doctor of Medicine in 1932 and a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery in 1929.

Dr. Gunter took an interest in the local organisations and was the President of Billericay and District Agricultural Society and Vice-President of Billericay Town Football Club and Billericay Cricket Club.

Dr. Gunter was a captain in the Home Guard during the war.

The funeral was at Billericay Parish Church on Thursday January 12th and interment was at Little Burstead.

PROPRIETOR OF NIX CHEMISTS DIES.

Proprietor of Nix Chemists, High Street, Billericay since 1929, aged 72, Mr Daniel Thomas died in St Andrew's Hospital, Billericay on Wednesday 11th February.

Mr Thomas has lived in Billericay for about forty years and he qualified as a chemist fifty years ago. In his younger days he was a member of Billericay Tennis Club.

He leaves a widow.

MUSEUM WORK IS STARTED.

I understand that building work has now been started to convert the first floor of the late Mr. Eales' house in the High Street for use as a Billericay Museum. It will be organized and looked after by the Billericay Group of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England whose headquarters are now at that house.

PETITIONERS GET THEIR WAY - AT COST OF £ 2,500.

Recently residents of no's 1 to 45 Perry Street petitioned the Council for a path on the shops (west) side of the road. Now the Council Works Committee has recommended that a footpath be made on the west side at a cost of £ 2,500.

It was reported to the Works Committee that all work had now been completed on the make-up of Lakeside except the preparation and seeding of the verges.

Tenders have been accepted for the make-up of Meadow Rd, Sunnymede, Billericay.

ATTEMPT TO ATTRACT NEWCOMERS.

In an attempt to attract newcomers to the district to join Billericay Horticultural Society the Committee have arranged a series of talks and lectures to be held in the W.I. Hall every month. Novices' classes will be a new feature of this year's shows on July 18th and September 19th.

BILLERICAY MAN PREPARING TOWN PLANNING THESIS.

A Billericay man, Mr Ronald A. Moss of High Street, Billericay, is preparing a town planning thesis concerning the growth of a town, which he will present at London University in June. To do this he has circulated 140 15-point questionnaires to householders, from which he hopes to analyse the problems of Billericay.

Some of the question householders are asked are when did they move into the town; from where did they come; and their feelings on the High Street as a shopping centre and a place of historic interest to be preserved.

Children of St Burstead Parish Church had a Sunday School Party in South Green Memorial Hall on Saturday 7th of February.

APPROVED.

New street names for Billericay which have been approved by B. U. D. C. are Newlands Road extension of an existing road of the same name and Fern Close, cul-de-sac off Newlands Road.

Billericay Labour Party had a most enjoyable family social in the Co-op Hall on February 7th.

FURTHER GIFT.

St Andrew's Hospital League of Friends Committee have decided to equip another ward with radio earphones.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING BY THE PARISH CHURCH?

The Police have indicated to Basildon Council that they would have no objection to a crossing by the Parish Church.

There have been representations by the Road Safety Organisation on the matter.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor will obtain the views of the Ministry of Transport Divisional Road Engineer on the proposal.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

During the recent influenza epidemic several Primary Schools had their attendances cut by about 50%. Yet very few closed. In my opinion this is wrong. Children who are advanced and even average learn very little in a Primary School until the year before the Entrance Exam. Many Primary Schools have one class only for each age group. This is most unfair to all pupils. Then in the last year decimals, fractions etc and all the things for the II-plus are thrown upon them. Why not graduate these subjects so that there is no rush before the II-plus. After the II-plus to August the top class pupils learn very little. So why not close the schools and stop 'flu?

It appears that the road safety organisation have asked the Police when we are going to get a crossing for pedestrians in the High Street. A suggested site is outside the Parish Church. In my opinion this is not a good place for a Pedestrian Crossing. The junction with Chapel Street is by the Parish Church. This would endanger anybody using the crossing. Also it is not near the main shops. I suggest that the crossing be placed outside Woolworth's.

We are encouraged to buy smokeless fuel, but very few people do. There are many advantages, which I as a smokeless fuel user know. The first is that the more smokeless fuel burned, the less chance there is of fog, which paralyses the country. The second is that your chimney does not get sooted up and you do not have to have a sweep. In fact smokeless fuel cleans your chimney. Of course if more people used smokeless fuel the Fire Brigade would not spend so much time putting out chimney fires. Part of Basildon is already a smokeless zone and it is intended eventually that the whole district will be. However before that can come about adequate supplies must be available.

About a year ago the "Ob" and "Round and About by Wanderer" came into being. There is a lot of difference between that paper and the present one. It consisted of 4 quarto-size pages and was carefully sewn together. The "Wanderer" said (as a matter of interest) "I notice that Council for the preservation of Rural England intend to make a Billericay Museum. They may have the relics and alincent". The "Wanderer" went on to criticise the C.P.R.E. The "Wanderer" is now a member of that very society! Those mistakes I made!

All for now, "Wanderer".

LONGSIGHT'S
MIXED GRILL.

Do you know?

That Teletrix House, situated at the top of Billericay High St has been taken over by Messers Chapman of Brentwood as a high-class household furnishers. A tip for those about to marry and new home seekers, these premises will be opened shortly, I am given to understand.

He caught a tarter, or did he?

It was alleged that recently at a bank in Shenfield a young bank cashire was attacked by a bandit. In my conversation with him he expressed the hope that this bandit would be caught, ink spots included. It appears later that this alleged bandit would have got through a police net, of the finest mesh, for he did not exist.

Dr H. Gunter M.D.

How sorry we all are at the loss of Dr H.C.R. Gunter M.D. who died suddenly at the London Hospital Annexe at Brentwood. I understand he had not enjoyed the best of health for some years, yet he appeared so cheerful and put such zeal into his work and I am convinced gave great encouragement to all his patients. Sympathy goes to his dear wife and all his relatives who mourn his passing. A very sad and great loss to us all in Billericay.

These feathered fiends
(not friends).

There is a wood in Essex at Crabtree Farm, Great Bentley. The farm is occupied by Mr. R. Mc Donald, and indeed he has got the bird or should it be the birds, in the shape of millions of starlings.

The wood is slowly being killed by this vast number of starlings, by sheer weight of numbers, branches of young trees are being broken off. In addition, the droppings of these birds are slowly choking the trees to death.

It appears that all means have been tried to scare them away, even bird scarers have let off loud explosions at frequent intervals. At the latter end of January this year scores of men fired hundreds of cartridges into the huge flock, which even blotted out the sun as it took wing, resembling a swarm of locusts. Although thousands of birds were killed this vast operation did not succeed and now it seems the trees will be lost. THE BRIGHTER SIDE

Love is a disease, I've met it. Gets a hold, if one agrees, to let it. Can't be caught just when you please. Can't be banished at your ease, quite a lot of he's and she's get it. - "Longsight".

The names of the Inns at which the earlier Pilgrims stayed are unknown, although several are mentioned in documents and maps of the 16th and 17th centuries in the Essex Records Office. The now defunct "Bull" is not mentioned by name, but it is quite evident that it is the place referred to, the name of the landlord being the same as that of the occupier of the building shown on the Map of about the same date.

Among the signs shown on the map are the 'Lion' (Red Lion), 'Fox' and 'Croune', this last being the original 'Crown Inn' on the site of the houses between Cottis the baker's and the Council Chamber. Another vanished Inn shown on a 17th century map is the 'White Lyon' which occupied the 16th, or late 15th century building now Shelley's wool shop etc. A Wall Painting preserved in this house shows a Fleur-de-lis which may refer to the original sign of the Inn, before it was changed to the 'White Lyon'. The sign of the 'White Hart' formerly belonged to a house on the site of 'Hurlocks' (next to Westminster Bank) which was pulled down last year, and as this was a favourite badge of Richard II it is quite possible that an Inn of this name may have existed on this site from the reign of that king, who was very prominent in the minds of Billericay residents about the year 1381.

The story of the Peasants' Revolt and especially the story of the Tax Gatherer who was killed by a blacksmith for insulting his daughter, an incident which took place at Fobbing, on the Essex side of the Thames, is known by every schoolboy, but it is of greater interest to us to remember that the Essex Rising started at Brentwood, and finished at Billericay where, after the death of Wat Tyler at Smithfield and the breaking by Richard of all the promises he had made, the people rose again and gathered at Billericay, only to be defeated by the better armed King's men in Norseay Woods which the rebels tried to protect by ditches, and barricades of carts etc. Relics of this fight were discovered in the woods as late as the last century and it is possible that others may come to light in the course of time.

At an Inquisition or Court held at Chelmsford on July 4th, 1381, it was stated that "numerous persons of Fobbing, Stanford, Mucking, and Harnden, with a certain weaver dwelling in Billerica, and one John Newman of Rowerth, a common thief, and many other men of the villis of Rammesden, Warle, Herwardstok, Gyng, Bokkyng, Goldhanger, Raynham Walde, Bennyngton and Gyng atte Stane rose up against the King and gathered to them many Malefactors and enemies of the King, and made congregations at Brentwode on Thursday after the Ascension and they made assault on John Gildersburgh, John Brampton, and other justices of the peace with bows and arrows, pursuing them to kill them, and afterwards they went to Cressyng and broke and rooted up the Prior's house there, and took away the Prior's goods". Thus began the Peasants Revolt.

Continued in the next issue.

SOUND AND VISION.

The aim of this article is to review and preview programmes on Sound and Vision. It is shortly hoped to have a local Cinema Review.

"Take Your Pick" fans who have not got a T.V. need not miss "Take Your Pick" for it is on the air of sound on every Sunday at 8.30. It retains all the features of the television programme plus the added excitement of "hoir partners" and "the plateau". The network? Radio Luxembourg, 208 m. and 49.26 m.

For Jazz enthusiasts on Saturday is Jazz Saturday from the Royal Albert Hall and promoted by the B.B.C. Light Programme. 8.0 to 8.30 and 9.0. to 10.0. from New Orleans to Dixieland.

Also from the Royal Albert Hall but for lovers of serious music is the B.B.C. Symphony Concerts. Wednesday Home 8.0 to 9.0. and 9.15 to 10.0.

SOUND AND VISION - Continued.

A series of four films on B.B.C.T.V., the first one on Feb 17th about the work of a body called the Civic Trust, an independent and non-political body whose object is to encourage a wider interest in the appearance of town and countryside generally, and to promote higher standards. The first film in this series is about a group of volunteers who clear up a old camp eyesore. The film starts at 10.15.

with "Top Town", the variety show

amateur talent has a local interest on Thursday at 7.30 when Southend-on-sea compete against the Devon city of Plymouth.

A new Western starts on Friday on B.B.C. T.V. - with a difference. For "Frontier" stories are true stories. Perhaps this new idea in Westerns will be a change from the old gunfights and hold-ups!

EDITORIAL CORNER.

In future we have decided to print the Editorial only when it is really necessary. The idea of this is that the "Observer" is going to include top-class articles. We also hope to have a competition. I hope you like our new "Sound and Vision" article.

Last edition we sold about 80 copies I understand.

Many people accuse us of copying articles from the other local newspapers word-by-word. We do NOT do this. We did not copy "Round and About by Wanderer" from "Rambler" of the "Southend Standard". When the newspaper started I had not heard about "Rambler". Lastly but not least the charge. Well as a basis say I print 250 copies for sale at a 1d each. I bring in £I - II - 3.

	£	s	d
Paper	I	II	3
equals -	I	0	0 apx
Stencils -		3	7
Ink -		2	6 apx
Staples -			5d
Postage -			6 apx
Other -	I		6
Total equals -	2 I	7s	9d.

Yes we still make a profit. However we are always trying to improve. That extra profit will be spent on prizes, new equipment to print the newspaper better, extra pages at Christmas etc. Not one penny will go in my pocket.

W.P. Grant, Editor.

LETTERS.

Dear Sir,

May I through your valuable newspaper complain about the lack of public telephone boxes in Perry St and Billericay in general. In an emergency you are often quarter of a mile from a telephone box. Above all we also have an inadequate fire service for a town of this size.

D. Martin, Perry St, Billericay.

Sir,

Recently the South Green Memorial Hall had to be closed for a few weeks because louts from other areas were coming and causing trouble there. The Police should not have allowed this to happen and heavily punished the wrongdoers. Instead they are busily trapping people parking cars without lights. It is good time we had a separate body of men to deal with traffic and leave the Police to do their job catching criminals. 'Annoyed', Billericay.

Advertising sells your goods, makes your fete fair or jumble sale be well attended. Advertise in the "Billericay Observer". Shopkeepers etc, advertise and reach about 150 readers for only 1/- (2" x 4"), 1/6 (4" x 4"). Classified 1d per line. Ask the editor for further details.

FOR SALE.

Full-size "Triang" scooter with brake. Nearly new. 30/- . Apply Box. No. I "Billericay Observer", 143, Perry St, Billericay.

SPORTS OBSERVER.

In a recent match against Southend United, supporters of Queens Park Rangers threw bottles at the referee after (what they considered was) an unfair verdict. This is the latest of a number of incidents at Queens Park Rangers' ground.

This behaviour is a disgrace to British sport.

The F.A. should take immediate action. Not at first against the club but against any supporter that misbehaves. Any person found misbehaving or throwing anything at anybody should be charged with assault and causing a breach of the peace by the police. If these measures are not successful then the ground should be closed for a month.

My cup hopes!

Not one is through to Round 6 out of the five I chose! However hope still lives for SPURS and BOLTON. W.B.A. were knocked out by BLACKPOOL. BLACKBURN were knocked out by BURNLEY.

FOR

THE

GARDENER.

This is the first of a series in Garden Planning for New Houses. Most new houses in this area have a small front garden, a concreted side-way and a back garden about 65ft long. The front garden should be arranged so as to be attractive. Lots of colourful flowers should be planted. There should also be a small lawn. An ideal plan is a border round all the edge, except on the wall / fence side which most probably is shady and unsuitable for flowers. The grass should be well trimmed and neatly kept - not untidily like some front lawns I have seen on the new estates. If there is room a bed in the middle with a birdbath in the middle of it provides a welcome diversion.

The back garden should be much more interesting. Two major things have to be decided before you have even started. (a) Will you have a shed and (b) Will you have a Veg' Garden. These two factors affect the whole garden. If you have no garage a shed of some sort is almost essential. Catalogues can be obtained from the makers who advertise in the gardening magazines. As for a veg' garden, that is up to you.

More Next Week.

We offer a free garden advice service by our expert (not the ed). We will answer your queries by letter or in this column.